Contents

Figures, Maps, and Tables vi
Preface vii
1. Introduction 1

2. Annotated translation
   The inscription on Mt. I 10
   The inscription on Mt. T’ai 17
   The inscription on Mt. Lang-yeh 25
   The inscription on Mt. Chih-fu 35
   The inscription on the eastern vista of Mt. Chih-fu 38
   The inscription at the gate of Chieh-shih 41
   The inscription on Mt. K’uai-chi 44

3. The stele inscriptions in Ch’in Shih-huang’s ritual system
   3.1. The notion of the stone inscription 50
   3.2. The bronze and chime-stone inscriptions of the
        pre-imperial Ch’in ancestral temple 59
   3.3. The tour of inspection and the sacrifices to cosmic spirits 106

4. A structural analysis of the inscriptions
   4.1. The ritual text as a textual series 119
   4.2. The sequential topical structure 126
   4.3. The phenomenon of self-reference 140
   4.4. The force of redundancy and restriction: manifestations
        of ritual language 148

5. Towards a historical interpretation of the inscriptions
   5.1. Between Ch’in history and Han historiography 154
   5.2. The continuity of traditional thought and ritual practice 164
   5.3. Scholarship and authority in the early empire 183

Bibliography 197
Index 215