

M052
A Miao bundle of traditions of the past.
Document K.

By Yang Yung-xing.

Water has its springs, trees have their roots, people have their forebears, among them those who were able and those who were wise. These Miao traditions, which we are now remembering begin with those concerning Zhyu-shi-lao at broken rock mountain, through to the Man Li-dao and the Man Cao, whose descendants came to Sao-no, to Weining and to Zhaotung, and on to the present time. Whether earlier or later what the old folk said was remembered only in songs and stories. Miao books began with the documents gathered by Heaven's Nzha-di-ao and Earth's Nggun-zai-shao of which, only the tradition is remembered, and there were also those of the time of Nggun-zai but they no longer exist. However, there were some folk, who tied knots in a rope as an aid to the memory. Latterly a great many matters remembered only by heart proved incomplete. I regard such matters as of great importance. So beginning in 1932 I have been engaged in writing them out until 1952, and in that interval of twenty years have brought the work to completion. A number of old folk, the teachers, Yang Zhi, Yang Ya-go, Tao Zi-gai, Pan Xie, Zhang Ming, Zhu Zhen-ming, Yang Nggai-xing, Li Nggai-guang and a grandmother from Hmao-zu-mu sang the songs and they were written down. Then with the help of the teacher Wang Ming-ji, they were sorted, the earlier from the later and set in order. I did a further complete check and made up a book by which we can remember. This book is named, "A Miao bundle of traditions from the past".

In compiling this volume my thought is that I wish to help everyone to get to know Miao traditions of the past so I have used the old script for writing it. If, within, the wording is incomplete, letters are written incorrectly, or any matters are not clear, it is hoped that all may be corrected and made good. It is in my mind that, later, I would like to compile another volume, written in the new script which would be clearer than this book of songs in the old script. In this book there are some twenty-one numbers. Counting individual items, they number thirty-one.

1952. 10. 23. Yang Yung-xing at Shimenkan