

## **The Abscondence Cases of Qin and Han Dynasty Collected in *Zou Yan Shu***

Chang, Ming

### **Abstract**

Among the 22 cases collected in the judicial case anthology: *Zou Yan Shu*, unearthed from the Han tomb at Zhang Jia Shan, 20 of them are qualified as formal judgments. These rare historical materials related to abscondence, adultery, murder, malpractice, and property crime could be the actual trail records of Qin and Han Dynasty, and are compiled to be the judicial model for the judges of early Han.

The 7 abscondence cases, the major type of crime in *Zou Yan Shu*, could be further distinguished into the particular type (4 cases) according to the rehabilitation policy of early Han and the general type (3 cases). All these cases reveal the general principles of the law, and the practical connections between legal provisions and legal reasoning; moreover, they portrait the interaction between the judicial system and social issues.

**Keywords:** Zhang Jia Shan, *Zou Yan Shu*, Qin, Han, bamboo slips, judicial history, abscondence, rehabilitation