The Property Crime 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, homicide, malfeasance, and property crimes compiled to be the judical models for the judges of early Han could be the actual trail records of Qin and Han.

The property crime cases of Zou Yan Shu provide abundant judicial information of Qin and Han which could be compared with the legal provisions contained in Shui Hu Di, Long Gang and Zhang Jia Shan bamboo slips. Basing on the legal and judicial materials aforementioned, through legal and historical research methods, this article shall identify the character of Zou Yan Shu, and clarify its position in the legal source system of Han.

Keywords: Qin, Han, bamboo slips, Zhang Jia Shan, Shui Hu Di, Long Gang, Zou Yan Shu, property crime, judicial history