Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register Nomination Form

1 Title of Documentary Heritage Item or Collection (max 10 words)

The title will be used for such activities as publicity and certificates of inscription.

Shui Character Documents of Guizhou Province, China

2 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Include the type of document heritage such as manuscripts, papers, film etc. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

Written in pictographs and pictorial symbols by the Shui people in the southern mountainous region of Guizhou Province, China, Shui character documents are interpreted in the language and songs of Shui ethnicity and are the original religious classics mastered and used by Shui character masters (wise men). The documents that cover all aspects of social life such as astronomy & calendar, seasonal festivals & sacrifices and agricultural production not only serve as a memory system to maintain the folk beliefs and production and life of the Shui people, but are an important cornerstone of the social governance and cultural inheritance of the Shui people, well preserving the early human civilization.

The documents involve about 2,000 hieroglyphs and picture symbols which are mnemonic characters mainly written on Tupi paper as thick and rough as clay with a bamboo stick dipped into the ashes of the pot bottom. The important items are marked with minerals or vegetable dyes. Now, a total of 17,714 Shui character documents have been collected.

Experts have found that some commonly used words in Shui character documents appeared under the influence of Chinese characters.

3 Nominator/s Contact details

3.1 Name of nominator/s (person/s or organisation/s)

Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives

Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum

Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County

Dushan County Archives

Duyun City Archives

Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library

Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities

3.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owners Custodians

3.3 Contact person/s

Ge Mingyi, Curator of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Guizhou Province

Mo Yongjuan, Curator of Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum

Mo Chunkai, Curator of Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County

Yang Huirong, Curator of Dushan County Archives

Huang Jinsong, Curator of Duyun City Archives

Luo Lin, Curator of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library

Wen Yi, Dean of Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities

3.4 Contact details	
Name Ge Mingyi	Address Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Yundong Town, Duyun City, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-8222303 13985776926	Email qnzdag@163.com
Name Mo Yongjuan	Address Enming Avenue, Yuping Subdistrict, Libo County, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-3612297 18198670856	Email lbxdaj@163.com
Name Mo Chunkai	Address Administration Center, Xianfu Road, Sanhe Subdistrict, Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-3921030 18685325088	Email sdxdaj@126.com
Name Huang Jinsong	Address Duyun City Archives, Yundong Town, Duyun City, Guizhou Province
Telephone	Email

0854-8222493 13638033288	Szb82222741@163.com
Name Yang Huirong	Address Heping Road Archives, Jingcheng Subdistrict, Dushan County, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-3226138 13765457751	Email dsxdaszj3226138@@163.com
Name Luo Lin	Address No.2, Gongren Road, Duyun City, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-8223556 18108541211	Email qnztsg@163.com
Name Wen Yi	Address No.5, Jianjiang Avenue (Middle Section), Duyun City, Guizhou Province
Telephone 0854-8737000 13885464789	Email qnsy@sgmtu.edu.cn

4 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I/we have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register. All nominators must sign here. (A signed support letter from the nominators' National Commissions is required when the nomination is from two or more Member States. See Section J in the Process document for more details)

Name	Position
Ge Mingyi	Curator of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Guizhou Province
Address	Email
Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Yundong Town, Duyun City, Guizhou Province	qnzdag@163.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 葛明义

Name	Position
Mo Yongjuan	Curator of Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum
Address	Email
Enming Avenue, Yuping Subdistrict, Libo County, Guizhou Province	lbxdaj@163.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 莫永娟

Name	Position
Mo Chunkai	Curator of Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County
Address Administration Center, Xianfu Road, Sanhe Subdistrict, Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Guizhou Province	Email sdxdaj@126.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 莫春开

Name	Position
Huang Jinsong	Curator of Duyun City Archives
Address Duyun City Archives, Yundong Town, Duyun City, Guizhou Province	Email Szb82222741@163.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 黄劲松

Name	Position
Yang Huirong	Curator of Dushan County Archives
Address	Email

Heping Road Archives, Jingcheng Subdistrict, Dushan County, Guizhou Province	dsxdaszj3226138@@163.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 杨慧蓉

Name	Position
Luo Lin	Curator of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library
Address No.2, Gongren Road, Duyun City, Guizhou Province	Email qnztsg@163.com

Signature/s of nominator/s 罗林

Name	Position
Wen Yi	Dean of Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities
Address No.5, Jianjiang Avenue(Middle Section), Duyun City, Guizhou Province	Email qnsy@sgmtu.edu.cn

Signature/s of nominator/s 文毅

5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different from the nominator/s)

5.2 Custodian/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner/s)

Please note: Written permission for nomination of this item from the Owners and/or Custodian/s if different from the nominator **must be attached** to this Nomination Form.

5.3Legal status

Provide details of the legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage.

Type of Ownership: Publicly-owned.

Scope of Use: The original Shui character documents are limited to reading, while pictures, publications, and digitized CDs are open to the public.

Copyright Status: The copyright of Shui character documents belongs to to Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum, Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Duyun City Archives, Dushan County Archives, Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities, and Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library.

Administrative Authority: Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture People's Government.

Legislative Protection Authority: Approved by the Standing Committee of the 13th People's Congress of Guizhou Province, Regulations on the Protection of Shui character culture in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture shall come into force on 1 January, 2019.

5.4 Accessibility

Describe how the documentary heritage may be accessed

Any access restrictions should be explicitly stated below (for instance if advance permission is required, or if general access is not permitted by tradition or custom of the originating community).

17,442 volumes (pieces) of Shui character documents have been digitized, and a database of Shui character documents has been created; some oral audio and video recordings of Shui character masters have been completed, and an audio and video database has been created; the "Shui Script Input System VI.0" has been developed and registered by China National Intellectual Property Administration.

The access to the original Shui character documents is restricted while the databases, copies, publications, etc. are accessible to the public for consulting.

5.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection, if known. The answer to this question is not taken into account when determining whether the nominated documentary heritage meets the criteria for inscription.

Copyright Status: The copyright belongs to Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum, Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Duyun City Archives, Dushan County Archives, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library, and Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities. There are copyright restrictions.

6 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

6.1 Exact title of the documentary heritage

Give the exact title of the nominated documentary heritage and the exact name of the nominating institution/s.

Shui Character Documents of Guizhou Province, China Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives

6.2 Type of documentary heritage

Describe the type/s of documentary heritage. Examples include papers, photos, digital, maps, manuscripts, film etc.

At present, 17,714 volumes (pieces) of Shui character documents (paper documents) and 20 audio-visual materials have been collected.

6.3 Catalogue or registration details Give the catalogue or registration details for the item or collection.

A nominated collection or archival fonds must be finite, with clear beginning and end dates. If the catalogue or registration details are too long, provide a description of the contents with sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers. Or you can add the catalogue/registration details as an appendix, or provide a link to an online inventory.

水书文献馆藏目录（表一）

馆藏单位	档号			文献名称	形成年代	进馆时间
	全宗号	案卷目录号/柜号	案卷号/册号			
黔南州档案馆	202	1	7	祭祀卷	咸丰治十一年	2005年
黔南州档案馆	202	1	35	大火	1937年	2005年
黔南州档案馆	202	1	364	狩猎卷	民国	2005年
黔南州档案馆	202	1	366	天扛	民国	2005年
黔南州档案馆	202	1	442	六十年九星卷	民国	2005年
略						
黔南州档案馆	小计：468卷（件）					
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	56	金银	明代（1368年）	2002年
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	58	渺金	明代（1368年）	2002年
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	154	星宿吉凶	明代（1636年）	2002年
略						
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	17	档书	嘉庆二十二年（1817年）	2002年
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	2585	贪巨九星	同治八年（1869年）	2005年
荔波县档案史志馆	186	1	2648	正七卷朗读本	乾隆五十五年（1790年）	2003年
略						
荔波县档案史志馆	小计：9438卷（件）					
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	61	六十龙备要	清代	2006年
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	124	小儿命里	光绪	2006年
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	6070	吉星	清代	2006年
略						
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	7346	六十甲子人贪土吉	民国	2006年
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	7347	丧葬卷	民国	2018年
三都水族自治县档案馆	121	1	7348	营造卷	民国	2018年
三都水族自治县档案馆	小计；7348卷（件）					
都匀市档案馆	129	32	1	宫掌吉凶日	民国	2004年
都匀市档案馆	129	32	2	正七卷破解宜忌朗读本	民国	2004年
都匀市档案馆	129	32	3	杂记本	民国	2004年
略						
都匀市档案馆	129	32	243	正七凶本	民国	2004年
都匀市档案馆	129	32	244	正七小本凶	民国	2004年
都匀市档案馆	129	32	245	杂记书	民国	2004年
都匀市档案馆	小计：245卷（件）					
独山县档案馆			18	引腊卷		
独山县档案馆			19	水历		
独山县档案馆			22	五寅推方		
略						
独山县档案馆			25	大旺		
独山县档案馆			28	八贪		
独山县档案馆			32	六甚		
小计：97卷（件）						

馆藏单位	册号/编号	文献名称	形成年代	进馆时间
黔南州图书馆	1	正七卷		1998年
黔南州图书馆	2	五寅卷	同治十一年	1998年
黔南州图书馆	3	如金如锡	光绪三十年	1998年
略				
黔南州图书馆	14	禾甲井		1998年
黔南州图书馆	5	反书趋吉	宣统元年岁次己酉	1998年
黔南州图书馆	35	婚嫁卷		1998年
黔南州图书馆	小计：42卷（件）			
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909010	总纲应用	1979年	2006年
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909031	六十年吉凶日	光绪二十六年	2006年
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909054	子午	清代	2006年
略				
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909068	壬辰	光绪二十七年	2006年
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909075	百事大吉出富贵	清代	2006年
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	200909076	八宫取用	光绪二十七年	2006年
黔南州民族师范学院民族研究院	小计：76卷（件）			
合计	17714卷（件）			

音像档案目录（表二：水书先生口诵经文）

序号	档号	题名	责任者	摄录者	时间长度	摄录日期
1	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0005	水书先生吴天培祭田神	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	01m26s	
2	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0006	水书先生蒙文兵祭石神	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	14m02s	20181004
3	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0007	水书先生杨胜昭祭井神	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	01m57s	20181004
4	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0008	水书先生杨胜昭祭树神	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	05m01s	20181004
5	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0009	水书先生杨胜昭祭米神	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	02m42s	20181004
6	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0010	水书先生杨胜开口诵经文（起房盖屋）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	03m19s	20210116
7	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0011	水书先生口诵经文（祈人丁兴旺-用事）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	15m17s	20150107
8	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0012	水书先生韦见口诵经文（水龙坡收集“七煞 独甲”用事）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	10m10s	2016014
9	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0013	水书先生杨胜昭口诵经文（书院用事——趋吉避凶）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	02m28s	20161116
10	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0014	水书先生韦见口诵经文（蛋卜）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	02m38s	20160429
11	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0017	水书先生吴天培口诵经文（卯节-祭祖）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	06m55s	20220701
12	202-LX·水书-口诵经文-永久-0016	水书先生潘帮强口诵经文（问石-除恶煞）	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	08m10s	20181017

音像档案目录（表二-水书先生口述史）

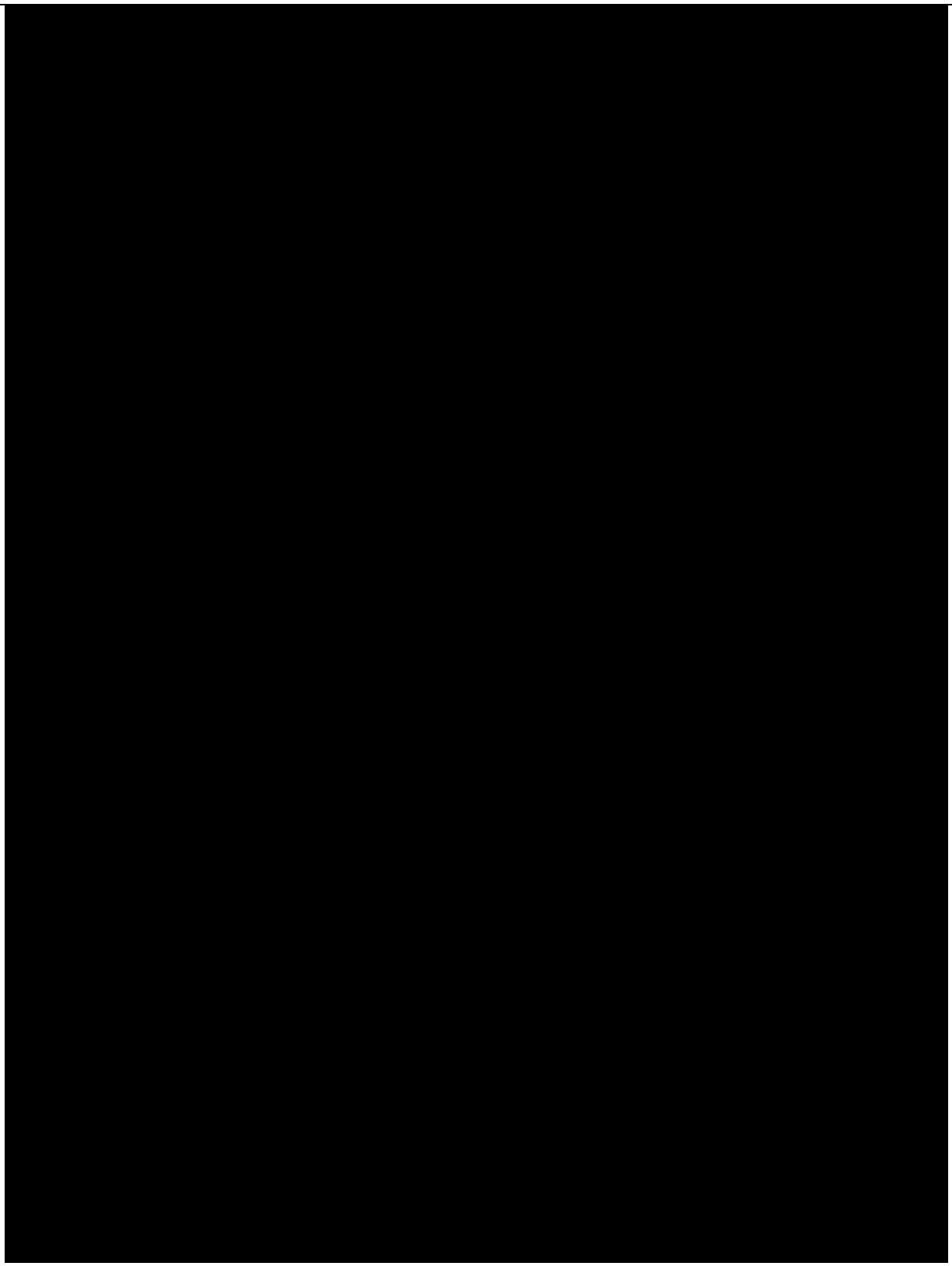
序号	档号	题名	责任者	摄录者	时间长度	摄录日期
1	202-LX·水书-水书先生口述史-永久-0001	水书先生-潘帮强访谈	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	46m09s	20181017
2	202-LX·水书-水书先生口述史-永久-0002	水书先生-蒙文兵访谈	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	36m51s	20181019

音像档案目录（表二-水书习俗）

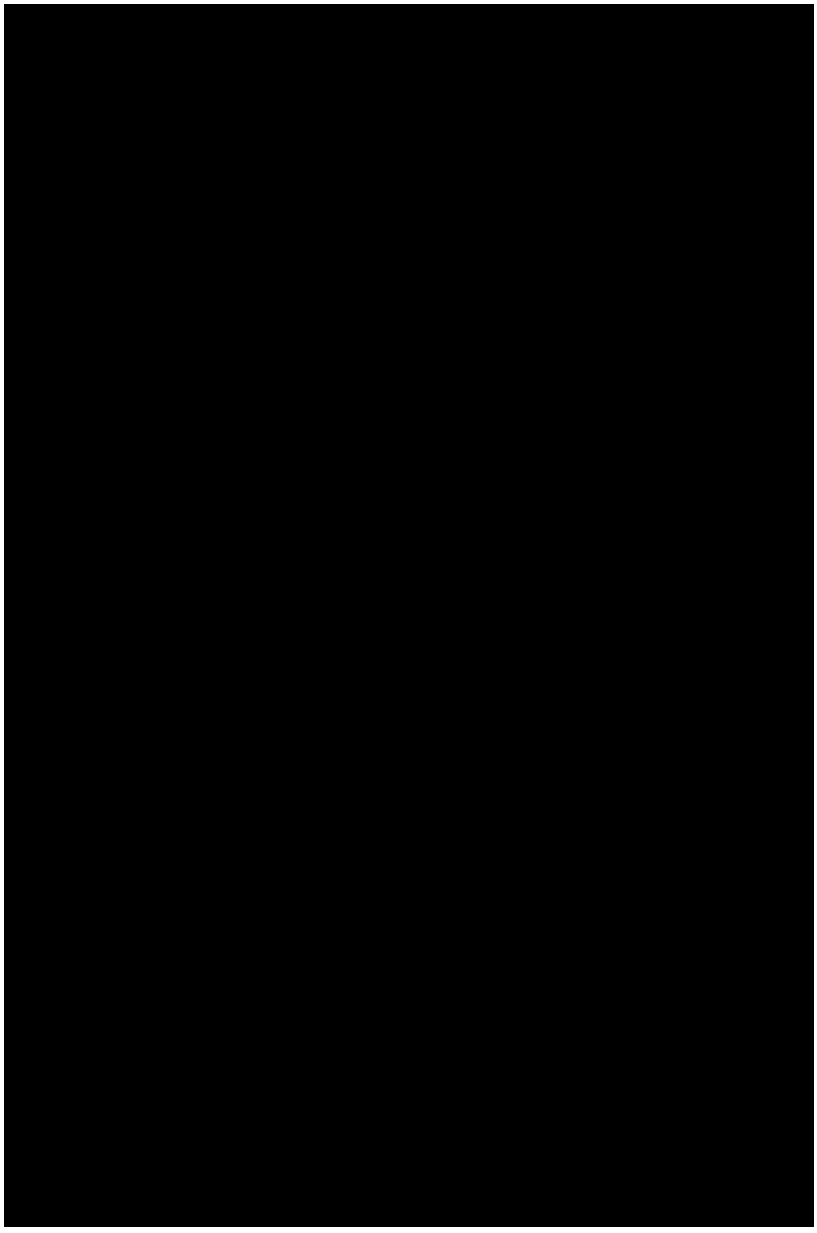
序号	档号	题名	责任者	摄录者	时间长度	摄录日期
1	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0001	水族婚嫁	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	39m26s	20220526
2	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0002	水东端坡对歌	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	7m33s	20210926
3	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0003	水族端节习俗	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	12m53s	20090116
4	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0004	水书习俗·卯坡	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	03m17s	20220711
5	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0005	水书习俗敬霞节	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	06m49s	20210723
6	202-LX·水书-水书习俗-永久-0006	水书习俗·苏宁喜节	黔南州档案馆	黔南州档案馆收集	04m26s	20180212

6.4 Images of the documentary heritage.

Three to six digital images of the documentary heritage should be provided as attachments to this form. By providing the images you are agreeing that they can be used by MOWCAP for the purpose of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website, etc. Please clearly note on this form if you do not wish MOWCAP to use the images for publicity or promotional purposes (for instance if not permitted by tradition or custom of the originating community).

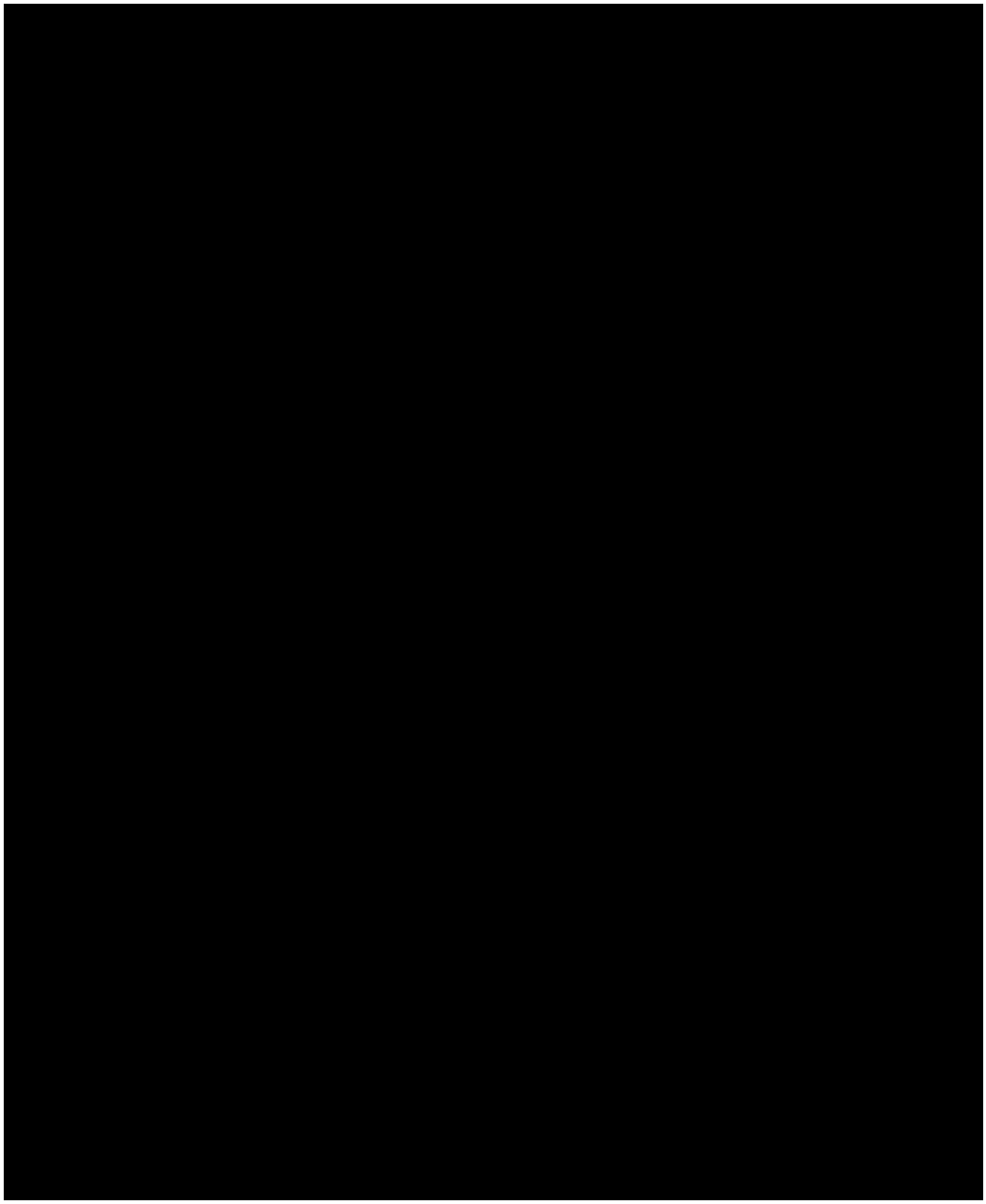


Jixing (astronomical map)

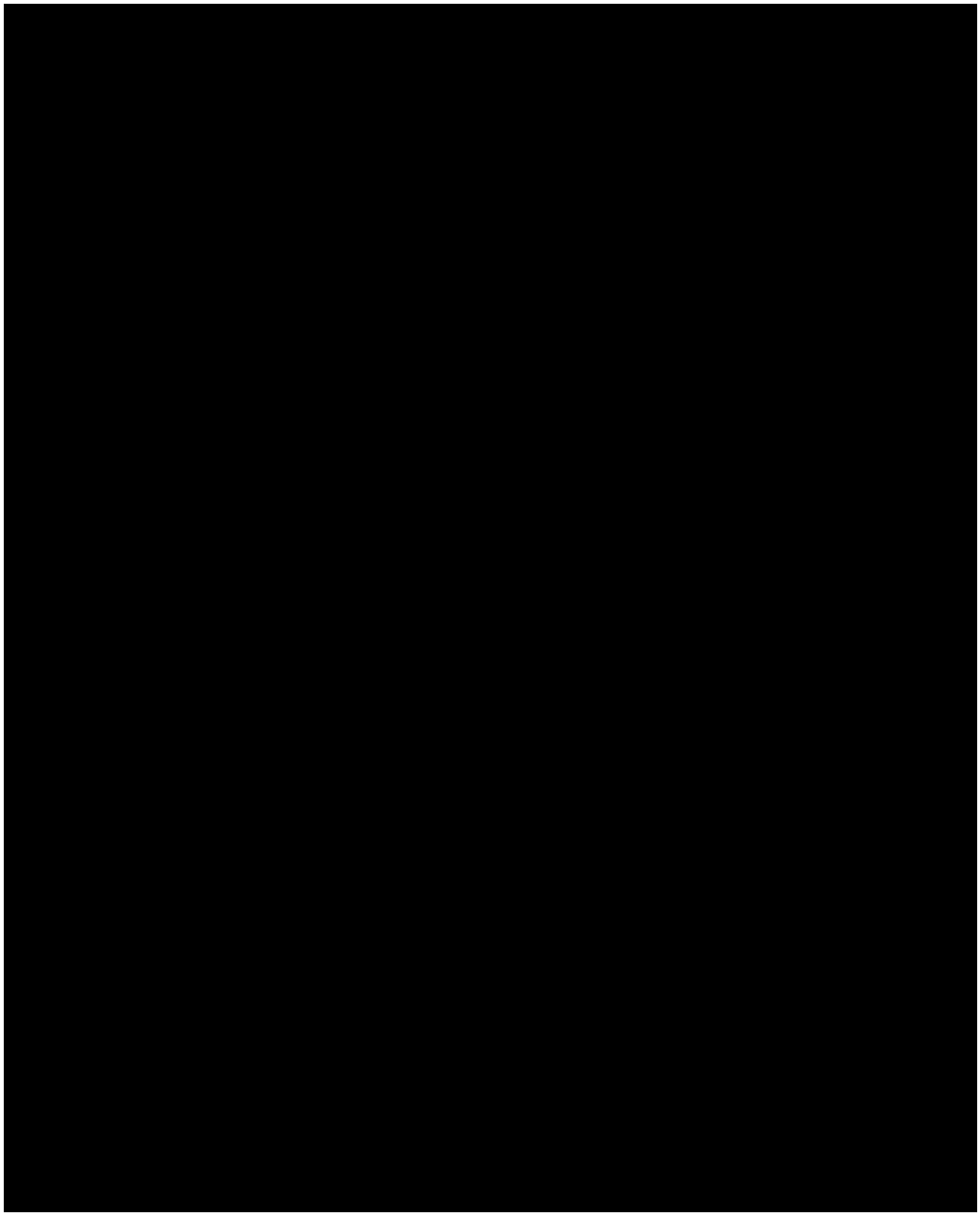


Jixing is a one-volume work composed of 32 pages. It was transcribed by an unknown person in the Qing Dynasty. It is part of *Shui Character: Renchen*. Recording the movement of nine stars, knowledge regarding astronomy and calendar, etc., it is an important book to pick an auspicious day for major production activities and folk customs of the Shui people. *Jixing* is of significant reference value for the study of ancient writing, production and life, folk customs, social history and culture of the Shui ethnicity. Written in black regular Shui script, it's a thread-bound book with tissue paper. It has a page size of 25cmx17.5cm, and each page

is composed of 12 lines, with each line comprising different numbers of characters. There are also images and vermilion annotations. It is well preserved. In 2008, it was included in the first batch of *National Precious Ancient Books List*. Now, it is collected by the Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province. (File No. : 121-1-6070)

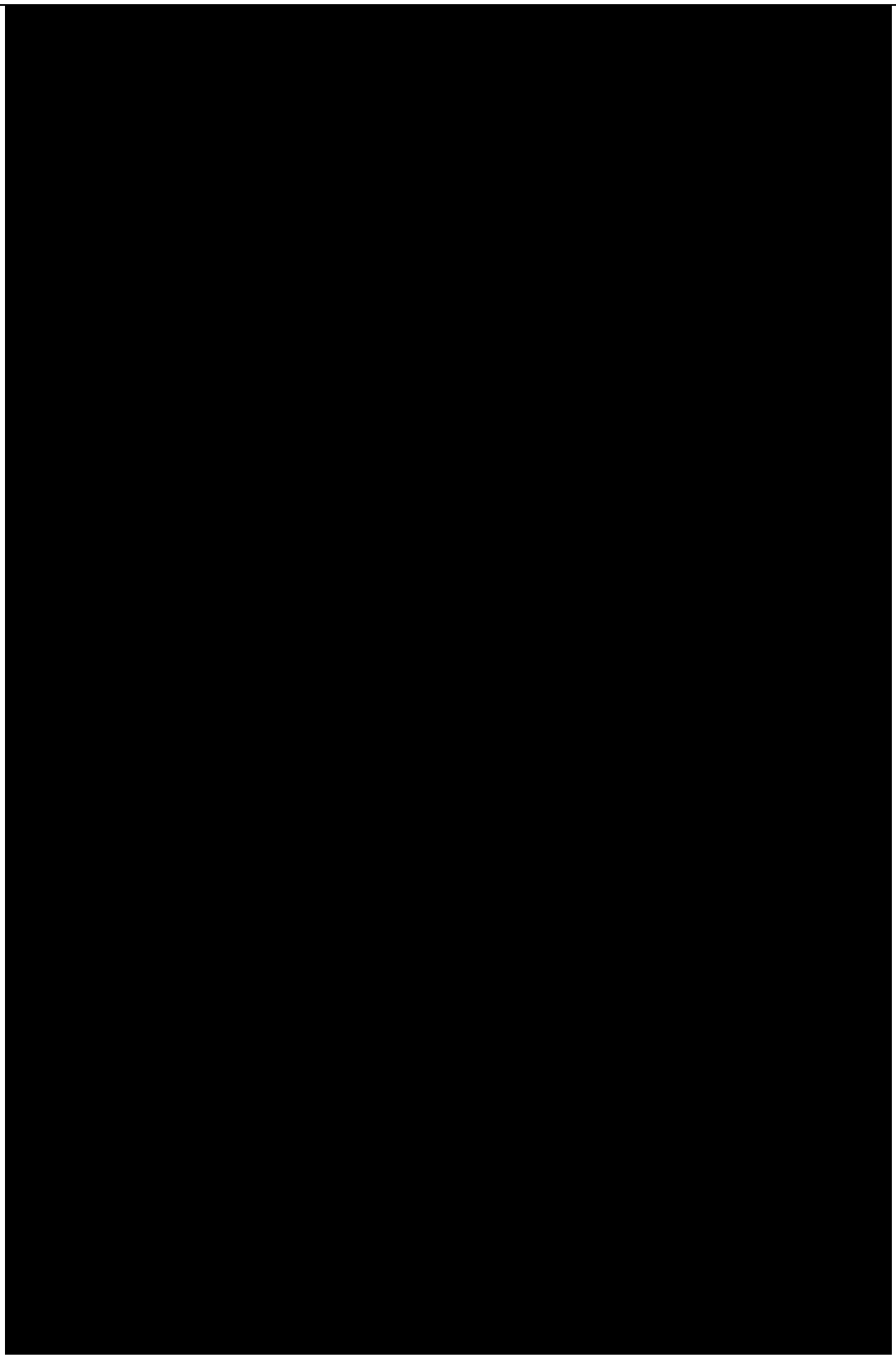


Sixty Dragons

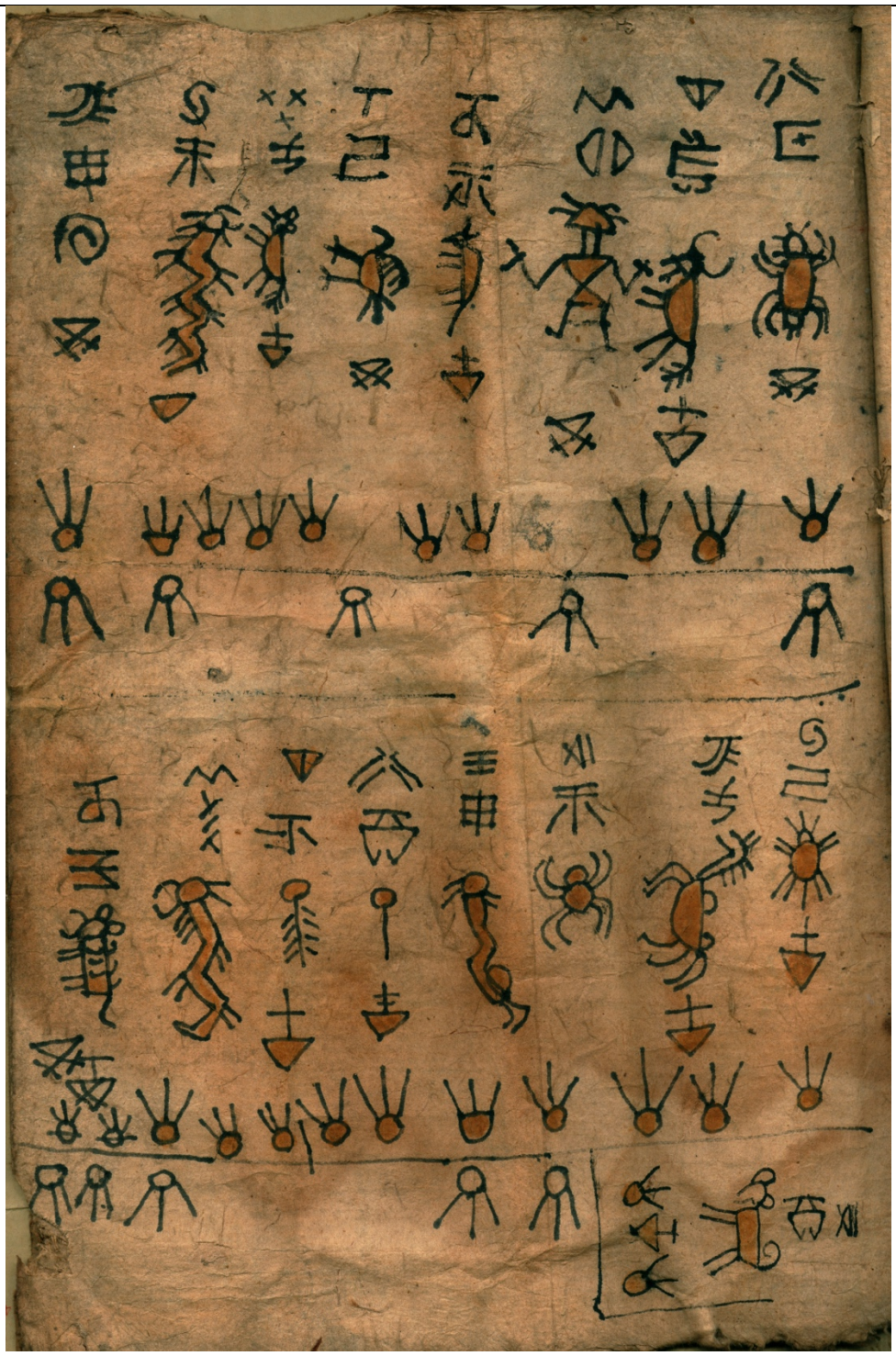


Sixty Dragons is a one-volume book composed of 65 pages. Its completion time is unknown. This copy is transcribed by Wei Busong in Shui script. The cover is in traditional Chinese characters meaning "Sixty Dragons", which is how this book is entitled. It records a

variety of content such as the astronomy and calendar of the Shui people. It is of reference value for the study of calendar, writing and art of the Shui people. Written in black regular Shui script, it's a thread-bound book with tissue paper. It has a page size of 30cmx17cm, and each page is composed of various lines, with each line comprising different numbers of characters. Traced with vermilion for marking, it is a classic Shui character work with illustrations specifying good or ill luck. Torn as the cover is, the content is roughly complete. In 2008, it was included in the first batch of *National Precious Ancient Books List*. It is now collected in Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province. (File No. : 121-1-61)

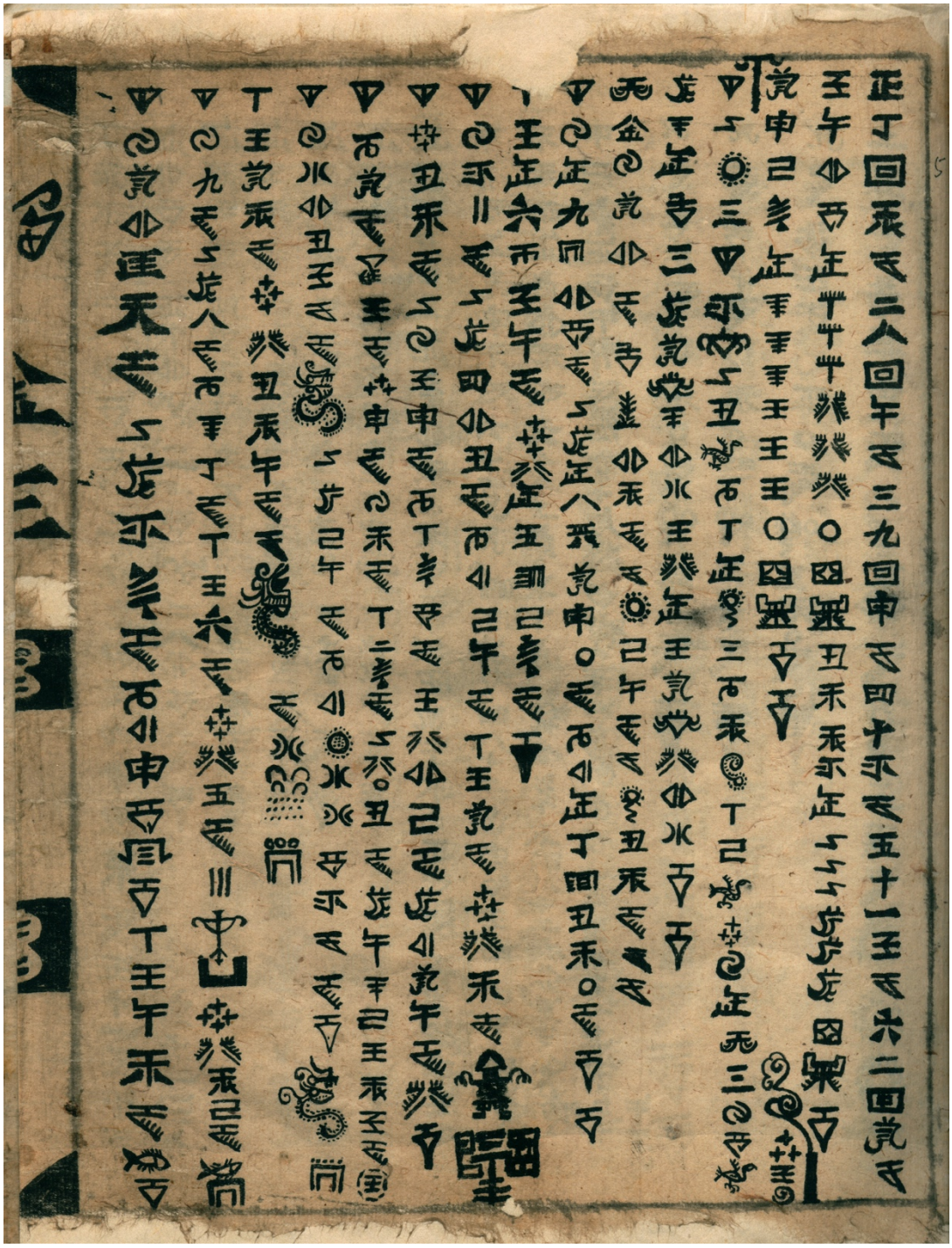


Lejin

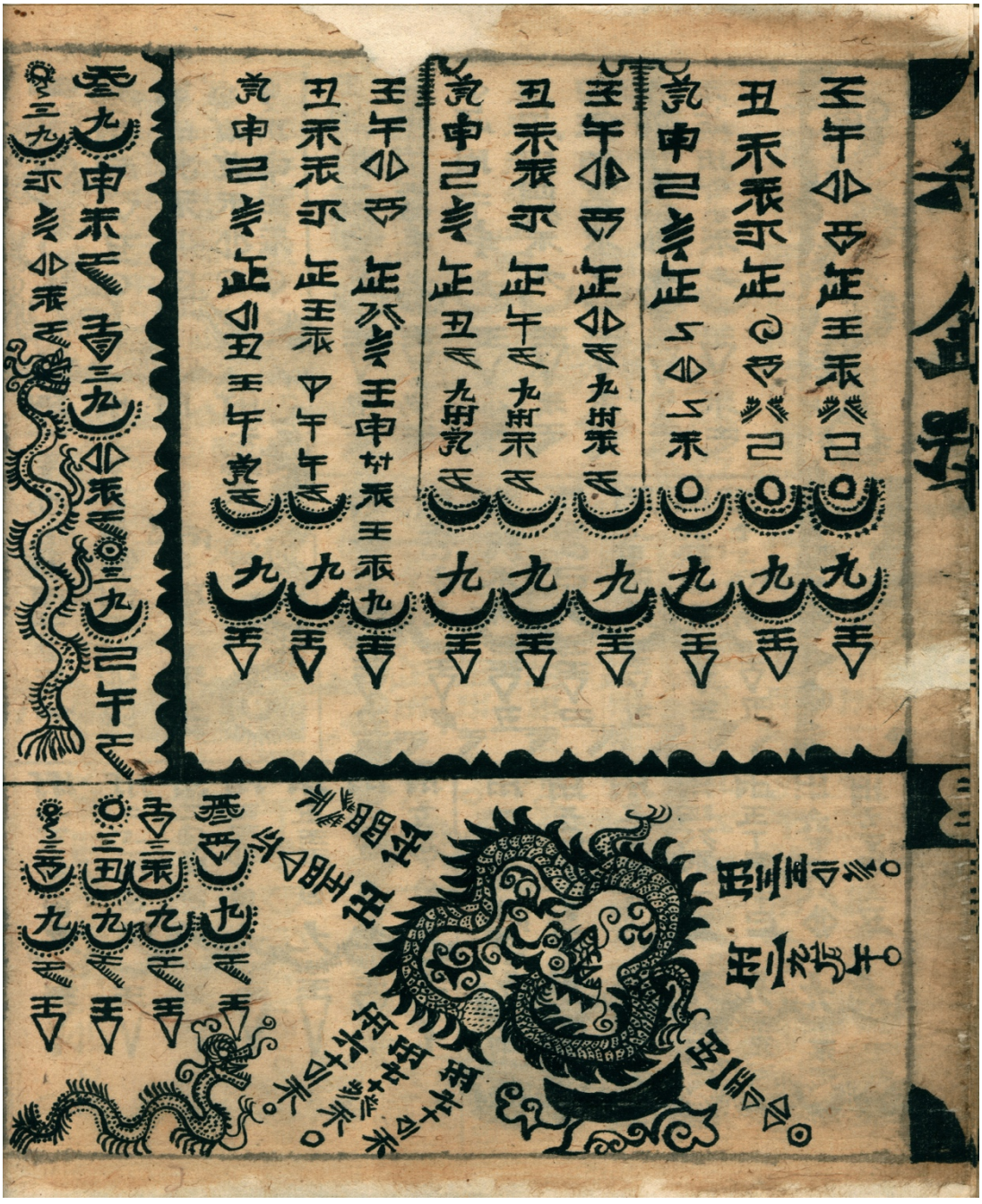


Lejin: Jiri, a one-volume work written in 1368 of the Ming Dynasty, is composed of 18 pages with a page size of 32cm×21.5cm. Some pages are torn. It mainly records the dates counted with twenty-eight constellations and divining good or ill luck with them is an crucial method to pursue fortune and avoid evil. The original copy is age-old and the symbols used in it boast a long history. In 2008, it was included in the first batch of *National Precious Ancient*

Books List. It is now collected in Libo County Archives, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province. (File No.: 186-58)



Jinyin



Jinyin is a one-volume classic work resembling woodblock print. Written in 1368 of the Ming Dynasty, it is composed of 79 pages with a page size of 16.1cm×20.1cm. Some pages are torn

with holes. There are mainly the auspicious entries to predict the time and location, pursue good fortune and avoid evil as well as eliminate evil. The book contains a sketch of the compass card and is composed of symbols, pictograms, the text symbol of heavenly stems and earthly branches, and numbers that carry special significance of the constellations. In 2008, it was included in the first batch of *National Precious Ancient Books List*. It is now collected in Libo County Archives, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province. (File No.: 186-56)

Infants' Fortune Telling (pictorial signs)

Infants' Fortune Telling is a one-volume work written in the period of Emperor Guangxu

(August 14, 1871–November 14, 1908). It is composed of 13 pages with a page size of 28cm×17.4cm. Some pages are torn. Recording such items as “Daida”, “Daigeng”, “Babing” and “Shibai”, it is used to tell the good fortune or misfortune of infants and offer solutions to infants to get rid of misfortunes when their birth offends the devil. It is of reference value to the study of Shui people’s rearing concept and social customs. It is now collected in Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Qiannan Prefecture, Guizhou Province. (File No.: 121-124)

Comparison Table of Shui calendar and lunar calendar

Shui calendar January (lunar calendar September) is also called Duan month, thus the Spring Festival is called Duan Festival by Shui people.

Seasons on the Shui calender	(spring)			(summer)			(autumn)			(winter)	
Seasons on the lunar calender	autumn	winter		spring			summer			autumn	
Months on the Shui calender Chinese Translation	 January **Duan Festival** Spring Festival	 February	 March	 April Suningxi Festival To Worship the goddess Niangniang	 May	 June	 July	 August	 September	 October Mao Festival Valentine's Day	 November	 December Jingxia Festival To worship the mountain god
Months on the lunar calender	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Months according to Terrestrial Branches	Xu month	Hai Month	Zi month	Chou month	Yin month	Mao month	Chen month	Si month	Wu month	Wei month	Shen month	You Month

水书文字符号系统归类例字表		
文字类别	例 字	备 注
图像文字	(脸)、(蛇)、(牛)、(穗)、(刀)、(壶)、(花)、(鱼)	多见于表示动植物、工具等能“画成其物”的文字。
象形文字	(卯)、(壬)、(金)、(酉)、(年)、(日)、(时)	多见于描述天文有办法类文字。
假借字	(人)(恶人)(病人)(死)(鬼)、(梯)(翻梯)、(剪刀)(姑又)、(斧)(引贯)；(南、男)、(六、禄存星)、(心、心月狐)；(未)、(方)、(踢)、(亥)	多用借音、借义、字形正反写等方法造字。
信仰符号	(八平)、(都居)、(勾夹)、(六朵)、(堂扶)	多见于记录鬼神名的文字（全是汉语谐音翻译）。

辅助说明

假借字：如：五虎 $ŋo^{52}hu^{33}$虎头形，“虎”水书读作“hu^{33}”；姑又 $ku^{33}jiu^{13}$剪刀形，“剪刀”水语读“jiu^{13}”；梭项 $so^{33}haŋ^{13}$树根形，“根”水语读作“$haŋ^{13}$”；引贯 $ʔjən^{35}kwa:n^{13}$斧头形，“斧头”在水语中读作“$kwa:n^{13}$”；腊血 $la:k^{42}$ $ɕek^{32}$，孩童形，“孩童”在水语中读作“$la:k^{42}$”；姑短，水语读作“ku^{33} qon^{52}”有“头短秃”“无头”之意。

象形文字：卯，水字作、甲骨文作（殷虚收前编，一卷二十八页），（前编，五卷二十九页），金文作（见金文编，十四卷第十六页）。水书与甲骨文及金文无异。

酉，水字作、或，甲骨文作（殷虚书契前编、六卷三十九页）、（铁云藏龟，十二页）均像酒尊形，无大差异。

癸，水书作、、，或，甲骨文作（殷虚书契，前编，一卷八页），金文作（戊父癸）、（史兽鼎）、（父猛）、（鼎）（金文编，十四卷二十五页），与水书大致相同。

甲，水字作、，甲骨文作（殷虚书契，前编，二卷十四页），金文作（倾鼎）（金文编，十四卷十九页），亦极相似。

寅，水字作、、；甲骨文作（殷虚书契，前编，一卷五十一页），（同上、五十二页），均相似。

年，水字作、；甲骨文作，金文作，有相似之处。

月，水字作、、；甲骨文作，金文作，极相似。

日，水字作、；甲骨文作、，金文作、，均相似。

时，水字作、；甲骨文作，有相似之处。

6.5 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

Set out the history of the item or collection - its 'life story' or provenance - from the time when it was created to its place in your institution. This is critical to the item or collection's authenticity. You may not know all the details, but give as comprehensive an account of the item or collection's provenance as you can.

Scattered in villages of such counties as Libo County, Sandu Shui Autonomous County and Dushan County and such cities as Duyun City in Guizhou Province, Shui character documents are still widely used among Shui people. Nevertheless, the documents are only passed down to males inside the villages and the documents are all transcribed by Shui character masters and are frequently used, so they are quite fragile. Besides, by tradition, Shui character masters will burn the badly torn documents after transcribing the content onto new paper, which means returning the documents to the ancestors. Therefore, the existing Shui character documents are mainly formed after the Qing Dynasty.

Since 2002, the governments of counties such as Libo County, Sandu Shui Autonomous County and Dushan County and cities like Duyun City have successively carried out large-scale rescue and collection work to Shui character documents. After more than 20 years of hard work, a total of 17,714 documents have been collected in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture respectively by Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives (468), Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum (9,438), Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County (7,348), Duyun City Archives (245), Dushan County Archives (97), Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities (76), and Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library (42). Among these documents, seven of them are passed down from the Ming Dynasty, 2,182 from the Qing Dynasty and 3,175 from the Republic of China era. For instance, *Lejin*, written in 1368 A.D. of the Hongwu Period of the Ming Dynasty, , was collected in November 2002 with a file No. of 186-1-58; *Zhengqi* (for reciting), written in the 55th year (1790 A.D.) of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, was collected in November 2002 with a File No. of 186-1-2648. Thanks to timely rescue and centralized preservation, these precious documents have now become the most extensive collection of Shui character literature resources in China.

6.6 Bibliography

Provide a list of at least 3 published sources that have been produced using the nominated documentary heritage.

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A bibliography provides evidence that the documentary heritage has been used by scholars, and knowledge of its impact and influence is in the public domain. It is a good idea to cite the works of scholars from outside your own country, as well as local scholars, to demonstrate this influence.

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6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

Provide the details of three to six independent people with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage who may be contacted by MOWCAP for further information on your nomination. Note that the Register Sub Committee (RSC) may also contact other experts.

The names and contact details of your referees will not be publicly disclosed by MOWCAP nor disclosed without their permission to any third party.

Name	Qualifications	Address
[redacted]	[redacted] Tsinghua University, [redacted] Southwest Center for Endangered Culture Research, Tsinghua University, [redacted] Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic Paleography	[redacted]
Name	Qualifications	Address
[redacted]	Researcher of the Institute o Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Vice Chairman o Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic Paleography	[redacted]
Name	Qualifications	Address
[redacted]	[redacted] First Historical Archives of China, Committee Member of National Expert Committee on Ancient Books Protection and Vice Chairman of Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic	[redacted]

	Paleography	
Name	Qualifications	Address
[redacted]	[redacted] Minzu University of China, [redacted] Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic Paleography	[redacted]
Name Sun Bojun	Qualifications Researcher and Doctoral Supervisor of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Vice Chairman of Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic Paleography, Chief Expert of National Social Science Fund "Obscure Lost Knowledge" Team Project, Legal Representative, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of Chinese Association for the Study of Ethnic Paleography	Address The Institute of Ethnic Ancient Books of Minzu University of China, No. 6 Office Building, No. 27, Zhongguancun South Street, Haidian District, Beijing Email ： sbj100@sina.cn Phone ： 18513235520

Name	Qualifications	Address
Wu Guibiao	Former Curator and Research Librarian of Library of the Cultural Palace of the Nationalities (Chinese Nationality Library), Member of Evaluation Expert Group for *National Precious Ancient Books List*, and Member of National Technical Committee for Library Standardization	No.49, Fuxingmen Inner Street, Xicheng District, Beijing Email: wuguibiao_mt@163.com Phone:13691145112

I certify that the above named experts have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination to the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Signature Full name (Please PRINT)

Date

7 Authenticity and Integrity

7.1 Authenticity and Integrity

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? For example, has its identity and provenance been reliably established; are supplementary parts being kept elsewhere and not included in the nomination; has it been altered or damaged; are sections or pages missing; is part of the documentary heritage lost?

Shui character documents are collected by relevant archives and libraries of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture for more than 20 years. Specific information such as date of collection, former collectors and source of inheritance is explicit, thus the authenticity of the documents is guaranteed. There is no legal dispute over the identities of document owners and custodians. In March 2002, *Shui Character Literature of Guizhou Province* was selected into the first batch of *Chinese Archives and Documents Heritage List*. In June 2006, with the approval of the State Council, the custom of Shui character was included in the first batch of *China Intangible Heritage List*. In March 2008, approved by the State Council, six volumes of Shui character works, including *Jixing, Sixty Dragons, Lejin, Jinyin, Gengjia* and *Wannianjingjing* were included in the first batch of *National Precious Ancient Books List* which has included a total of 79 Shui character documents to date. With the approval of the State Council, the Libo County Archives was identified as a national key protection unit for ancient books in March 2008 when Libo County Archives was also the only county-level archives in China to receive this honor.

The literature not only comes from the core area where the Shui people cluster, but also from the villages where the Shui people live together with other ethnic groups such as Han, Buyi, and Miao. The literature comprises 17,714 volumes (pieces) of different sizes and specifications, among which 6,362 volumes are torn, incomplete or missing, while 11,352 volumes are well-preserved. Now, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture has initiated an oral audio-visual collection work to Shui character masters, enriching the integrity of the literature from form to content.

8 Primary criteria: Regional Significance

More details on what is required for each criterion are provided in the MOWCAP Register Process document available on the MOWCAP website .You only need to provide information for criteria that are relevant to your nomination

8.1 Historical Significance

What does the documentary heritage tell us in relation to the history of the Asia Pacific region as a whole, or to a sub-region such as Central, South, Southeast, East Asia or Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia?

As a very ancient ethnic group, the Shui ethnicity is part of the big family of the Chinese nation. After constant migrations, the Shui people eventually settled in the mountainous region of southern Guizhou, China around the 3rd century B.C. The Shui ethnicity has its own language that belongs to the Zhuang-Dai branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. The Shui script is a living fossil of hieroglyphs. Under the guidance of Shui character masters (wise men), the living heritage–Shui character documents is still used today, so information of the early civilizations in the Asia-Pacific region is well preserved.

The Shui character documents can be divided into reciting books (the mother book of Shui character, and general outline, with a pithy formula in the end of each document), reading books (volumes used for Shui character without formulas), oral scriptures (with no texts), etc., building a belief world on the basis of astronomy and calendar and with "pantheism" as the core. The documents attach importance to the animism of all things, the harmony between man and nature, and the pursue of good fortune, which reflects the plain philosophy thought of the harmonious coexistence of man and nature and the harmonious development of man and the society. From form to content, the documents retain the spiritual beliefs of the early human civilization, which is of worldwide historical and cultural significance.

The unique symbols, writing forms, interpretation methods, and application rituals of Shui character documents are passed down in multiple forms such as sacrifice and seeking good fortune, which reflects the development process of people's adapting to nature and transforming nature when China's ethnic groups live together over vast areas while some live

in individual concentrated communities in small areas. This presents a remarkable snapshot of the world outlook and values that China's ethnic groups have jointly built in the process of communication and integration.

8.2 Form and Style Significance

Is the document an outstanding example of its type?

This criterion refers to the physical nature of the documentary heritage. Is the documentary heritage a particularly fine exemplar of its type; does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and craftsmanship; is it a new or unusual type of carrier or is it an example of a type of document that is now obsolete or superseded?

The documents are written on locally handmade Tupi paper mainly by dipping a bamboo stick in the ashes of the pot bottom (few are written with a brush). The important items are marked with minerals or vegetable dyes while most of them are marked with vermilion. The characters in the documents are arranged in vertical lines from top to bottom and from right to left, with no punctuation throughout the documents. Bound together with a thread, the documents mainly present such type areas as 30cm×17cm, 25cm×17cm and 20cm×16cm. No printed copies have been found so far.

As the documents are written by a bamboo stick dipped in ink, the hieroglyphs have harsh strokes and bold lines, which is of unique artistic value of calligraphy. Pictorial symbols are dominated by simple and vivid outlines of people, animals, and plants, which is of high aesthetic and artistic value.

8.3 Social Community or Spiritual Significance

Is the documentary heritage attached to a specific existing community and demonstrably significant? Information should be provided on what the nominated item represents and how this attachment is expressed.

Shui character documents epitomize the ideology, moral code, code of conduct and spiritual sustenance of the whole social group of the Shui ethnicity. Up to now, Shui character documents still guide a variety of activities such as sacrifice, festival, marriage, house building, farming production, travel, funeral, etc. of Shui people's social groups and play an important role in the social governance and cultural inheritance of the Shui ethnic group and the neighboring Buyi ethnicity, the Miao ethnicity and the Yao ethnicity. For instance, under the influence of Mao Festival of the Shui ethnicity, the Yao ethnicity has formed its own Mao Festival with local culture color. In this sense, Shui character documents are an important

carrier of the cultural inheritance and development of the Shui people, and those collected in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture are the most precious encyclopedia for the Shui people.

9 Regional Significance: Comparative criteria

The item or collection should be compared to similar items or collections, whether on any of the Memory of the World registers or not. The comparison should outline the similarities between the nominated documentary heritage has with others as well as the differences, and the reasons that make the nominated documentary heritage stand out. The comparative analysis should aim to explain the importance of the nominated documentary heritage in its national, regional and even international context (if applicable).

The purpose of the comparative analysis is to show that the nominator has tried to find any existing duplicates or other similar examples of the item or collection, and to demonstrate that there is room for this item or collection to be included on the MOWCAP Regional Register.

9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

Provide the results of the comparative analysis. Can the documentary heritage be described as unique (the only one of its kind ever created) or rare (one of a few survivors from a larger number)

The Shui character documents involve nearly 2,000 characters, including pictographs similar to oracle bone script, pictorial symbols resembling Dongba script, phonetic loan characters created by means of increasing or decreasing strokes, mirror writing, oblique writing, retrography, etc., and primitive belief symbols created by communicating with the spirit world. As a mnemonic character, the Shui character vividly reproduces the early historical fragments of the evolution of characters. Many experts and scholars agree that some Shui characters are similar or identical to oracle bone script, while many scholars believe that Shui characters are similar to oracle bone script, bronze script, large seal script and small seal script. Some scholars believe that the relationship between Shui and Chinese characters is not only loan, but also “homology, differentiation and absorption”.

The Shui character documents are the family treasures of different regions, branches and families, and they are quite difficult to collect. In addition, the Shui character documents are frequently used and fragile, and Shui character masters burn most of the damaged Shui character documents to worship ancestors after transcribing them. Therefore, the older the Shui character documents collected in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Related archives and libraries, the rarer they are.

10 Gender

Gender equality is one of two global priorities of UNESCO. If there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality, please describe them in detail, explaining what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific, and any impacts on women and girls or on gender equality in the region.

The Shui character documents are open to females in the actual activities of sacrificial rites, festivals, agricultural production, etc., and even pay special attention to female's marriage, childbirth and children's growth. For example, the activities such as the Mao Festival that advocates freedom of love and the Niangniang Festival that advocates respecting females and protecting children's health are still carried out under the leadership of Shui character masters. Now, some Shui character masters have broken the old tradition of passing on males but not females and started to teach females Shui character.

11 Statement of Significance

Provide a summary of the points made under the primary and comparative criteria, and the test of authenticity and integrity. Why is the documentary heritage important to the world and what has its impact been beyond the boundaries of a single Asia Pacific state? The summary should be about 300-600 words .

Originating from the ancient Baiyue ethnic group, the Shui ethnicity is one of the ethnic minorities in southern China and one of the few ethnic groups that possess and still use their own ancient scripts. As a comprehensive classic of Shui folk knowledge and primitive beliefs, Shui character documents have evolved to be a system of plain philosophical thought for harmony between man and nature and the harmonious development of man and society based on astronomy and calendar. In this way, the originality of the spiritual belief in man's early days is preserved from form to content, making Shui character documents an integral part of the ancient culture of China and even the Asian-Pacific region. In a word, the Shui character documents are rare and irreplaceable.

Shui character documents are ancient works written in unique scripts created by the Shui people, comprising pictographs, pictorial symbols drawn, phonetic loan characters and primitive belief symbols that can communicate with the spirit world. Compared with other pictographs that can only be interpreted after being deciphered, the Shui character documents composed of rare and hybrid mnemonic characters have been passed down from generation to generation by Shui character masters, playing an important role in the social life of Shui people in terms of moral norms and codes of conduct. In this regard, Shui character documents are not only a living specimen for studying the evolution of characters from primitive form to mature character system, but an essential part of Asia-Pacific character system.

After over 20 years' efforts, the relevant archives and libraries in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture have collected 17,714 Shui character documents. The information for each document such as the specific date of collection, former collectors and source of inheritance is precise and clear. Among the documents, *Shui Character Literature of Guizhou Province* has been included in the first batch of *Chinese Archives and Documents Heritage List*. As the wisdom crystallization and the most precious memory heritage of the

Shui people, the Shui character documents have completely preserved the original information of early human civilization and boast crucial research value in anthropology, ethnology, and linguistics.

Since 1994, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture has organized, translated and published over 40 works including *Shui Character: Zhengqi, Shui Character: Renchen, Shui Character: Funeral*, *A Translated and Annotated Collection of China's Shui Character*, *A Translated and Annotated Collection of Guizhou Precious National Ancient Books*, *China* Shui Character*, Lejin: Jiri, Shui Character: Yin-Yang and Five Elements, Shui Character: Zhengqi Beiyao, Shui Character: Zhengqi Segmentation,* collated, photocopied and published *China Shui Character* (160 volumes), compiled *The Proposal of International Coding of Shui Character in China*: *Basic Character Set of China's Shui Character,* etc., laying a good foundation for the protection, inheritance and utilization of Shui character documents.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Condition

Describe the physical condition of the documentary heritage.

The Shui character documents are both collected from the core area where the Shui people cluster, and from the villages where the Shui people live together with other ethnic groups such as Han, Buyi, and Miao. There are 17,714 documents of different sizes and specifications, among which 6,362 volumes are torn, incomplete or missing, while 11,352 volumes are well-preserved. Now, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture has initiated an oral audio-visual collection work to Shui character masters, enriching the integrity of the literature from form to content.

12.2 Threat/Risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to the nominated documentary heritage. For example, poor storage, climate, control of access.

The documents are all written ones. Due to the high frequency of use and poor private storage conditions, the phenomena such as mildew, dampness, moth-eaten, and damage are quite serious. To this end, we have set up a particular collection room for the Shui character documents collected into the library for adequate protection. Nevertheless, repair techniques need to be greatly improved.

The Shui character documents can only be interpreted and applied by Shui character masters who are often elderly. At present, Shui character masters depart this life gradually, and it is difficult for the young people to inherit and learn the culture of Shui character under the influence of economic and social development, resulting in lack of successors of Shui character. These factors further increase the risk that no one can interpret the Shui character documents.

13 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Management Plan

Are there management plans to preserve and provide access to the nominated documentary heritage?

YES NO

YES

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the plan or plans.

Rescue and protection institutions shall be established, funds for the protection of Shui character documents shall be raised, and particular rescue and protection work shall be carried out.

A survey of Shui character resources shall be carried out, a heritage resource project planning program shall be formulated, and Shui character documents shall be protected and managed.

The county (city) archives in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture shall be constructed following China's Archives Construction Standards to optimize the storage conditions for Shui character.

Oral literature of Shui character masters shall be collected and the audio-visual literature database shall be optimized.

Academic research on Shui character documents shall be implemented, and the research results of the literature shall be published for people's exploitation and utilization.

The international coding research of Shui character shall be continued.

A Shui character documentary memory heritage exhibition hall shall be established in Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Sandu Shui Autonomous County, and Libo County, respectively.

The Qiannan Shui Culture and Ecological Protection Zone shall be established, a base for the inheritance of Shui character shall be set up, such activities as introducing Shui character culture into schools and communities shall be carried out, and integrated preservation with the inheritance of Shui character as the core shall be implemented.

If NO, provide details about any proposed preservation, storage and access strategies and plans.

14 Consultation with Stakeholders

Provide details of consultation with stakeholders about this nomination. Stakeholders include communities with an involvement in the documentary heritage, owners and custodians of the documentary heritage and scholars who research the documentary heritage

Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives

Archives of Sandu Shui Autonomous County

Libo County Archives & Chronicles Museum

Dushan County Archives

Duyun City Archives

Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Library

Ethnic Research Institute, Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities

Zhao Liming Professor and Doctoral Supervisor of Tsinghua University

Nie Hongyin Researcher and Doctoral Supervisor of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Wu Yuanfeng Research Librarian of the First Historical Archives of China

Huang Jianming Director, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor of the Institute of Ethnic Ancient Books of Minzu University of China

Sun Bojun Researcher and Doctoral Supervisor of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Wu Guibiao Former Curator and Research Librarian of Library of the Cultural Palace of the Nationalities (Chinese Nationality Library)

Ma Junfan Head of MoW Knowledge Center-Fujian, and Deputy Curator of Fujian Provincial Archives

Bu Jianmin Head of MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou, and Deputy Curator of Suzhou Archives

Li Qizheng General Editor of *Journal of Silk*, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University

Yu Xiaona English Editor of Periodicals Agency of Zhejiang Sci-Tech University

Ge Mingyi Curator of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives, Executive Deputy Director of Qiannan Prefecture Shui Character World Heritage Application Office, and Librarian of Guizhou Museum of Literature and History

Yao Binglie Deputy Director of Qiannan Prefecture Shui Character World Heritage Application Office

Chen Mingliang Chief of Propaganda, Compilation and Research Section, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives

Wu Yonghua President of Guizhou Shui Character Institute

Lu Yanqing Director and Research Librarian of Qiannan Prefecture Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Yao Qinjun Deputy Director of Libo County Shui Character Culture Research Institute

Wei Shifang Deputy Director of Sandu Shui Autonomous County Shui ethnicity Culture Research Institute

Wei Zhangbing Dushan County Shui character researcher

Pan Zhengbo Sandu Shui Autonomous County Shui character researcher

15 Other Information to Support the Nomination

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage collection on the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

The application for the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register of the Shui character documents was carried out under the guidance of the Chinese National Memory of the World Project Committee, and was submitted for declaration by the owner of the document–Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture Archives. We will, as always, strengthen the professional protection of these documents, take full advantage of their historical significance and world significance, and make our own active contribution to the preservation of the Shui character documents and inheritance of the Shui culture.