

Wind instruments in *Shuowen jiezi*

Module tutor : Ms. Liu
Module codes: SICH4008
Student name: Jiahe Zhang
Student ID : 2304995
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Bamboo radical (150 characters)



<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%ee%89%a5&font=%e4%b8%ad%e7%a0%94%e9%99%a2%e7%94%b2%e9%aa%a8%e6%96%87%e9%87%8d%e6%96%87%e4%b8%89&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96>



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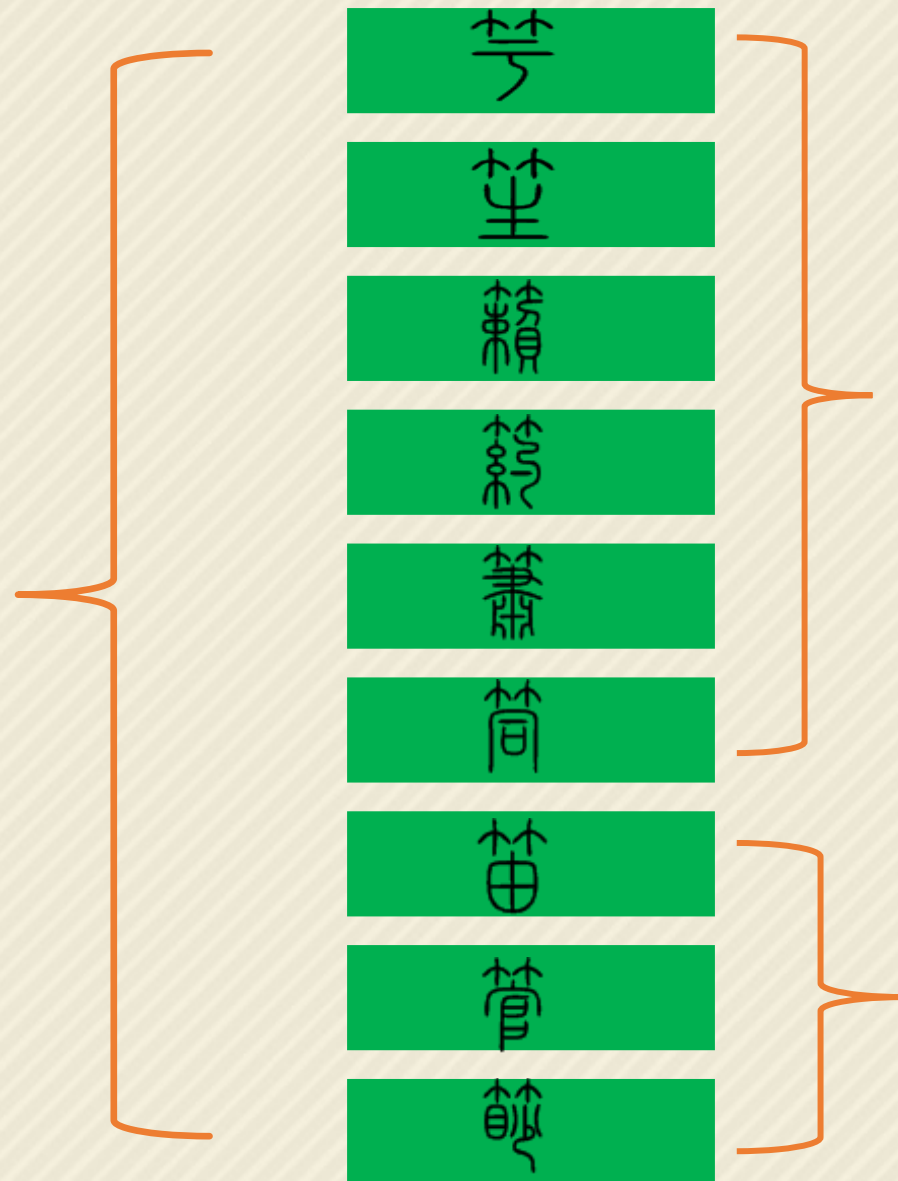
conclusion



01

Multi-wind instruments

Part One



Multi-wind
instruments

Single wind
instruments



- It has thirty-six pipes with springs in each of them.¹
- Yu(竽) is the head of five notes. When Yu (竽) is played , Zheng(箏) and Se(瑟) will play along with it. When Yu(竽) makes a song, all the other instruments will echo it.²



1. Xu Shen 許慎 (dates unknown) , Duan Yucai 段玉裁 (1735-1815), *Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注 , 1st edn. (Taipei: Taibei hongye wenhua shiye youxiangongsi, 1998), pp.198-199.

2. Wang Xianshen 王先慎 (dates unknown) , *Zhong Zhong* 鐘舌 (dates unknown) *Han Feizi jijie* 韓非子集解 , 1st edn. (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1998), p.154.



- Sheng(笙) looks like the body of a phoenix, and it has thirteen springs. Sheng(笙) is seen as the sound of the first lunar month.³



3. Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

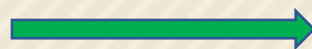
<https://images.metmuseum.org/CRDImages/mi/original/DP216617.jpg>

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竽

- **It is a three-hole instrument.⁴**

The sound that come out
of the hole of tube
(Original meaning)



All sounds
(Extensional meaning)

4. Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e7%b1%9f&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96>



- Small Lai.⁵

「笙」、「簫」、「箛」 are same instrument, and people use three different names to distinguish their size.

5. Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e7%ae%b9&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96>



- The flute is made by a series of thin pipes of varying lengths and every pipe is arranged according to the height of scale, resembling the wings of a phoenix.”⁶



6.Xu and duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

<https://xiao.xue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/ImageText2/ShowImage.ashx?text=%e7%b0%ab&font=%e5%8c%97%e5%b8%ab%e5%a4%a7%e8%aa%aa%e6%96%87%e5%b0%8f%e7%af%86&size=48&style=regular&color=%23000000&resolution=96>

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.6cdd35abea50bcb945feb488aa7cd60d?rik=uI8JaPYhOOruEQ&riu=http%3a%2f%2fwww.bianzhong.net%2fUpFile%2f201207%2f2012072929541489.jpg&ehk=ncvrK4MPyRH2qE8aERopbFTShFIE0MZkGm%2fZ%2fS%2bLI%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0&sres=1&sresct=1>



- Similar to flute(簫).⁷
- It is bigger than a flute with twenty-three tubes, and it doesn't have a base.⁸

7.Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

8.Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

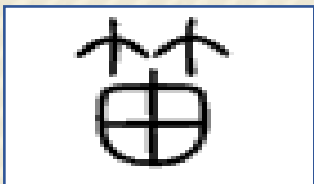
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02

Single wind instruments

Part Two



- A cylinder with seven holes.⁹
- Di(笛) was made by a man called Qiuzhong during the period of Wudi.
「笛」 means to purify, to cleanse away evil intentions, and accept what is righteous.¹⁰



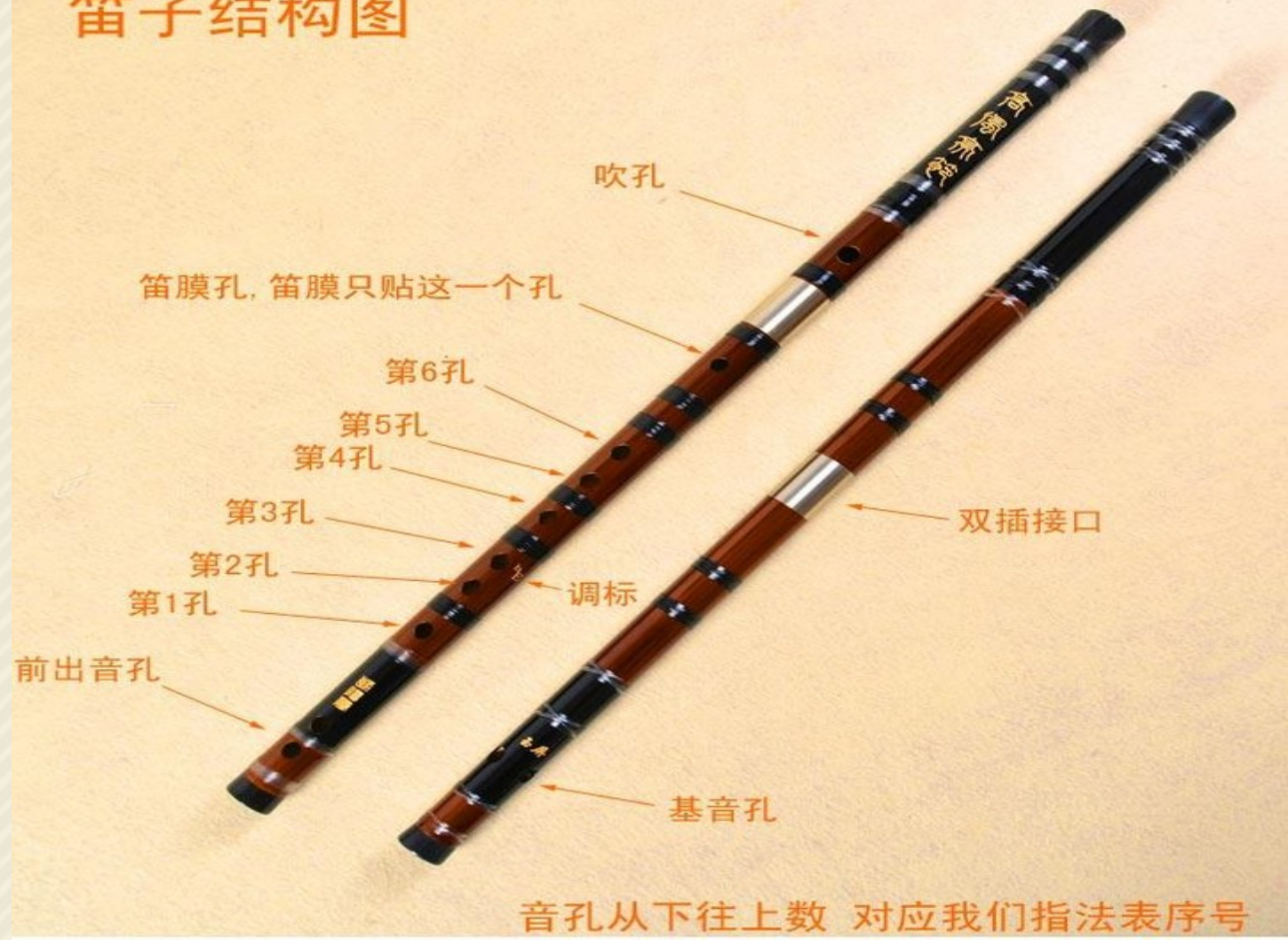
9. Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, pp.199-200.

10. *Handian* 漢典, < <https://www.zdic.net/hans/%E7%AE%AB> > [accessed 15March 2024].

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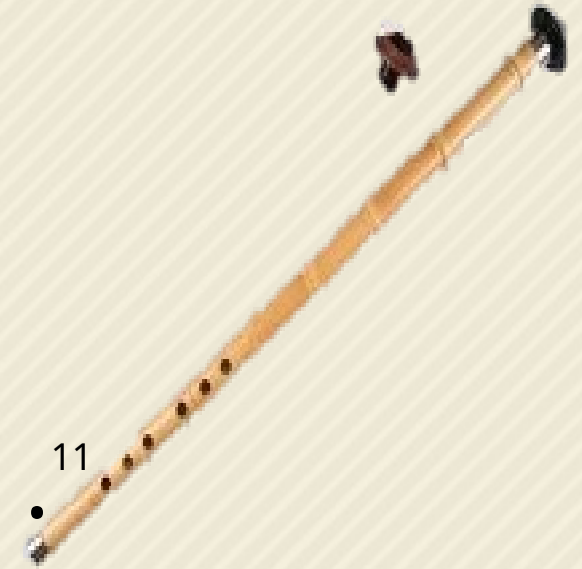


笛子结构图



管

- It looks like Chi(箎), and it has six holes. Guan(管) symbolizes the sound of twelfth lunar month. All plants are sprouting .¹¹



11. Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.4K1M27g6E2eKHU6G0xk-rQAAAA?w=167&h=122&c=7&r=0&o=5&dpr=2&pid=1.7>

管

月份	十一月	十二月	正月	二月	三月	四月	五月	六月	七月	八月	九月	十月
易卦	复	临	泰	大壮	夬	乾	姤	遯	否	观	剥	坤
律吕	黄钟	大吕	太簇	夹钟	姑洗	仲吕	蕤宾	林钟	夷则	南吕	无射	应钟
地支	子	丑	寅	卯	辰	巳	午	未	申	酉	戌	亥

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- A small Guan(管) is called Miao(簫)¹²
- A large Guan(管) is called Qiao(簫), the medium Guan(管) is called Nie(簫), and the small Guan(管) is called Miao(簫).¹³

12.Xu and Duan, *Shuowen jiezi zhu*, p.199.

13.Guo Pu , Xing Bin, *Shisanjing zhushu eryazhushu* p.81.



03

Conclusion

Part Three



More than fifty characters about musical instruments in the pre-Qin period are recorded in *Shuowen jiezi*.



Nine characters about wind instrument



The culture of ancient musical instruments
The diversity of ancient musical instruments



Thank you

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