"A Readers" Review Is Factually Incorrect And Misleading

The Shang Han Lun has been a primary treatment theory and practice source for nearly two millenia. Its author, Zhang Zhong Jing, has been named the Chinese Hippocrates to highlight the depth and breadth of his contribution to traditional Chinese drug therapy. This edition features the Chinese text, Pinyin transliteration, and an English translation of the entire Song Dynasty text, the content and textual order most used in Asia. Just as in Chinese language editions, it is fully supplemented with notes and commentaries. The notes describe the clinical symptoms Zhang Zhong Jing associated with the Chinese terms. For example, modern interpretations of a moderate pulse often refer to the speed of its beats. The same term, when used in the Shang Han Lun, refers to a pulse that is loose, soft, and harmonious. Such notes provide practitioners with the clinical observations necessary to properly apply the information. The commentaries further enhance the text's clinical utility by explaining the theoretical and practical foundations behind the lines of text. Because entire bodies of theory and practice can be associated with the terms and expressions used in canonical works like the Shang Han Lun, commentaries have become a standard means of knowledge acquisition for Asian students. The commentaries in this edition serve exactly the same purpose, greatly enhancing its utility. The introductory matter explains the background of the text, the conceptual structure of its contents, and the problems of exegesis. The appendices are designed to assist those studying Chinese and the glossary and the full Pinyin-English index make this an easily accessed reference.

My Personal Review:
As the publisher of this book, there are several factual errors in the anonymous review posted here that I would like to address.
First, the "translation of a translation" comment is misleading. First century texts such as the Shang Han Lun are not books one pulls off a shelf. They were typically prepared on silk or bamboo, and their content is today known via a process called "collation" where archeological artifacts and references in later texts are studied to create a best possible idea of the orginal. The Shang Han Lun Yi Shi, on which this text is based, has been considered the standard by scholars for some time.

Secondly, the "translation of a translation" issue is germaine only in texts that do not contain the source Chinese. Not only does this text contain the source Chinese, there are appendicies that contain a ground-breaking study of the Shang Han Lun terminology, and alternate orderings of the Chinese text. Importantly, the translators decisions are openly and transparently justified giving readers the opportunity and tools they need to decide questions for themselves. In the case of this translation, each passage in the text is accompanied, not only by the English translation, but by commentary on the terminology and translational decisions.

As regards the anonymous writer's contention that the commentaries are not by the author. This is simply false. Feng Ye, Md. Phd., is listed as an author; he is a professor at Chang Gung Medical College where he supervises and instructs graduate Chinese medical doctors in a teaching hospital. Dr. Wiseman, the primary linguist, also teaches at Chang Gung Medical College and has widely published not only the term set but also the research on which this translation is based.

Everyone will make their own decision as to which Shang Han Lun best suits their needs, but that decision should not be informed by "a Reader's" factual errors.

Bob Felt  
Publisher  
Paradigm Publications

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Shang Han Lun: On Cold Damage, Translation & Commentaries by Ye Feng - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!