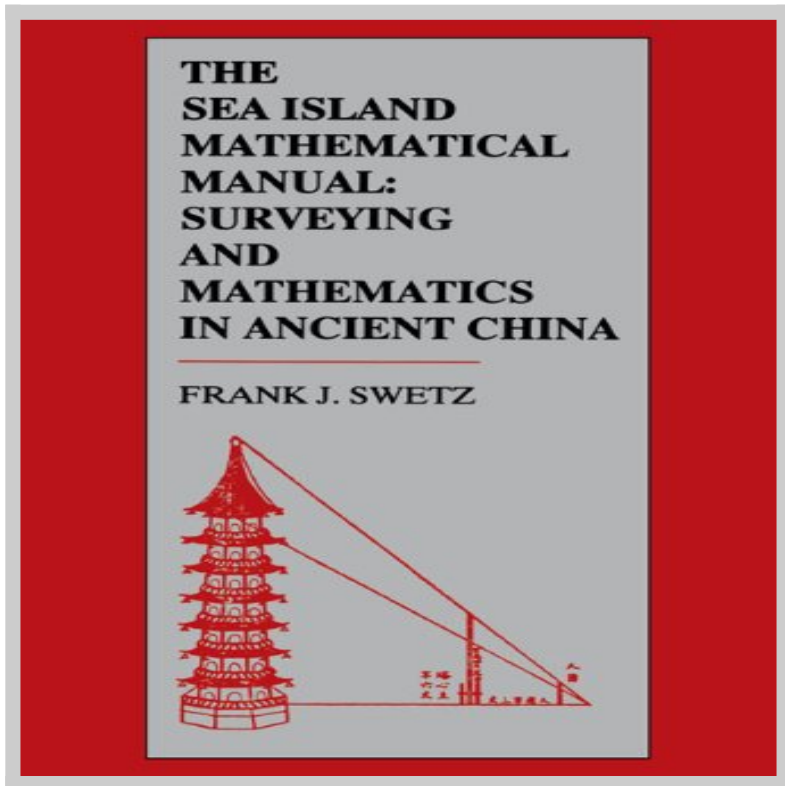


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The Sea Island Mathematical Manual Book Preview

The Haidao Suanjing or *Sea Island Mathematical Manual*, is one of the "Ten Classics" of traditional Chinese mathematics, and its contents demonstrate the high standards of theoretical and mathematical sophistication present in early Chinese surveying theory. The *Haidao* composed in A.D. 263 by Liu Hui, established the mathematical procedures for much of East Asian surveying activity for the next one thousand years. The contents of the *Haidao* also testify to the ability of the Chinese to systematize mathematics and hint at the use of proof in Chinese mathematics, a concept usually associated with Greek mathematical thought.

Frank Swetz provides an annotated translation of the *Haidao* and an analysis of its surveying problems. In particular, he details surveying techniques and undertakes a mathematical exposition of the Chinese *chong cha* solution procedures. The *Haidao* is a testimony to the ingenuity and skill of China's early surveyors and its author, Liu Hui. This study complements and extends the findings of Swetz's previous book, *Was Pythagoras Chinese? An Examination of Right Triangle Theory in Ancient China*.