Illustrations

0.1. Map of the Former Han empire and the Silk Road. 2
0.2. Diagram of the geopolitical relations described in “The Tribute of Yu” (Yu gong 禹贡).
2.1. Imaginary map of Sima Xiangru’s “Fu on the Excursion Hunt of the Son of Heaven.” 82
2.2. Ceramic sleeve dancer from the Former Han tomb of the King of Chu at Tuolanshan. 100
2.3. “Riding the clouds embroidery” (cheng yun xiu) with illustration (below) of chain stitches. 101
3.1. Table of excavated money and inventoried money from a selection of Former Han tombs. 232
3.2. Sample of silk “nie money” (nie bi). 234
3.3. Wooden tag with nie bi qian pi (“1,000 bolts of nie money”). 235
3.4. Pair of silk mitts with ribbons bearing the two characters qian jin (“1,000 gold [pieces]”). 236
3.5. Detail of the woven characters on the silk ribbons. 237
3.6. Obverse of bronze Sino-Kharoshthi coin of Khotanese King Gurgamoya, ca. first century CE, bearing a Prakrit inscription in Kharoshthi script. 243
3.7. Reverse of bronze Sino-Kharoshthi coin, bearing a Chinese inscription. 244
3.8. Obverse side of lead ingot or coin with an inscribed dragon, excavated from Lingtai, Gansu province. 246
Illustrations

5.9. Reverse side of lead ingot or coin with blundered Greek or foreign circular inscription and two small Chinese characters. 246

5.10–5.11. Obverse and reverse sides of lead ingot or coin with inscribed dragon and blundered Greek (right); square coin with horse design (middle); and oval coin with turtle design (left), discovered together in Liu An, Anhui province. 247

5.12. Eighteenth-century Chinese reconstruction of Former Han Emperor Wu’s silver currency (baijin sanpin) in Qing Emperor Qianlong’s Qian lu. 250

5.13. Eighteenth-century European reconstruction of Emperor Wu’s silver currency in Jean-Baptiste Du Halde’s A Description of the Empire of China. 251