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Unschuld, Paul U. **Chinese traditional healing: the Berlin collections of manuscript volumes from the 16th through the early 20th century**, by Paul U. Unschuld and Zheng Jinsheng. Brill, 2012. 3v (Sir Henry Wellcome Asian series, 10) ISBN 9789004225251, \$555.00

The body of Chinese medicine literature preserved to the present consists largely of printed works written by and for society's upper classes. *Chinese Traditional Healing* offers a view of practices and ideas that were either never recorded in print or that disappeared from the record too long ago to trace. The three-volume set comprises a survey of 881 handwritten manuscripts, most from the 19th and 20th centuries, written in mainland China (exact locations are still being investigated) for personal use. Unschuld (Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin) is a noted German Sinologist and historian of medicine who has translated many ancient Chinese medicine texts; Jinsheng is a professor at the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing. <p>Volume 1 begins with a thorough introductory essay on Chinese medical manuscripts, varieties of recipes (medicinal formulas), categories of authors, etc. Sample excerpts, many with line drawings, follow. The volume concludes with various indexes (e.g., descriptive keywords, persons, recipe names) in English, Pinyin, and Chinese. Volumes 2 and 3 contain records detailing each manuscript's contents and physical condition. This resource provides a glimpse into a vast store of medical knowledge that was gathered and transmitted among Chinese society's "common folk," including family records, lay and professional healers' private notebooks, and pharmacies' documentation of proprietary medicinal recipes. It is impossible to assess the importance of such a compilation without superlatives; scholars in the field will want to jump on the first flight to Berlin to study the manuscripts in person. Faculty and researchers specializing in classical Chinese medicine will find this text unique. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Researchers/faculty and professionals. -- *J. Saxton, Bastyr University*