

Taoist canon

The Ming Dynasty version of the Taoist Canon is arranged according to the Three Caverns. The Three Caverns (Sandong) system was a means for the Celestial Masters movement to incorporate scriptures from outside of the movement that were developed from prominent family traditions. (From Jurong, southeast of modern Nanjing).

The Highest Purity scriptures – Xu family – were organized into the Cavern of Perfection (Dongzhen).

The Numinous Treasure (Lingbao) – Ge family – were organized into the Cavern of Mystery (Dongxuan).

Scripture of the Three Emperors – Xu and Ge families – were organized into the Cavern of Divinity (Dongshen).