ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present work has involved the unselfish collaboration of many organizations and individuals over a period of more than fifteen years, the names of some of whom I would like to acknowledge here, beginning with the College of Liberal Arts of the University of Minnesota and its dean, Steven Rosenstone, for helping subsidize the conversion of my rough typescript into an electronic copy. For the many hours involved in the conversion process I am particularly grateful to Charles Sanft, a former graduate student, in the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department, and to his successor, Meghan Flanagan, a former student in the Chinese Program. Meanwhile the overseas negotiations with the publishers, Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden, have been carried on almost exclusively between Joseph Allen, chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures of the University of Minnesota and Mr. Albert Hoffstäd of Brill. The continued warm encouragement of both of these has also proved to be a life-force in the process. In addition, Professor Allen, amid heavy departmental responsibilities, has contributed considerable personal effort making sure the resulting text would be genuinely “camera-ready.”

At the same time I should not fail to mention the generous grants I received from the Translation Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities under its former director, Dr. Susan Mango, and from the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People’s Republic of China in the fall of 1984, which permitted me to spend three undisturbed months in Nanjing—the former Chien-k’ang—where all three subjects of this study spent most of their active years, where I could browse in the Nanjing University Library, in consultation with scholars like Professors Sun Shuqi of the History Department, Jiang Zanchu of Archaeology, and Zhong Chongxi of Biology, all of whom were extremely generous with their time and expertise.


I cannot end these acknowledgements without mentioning the loyal and unfailing moral support of my wife, Virginia Temple Mather, whose knowledgeable and ever cheerful encouragement over the whole period made it all possible. It is to her that the book is affectionately dedicated.

Richard B. Mather
St. Paul, December 2002