

NOTE ON THE PRESENT EDITION

There have been certain emendations to Van Gulik's original text for this edition. My principle in all these matters has been to interfere as little as possible.

1. Certain orthographic and typographical errors have been corrected silently.

2. Romanizations of Chinese characters (Wade-Giles, with *szu* for the more conventional *ssu*) have been left intact, with the exception of some minor errors that have likewise been corrected silently. Van Gulik was fond of scholarly pronunciations that may seem unusual today, but as these are still attested in good dictionaries, they have not been changed.

3. Romanizations have been added to the index, which originally contained only Chinese characters. Furthermore, Romanized Chinese terms have been parsed and capitalized in the index so as to aid in their comprehension, but Van Gulik's own Romanizations in the text have been left as they stand. For example, on p. 320, n. 1, Van Gulik refers to a certain text as "*Chi-t'ang-liu-ju-i-shih*"; in the index, this has been Romanized as *Chi Tang Liu-ju i-shih* ("Liu-ju" being the appellation of the Ming painter T'ang Yin).

4. All passages that Van Gulik composed in Latin have been rendered into English. Preliminary English translations were submitted to the press by Josiah Davis, a Ph.D. candidate in Classics at the University of Pennsylvania. Brill's editor, Albert Hoffstädt, and the present writer have both worked on revising these translations for publication. Where the Latin is ambiguous or confusing, the reading that accords most closely with the original Chinese has been chosen. However, I have not meddled with the sense of Van Gulik's translations, even when I have not been in total agreement with them.

5. A few passages have called for brief editorial notes. These do not, however, presume to correct or improve Van Gulik's book.

6. In preparing the introduction, I am indebted to the following people for help with references: Julie Chang (Kaikodo Gallery, New York City); Martin Kern and Martin Heijdra (both of Princeton University); Eugenia Lean (University of North Carolina); Victor H. Mair and Nancy S. Steinhardt (both of the University of Pennsylvania); and Michael Puett (Harvard University).