Before the ink of my article on "The last Dutch Embassy to the Chinese Court" 1) was dry, we received a set of the magnificent Shih-lu 實錄 through the liberality of the Government of Manchukuo. This monumental publication will be of the greatest service for the study of the Manchu period. Dr. Walter Fuchs gives a brief description of the work in Monumenta Serica III (1938) pp. 296—297; in his Beiträge zur Mandjurischen Bibliographie und Literatur (1936) pp. 58—71 there is a thorough study of the entire question of the Shih-lu in its Chinese, Manchu and Mongolian versions 2). The present edition is a photolithographic reproduction of the Mukden set, half the original size. It consists of 1220 pen bound in 122 f'ao in yellow cotton covers with a dragon pattern. The paper is ruled in red and the text is punctuated. The writing is a pleasure to behold.

The question arises how far these "Veritable Records" are more complete than any of the existing collections. I have therefore, by way of test, gone through the corresponding months of the 59th and 60th years of Ch'ien-lung and examined the material which they contain on the last Dutch Embassy. The Shih-lu gives all 4 Imperial Edicts

1) See above, pp. 1—137.
2) Cf also Ch. Gardner, Chinese traditional Historiography (1938) pp. 91—94.
on the subject, each time in unabbreviated form. Ch. 1462 pp. 18b—19b gives the order of November 1st 1794, with the addition contained in the Kao-tsung Sheng-hsün and the Tung-hua Hsü-lu (cf. above, pp. 21—25), Ch. 1466 pp. 1b—2b gives the edict of December 22nd 1794 regarding the treatment of the ambassadors (cf. above, pp. 87—88) but the edict is addressed to the Grand Council and therefore lacks the final phrase: 將此各傳諭知之欽此; the text contains the part that is omitted in the Kao-tsung Sheng-hsün. Ch. 1467 pp. 2b—3a gives the Edict of January 7th granting restitution of tonnage dues for the vessel “Siam” (cf. above, pp. 93—94) which was also printed in Ta-ch'ing Hui-tien Shih-li. Finally, ch. 1469 pp. 1b—2b gives the Edict to the “King of Holland” (cf. above, pp. 73—79), which I had found in the Tung-hua Hsü-lu. I observed before (p. 76, note 2) that the date chi-hai given in the Tung-hua-Hsü-lu (February 5th 1795) could not be correct, because on that date the seals were still closed, and that the date of the Latin translation (February 13th 1795) should be accepted. The Shih-lu however also places the Edict under the entries for the day chi-hai.

These four documents are not all found together in any of the existing collections; the Shih-lu however does not give the list of tribute-presents or of Imperial presents which may be found in the Ta-ch'ing Hui-tien Shih-li (cf. above, pp. 59—60 and pp. 79—83). On the other hand the Shih-lu alone notes the decorative presence of the Dutch ambassadors on four formal occasions.

Ch. 1467 pp. 8b—9a reports that on the day yi-hai the Emperor favoured the Yung-t'ai with a visit: 上幸瀛臺. This was January 12th, the day on which the Dutch ambassadors were first received (cf. above, pp. 53—57). The text in the Shih-lu says that on this occasion various Mongolian Princes, the Korean First Ambassador P'u-tsung-yüeh 朴宗岳 and the Second Ambas-