A COMPARISON OF THE VARIOUS EDITIONS OF THE CH'ING SHIH KAO

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Though first published only twelve years ago, the various editions of the *Ch'ing Shih Kao* now available present bibliographical problems not dissimilar in character from those which have arisen in connection with works which first appeared centuries ago. The reasons for this arise primarily out of two situations. The first is the divergence of opinion that developed among the chief editors of the Ch'ing Historical Board (清史馆) as to the nature and arrangement of the material to be included in the work. The second factor was occasioned by the extension of the Nationalist Government's control over Peking in June 1928 while the first edition was still in process of publication.

Work on the compilation of the Draft History of the Ch'ing Dynasty began with the establishment of the *Ch'ing Shih Kuan* under the supervision of Chao Erh-hsün (趙爾巽) in 1914. After thirteen years of work under trying conditions occasioned by financial stringency and political turmoil, the printing of the work began following the writing of a preface by Chao, then in his 84th year (sui), in August, 1927. Money for the printing was secured from Chang Tso-lin. Chao, who had hoped to see the work
published before his death, appointed Yuan Chin-k'ai (袁金鰲) to be in charge of publication and the Manchu Chin-liang (金梁) as proof-reader and collator (校勘). Not long after this and before the printing of the first edition was completed Chao died. K'o Shao-min (柯紹忞), the well-known compiler of the Hsin Yuan Shih (新元史), was appointed to take his place. Under his less strong leadership the smouldering disagreements between Yuan and Chin-liang as to what should be included broke forth into the open. Chin-liang came out triumphant and proceeded to revise and publish the work largely according to his own wishes. After the Nationalist armies entered Peking in June 1928 the Forbidden City was closed. As the Historical Board was located just within the Tung Hua gate of the Forbidden City and as the proofing and publication of the work was still one or two tenths uncompleted, Chin-liang moved the materials to his own dwelling, where he carried the task forward to completion. He then moved to Mukden and from there shortly thereafter a second edition was issued which differed from the Peking edition in that the biographies of K'ang Yu-wei (康有為), Chang Hsün (張勳) and Chang Piao (張彪) which had been left out of the Peking edition, though listed in the Mu Lu, were included 1).

These first two editions, the one published in Peking and the other in Mukden, have come to be called the Kuan Nei Pen and the Kuan Wai Pen (關內外本) respectively. Another difference between the two editions than the one noted above, is

1) The substance of the above account has been taken from the published lecture notes of Chang Erh-tien (張爾田) another Hsing 采田; T'ae 孟劬), prepared by Wang Chung-han (王錘翰) which appeared in an article under the title “Ch'ing Shih Kao Tsuan Hsü chih Ching Kuo” (清史稿纂修之經過) in the Shih-haih Niu-pao (史學年報) vol. II, No. 5, Dec. 1938, pp. 521—22. Chang, now a professor of History at Yenching University, was for a time a member of the Ch'ing Shih Kuo.