A STUDY OF HAN-SHAN\(^1\)

BY

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Han-shan or Han-shan-tzu 寒山子 is the pseudonym of

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a poet of the T'ang 唐 dynasty (618-907 A.D.) who was said to have lived as a hermit near a "cold cliff" (Han-shan) of T'ien-t'ai Mountain 天台 in the southern part of Chê-chiang 浙江. His name is associated with those of Fêng-kan 豐干 and Shih-tê 拾得, two Buddhist monks with whom he was friendly and who came from the Kuo-ch'ing Monastery 國清寺 not very far from his hermitage. He left about three hundred poems which were edited with an undated and mythical preface attributed to Lü-ch'iu Yin 麗丘胤, known as a prefect of T'ai-chou 台州 in his time 1). The anonymity of the poems and the undatedness of their preface have given rise to much speculation concerning Han-shan's dates. In fact, we find a wild variety of opinions about the chronology of his life, ranging between 577 A.D. and 871 A.D. or thereabouts. The writers of Buddhist histories, chronicles and biographies usually give a date without any serious argument or indicating any sources 2). Strictly speaking, Han-shan has only

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1) Cf. part II.

2) For example: 1. Tao-yuan 道原: Ch'ing-tê ch'uan-têng lu (11th c.) 景德傳燈錄, ch. 27, T vol. 52, p. 433b-434a.
6. Hsi-chung 熙仲: Shih-shih tâ-chien (1336 A.D.) 釋氏資鑑, ch. 6, Z IIB, v-1, p. 50b-c. The author indicates "Hung-ming" as the source of Han-shan's story. But I have not been able to find it in Tao-hsüan's Kuang Hung ming-chi 廣弘明集, ed.