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*S. T. Phen, "Foreword to a Rare Book Catalogue by a Gest Library Friend in Shanghai, with an Introduction by the Journal's Editor", *The Gest Library Journal* 1, no. 1 (1986): 45-52, accessed January 14, 2017, [https://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/phen\\_s\\_t.EALJ.v01.n01.p045.pdf](https://library.princeton.edu/eastasian/EALJ/phen_s_t.EALJ.v01.n01.p045.pdf)*

Foreword to a Rare Book Catalogue  
by a Gest Library Friend  
in Shanghai, with an Introduction  
by the *Journal's* Editor

INTRODUCTION

The following "Foreword" by Professor S. T. Phen (Pan Shici, or P'an Shih-tz'u) is his translation of the Chinese original he wrote for a new printing of the *Pao-li t'ang Sung-pen shu-lu*, a detailed, annotated catalogue describing 111 rare, Sung period books. The catalogue was written by his late father, P'an Tsung-chou (also known as P'an Ming-hsün or Pan Mingxun) of Nan-hai, Kwangtung, in collaboration with Chang Yüan-chi of Hai-yen, Chekiang. Professor Phen teaches at the Department of Foreign Literatures and Languages of Fudan University, Shanghai; he was also at various times professor, department chairman, dean, and acting president of the former St. John's University at Shanghai. The senior Mr. P'an was a successful merchant in Shanghai during the early Republican era, well known also as the owner of the Pao-li t'ang (Hall of Precious *Rites*) library of rare books. Moreover, he collated various editions of K'ung Ying-ta's (574-648) annotation of the classic *Book of Rites*, the *Li-chi cheng-i*, using as anchor the only surviving copy of a Southern Sung edition of that work. So greatly was that copy of the *Rites* valued by the book world, that the senior Mr. P'an named his library for it.

P'an Ming-hsün's interest in rare book collecting dated back to the years when he was in his native province. In the nineteenth century there were many famous private libraries in Kwangtung, among them, for example,

the Wu family's Yün-ch'ing kuan, a different P'an family's Hai-shan hsien kuan, another Wu family's Yüeh-ya t'ang, the Tings' Ch'ih-ching chai, and the K'ungs' San-shih-san-wan-chüan lou. Such traditions had attracted his admiration and imagination. In Shanghai, he was further inspired by the collections and collation work of such noted scholars as Yang Shou-ching (1839-1915) and Chu Tsu-mou (1857-1931), from whom he also gained some of his bibliographic knowledge. His ambition to collect rare books began when he was shown an incomplete copy of a Sung printed edition of the famous *Shih-chi* by Ssu-ma Ch'ien. The foundation of his Pao-li t'ang came for the most part from this quest for Sung editions.

Mr. P'an Ming-hsün, unlike some other collectors at that time, was not a vain businessman striving to effect mere appearances of scholarship. Soon after he acquired the Sung copy of the *Li-chi cheng-i*, he invited the noted bibliophile Tung K'ang (1867-1947) to recruit experienced blockcarvers to cut blocks for a facsimile reproduction, and a hundred copies were subsequently printed. (Gest does not have one of these copies.) Furthermore, with the aid of the famous expert, Chang Yüan-chi (1866-1959), he made use of his famous Sung copy, and other early editions, in order to collate the ancient classic. In 1928, with Tung K'ang again directing the publication, he issued his *Li-chi cheng-i chiao-k'an* (2 *chüan*) in another limited edition of one hundred copies. The style both of the characters and the page design modeled those of the Sung edition.

In a recent letter to the editor of *The Gest Library Journal*, Professor Phen released the news that a facsimile reproduction of this work was already in progress. With Chang Yüan-chi as principal contributor, the *Pao-li t'ang Sung-pen shu-lu* records all the Sung printings owned by the family library as of 1938. It is a work of high quality bibliographic scholarship and a useful reference work on book editing and printing in Sung times.

First issued in an edition printed from lead plates by the P'an family in 1939, a photographic reprint was made in 1963 by the Wen-hai ch'u-pan-she in Taiwan. Gest has a copy of each of these editions. The edition which Professor Phen introduces in his "Foreword" is a photographic reprint issued in China for the first time; it was printed in 1984 by the Kiangsu Kuang-ling ku-chi k'e-yin-she, a famous old-style publishing house in Yangchow. Besides the "Foreword," nine plates and a publisher's note on them have been added. Like the original edition, each copy of this reprint consists of four brocade-covered stitched volumes, together in a case—also

beautifully brocaded. According to Professor Phen, who graciously bestowed a copy on Gest, only one hundred such cloth-bound copies were issued.

Professor Phen wrote the following note to accompany his translation of the "Foreword" which he sent to us for inclusion in this first issue of the *Journal*:

In memory of my late father, Mr. Pan Mingxun, I present a copy of "The Catalogue of Sung Block Print Books for the Hall of Precious *Rites*" to Gest Oriental Library and East Asian Collection, Princeton University.

At the end of his "Foreword" he has added the following afterthought: " 'Within the four seas all are brothers' —Confucious."

The entire Pao-li t'ang collection of Sung books was shipped to Hong Kong during the Sino-Japanese war. In 1952, with the aid of Cheng Chen-to (1898-1958) and others, Professor Phen reclaimed it, bringing it back to Shanghai to donate to the government, in accord with his late father's wish. The books were later transferred to the Peking Library. For those who wish to know the history of this collection, Professor Phen's "Foreword" is a most stimulating point of departure.

In deference to our admirable friend, the editor has decided to reprint the "Foreword" as it came to us, in the author's own English. Since many of the names refer to historical eras and figures of traditional China, we have changed the transliterations from Pinyin to the Wade-Giles system, and have substituted formal names (more easily recognizable to a broad readership) for courtesy names. We have placed the courtesy names in parentheses, signaled by "T" (*tzu*) or "H" (*hao*), and also added dates and a few bracketed words here and there.

*Hung-lam Chu*, EDITOR

FOREWORD TO A NEW PRINTING OF THE "HALL OF PRECIOUS *Rites*"  
CATALOGUE OF SUNG EDITIONS

In ancient times primitive man used knotted string to record dates and sums. Later on carved markings on bone were used to record facts. Then Chinese characters were cut directly onto bronze bells and incense burners

or into the molds themselves before casting. With time, however, man turned to extensive use of bamboo, which in turn became obsolete with the appearance of pen and ink.

By the Chou dynasty (1120-770 B.C.), Chinese civilization was well on its way to ascendancy. Scholarship and letters developed steadily throughout the Ch'in (221-206 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) dynasties, until the summit was reached in the T'ang (618-907 A.D.) and Sung (960-1280 A.D.). Sometime during the T'ang dynasty, printing was invented, as books came into ever greater demand. By that time, book printing was done by using engraved wooden boards. These had taken the place of the even earlier method of printing from stone slabs. Block printing came into use in the Sung dynasty. Sung block printing, as seen from the precious volumes that have come down to us, is characterized by beautiful workmanship and by retention of the brush-stroke calligraphic forms.

The oldest extant (Chinese) printed book is the *Diamond Sutra* (*Chin-kang ching*), which was printed in 868 A.D., over eleven hundred years ago, in the ninth year of the Hsien-t'ung period in the reign of the T'ang emperor I-tsung (860-878 A.D.) This book is unique in that it is the oldest block-printed book in existence. It saddens me to say that this irreplaceable treasure has been taken out of China and is presently housed in a museum in England.

Art treasures and rare books have always found their way into the city of Shanghai, and large numbers of these treasures have in turn flowed out of the city to alien shores. My late father, P'an Tsung-chou (T. Ming-hsün), after arriving in Shanghai from Kwangtung, felt the responsibility to preserve China's art treasures. At that time, Mr Yüan K'e-wen (H. Han-yün, 1889-1931), the second son of former president Yüan Shih-k'ai (1859-1916), left Peking to come to Shanghai, where he intended to live in retirement. A renowned scholar and connoisseur of antiques, Mr. Yüan possessed an excellent collection of rare books, the best in China. So extensive was this collection that he could boast of it as the "Latter Library of 100 Sung Tomes." The original "Library of 100 Sung Tomes" had been the property of the famous Ch'ing dynasty scholar-collector, Huang P'ei-lieh (1763-1825).

Unfortunately, after Mr Yüan settled in Shanghai, he found himself in straitened circumstances and was forced to dispose of his valuable books in order to meet more pressing needs. His collection included the San-shan Huang-t'ang copy of the "Essence of the Book of Rites (*Li-chi Cheng-i*),"

printed in 1190 A.D.; Kung-yang Kao's "Commentaries on the Spring and Autumn Annals with Annotations;" and other valuable volumes. The San-shan Huang-t'ang copy of the "Essence of the Book of Rites" was originally part of the library of [the descendants of] Confucius in Ch'ü-fu. It was the only copy of its kind in existence (Sung dynasty printing) and as such had been a priceless family heirloom of the K'ung (Confucius) clan.

The Yüan collection was known beyond China's borders, and Japanese collectors, getting wind of the sale, came forward with eager offers. Meanwhile, my father had also learnt of the sale. He outbid the Japanese and, for an immense sum of money, bought the collection. He thus saved a national treasure, preventing it from being taken away by the Japanese. In jubilation, he named his new library "The Hall of Precious *Rites*."

My father availed himself of the services of a master craftsman of block printing, Tung K'ang (T. Sung-fen). Mr. Tung supervised the carving of facsimile blocks from the original copy in order to print 100 exact reproductions.

The copies in facsimile met with an enthusiastic reception among literary circles, and soon collectors of rare and old books came flocking to our house with offers to sell. The famous Hai-yüan Pavilion Library of Shantung's Mr. Yang I-cheng (1787-1856), the Hall of the Bronze Lute and Steel Sword of Kiangsu's Mr. Ch'ü Shao-chi (1772-1836), as well as many other rare volumes, were in this way added to the original collections of the Hall of Precious 'Rites.'

Entirely through his own efforts, my father had gathered several thousand Sung dynasty volumes. The fact that this wonderful collection far eclipsed Huang P'ei-lich's "Library of 100 Sung Tomes" must have given my father satisfaction. But, his success in safeguarding one of our national treasures must have made him feel that he had accomplished something truly significant, made him feel that he had not lived in vain.

After his death, I felt under obligation to follow my father's wishes; so, immediately after Liberation, I offered the collection to the State for permanent safekeeping. I believe that if my father knew what I had done, he would smile down at me from that other world.

In collecting his books, my father consulted with his good friend, Chang Yüan-chi (T. Chü-sheng, 1866-1959). Mr. Chang had the task of authenticating each new book purchased. Without Mr. Chang's authentication, a book, no matter how attractive, would not join the collection. Mr. Chang

## FOREWORD TO A RARE BOOK CATALOGUE

Chü-sheng was a towering figure in the world of literary scholarship. He was known for his contributions to the development of Chinese culture and his efforts to preserve the rare documents relating to China's historical heritage.

Thus, when my father decided there should be a catalogue for his newly-acquired library, the first person he thought of was his friend. But, Mr. Chang was not only elderly, he was also frail and weak. Nevertheless, when my father approached him, he overcame his reluctance, since he would be working to preserve the recorded wisdom of our ancient sages. He gave generously of his time and energy, and for the next few years worked with my father, devoting himself to writing the catalogue for the thousands of Sung volumes. The result of these efforts was a description of the development of Sung block printing, a monumental literary achievement. After completing the catalogue, Mr. Chang entitled it "The Catalogue of Sung Block Print Books for the Hall of Precious Rites."

The catalogue, listing 111 items, consists of four parts. Twenty-one items deal with Confucian philosophy, twenty-six with historical subjects, twenty-three with the philosophies of sages other than Confucius. Thirty-nine items are literary works. In addition, another six items are block prints from the Yüan dynasty (1277-1376 A.D.). Altogether there are 1,088 volumes, many of which have notes and comments written by their former collectors, mostly well-known bibliophiles.

The books come from the collections of such poets and scholars as Mao Chin (T. Tzu-chin, 1598-1659), Sun Ch'eng-tse (1593-1675), Chi Chen-i (H. Ts'ang-wei, 1630-1663+), Hsü Ch'ien-hsüeh (1631-1694), Huang P'e-ieh (H. Yao-p'u), Wang Shih-chung (H. Lang-yüan, fl. 1820), Hsiang Yüan-pien (T. Tzu-ching, 1525-1590), Yang Shao-ho (1830-1875), Ch'ien Tsun-ho, and others. Among the volumes, the following can be found: "The Collected Works of Wei Ying-wu" (*Wei Su-chou chi*), "Selected Prose of Tseng Kung" (*Tseng Nan-feng hsien-sheng wen-ts'ui*), "A Galaxy of Masterpieces Annotated by Six Court Scholars" (*Liu-ch'en chu wen-hsüan*), as well as other items that originally belonged in the Imperial Library of the Ch'ing Court. These books were thus stamped with the imperial Seal of Approval by the Ch'ien-lung emperor. These Imperial Seals were carved with such words as "Treasure Perused by the Ch'ien-lung Emperor" or "Treasure Blessed by the Emperor of Heaven." Surely books of such auspicious provenance deserve respect.

One hundred sets of the catalogue were presented to eminent men of letters and to university libraries. But, even in my father's day there weren't enough to go around. I had always thought that another printing was called for, but up till now that had not been possible. Recently, however, the Yangchou Block-Print Classics Publishing House expressed interest in re-printing the catalogue. So, with their encouragement and efforts, this will be done.

The publishers suggested that I write a foreword to the new edition. I feel inadequate to do this for a work of such overwhelming historical value. But, I am the only remaining descendant of the House of "The Hall of Precious Rites." There is no one else to do the job. It is March, springtime, and the grass is growing. The hills and valleys of our country take on a renewed beauty. Inadequate I may be, but amid the growing life around me, I am emboldened to try to explain how [the catalogue of] these Sung books came to be reprinted.

S. T. Phen  
FUDAN UNIVERSITY  
APRIL, 1984

## GLOSSARY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Chang Yüan-chi (T. Chü-sheng)<br>張元濟        | Hsü Ch'ien-hsêh 徐乾學                                  |
| Cheng Chen-to 鄭振鐸                           | Huang P'ei-lieh (T. Yao-p'u)<br>黃玉烈 (堯菊)             |
| Chi Chen-i (H. Ch'ang-wei)<br>李振宜 (滄葦)      | I-tsung (T'ang emperor) 懿宗                           |
| Ch'ien Tsun-ho 錢遵和                          | Kiangsu Kuang-ling ku-chi k'e-yin-she<br>江蘇廣陵古籍刻印社   |
| Ch'ih-ching chai 持靜齋                        | K'ung Ying-ta 孔穎達                                    |
| Chin-kang ching 金剛經                         | Li-chi cheng-i 禮記正義                                  |
| Ch'ü Shao-chi 瞿紹基                           | Liu-ch'en chu wen-hsüan 六臣註文選                        |
| Chu Tsu-mou 朱祖謀                             | Mao Chin (T. Tzu-chin) 毛晉 (子晉)                       |
| Hai-shan hsien kuan 海山仙館                    | P'an Shih-tz'u ([Pan Shici], S. T. Phen)<br>潘世慈      |
| Hai-yen 海鹽                                  | P'an Tsung-chou (T. Ming-hsün<br>[Mingxun]) 潘宗周 (明訓) |
| Hai-yüan (Pavilion) 海源 (閣)<br>hao 號         | Pao-li t'ang Sung-pen shu-lu<br>寶禮堂宋本書錄              |
| Hsiang Yüan-pien (T. Tzu-ching)<br>項元汴 (子京) | San-shan Huang-t'ang 三山黃唐                            |
| Hsien-t'ung (reign title) 咸通                |  |

FOREWORD TO A RARE BOOK CATALOGUE

San-shih-san-wan-chüan lou

三十三萬卷樓

Shih-chi 史記

Sun Ch'eng-tse 孫承澤

Tseng Kung 曾鞏

Tseng Nan-feng hsien-sheng wen-ts'ui

曾南豐先生文粹

Tung K'ang (T. Sung-fen)

董康 (誦芬)

tzü 字

Wang Shih-chung (H. Lang-yüan)

汪士鍾 (闡原)

Wei Su-chou chi 韋蘇州集

Wei Ying-wu 韋應物

Wen-hai ch'u-pan-she 文海出版社

Yang I-cheng 楊以增

Yang Shao-ho 楊紹和

Yang Shou-ching 楊守敬

Yang-chou 揚州

Yüan K'e-wen (H Han-yün)

袁克文 (寒雲)

Yüeh-ya t'ang 粵雅堂

Yün-ch'ing kuan 蕩清館