BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF REPUBLICAN CHINA



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HOWARD L. BOORMAN, Editor RICHARD C. HOWARD, Associate Editor

VOLUME I: AI-CH'Ü



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VOLUME I: AI-CH'Ü

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PREFACE

In all ages of history it is desirable to get away from generalizations and study individuals and families.

RONALD SYME*

In the preface to his doctoral dissertation, Arthur W. Hummel, writing some thirty years ago, alluded indirectly to the need for a biographical dictionary of twentieth-century China. Hummel's thesis, an annotated translation of the autobiographical preface by Ku Chieh-kang to the Ku-shih pien [symposium on ancient Chinese history], also raised a paradoxical point. "In order, therefore, to give the text its maximum intelligibility," he wrote, "I was compelled at every point to insert exact dates (when such are available), despite the fact that this often involved, even for a single date, many hours of tedious searching among the extremely inadequate helps that are as yet available, even in the most complete Chinese libraries. This is particularly true of modern and contemporary writers; for, however strange it may seem, it is easier to find the exact dates (when such are recorded) of a Chinese who lived in the twelfth century, than of one who died fifteen years ago!"

Dr. Hummel devoted a substantial portion of his later working life to planning and editing what is still the single indispensable Western reference work on modern Chinese history, Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (1644-1912). Despite the appearance of a small number of biographies and biographical reference works of varying degrees of completeness and reliability, there has been little basic change in the situation Dr. Hummel described in 1931. The section on biography since 1900 in China in Western Literature, the comprehensive bibliography edited by the late T. L. Yuan and published in 1958, is only seven pages long, with most of that space allotted to works on four people: Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek, Soong Mei-ling, and Mao Tse-tung. And the Introduction aux études d'histoire contemporaine de Chine,

* Colonial Elites: Rome, Spain, and the Americas (London: Oxford University Press, 1958), p. 52.

1898–1949, edited by Jean Chesneaux of Paris and John Lust of London and published in 1964, devotes a scant four pages to biographical studies and confirms that Western scholars have hardly begun the biographical study of twentieth-century Chinese history.

That there is need for a framework within which to pursue serious study of China's republican period has been underscored by the reemergence in the mid-1960's of that nation as a major power. In this work, the republican period is defined as the thirty-eight years between the Wuchang revolt in October 1911 and the inauguration of the Central People's Government at Peking in October 1949. This period demands systematic study not only as an intrinsically significant segment of modern Chinese history but also as essential background to the understanding of contemporary Chinese politics and policies. Almost without exception, major institutional and intellectual developments since 1950, both on the mainland and in Taiwan, are rooted in the first half of the century.

A biographical approach to history is, to be sure, only one of several methods that may be used to reconstruct the paths that have led from past to present. Some observers would hold that principal emphasis should be placed upon description and analysis of institutions: political organizations, economic systems, social structure. It is true that even in the most chaotic years of the warlord interlude in China power could not be gained, consolidated, or exercised without reliance on some sort of politicalmilitary machinery and that the changing socio-economic structure exerted a pivotal influence on history. No one with a critical interest in Chinese affairs can deny the importance of institutions or of the interrelationships which are their by-product. At the same time, no one with experience in pre-1949 China can

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deny that the essential fabric of Chinese political life often was woven from interacting influences and relationships of individuals. In this view, the basic patterns of Chinese life depended, to a large extent, on those persons who, with varying success, formed them through the multi-stranded intricacies of personal relationships (kuan-hsi). The Chinese themselves refer to the san-t'ung, the "three sames": an allusion to patterns of personal relations based upon a common home district; a common school or university; or a common trade, business, or professional activity. Because of the absence during the republican period of a stable political and legal system effective on a national basis and because of the degree of social disorientation in China during this period, personal relations assumed unusual importance.

The subject matter of history is always human beings; the implications of political, economic, and social change are significant, finally, in the manner in which they affect human life. The hope of the editor of this work has been that the events, the institutions, and the processes of change in the republican period in China may, therefore, best be revealed through the lives of the prominent Chinese of the period.

Random biographical research on prominent figures of the republican period might, however, easily lead to a galaxy of discrete views of recent Chinese history. Given the nature of the subject and the limitations of resources, a research framework for the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China was an initial necessity. In part, the book was designed to supplement Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period. Because of the slight overlap in the periods covered, there are frequent references in this work to the Hummel volumes (abbreviated as ECCP), which contain scattered data about people who lived after the fall of the Ch'ing dynasty in 1911-12. Almost all of the subjects of articles in the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China were born during the final decades of the Ch'ing period, and some achieved prominence before 1911. We also have recorded the post-1949 careers, when known, of men who died after that date or who are still alive. However, no serious attempt has been made to provide articles on Chinese who have become prominent on the mainland, in Taiwan, or elsewhere since mid-century.

The Biographical Dictionary of Republican China

differs from other major biographical dictionaries in that it records the careers of people who are still living and of those who have died. The men and events are of the immediate past; the book is contemporary documentation. To enrich the shadowy and incomplete printed sources, the words of the men themselves and of men who knew them have often been used. This work attempts to capture and preserve knowledge about twentieth-century China before many of its sources, particularly the oral sources, disappear.

Because this work deals with the most populous nation of the modern world during one of the most turbulent periods of its recent history, the editor had to establish and develop control mechanisms to guide the selection of names for inclusion. At the outset, three crude categories were established: domestic politics, external relations, and socio-economic developments. Under the first heading, several broad subject-areas were distinguished: the Peiyang period (1912-28); the Kuomintang (and its antecedent organizational forms); the Chinese Communist party; the post-1928 National Government; local militarists with provincial or regional bases of power; Japanese-sponsored governments of the 1931-45 period; minor political parties; and the borderlands (Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Sinkiang, and Tibet). The external relations heading embraced, essentially, professional diplomats and overseas Chinese. The socio-economic category was considered elastic and eventually included such subdivisions as business and banking, literature, the arts, the press and publishing, education, scholarship, religion, aviation, and medicine. A separate category, intended for purposes of dossier control rather than of discrimination, was established for women. Calligraphers, Taoist abbots, philatelists, lineal descendents of Confucius, librarians, topologists, and other exotic species were dealt with on an individual basis.

The use of these general categories aided initial classification and identification of figures prominent in public life in China during the republican period. In certain categories, where a structured hierarchy existed, senior-ranking members of that hierarchy were obvious candidates for inclusion. Examples are leaders of the Kuomintang or the Chinese Communist party, cabinet ministers in the National Government, provincial governors, presidents of major

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universities, publishers of leading newspapers, and ambassadors who served at major European capitals. In other fields, notably literature, the arts, and scholarship, judgments were, inevitably, more subjective. Preparation of a basic list of entries was done by fields, though many men and women had such varied careers that they could not be compartmentalized. In the initial selection of names, informal discussion with outside consultants provided useful counsel and sometimes sparked considerable controversy.

Early, optimistic plans of the mid-1950's called for a total of roughly 800 entries, a figure derived by extension from the Hummel work. Toward 1960, that target figure was halved, but it was enlarged again during the early 1960's to a present total of some 600 articles. From the outset, the editor believed that the work should not concern itself solely with political and military figures but should attempt to provide balanced coverage of most significant areas of activity and change in republican China. However, certain fields could not be dealt with adequately, and others have not been dealt with at all. The field of medicine, for instance, has been slighted. A few Westerntrained doctors, including specialists in public health, have been included, but there is no representative of traditional Chinese medicine. Nor is there a nurse, though nursing was an increasingly important professional activity during the period. Cooks, professional courtesans, and fortune tellers also have been omitted. Athletes were excluded, principally because with the notable exception of badminton, in which Chinese players from Malaya long dominated international competition—Chinese athletes did not achieve world reputation during the republican period.

The mansion of biography has many entrances, but no master key. The editor finds, in retrospect, that his principal door-openers were the Hummel volumes and the late Bernard De Voto's essay "The Skeptical Biographer," originally published in Harper's in 1933. Ideally, a biographical article is a compact story of a human life, with the facts of the individual's career ascertained and validated by traditional scholarly methods: research into original sources, scrupulous examination and evaluation of evidence, and constant exercise of critical objectivity. The article aims to inform through

narrative rather than through static exposition of fact after fact, date after date. In practice, of course, performance often falls short of aspiration. In the case of this work, documentary sources are chaotic and often replete with contradictions, if not inaccuracies; research aids are scanty; and the very proximity of the period causes a mistaken sense of familiarity with its complexities.

A minimum goal for the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China was the compilation of an accurate chronology of the life of each person whose biography was to be included. Chronology is the skeleton of biography, and every effort has been made to see that purported facts fit together in reasonable order and sequence. The basic form of each article is a brief identifying paragraph followed by an account of the person's background, early life, career, writings, and family. In the end, the arrangement and presentation of data involve critical judgment; and the practical standard of success is whether the article communicates to the reader something of the essence of its subject.

The preparation of any single biographical article is not dissimilar to the assembling of a The editorial creation of a jigsaw puzzle. balanced reference work from several hundred jigsaw puzzles is a more difficult task. Beyond the control system formed by categories of public activity, the composition of the larger mosaic was determined to some extent by aesthetics and by accidents. Aesthetic considerations related principally to balancing the coverage given to a specific field of activity: if one person in a field was included, proper balance often demanded the inclusion of another. Accident also played a minor role in determining coverage. In a few cases, the unanticipated availability of source material or the chance discovery of a qualified biographer led to the creation of new articles. In other cases, biographies had to be omitted, either because data proved insufficient or because assignments had to be curtailed to meet production priorities.

As the work progressed, two persisting intellectual problems emerged. The first was that of relating a single biography to the historical and social context in which the subject lived. The judicious balancing of life and times is always a problem in biographical writing, but the sparseness of consistently reliable data and the extent of Western ignorance

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of the history of the era create additional patches of quicksand in the approaches to the republican period in China. A second problem, shared by editors of other biographical dictionaries, was the extent to which first-hand knowledge of the subject is relevant. In seeking an author for a biographical article to be included in this book, the editor had two options: selecting an author who knew the subject personally, and thereby running the risk of receiving either a eulogy or an otherwise biased account, or choosing a man who did not know the subject intimately, or perhaps did not know him at all, but who could view his subject with critical detachment. Whether first-hand knowledge or objective judgment is more important proved to be a constant problem. A strong case may be made for the argument that it is better to choose an author with personal knowledge than one who relies solely on Chinese documentary materials, which often were designed to delude, if not deceive, the user.

Because of the complexities of Chinese personal relationships throughout this period, it was decided that individual articles in the work should be unsigned. The reasons were three: discretion; the necessity of translating and severely editing many articles for publication; and the requirement that a reference book be as objective as is humanly possible. Many Chinese contributors would not have been willing to sign their articles, some of which incorporated personal information and experience. Producing a reasonably consistent whole from the work of contributors, many of whom wrote in Chinese, has required considerable effort. No article in the completed work corresponds exactly to the original manuscript submitted to the editor. Most have been revised, reorganized, and rewritten at least once. Some additional rewriting has been necessary to achieve reasonable objectivity. The editor, therefore, must assume final responsibility for the general quality of the work.

The Biographical Dictionary of Republican China has been prepared and edited in the United States for educated English-speaking readers. Although efforts have been made to preserve the flavor of the original Chinese environment, it has been reflected through the prism of Western understanding. In the absence of standard reference books on the period, political,

military, and institutional terminology have posed substantial problems. Western military terms, for example, have been employed to describe Chinese military units, though such terms may be misleading if taken to be precise equivalents. Some discussion of these points is included in the Explanatory Notes. In a few of the longer articles—specifically those on Chiang Kai-shek, Mao Tse-tung, Sun Yat-sen, and Yuan Shih-k'ai—subheadings have been inserted to assist the reader. We have also departed from conventional practices by devoting a separate article to the Soong family, regarded by many observers as republican China's most influential family.

A brief general bibliography appears at the end of each volume. A full bibliography, giving the sources used in preparing each article and the publications, if any, of the subject of the article, will comprise the final volume of the work.

The process of creating this book has been a lengthy one. In retrospect, three major cycles of activity may be distinguished. From 1955 to 1963 basic research was carried on by staff members in New York, supplemented by contributions from scholars in the United States and abroad. In 1963–64 a small group of experienced staff members worked to complete research and to fill gaps in coverage. The period since 1964 has been devoted to checking, rewriting, and editorial standardizing to prepare the manuscript for publication.

Because of the complexities of the republican period in China, it would have been desirable not to publish any of the biographies until the final editing of the entire work had been completed. However, it proved necessary to prepare the biographies for the first volume for publication before moving on to the final checking and editing of those scheduled for inclusion in other volumes. Further, the obvious importance of making these materials available for general use has outweighed arguments for delaying publication.

Any work of this length and complexity contains errors. The editor would be grateful for suggestions, corrections, criticisms, and additional data, which may be sent to: *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China*, Editorial Department, Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York, New York 10027.

HOWARD L. BOORMAN

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MY EXPOSURE to Chinese affairs began slightly more than twenty years ago, when I went from Guam to north China after the Second World War as an officer of the military forces. In that role and subsequently as a graduate student at Yale University and as a Chinese language officer of the Foreign Service stationed at Peiping (1947-50) and Hong Kong (1950-54), I encountered some of the practical and research difficulties in contemporary Chinese biography and became aware of the urgency of attempting to preserve detailed biographical data of significance to historians that were, even then, in danger of disappearing. Here particular mention should be made of my friend Mr. William C. C. Wu, who provided much initial guidance and should, in a sense, be counted the evocator of the present reference work.

In 1954-55, when on leave from the Foreign Service as the holder of a Rockefeller Public Service Award, I made a specific proposal for the preparation of a biographical dictionary of twentieth-century China, which was approved by the Ford Foundation. Mr. David C. Munford, then an officer of the Foundation, and Mr. Paul F. Langer, then a temporary consultant on research and training problems, provided essential counsel during this period. Since 1955, financial support for the biographical dictionary work has been provided by the Ford Foundation through grants to the School of International Affairs of Columbia University, and I should like to express my appreciation for the Foundation's sustained confidence in the enterprise and the editor during this extended period.

Although planned independently, since 1955 the biographical dictionary has been sponsored by the School of International Affairs of Columbia University. I must express my

appreciation to the two Deans of the Faculty of International Affairs at Columbia under whom I have served as director of the project: Dr. Schuyler C. Wallace and Dr. Andrew W. Professor Philip E. Mosely, the Cordier. Associate Dean of the Faculty of International Affairs, deserves a special note of thanks. Professor Mosely has assumed primary responsibility for administrative and budget programing, and his knowledge and vision have supported the editor's efforts in completing the book. I should also like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Margaret Chalmers, the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the School of International Affairs at Columbia, for her assistance in the complexities of budget management. The East Asian Library at Columbia University provided an essential library base without which this work could not have been completed. The Columbia University Press has helped greatly in transmuting a massive and unruly body of manuscript into a form suitable for a standard work of reference. Dr. William Bridgwater and Mr. Henry H. Wiggins of the Press provided essential guidance throughout the period of the work, and Mrs. Katharine Kyes Leab of the Editorial Department of the Press helped me to learn about reference books. Not least, a word of thanks should be given to Mr. and Mrs. Willi Lubach, custodians of the Columbia University building at 635 West 115th Street, for their protracted struggle against the grime of New York City and for their tolerance of the mass of papers, books, and file folders among which a biographical dictionary project is doomed to exist and work.

Except for the editor, no one person has been continuously engaged in preparing the dictionary from the time the project was established.

Some members of the staff, including Dr. John M. H. Lindbeck, who was deputy director of the project in 1958–59, were able to serve only briefly because of other professional opportunities. The Staff page lists all who have made substantive contributions to the project at any stage, regardless of length of service.

So many people in so many places have aided this work that it would be invidious to single out some for special mention and to omit others. I therefore limit explicit commendation to the three men who rendered the most extensive and helpful services. Mr. Richard C. Howard, the Associate Editor, joined the staff in the autumn of 1959 and served as my deputy until his resignation in June 1963 to accept the position of Curator of the Wason Collection at Cornell University. His unusual combination of historical sense, linguistic skills, puntilious research, and writing abilities were of the greatest importance in developing and sustaining the standards of the work; he prepared many of the longer biographical articles, particularly on individuals prominent in the obscure pre-1928 era in China. Staff Editor O. Edmund Clubb began work on a part-time basis in September 1960 and continued to assist the biographical work until June 1966. A retired officer of the American Foreign Service (under whom I served at Peiping in 1948-49) with nearly twenty years of experience in China, he is also the author of Twentieth Century China and of numerous articles on contemporary Asia. Mr. Clubb made a massive contribution toward the completion of the work; he prepared many biographies of political and military figures. Finally, I record with regret the untimely death of Mr. Yong Sang Ng, who died in Hong Kong in July 1966 as these paragraphs were being written. Mr. Ng, with whom I had worked intermittently since 1950, both in the Far East and in the United States, was also a member of the staff of the American Consulate General in Hong Kong. Mr. Ng's energy, industry, and wit will be remembered by all who worked with him, and his contribution to the work is reflected in the biographies of certain figures with roots in Canton and south China, whom he portrayed with understanding and perspective.

In addition to the staff, scholars in the United States and in other countries contributed single articles or groups of articles. A few have contributed articles both to Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period and to the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China. Specific mention should be made of three men who prepared articles on important groups of individuals within their special fields of competence: Mr. Chang Kia-ngau, former general manager of the Bank of China, now resident in the United States; Professor Wang Yi-t'ung of the University of Pittsburgh, formerly of the University of British Columbia; and Professor Wu Hsianghsiang of Taiwan and Singapore.

To the many experts throughout the world who have given both time and knowledge to read draft articles and to suggest emendations and improvements, I extend my warm thanks.

HOWARD L. BOORMAN

EXPLANATORY NOTES

NAMES

The romanization systems used are the Wade-Giles (with the omission of some diacritical marks) for Chinese and the Hepburn (with the omission of some macrons) for Japanese. The major exception to this rule is Chinese place names for large cities, which are given according to the Chinese Post Office system. In the case of Kwangtung province, Cantonese spellings often have been indicated: Nanhai (Namhoi). For place names in Manchuria and in the case of Peking, we generally have followed contemporary usage. In such outlying areas as Sinkiang, Mongolia, and Tibet, any given place might have several names. For convenience, we have standardized the place names in all outlying areas according to the dictates of common sense.

Chinese personal names are given in the Chinese order, that is, with the surname first. In general, the articles are arranged alphabetically by the Wade-Giles romanization of the subject's surname and given personal name (ming). However, the biographies of Chiang Kai-shek, Eugene Ch'en, H. H. K'ung, T. V. Soong, Sun Yat-sen, and a few others appear under the name most familiar to Western readers. The courtesy, literary, Western, alternate, and common pen names of subjects of biographies are listed at the beginning of each article (see ABBREVIATIONS). The reader should note that the ming and the tzu (courtesy name) frequently are confused in modern Chinese sources.

THE CALENDAR

Dates are given according to the Western calendar, converted in many cases from the Chinese calendar. The word sui often is used in referring to age. In China, a person is regarded as being one year old at birth and two years old at the beginning of the next Chinese calendar year. Thus, a person's age by Western calculation will be less than his sui. We have retained the sui form in many articles because of the difficulties of conversion and, frequently, the lack of precise information about month and day of birth.

MEASURES OF MONEY AND LAND

From 1911 to 1949 the values of Chinese monetary units varied so greatly that it is impossible to assign them standard values in Western terms. Until 1933 the official unit of value was the Customs tael (Hai-kuan liang). Other monies, such as silver dollars (yuan), also were current. In 1933 the silver dollar (yuan) became the standard legal tender of China. In 1935, by law, a managed paper currency (fapi) replaced the silver. A gold dollar unit (yuan) was briefly introduced in 1948, but the Chinese monetary system remained unstable until after the establishment of the Central People's Government at Peking in October 1949.

Standard units of land measurement used in this work are li and mu.

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1 li = 1/3 mile
1 mu (or mou) = 733 sq. yards
6.6 mu = 1 acre
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MILITARY ORGANIZATION

We have used Western military terms to describe the organization of Chinese armies. Thus:

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chün = army ying = battalion
shih = division lien = company
lü = brigade y'ai = platoon
t'uan = regiment
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The reader should note that the organization of Chinese armies was not so standardized as that of Western armies, and the size of units varied considerably. During the second phase of the Northern Expedition (1928) armies were combined for field operations to form larger units, although they retained their individual designations (e.g., First Army). The combined forces were known variously as army groups (chün-t'uan) direction armies (fang-mien chün) and route armies (lu-chün). Above this level was that of group army (chi-t'uan-chün). Although these were temporary designations, they achieved the permanence of organizational categories.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The administrative divisions, in ascending order, of each province at the end of the Ch'ing period were:

hsien = districts or counties chou = departments fu = prefectures tao = circuits composed of 2 or more fu

We have used the terms military governor and civil governor in referring to provincial rulers of the 1912–28 period. At the beginning of the republican period the Chinese title for the military governor of a province was tutuh. The official designation was changed to chiangchün in 1914 and to tuchün in 1916. Beginning about 1925, the title was changed in some areas to tupan, a designation which implied that the governor's primary responsibilities were demilitarization and social rehabilitation.

We have used the term governor in referring to the top-ranking officer of a provincial government after 1928, rather than the more literal rendering of the Chinese (sheng cheng-fu chu-hsi) as chairman.

The term tao-t'ai refers to the official in charge of a circuit. A number of the men who held this office during the Ch'ing period were important in foreign relations because often the tao-t'ai was the highest Chinese official available for negotiations with foreigners.

Mention should be made of the likin, an inland tax on the transit of goods which was introduced by the imperial government at the time of the Taiping Rebellion (1850–64). Likin stations soon proliferated throughout China.

The tax revenues were beyond Peking's control and often were used to finance regional armies. The likin tax on local trade was not suppressed officially until 1933.

THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

In the Ch'ing period, the official class was defined by statute, and its composition was determined by the results of examinations in literary and classical subjects. Although the examination system was abolished in 1905, a brief discussion of it is necessary because many prominent people in the republican period were members of this class by achievement or purchase and because the examinations and degrees have no Western equivalents.

Preliminary examinations were conducted on three successive levels: the hsien; the fu; and the sheng, which was conducted at the prefectural capital. Successful candidates received the sheng-yuan degree, which entitled them to assume the dress of the scholar and exempted them from forced labor. However, they had no legal right to or opportunity for official appointment. They were subject to sui-k'ao, examinations given regularly in the prefectural capitals under provincial supervision. Success in the sui-k'ao meant that they received a small stipend annually to further their studies. Roughly equivalent to the sheng-yuan degree was the chien-sheng degree, which, however, could be purchased. Accordingly, holders of the chiensheng degree were not subject to periodic examination. Holders of the chien-sheng and the sheng-yuan degrees, who were neither commoners nor officials, comprised a large and changing group.

Those who wished to qualify for official status took the provincial examinations, composed of a preliminary examination, or k'o-k'ao, and a hsiang-shih, or provincial examination. Successful candidates received the degree of chü-jen, which made the holder eligible for office. The kung-sheng degree was roughly equivalent to the chü-jen, but was acquired by appointment, by examination, or by purchase.

The examinations for the highest degree, the chin-shih, which brought appointment to the middle levels of the imperial bureaucracy, were held at Peking. They were composed of the hui-shih, or metropolitan examination; the tien-shih, or palace examination; and the ch'ao-k'ao, an examination in the presence of

the emperor which led to specific appointment. Chin-shih who ranked near the top of their group usually were appointed to the Hanlin Academy, where their duties included drawing up government documents and compiling materials for official histories. Service at the Hanlin Academy frequently afforded access to the highest positions in the imperial government.

Candidates who passed the examinations in the same year were linked in the t'ung-nien (same year) relationship, a bond somewhat similar to that linking, for example, members of the Class of 1928 at Harvard College. FINAL DATE FOR VOLUME I

The final date for inclusion of information about the subjects of biographies in Volume I was July 1966.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The final volume of this work will contain a comprehensive bibliography. It will list the published writings, if any, of the subject of each article and the sources, both personal and written, used in preparing the article. A brief bibliography of basic sources for twentieth-century Chinese biography is to be found at the end of each volume.

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VOLUME I: AI-CH'Ü



