





# 英華大辭典

(小字本)

## ENGLISH AND CHINESE STANDARD DICTIONARY

SMALL TYPE EDITION

COMPRISING 120,000 WORDS AND PHRASES  
WITH TRANSLATIONS, PRONUNCIATIONS, DEFINITIONS  
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ONE VOLUME

FIRST EDITION

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全書四十四編

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## English and Chinese Standard Dictionary

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詳迨澤審慎則用是書者  
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光緒卅四年正月

候官嚴



不足厭學者之求也  
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蒐輯後富其美不暇持較  
舊作猶海視河金玉國畫精

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輯而

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州同文之盛昭然其書釋義字聲

類似字行獨字而名國名物皆得

又所以獨字之名事也必於是焉

此皆以備學者之探討而其國文字  
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今之及歷漢人凡將滂素至於後  
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## PREFACE.

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One of the great works in English Literature is the Dictionary of Samuel Johnson. It was published in 1755, and for a long time was regarded in England as the standard of the English language. Since that time of course many Dictionaries have been published, but to it belongs the honour of having prepared the way for those that were to follow. Samuel Johnson taught men the importance of knowing the exact meaning of a word. As words are the clothes of ideas, careful thinking and careful expression of thought demand that we should have an exact knowledge of words.

In China, a wonderful dictionary was compiled in the reign of the Emperor Kang-hsi (1662-1723) about a half a century before Samuel Johnson did his work. It contains all the known characters of the language, and their exact meanings.

At the present day a great need is felt in China for a Dictionary which will serve as a convenient bridge between the English and the Chinese languages. The importance of having such a book cannot be overestimated.

The Chinese scholar at the present time has a wider outlook than formerly. He is not content to acquire merely the knowledge contained in Chinese literature, but he wishes to absorb the learning of the West. Among the world's literatures there is none more valuable than the English. It has a range wide enough to include all subjects of human thought such as Religion, Philosophy, History, Science, Biography, Travels, Poetry, Fiction, Economics, etc.

Whatever is noble or of worth in other literatures, such as the French and German, has been translated into English, and can be obtained there in a different garb.

The English language is spoken at the present time by more people in the world than any other, with the exception of Chinese.

Hence for one desiring to get at the sources of Western thought and learning, a knowledge of English is indispensable.

All have not however the opportunity of studying the English language thoroughly, and thus many Chinese when they read English books will often be puzzled and confused, and will stand in need of a good Dictionary to help them over the difficult places.

Again, at the present time there is a great need of translating Western books into Chinese. This work must be done as rapidly and as accurately as possible. Only a few have the time and means to learn English, and they must serve as the transmitters of Western thought to their countrymen. These men can only do their work well, provided they have as one of their tools a good English-Chinese Dictionary.

A new literature is already springing up in China, but its growth and spread are hindered for the lack of a good scientific and philosophical nomenclature. A book badly or inaccurately translated will fail to accomplish its object, and will not serve a useful purpose.

The Commercial Press has wisely undertaken to give Chinese students the English-Chinese Dictionary of which there is so great a need, and for which there is so large a demand.

In securing the services of Dr. W. W. Yen they have been most fortunate, for we doubt whether in the whole of China there was any one better qualified to undertake this task. He possesses a remarkable scientific knowledge of the English language, and a good grasp of Chinese.

His mind is analytical and exact. He has the patience which characterizes the true scholar, all that he does is done thoroughly and carefully. On the laborious task of preparing this Dictionary he has spent several years of most exacting toil. All the lists of scientific and philosophical terms already in existence had to be consulted, and from them the best and clearest renderings of the English words and ideas had to be culled.

Now that the labour is accomplished, we believe that it will prove of vast service to his fellow countrymen. It may be as time goes on that even a larger Dictionary than this will be wanted, but when that time comes, this will be the basis of the larger work. The thanks of all who are interested in the new learning in China are due to the Commercial Press for initiating this project, and to Dr. Yen for having accomplished it so successfully. Of this book it may truly be said "*Finis opus coronat.*"

F. L. HAWKS POTT.

## PREFACE.

In the summer of 1905, the proprietors of the Commercial Press, being desirous of publishing a new Anglo-Chinese Dictionary, approached the Editor-in-chief to undertake the work. There was the Commercial Press Pronouncing Dictionary already on the market, but it was felt that with the progress made by Chinese students in the study of English, a larger and more complete work was needed. Moreover, since the publication of the Pronouncing Dictionary, numerous new terms have sprung into existence, and although even at present the question of terminology is hardly satisfactorily settled, the appearance of many scientific textbooks has helped much towards its solution. A dictionary that could include as many of the new terms as possible would, therefore, receive a hearty welcome.

At first it was the intention of the publishers to have Webster's International Dictionary translated bodily into Chinese, but this plan after a short trial was found to be impracticable, not only on account of the numerous difficulties in the translation itself, but also on account of the enormous amount of physical labour that would be involved and the unwieldy size of such a work. The expense of preparing such a dictionary would be so great as to make the price of the book practically prohibitive. Finally, it was decided to adopt Nuttall's Dictionary [Standard Edition] as a basis, to include the numerous excellent sentences in the Pronouncing Dictionary, to insert thousands of words from Webster's dictionary, with illustrative phrases and sentences, and lastly to classify explanations of nearly all the words according to Webster's system. The present publication may, therefore, be regarded as a revised and enlarged edition of the Pronouncing Dictionary.

No one realizes the difficulties of compiling and translating a dictionary more thoroughly than the present editors. A dictionary is an encyclopedia on a small scale, comprehending within its covers every science under the sun. To produce a really ideal dictionary in Chinese, we must have a board of editors consisting of men who are masters of the

English language and at the same time scientific experts—authorities in their several spheres of ancient or modern learning. But this alone is not sufficient; they must further be profound Chinese scholars, able not only to invent suitable new terms, but also to employ and assimilate as many of the old ones as possible.

Apart, however, from the almost insuperable difficulties in the rendering of scientific terms into Chinese, the path of the exicographer is not an easy one. While the simpler and more common meanings of words in the vocabulary are, generally speaking, easily entered into Chinese, the situation becomes very trying when the figurative and idiomatic uses have to be considered. And the simpler and more common a word is, the more difficult it is to expound. Many of the general expressions are such that their spirit can only be grasped by Chinese who have enjoyed exceptional privileges both in education and in social intercourse with English-speaking nations. In a dictionary, moreover, all the words are isolated, many expressions are colloquial, and often the principal difficulty lies in bringing out the finer shades in the meaning of words.

The present editors do not claim to be scientific expert and so it is impossible, especially in the present chaotic condition of terminology in China, for them to make any attempt at standardization. The only course open to them was to consult the best available authorities on the different subjects and adopt their terms.

With the majority of ordinary words, the editors venture to believe that they have been adequately expounded, and the numerous examples that have been inserted will no doubt help the reader to grasp intelligently the meanings. The editors feel that the work, though laborious and exhaustive, was yet conscientiously done. A beginning towards the making of a good English-Chinese dictionary has been made, and with further revision and enlargement in future editions, the day not distant when an ideal dictionary produced by an ideal board of editors will make its appearance.

So many works have been consulted that it is impossible to acknowledge our indebtedness to all, but we desire to mention in particular the publications of the Educational Association of China, and of the Medical Association, to the glossaries published by the Kiangnan