

SOME NOTES ON THE CAMBRIDGE MS.
OF THE YÜAN TIEN-CHANG

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On several occasions Paul Pelliot has drawn attention to the MS. of the *Yüan tien-chang* 元典章 belonging to the Wade Collection kept in the University Library of Cambridge. Already in 1905 Pelliot had used this MS. for the preparation of a lecture held on June 15, 1905, before the Société Asiatique in Paris.¹ In 1908 Shen Chia-pen 沈家本 published the *Yüan tien-chang* in print; his edition is, however, based on a rather faulty and incomplete manuscript. Ch'en Yüan 陳垣, in view of the inferiority of Shen's text, published in 1931 his *Yüan tien-chang chiao-pu* 校補 on the basis of a collation with other MSS. and a Yüan printed edition, and corrected in a painstaking way most of the faulty readings in Shen's edition and supplemented the missing documents.² In spite of the indispensability of Ch'en's work, some errors in Shen's print have escaped even the keen observation of Ch'en Yüan.³ Pelliot therefore repeatedly stressed the importance of the Wade MS. for a critical study of the text, and held the opinion that a definitive edition of the *Yüan tien-chang* should take into account the Wade MS. as well as the various MSS. kept in China and the Yüan block-print.⁴ No closer investigation of the Wade MS. seems, however, to have been undertaken. It is the aim of the following short notes to give some idea of the quality of the MS. as compared with Shen's edition and

¹ JA 1905, July-August, p. 6; BEFEO 9 (1909), p. 131.

² For a short appraisal of Ch'en's work see P. Pelliot in TP XXVIII (1931), pp. 491-2.

³ Some examples may, *inter alia*, be found in F. W. Cleaves, *An Early Mongolian Loan Contract*, HJAS 18 (1955), pp. 45-7, 49.

⁴ TP XXVIII (1931), p. 380: "... mss de la bibliothèque Wade à Cambridge que permet souvent, je m'en suis assuré, de corriger l'édition de M. Tong K'ang". *Ibid.*, p. 492: "... Par ailleurs, M. Tch'en Yuan n'a pas connu l'existence du mss. de la bibliothèque Wade à Cambridge, qui est très correct... Quand on entreprendra l'édition critique à laquelle une collation, même très soignée, ne supplée qu'imparfaitement, il faudra évidemment mettre en œuvre tout l'ensemble de ces matériaux." In his preface to Paul Ratchnevsky's *Un Code des Yuan* (Paris 1937), Pelliot again spoke of the "manuscrit assez correct" kept in Cambridge. In a recent study of the transmission of the text, Kurata Junnosuke 倉田淳之助 mentions the Cambridge MS. only in passing (*Tōhō Gakuhō*, Kyōtō, vol. 24 (1954), p. 453).

Ch'en Yüan's corrections. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Creswick, Librarian of the University of Cambridge, for his kind permission to work in the library, and to Dr. M. Scott, Keeper of the Chinese Books, for her kind helpfulness. I likewise have to thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for a grant which made it possible to spend some weeks in Cambridge in April 1958.

The entry on the MS. in H. A. Giles, *A Catalogue of the Wade Collection of Chinese and Manchu Books in the Library of the University of Cambridge*, Cambridge 1898, reads as follows (p. 38):

"Yüan-ch'ao tien-chang kang-mu 元朝典章綱目. The Institutes of the Yüan or Mongol Dynasty, founded A.D. 1206 (In Manuscript; preface wanting). No date. 28 cm."

The MS. consists of ten volumes in European binding (Library Numbers B183-92). Vol. 1 to 9 contain the *Yüan tien-chang ch'ien-chi* 前集, vol. 10 the "New Collection" (*Hsin-chi* 新集). The arrangement of the text throughout the ten volumes is uniform. The pages measure 27 : 18.5 cm; the writing space 20.5 : 14 cm. Each page (half folio) has 9 lines⁵ only, separated by black strokes similar to those in Shen's edition (which has, however, 13 lines to a page, 26 to a folio). The paper is white, some pages showing stains of dampness.

The text is written in *k'ai-shu* in a clear and legible hand, or rather hands, because at least a dozen different hands can be distinguished. No indication as to when the MS. was written could be found. There is no preface or colophon. A reasonable suggestion would be that Sir Thomas Wade had this MS copied for himself when he was residing in Peking as head of the British legation. The state of conservation of the whole MS. is so excellent that an earlier date does not seem very probable. The titles of the single documents are separated from the text of the document by a free space whereas the titles appear in Shen's edition in white-on-black print (*yin-wen* 陰文).

There are, as a rule, 20 characters per line and 18 if there is an alinea. On some places neatly written paper slips with corrections of miswritten characters or passages can be found inserted into the text. This shows that a very careful corrector has revised the manuscript copy.

The total size of the *Yüan tien-chang* is 60 *chüan* plus the *Hsin-chi* which is not subdivided into chapters. Contrary to the Shen print, the pagination of our MS. is not made according to chapters (*chüan*) but follows units of several chapters. Example: Vol. 5, Division Li-pu 禮部 consists of

⁵ This corresponds with no other known print or MS.; the texts listed in Ch'en Yüan's preface to his *chiao-pu* (p. 2b) and in Kurata's article (*Tōhō Gakuhō*, vol. 24, p. 457) all have a different number of lines to a page.

six chapters, corresponding to *chüan* 28 to 33 of Shen's text. The pagination of the MS. runs, however, in the following way:

		Marginal Signatures	
禮部卷之一	<i>chüan</i> 28	p. 1a-30b	十八禮
禮部卷之二	29	31a-57b	十八禮
禮部卷之三	30	58a-92b	十八禮
禮部卷之四	31	1a-30b	十九禮
禮部卷之五	32	31a-59b	十九禮
禮部卷之六	33	60a-96b	十九禮

The lack of indication of *chüan* in the marginal signatures makes the MS. not very convenient to use if a reference is given only in terms of *chüan* in Shen's edition.

The text is distributed over the ten volumes as follows:

Volume 1: Table of Contents, ch. 1-6	together	334 fol.
2: ch. 7-12	"	383 "
3: ch. 13-20	"	333 "
4: ch. 21-27	"	358 "
5: ch. 28-33	"	188 "
6: ch. 34-38	"	251 "
7: ch. 39-45	"	280 "
8: ch. 46-53	"	333 "
9: ch. 54-60	"	279 "
10: <i>Hsin-chi</i>	"	406 "
Total		3145 fol.
		or 7290 pages

When checking the contents of the Wade text, I could ascertain that it is complete insofar as it contains all the documents missing in Shen's edition and supplemented by Ch'en Yüan in the *ch'üeh-wen* 闕文 section of his *chiao-pu*. This fact alone would suffice to make the Wade MS. superior to any available printed edition of the *Yüan tien-chang*.

It is clear that within the relatively short space of time available no complete collation of the more than 7000 pages of the MS. with Shen's printed edition and Ch'en's *chiao-pu* could be made. Some examples taken from different volumes of the MS (and, therefore, written by different scribes) will perhaps show the textual variants and throw some light on the reliability of the MS. Purely orthographic variants such as 札 or 寔 of the Wade MS. against 箭 and 實 of Shen's edition have, as a rule, been left unconsidered in the following tables.

Abbreviations: W	Manuscript Wade
S	Shen's edition
C	Ch'en's correction in his <i>chiao-pu</i>
om.	omitted

EXAMPLE I: Table of Contents (*mu-lu* 1), pages 3 to 23 (W) = pages 10 to 21 (S)

W	S	C	Remarks
3a1 旌孝節	10b4 節孝	like W	W correct
3a4 十三條	10b8 十二	—	W probably correct
3b6 至元二年	11a5 至大	—	S correct, <i>cf.</i> text of document
4a7 同上	11b1 二十四年	like W	W correct
4b6 二十八	11b7	九	W and S wrong
5b1 同上 (yen-yu 4)	12a4 大德三	like W	W correct
5b6 照追文卷	12a7 追照	—	S correct, <i>cf.</i> S 6, 22b2
6a7 職品	12b3 名	like W	W correct
6b5 至元十九年	12b9 date om.	—	W correct
7b4 十五	13a11 二十五	like W	W correct
7b8 至大	13b1 元	like W	W correct
8b5 官內選任	14a1 om. 內	—	W correct, <i>cf.</i> text S 9, 1a4
9a4 軍功依例	14a5 官	—	S correct, <i>cf.</i> text S 9, 7a1
9a5 休差占	14a6 依	like W	W correct
9b5 公罰	14a11 罪	—	S correct, <i>cf.</i> text S 9, 13a13; W9, 23b11
10b4 闕	14b11 闕 ⁶	—	orthogr. variant
11a9 茶場窠闕處所	15a7 om.	like W	W correct
11b3 om. 又例	15a9 om.	又例	W and S wrong
11b5 副使	15a10 司	like W	W correct
13a5 八年	16a5	七	W and S wrong
13a6 五	16a6 八	—	?
13b7 管軍	16b2 軍官	—	S correct, <i>cf.</i> text S 11, 2a10; W 11, 34b1
14a1 日頭	16b4 目	like W	W correct
14a9 叙仕	16b10 致	like W	W correct
16a1 見聖... 吏類	17b3 dto.	gloss, like W	W correct
16b3 休	18a2 體	like W	W correct

⁶ The order of documents in S is here somewhat different from W; W, however, follows the arrangement of documents in the text itself (*cf.* C, *ch'üeh-wen* section). In S the text ch. 9, p. 31a-66a is missing.

EXAMPLE 1: Table of Contents (*mu-lu* 1), pages 3 to 23 (W) = pages 10 to 21 (S) (*continued*)

W	S	C	Remarks
17a9 譯史	18a12 使	like W	W correct
17b4 大德二	18b2	三	W and S wrong
18a2 優假	18b6 暇	—	W correct (binom)
18b4 典史不	19a1 典不	like W	W correct
18b5 選揀	19a1 揀選	選擇	W and S wrong
18b8 通例	19a4 吏	like W	W correct
18b8 典例	19a4 吏	like W	W correct
19a4 十五	19a8 四	五	W and S wrong
19a5 至元七年	19a8 om.	—	W correct
19a6 圓座	19a9 坐	—	S probably correct
20a5 大德	19b9	二	W and S wrong
		年	
22a8 改除	21a1	致	W and S wrong
22b6 no date	21a5 至元四年	—	W wrong
23b6 人吏	21b5 史	like W	W correct
23b9 至元	21b6 大	like W	W correct

EXAMPLE 2: *chüan* 12, beginning (Subdivision 儒吏, = W vol. 2, 九吏, 1a-3b; S. ch. 12, 1a-2b)

W	S	C	Remarks
1b7 閑	1b4 嫻	—	S probably better (<i>lectio difficilior</i>)
2a1 勾喚	1b6 換	like W	W correct
2a1 相補	1b7	收	W and S wrong
2a3 照會	1b8 爲	like W	W correct
2a4 筭付	1b9 付	like W	W correct
2a6 諸路歲貢人	1b11 om. 路	—	W correct (context)
2b3 必將	2a3 不	like W	W correct
2b3 失真	2a3 直	like W	W correct
2b5 驗行	2a5	施	W and S wrong
2b7 揀有	2a7 有	like W	W correct
3a3 儒戶	2a10 儒	like W	W correct
3a4 名第	2a11 弟	like W	W correct
3a5 標	2a12 標	—	W perhaps preferable (<i>l. diff.</i>)
3a8 選試	2b1 使	like W	W correct
3b3 幹敏	2b5 幹	like W	W correct

EXAMPLE 2: *chüan* 12, beginning (Subdivision 儒吏, = W vol. 2, 九吏, 1a-3b; S. ch. 12, 1a-2b) (*continued*)

W	S	C	Remarks
3b4 立題	2b6 提	like W	W correct
3b7 考試	2b8 者	like W	W correct
3b7 本司司吏	2b8 本司吏	like W	W correct
3b8 不許濫	2b8 om. 許	like W	W correct
3b9 內勾補	2b9 om. 內	like W	W correct

EXAMPLE 3: *chüan* 31, beginning (Subdivision 學校, 蒙古學, = W. vol 5, 十九禮, 1a-4b; S ch. 31, 1a-2b)

W	S	C	Remarks
1b1 怯薛歹	1a8 一	like W	W correct
1b4 體例	1b1 例	like W	W correct
1b7 提舉學校	1b4 om. 舉	like W	W correct
1b8 授官	1b5 授	—	S correct
1b9 投投下	1b5 諸投下	—	S correct
2a1 並聽	1b6 所	like W	W correct
2a5 譯史譯作	1b9 譯史作	like W	W correct
2a7 蒙古字	1b9 學	—	W correct (context)
2a7 職	1b9 識	—	S correct (context)
2a9 所發	1b12 發所	like W	W correct
2b2 令	1b13 今	—	S correct?
2b2 闕者赤	1b13 閑	like W	W correct
3a6 like 1b7	2a11 like 1b4	like W	W correct
3a7 國之要法	2a11 去	國之所 要法	W correct for 法 but om. 所
3a9 字之校	2a13	效	W and S wrong
3b2 不切	2b1 叨	like W	W correct
3b6 看詳	2b4 參	—	W probably correct
4b1 提調者	2b13 省	like W	W correct

EXAMPLE 4: *Hsin-chi*, subdivision 禮, 僧道 = W vol. 10, p. 85a-88b; S 禮部 5a-7a.

W	S	C	Remarks
85a2 紀法	5a2 犯	—	S correct (context)
85a3 經斷	5a3 om. 經	—	W correct (context)
85a5 本路不會	5a4 不會	—	W correct (context)

EXAMPLE 4: *Hsin-chi*, subdivision 禮, 僧道 = W vol. 10, p. 85a-88b; S 禮部 5a-7a. (continued)

W	S	C	Remarks
85a9 中書省	5a8 om. 省	—	W correct (context)
85b2 汪妙遠	5a9 江	like W	W correct
85b6 送刑部議	5b1 om. 部	—	W correct (cont.)
85b7 待戒	5b2 持	—	S correct (cont.)
86a5 天常	5b8 大	like W	W correct
87a2 抄到	6a2 鈔	—	?
88a1 社稷	6b3	社壇	W and S wrong
88b5 檢照	6b13 點	like W	W correct
88b7 面門	7a2 四門	回門	W and S wrong
88b9 一尺	7a3	丈	W and S wrong

EXAMPLE 5: Section *chan-kuan* 站官, W vol. 3 七吏, p. 107a-110a. This section is missing in *chüan* 9 of S but supplemented by C, *ch'üeh-wen* 1, 31a-32b (ch. 9, p. 61a-62b)

W	C	Remarks
107a4 議擬	61a3 擬	W correct ?
107a6 常州	61a6 川	C correct
107b3 札	61a10 箭	orth. variant
107b3 常州	61a10 川	C correct
108b5 教鋪裏	61a13 馬	C correct
110a1 侶	62b4 似	orth. variant
110a8 提領一名	62b10 一各	C correct ??
110a9 om. 都省.... 施行	62b11 都省.... 施行	C correct

EXAMPLE 6: Section *chün-chuang* 軍裝, W vol. 6 二十兵 p. 92a-94b. This section is missing in *chüan* 34 of S and supplemented by C in *ch'üeh-wen* 42a-43a (ch. 34, p. 55a-56a)

W	C	Remarks
92a7 據	55a5 據	orthogr.? C preferable
92b4 令	55a10 今	C correct
93b1 軍身上	55b10 車人	C correct
93b8 寔	56a2 實	orth. variant
<i>passim</i> 備	<i>passim</i> 備	orth. variant

This list of variant readings shows a total of 105 discrepancies between W and S or C or both. In 63 cases W has a better reading than S; out of these 63, W has 14 cases with a correct reading not listed in C. In 14 cases W has a faulty reading for passages which are correct in S. These figures allow to draw the conclusion that the Wade MS. is indeed "assez correct" as Pelliot put it and should be consulted if ever a critical edition of the *Yüan tien-chang* should be envisaged.⁷ Fortunately one Yüan printed edition at least has survived the vicissitudes of the last war: the 1322 edition formerly kept in the Palace Museum, Peking, and now preserved in Taiwan.⁸ This edition, once belonging to the famous Chi-ku ko 汲古閣 library of Mao Chin 毛晉 (1599-1659), has already been used by Ch'en Yüan for the compilation of his *chiao-pu* and will obviously be of paramount importance for any future critical edition. It might, however, even be argued that a photolithographic reproduction of this Yüan edition will meet the demand of scholars for a reliable text of the *Yüan tien-chang*. Only a comparison of the Yüan edition with the Wade MS. could show whether or how far the Cambridge text, which is unquestionably superior to Shen Chia-pen's text as shown above, would also compare favourably with or be equal to the edition of 1322.

⁷ I have been informed by Mr. van der Loon, Cambridge, that a microfilm of the Wade MS. has been supplied to the *Jimbun Kagaku Kenkyūjo* in Kyōto for the purpose of preparing a new critical edition of the text.

⁸ Ch'ang Pi-té 昌彼得, *T'ai-wan kung-tsang Sung Yüan pen lien-ho shu-mu* 臺灣公藏宋元本聯合書目 (National Central Library Taipei, 1955), p. 44.