

A
C H I N E S E - E N G L I S H
D I C T I O N A R Y

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By the same Author

A
CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

PART I

By the same Author :

- Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio*, 2nd edition
Gems of Chinese Literature
Historic China and other Sketches
Chuang Tzū,—Mystic, Moralist, and Social Reformer
Chinese Sketches
Chinese without a Teacher, 6th edition
Record of the Buddhistic Kingdoms
Remains of Lao Tzū
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Handbook of the Swatow Dialect
From Swatow to Canton Overland
Dictionary of Colloquial Idioms
A Chinese Biographical Dictionary, 2579 lives, with full Index
Catalogue of the Wade Library, Cambridge
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Religions of Ancient China
Chinese Fairy Tales
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China and the Manchus

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PART II

A CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY	1—1711
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PREFACE.

The First Edition.—Twenty years have now elapsed since this Dictionary was published in Shanghai, after having been in preparation for some eighteen years previously. The work of printing then occupied nearly two years, in spite of such manifold advantages as a printing-office specially built for the purpose by Messrs. KELLY and WALSH and placed under the able management of Mr. JOHN MORRIS, native compositors to set up the Chinese types, and skilled literary natives to aid in revising the proofs.

The Second Edition.—The Dictionary in its present form must be carefully distinguished from a mere re-issue, under the cover of a new title-page, a new preface, and an altered date. I successfully resisted the great temptation to stereotype the first edition,—a course which is profitable to the author but very unprofitable to the future student,—feeling sure that many years must pass away before anything like a satisfactory Chinese Dictionary could be laid definitively before the public. Early editions of the kind, in any language, have seldom if ever come at all near to perfection; and when it is remembered that LIDDELL and SCOTT'S famous lexicon, with all the wealth of Greek scholarship available on its behalf, has had to run through many editions before reaching its present degree of accuracy of research, some consideration may perhaps be extended to a work which has even now attained only to its second stage of existence. The preparation of the present edition may be said to have begun simultaneously with the appearance of the first edition, and during this interval the following improvements have been carried out.

(1)—Many useful additions have been made to the meanings, or definitions, of the leading characters, and the number of cross-references has been largely increased.

(2)—A very large number of new illustrative phrases, drawn from all kinds of sources, have been inserted, including a great many examples of modern terms, for the latter of which I am chiefly indebted to my eldest son, Mr. BERTRAM GILES, now H. B. M. Consul at Ch'ang-sha. In this connexion the accompanying table may be of interest, showing as it does the gradual development of the Chinese-English dictionary since the days of MORRISON, the great pioneer.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF NUMBER OF PHRASES UNDER VARIOUS CHARACTERS, TAKEN AS SPECIMENS, TO ILLUSTRATE THE PROGRESS OF CHINESE-ENGLISH LEXICOGRAPHY.

	MORRISON, 1819 English	MEDHURST, 1843 English	WILLIAMS, 1874 American	GILES, 1892 English	GILES, 1912 English
說 to speak	11	15	28	96	129
山 mountains	17	6	19	89	109
生 to be born	21	27	42	135	162
打 to strike	23	21	24	167	172
石 stones	20	19	23	76	89
如 as if	8	6	18	78	112

	MORRISON, 1819 English	MEDHURST, 1843 English	WILLIAMS, 1874 American	GILES, 1892 English	GILES, 1912 English
神 spiritual	18	26	37	74	102
酒 wine	14	12	21	72	89
道 path, doctrine	11	13	33	246	261
色 colour	25	19	29	57	86
世 generation	23	12	32	55	75
文 ornament	18	20	22	91	125
筆 pen	12	12	21	58	84
畫 pictures	4	1	24	42	75
事 affairs	28	9	23	51	69
氣 vapour	16	18	38	98	126
天 God, heaven	41	31	34	159	183
眼 eye	7	11	26	128	157
物 thing	9	20	16	42	61
要 to want	8	12	21	61	77
由 cause	14	12	22	58	74
陰 dark	12	18	18	54	64
應 ought	10	13	19	61	78
月 moon	13	14	22	61	76
元 origin	20	10	19	52	73

MORRISON gave no aspirates, a defect many times worse than would be the omission of the rough breathing in a Greek lexicon. MEDHURST attempted aspirates, but omitted many and wrongly inserted others. WILLIAMS gave the aspirates correctly, and marked the five theoretical tones and also the Peking tones; but he provided too few phrases, and mistranslated a large number of those, partly from reverting to the old and inaccurate renderings of classical phrases instead of adopting the new and accurate translations of Dr. LEGGE. He further followed MORRISON in substituting a vertical stroke for the leading character in all the illustrative entries, though this tiresome system had already been discarded by MEDHURST. As to number of phrases, it is there, so it seems to me, that the strength or weakness of a Chinese dictionary may be said to lie. It is impossible to exhaust the meanings of a Chinese character by definitions, each word being (to quote from Professor SONNENSCHN) "like a chameleon, which borrows its colour from its environment."

(3)—Sixty-seven new characters have been added, bringing the total number up to 10,926 in all; the original numeral arrangement, however, of the first edition which enabled persons to use this book as a Chinese telegraphic code, as it actually has been used at the various Consulates in China, remains undisturbed.

(4)—With the aid of the 初學檢韻 *Ch'u hsüeh chien yün*, the Rhymes have been carefully revised, and a numeral has been added to each of the 106 standard rhymes, showing its place in its own particular group, and enabling the student to turn it up readily in the 佩文韻府 *P'ei wên yün fu*. Thus, "R. 6." stands for the sixth rhyme under whichever of the four tones may happen to be given at the foot of the column of dialects to the left of the leading character. But as in the *P'ei wên yün fu* the even tone is divided into 上平 and 下平, the combination "R. 6." refers in this case only to the former, and the sixth of the latter class is specially marked "R. 6a."

- (5)—Since the appearance of the first edition in 1892, I have published *A Chinese Biographical Dictionary*, which contains 2579 lives; and to this the student is now referred for names which are printed without any Chinese characters, in order to complete, if necessary, the sense of an entry which might otherwise be obscure. Number references to the same work are also attached to the Emperors given in the chronological tables at the end of the Dictionary.
- (6)—The Tables have undergone a close revision, and in lieu of some which did not meet with general approval, the methods devised by the late JOHN WILLIAMS, F. R. S. for the conversion of Chinese and English dates have been added. These will be found of considerable use to the student who may not possess the valuable, though occasionally inaccurate, *Concordance des Chronologies Néméniques, Chinoise et Européenne*, by the late P. HOANG.
- (7)—Even to the list of short-hand or abbreviated characters some few additions have been made; while the Radical catch-words, which on every left-hand page of the Index in the old edition had been printed on the wrong margin, have now been adjusted in accordance with convenience for use.
- (8)—A number of duplicate sentences, which had escaped notice in the old edition, have been cut out, together with a great deal of other matter which time has shown to be of less value to the student than had been originally anticipated. In the old edition, the dictionary proper, exclusive of Tables, Index, etc., filled 1354 pages; in the present edition, the same portion runs to 1710 pages.
- (9)—The last fascicule of the old edition was issued in 1892, and the Dictionary was most cordially and kindly received by the public as an up-to-date work. Twenty years of further excursions into Chinese literature have however disclosed many weak points, careless slips, and downright blunders. Some few of my contemporaries have done good service by systematically noting these down, and calling my attention to them. First and foremost I have to mention Mr. E. VON ZACH, Consul-General at Singapore for Austria-Hungary, whose efforts in this direction have been of incalculable value towards securing a higher degree of accuracy in the present work than was attained in the first edition. I am also indebted to Mr. C. F. HOGG for notes published in the last volume of the now defunct *China Review*, and for others which he kindly placed at my disposal after the disappearance of the *Review*; and again, to the Rev. H. W. MOULE for a small collection of similar criticisms. I do not say that I have in every case accepted the emendations proposed by these scholars, my own experience being that correction of the mistakes of others usually involves a fixed percentage of mistakes of one's own. Still, I am very grateful for the assistance offered, and can only wish that more students had followed this excellent plan.
- (10)—As regards typography, the fount here employed will, I trust, meet with general approval, being both larger and clearer than that used for the first edition. The printing of this edition, which was placed in the hands of Mr. C. PELTENBURG, Director of the firm of Messrs BRILL and Co., Leiden, and most efficiently carried out under the supervision of Mr. J. B. VAN DUUREN, senior Chinese compositor of that firm, occupied from first to last no less than four years.
- (11)—There remains now only the question of proof-reading. It is of course all-important for a dictionary that typographical errors should be as nearly as possible non-existent; and to secure this end the task of proof-reading was performed by three persons, without any assistance from native scholars, as in the case of the first edition. Of these three, I was naturally one; but time has played havoc with my capacity as a proof-reader, and but for the most efficient services of the other two, the result would have been very different from what I believe has now been achieved. Another of the trio was my second son, Mr. LIONEL GILES, M. A. (Oxon), Assistant in the Oriental Department of the British Museum. To him I am indebted not only for careful revision of every proof, but also for numerous valuable suggestions and additions as the work was going through the press. Last in numerical order, but easily first in all that constitutes

the technical skill of the proof-reader, comes my wife. I have already had occasion to acknowledge her valuable services to the first edition, then confined chiefly to the English text. It only remains to say that in this second edition she undertook, oftener in sickness than in health, to revise the Chinese text as well as the English,—a task which only those who know the elusive shades of difference in many Chinese characters will be able fully to appreciate. Great, however, as are my personal obligations for all she has accomplished in this sense, I venture to think that the students who may consult this dictionary, and find the irritation of typographical errors, especially in the Chinese, reduced to a reasonable minimum, will be still more deeply indebted. To these, with all respect, I would commend the popular Chinese maxim: 飲水思源 *When you drink of the water, think of the spring.*

CAMBRIDGE, *June 12, 1912.*

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