

## PREFACE

In 1931 the author published a monograph on Kao chang<sup>1</sup>, with plates of tomb slabs, annotations and explanations, and also a special paper on Kao-chang<sup>2</sup>, with interpretations on the chronology of the Kao-chang Kingdom.<sup>3</sup> Later in the same year an additional volume<sup>4</sup> was published in which the author laid out a programme to publish the results of his archaeological researches in Sinkiang<sup>5</sup> in six series of monographs in the following order: Kao-Chang, Pu-Chang<sup>6</sup>, Yen-Chi<sup>7</sup>, Ku-Cha<sup>8</sup>, Khotan<sup>9</sup> and Chiu-Sha.<sup>10</sup> By the autumn of 1933, through a grant from the China Foundation, a second volume of Kao-Chang was published dealing with pottery wares.<sup>11</sup>

According to my program, the next monograph should be that on Pu-Chang, viz. Lob Nor.<sup>12</sup> But the author was then ordered by the Ministry of Education to proceed to Sinkiang to study its cultural history, with special attention to archaeology. While I was on my way toward Tihua<sup>13</sup> (Urumchi), unexpected developments in Sinkiang closed the route, but I was able to visit the Lob Nor region a second time, with gratifying results.

After returning to Peiping in the autumn of 1934, preparation of a monograph on Lob Nor was immediately started. During the preliminary stage a few papers were published for those interested in my work or the archaeological problems involved. In the winter of 1935 the author was in Si-an, Shensi,<sup>14</sup> being sent there by the Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities<sup>15</sup> to supervise the repairing of old stone tablets known as the "Forest of Tablets."<sup>16</sup> The Chinese Committee of the Scientific Expedition to the Northwest was kind enough to afford me a separate laboratory for the classification of a part of my Sinkiang collections, which were removed to Si-an with me.

For the two years between autumn of 1934, and summer of 1936, the preliminary draft of my monograph on Lop Nor together with the drawing of figures and photographing of objects had been gradually completed.

In the fatal fall of 1937 Sian was often bombed. For the safety of my collections they were sent to Hankow<sup>17</sup> by the aid of Dr. Y. C. Mei, Chancellor of Tsing Hua University<sup>18</sup>. But my research work had to stop at once. By the spring of 1938, when the repairs on the "Forest of Tablets" were completed, the author joined the faculty of the Northwestern Associated University<sup>19</sup> at Chengku,<sup>20</sup> south Shensi. Next autumn the author went to Chengtu<sup>21</sup> to carry on further researches in the National Szechwan University.<sup>22</sup> At the end of 1939 the editorial work on Part II of the present volume was completed.

After another term of teaching in Chengku in 1940, I returned to Szechwan, staying in Chung-Ching Hsien<sup>23</sup> where I wrote some seventy thousand more words, which forms Part I of the present volume.

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|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. 高昌專集    | 2. 高昌第一分本     | 3. 高昌國        | 4. 高昌專集贅言  | 5. 新疆         | 6. 蒲昌        | 7. 焉耆    |
| 8. 庫車      | 9. 和闐         | 10. 佉沙        | 11. 高昌陶集   | 12. 羅布淖爾      | 13. 迪化(烏魯木齊) | 14. 陝西西安 |
| (長安)       | 15. 中央古物保管委員會 | 16. 碑林(在陝西西安) | 17. 漢口     | 18. 清華大學梅貽琦校長 |              |          |
| 19. 西北聯合大學 | 20. 城固        | 21. 成都        | 22. 國立四川大學 | 23. 崇慶縣       |              |          |