

interest. I may add here that descriptive notes, provided mainly by Dr. Giles, on a larger selection of Ch'ien-fo-tung manuscripts which were on view during the Exhibition of portions of my Collection held in 1914, will be found in the *Guide* then published by the British Museum.²¹

NOTES ON CH'EN-FO-TUNG MSS. REPRODUCED IN PLATES CLXVI-CLXIX.

- Ch. 922.** Fr. of Chinese MS. roll, containing a census of families in the province of Tun-huang. Dated the first moon of the twelfth year of the period *Chien-ch'u* (February-March, A.D. 416). [The portion seen opened in the reproduction shows the reverse used for a later Buddhist text.] Pl. CLXVI.
- Ch. 916.** Buddhist stanzas celebrating the joys of Sukhāvati, the sacred mountain Wu-t'ai-shan, etc. Undated; probably written about A.D. 800. Pl. CLXVI.
- Ch. 1181.** Buddhist canonical text; contains chap. I of *Mahāvaiṣṭhāraṇī-sūtra*. Dated A.D. 521. Pl. CLXVI.
- Ch. 759.** Manuscript roll containing part of the *Lieh Kuo Chuan*, a Chinese historical romance dealing with the feudal states of the Chou dynasty. Pl. CLXVI.
- Ch. 936.** Rolled document containing official report from the frontier-city of Su-chou. Pl. CLXVII.
- Ch. cv. 001.** Complete MS. roll, containing chap. ix of *Mahāparinirvāṇa-sūtra*, with stamps of San-chieh Monastery (see above, p. 822) at end. Undated; probably of seventh century. Pl. CLXVII.
- Ch. 905.** Fr. of MS. roll, containing a number of short Chinese poems, apparently written by a Buddhist monk, celebrating various mountains, rivers, and monasteries. T'ang period. Pl. CLXVII.
- Ch. 935.** MS. roll containing an itinerary from K'ai-fêng Fu to the regions of the extreme West. Pl. CLXVII.
- Ch. 6.** MS. roll showing end of chap. v of the *P'u-yao-ching* (Samantaprabhāsa-sūtra; corresponds to No. 160 of Nanjio's *Catalogue*, but with a different division). The manuscript is undated; but Prof. Pelliot considers its writing more archaic than that of the Wei period and places its date about A.D. 400, an opinion fully accepted by Messrs. Kano and Taki. Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 401.** Colophon of fine MS. roll, containing chap. III of *Hua yen ching* (Buddhāvataṃsaka-sūtra), dated eighth day of fourth moon of third year of *Chéng-kuang* (May 18, A.D. 522). Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 478.** MS. roll, containing chap. I of *Shé lun chang*, a Buddhist text with commentary, dated September 30, A.D. 601. Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 365.** Portion of document, recording a list of pious gifts and dated A.D. 991. Typical writing of decadent period of Chinese culture at Tun-huang. Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 1283.** Will of a nun, named Ling-hui, written on her death-bed and dated twenty-third day of tenth moon of sixth year of *Hsien-tung* (Nov. 15, A.D. 865). Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 79.** End of MS. roll containing text of *Vajracchedikā*, incomplete at beginning. Typical writing of middle of T'ang period (about A.D. 750-800). Attached to end of roll is a colophon taken from an earlier manuscript written A.D. 700 by Yin Jên-hsieh, whose name recurs in other Tun-huang manuscripts (Pelliot). Pl. CLXVIII.
- Ch. 1024.** Fr. of well-written MS. containing one of the 'Four Books' (*Ta hsieh*). Pl. CLXIX.
- Ch. 1073.** Booklet containing the *Tun-huang lu*, a short descriptive account of the Tun-huang tract, mainly concerned with its *mirabilia*; see above, p. 917. Probably written in tenth century. Pl. CLXIX.
- Ch. 1080.** Five leaves of ink-rubbings from the inscription of Ou-yang Hsün, famous in Chinese calligraphy, made up into booklet. Two more leaves brought to Paris (Pelliot). Pl. CLXIX.
- Ch. 917.** MS. roll, incomplete at the beginning, containing a treatise on Central-Asian geography, dated A.D. 886. See above, p. 917. Pl. CLXIX.

Oldest printed book, A.D. 868.

In conclusion special reference deserves to be made here to the complete printed roll Ch. ciii. 0014 (Plate C), 16 feet long, containing the Chinese version of *Vajracchedikā*, which we had already occasion to mention above on account of its block-printed frontispiece.²² According to its colophon the roll was printed by Wang Chieh on the fifteenth day of the fourth moon of the ninth year of *Hsien-tung*, corresponding to May 11, A.D. 868. It is the oldest specimen of printing so far known to exist, apart from charms.²³

²¹ Cf. *Exhibition of Stein Collection*, pp. 53-8.

²² See above, p. 893.

²³ For printed prayer-sheets, Ch. 00158, 185. a, dated

A.D. 947, see Pl. C, CIII; for others of same date and later in tenth century, cf. Pelliot, *Une Bibliothèque médiévale*, *B.É.F.E.O.*, viii. p. 526.