

## CATALOGUE OF PALACE BRONZES

### 西清古鑑

A Catalogue of Palace Bronzes was authorized by an edict issued on the seventh day of the eleventh moon of the fourteenth year of Ch'ien Lung (A.D. 1749). It entrusted the compilation of this catalogue to Liang Shih-Chêng (1707-1763), Chiang P'u (1708-1761) and Wang Yu-tun (D. 1758). Members of the Academy of Painting under the direction of Liang Kuang were ordered to prepare the illustrations. The work of taking rubbings of the inscriptions was placed under the control of Ch'ên Hsiaoyung. Permission was given to employ members of the Hanlin Academy as assistants and to use the Po Ku T'u Lu of the Sung dynasty as a model for their work. The name later chosen for the catalogue was Hsi Ch'ing Ku Ch'ien. The first two characters, Hsi Ch'ing, show that the catalogue was prepared in the writing chamber known as Nan Shu Fang, which was generally referred to in contemporaneous literature as Hsi Ch'ing. It was the place where all the literary work done under imperial orders was performed. The last two characters, Ku Chien, may be translated as "A Mirror of Antiquities," and were taken from the imperial edict to which reference has already been made. Its name Hsi Ch'ing Ku Chien may therefore be translated as "Mirror of the Antiquities of the Imperial Studio" or "The Nan Shu Fang Mirror of Antiquities." The manuscript of this catalogue remained in the Palace until 1888 when on the recommendation of the Imperial Tutor Wêng T'ung-ho a copper-plate facsimile reproduction of it was made in Japan. In the same year it was reproduced in a smaller size by lithographic process by the Hung Wên Publishing Company, Shanghai. The original manuscript disappeared from the Palace during the troublous days of 1900.

During the later years of the reign of Ch'ien Lung three supplements to this catalogue were prepared. One is known as Ning Shou Chien Ku. This was reproduced in 1913 by lithography. The second supplement is called Hsi Ch'ing Hsü Chien, Chia Pien. It was prepared in Peking in 1785. In 1910 it was reproduced by lithography. The third supplement is called Hsi Ch'ing Hsü Chien, Yi Pien. It was prepared in Mukden in the same year as the second supplement. This was reproduced by lithography and published in 1931. The original manuscripts of the three supplements are preserved in the Palace. The four parts of this catalogue describe all of the important bronzes now stored in the Palace enclosure, those recorded in the Catalogue and in the first and second supplements being in the Old Palace Museum and those recorded in the third supplement in the Wu Ying Tien. The four parts are:—

- Hsi Ch'ing Ku Chien (西清古鑑),
- Ning Shou Chien Ku (寧壽鑑古),
- Hsi Ch'ing Hsü Chien, Chia Pien (西清續鑑甲編),
- Hsi Ch'ing Hsü Chien, Yi Pien (西清續鑑乙編).



CATALOGUE OF PALACE PROCEEDINGS

皇清 宣統

A Catalogue of Palace Proceedings was published by an order of the Emperor in the first year of the reign of the Emperor Guangxu. It was compiled by the Grand Secretariat and the Grand Council of State. The Catalogue contains the names of the officials who were present at the various ceremonies and the names of the officials who were absent. It also contains the names of the officials who were promoted and demoted. The Catalogue is a valuable historical document which provides a detailed account of the activities of the Imperial Household Department during the reign of the Emperor Guangxu.

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