

The Royal Asiatic Society and its Chinese Connection

James Liu, Archivist

45th EASL CONFERENCE London, 10–12 September 2025



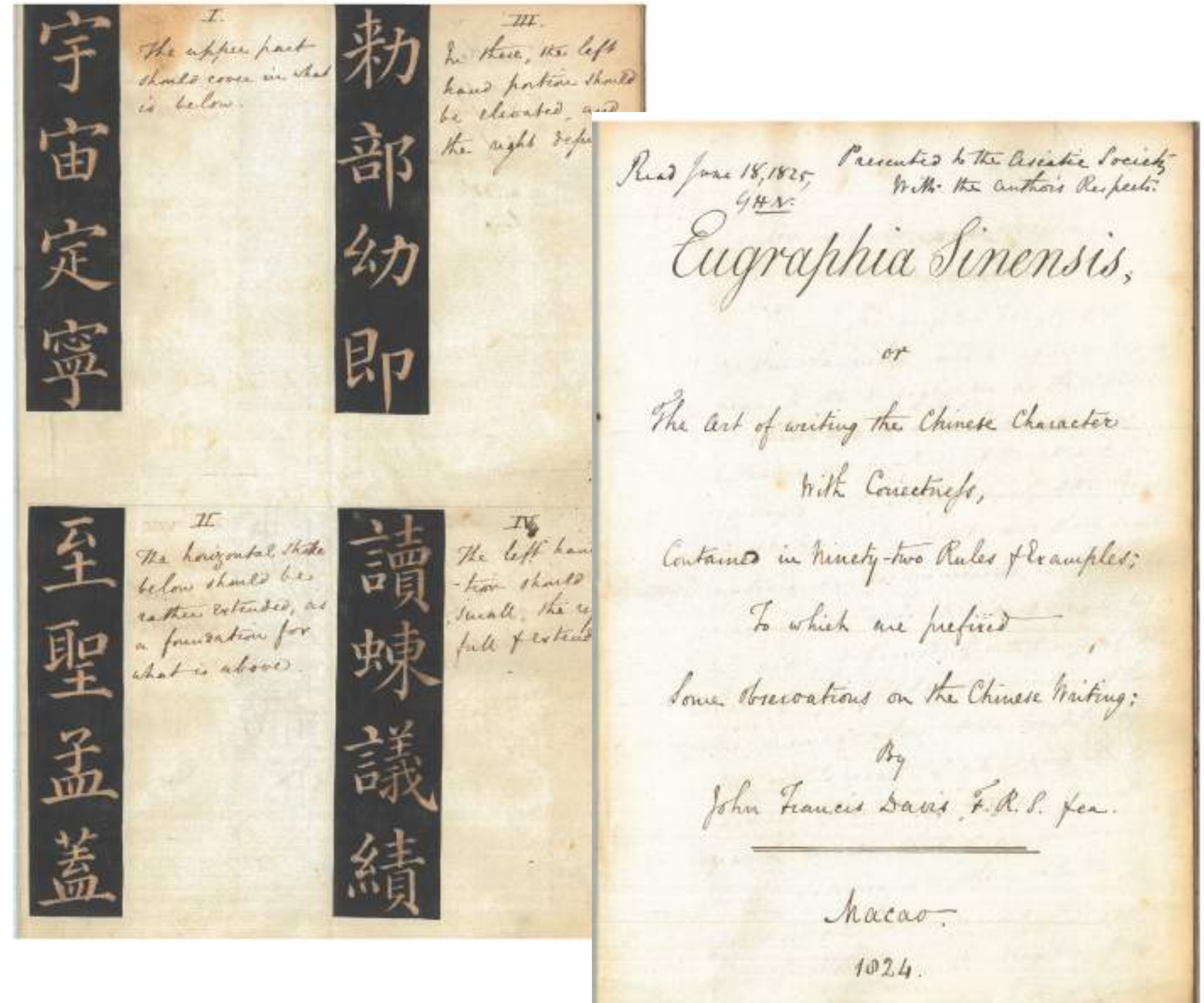
Bust of Henry Thomas
Colebrooke (1765–1837)
[Head Cat. 02.008]



Royal Charter given by George IV, 11 August 1824
[RAS GOV3/1]



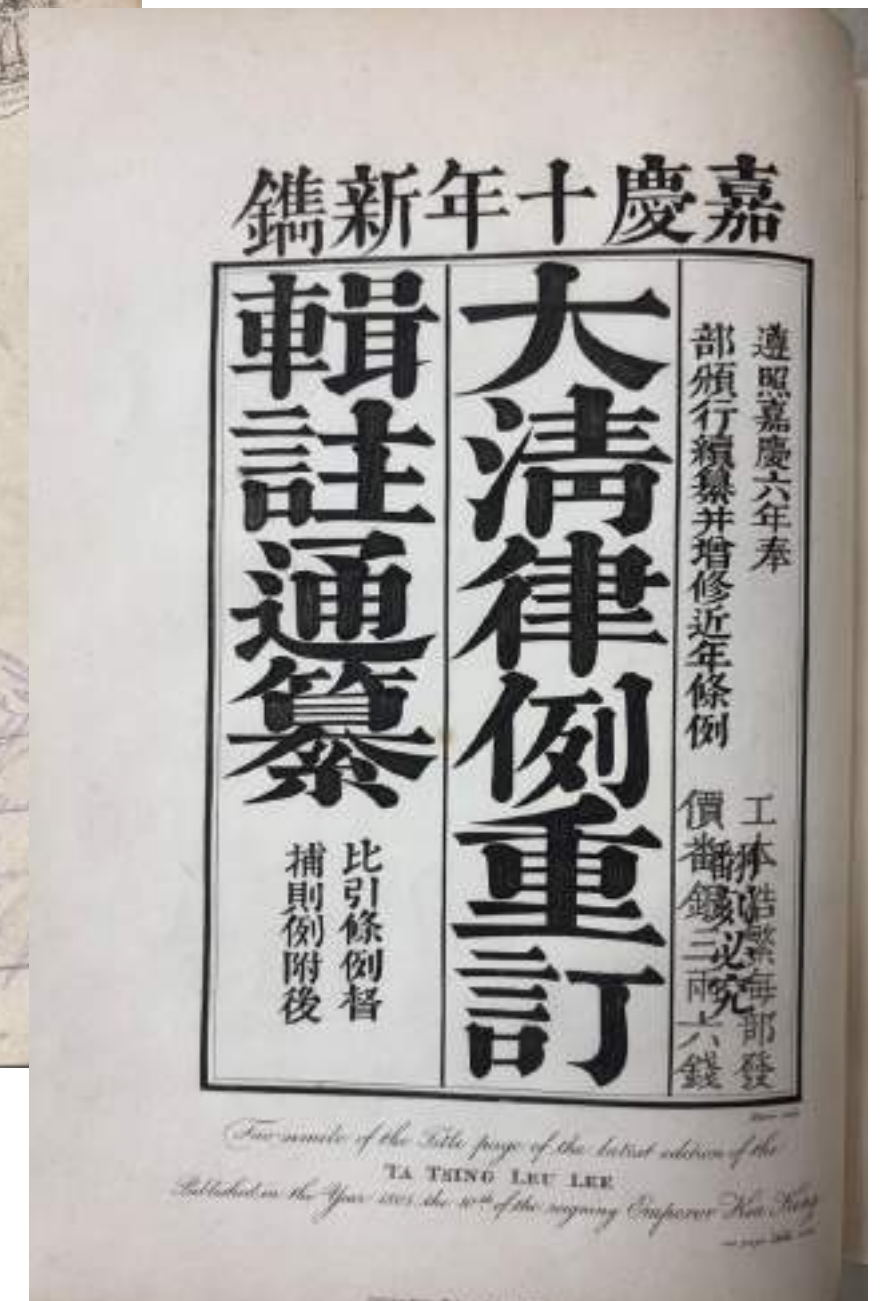
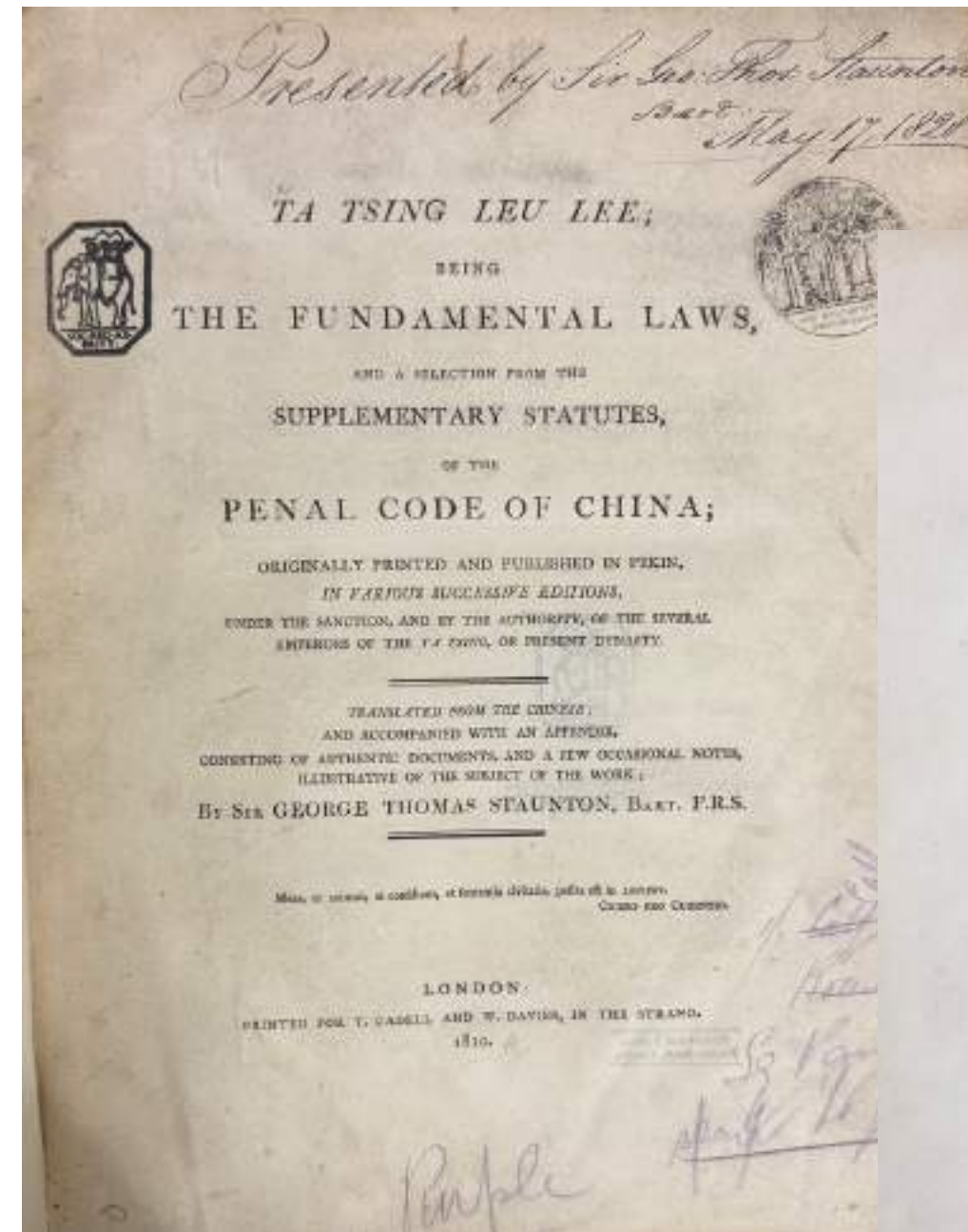
Sir John Francis Davis (1795–1890)



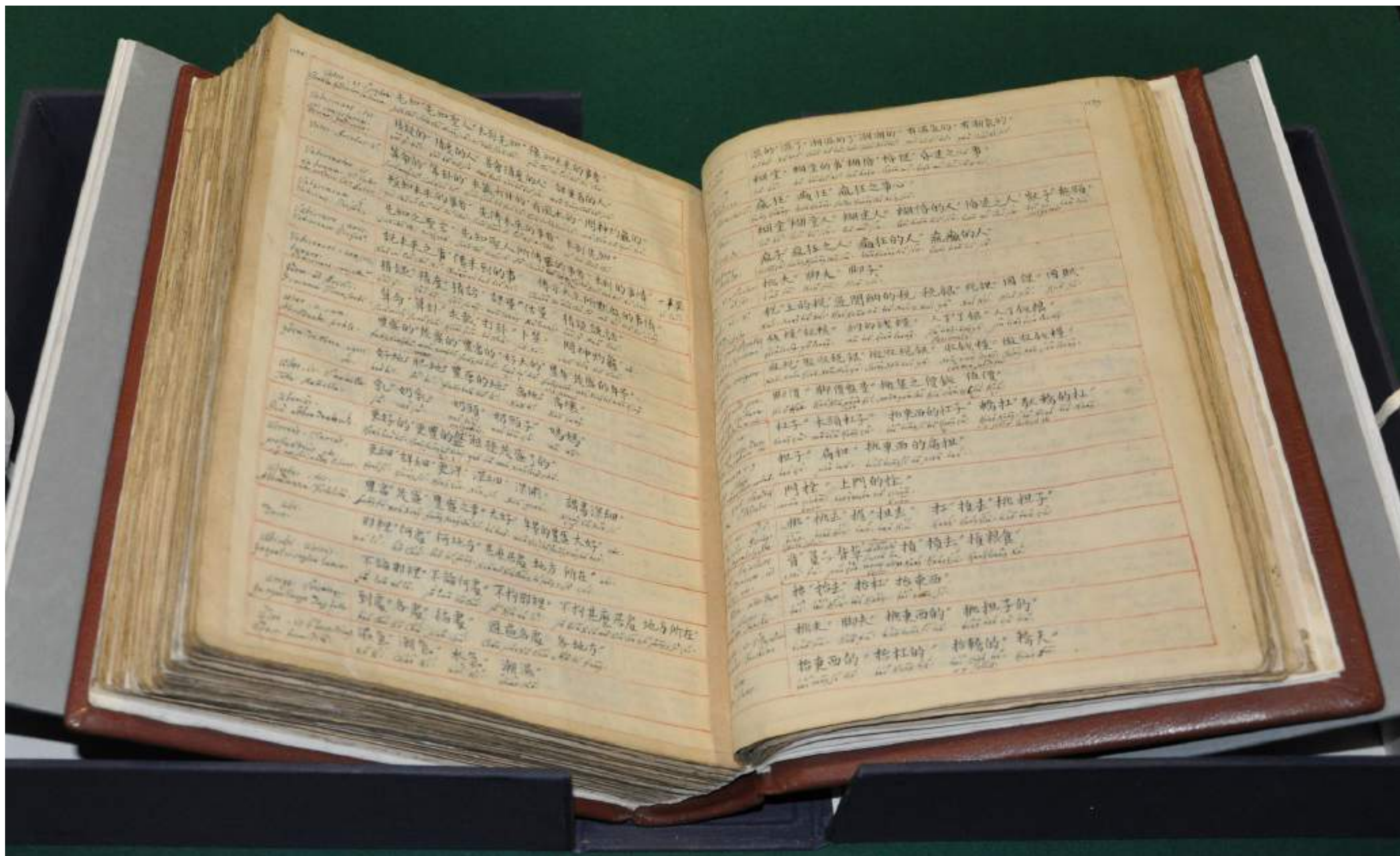
**Epigraphia Sinensis, or, The art of writing the Chinese character with correctness, 1824
[RAS Chinese 9]**



Sir George Thomas Staunton (1781–1859)



Ta Tsing Leu Lee: being the fundamental laws, and a selection from the supplementary statutes, of the penal code of China, 1810



Latin-Chinese dictionary, 1745 [RAS Chinese 1]

Jesus

JESUS. 耶模。吾主耶模。救世者。
yē sū. gù zhǔ yē sū. jiù shì zhě.

Vestis praetoria aulica (Courtly robe)

朝服。朝衣。蟒袍。
Cháo fú. Cháo yī. mǎng páo.

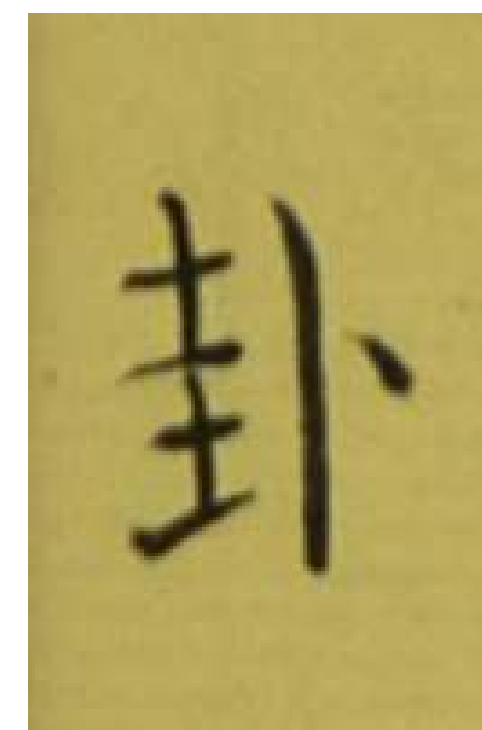
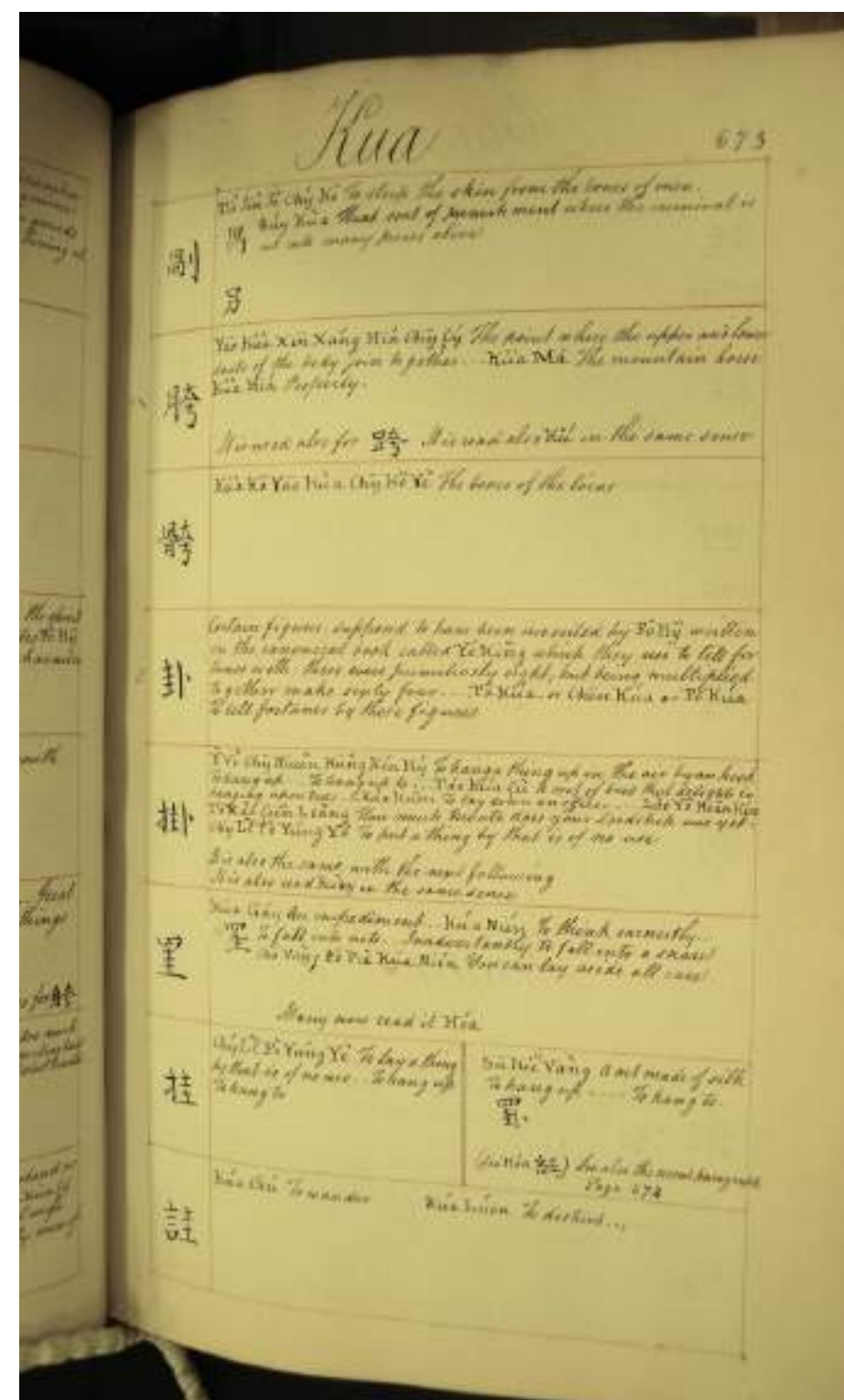
Vates ariolus (prophets, soothsayers)

求籤打卦的。看風水的。
qiú qiān dǎ guā de. kàn fēng shuǐ de.

Lupatrum acutum [medic]

山大黃。藥材。
Shān dà huáng. yào cái.

Curia Tribunal.	衙門。部。部院。部院衙門。六部衙門。
Curia seu b. curia Tribunalia in Regia.	吏部。戶部。禮部。兵部。刑部。工部。
Curia seu Tribunal Regium ex b. gradibus aggregatum.	九卿。
Curia Provinciarum Reg. Pro Regum.	衙門。撫院衙門。
Idem.	布政司衙門。按察司衙門。
Idem.	道衙門。府衙門。州衙門。縣衙門。二衙。三衙。四衙。小衙門。
Curialis e. Curiale.	御前。御前人。朝內行走的人員。內務府的人。
Curiales Tribunalium.	某部司員。某部衙門官員。某王府門上的人。門下的人。
Curiales Pro Regum.	堂官。撫院的堂官。承差。撫院衙門承差。
Curiales Subalterni.	衙役。衙門裡的人。當衙役的。衙門裡當差的。
Curiales Officiales Cancellarii etc.	書辦。書手。書吏。書役。
Curiositas his. Curiositas.	好察聽。好察着。好探問。好閑問。好察聽的心事。
Curiosus in un. Curioso.	好察聽的人。好察着的人。好探問的人。好閑問的人。好閑問事的人。
Curiositates res curiositatem palenter aut curiose facere.	奇物。奇異的。奇效的。奇異的物。奇巧之物。妙奇的東西。
Curo. as. Curare. cur cura.	照管。照。照顧。看顧。賜顧。
Curare attentè.	經心。照心。小心。留心。悲心。
Curare negotia.	管事。經管事。辦事。承辦事。料理。料理事。理事。
Curare morbos.	治。醫。治病。調治調理。醫治。調治保養。調理養病。



‘Certain figures, supposed to have been invented by *Fo Hy* written in the canonical book called *Ye King* which they use to tell fortunes with. There were primitively eight, but being, multiplied together make sixty four... *Ta Kua* or *Chen Kua* or *Po Kua* to tell fortunes by these figures.’



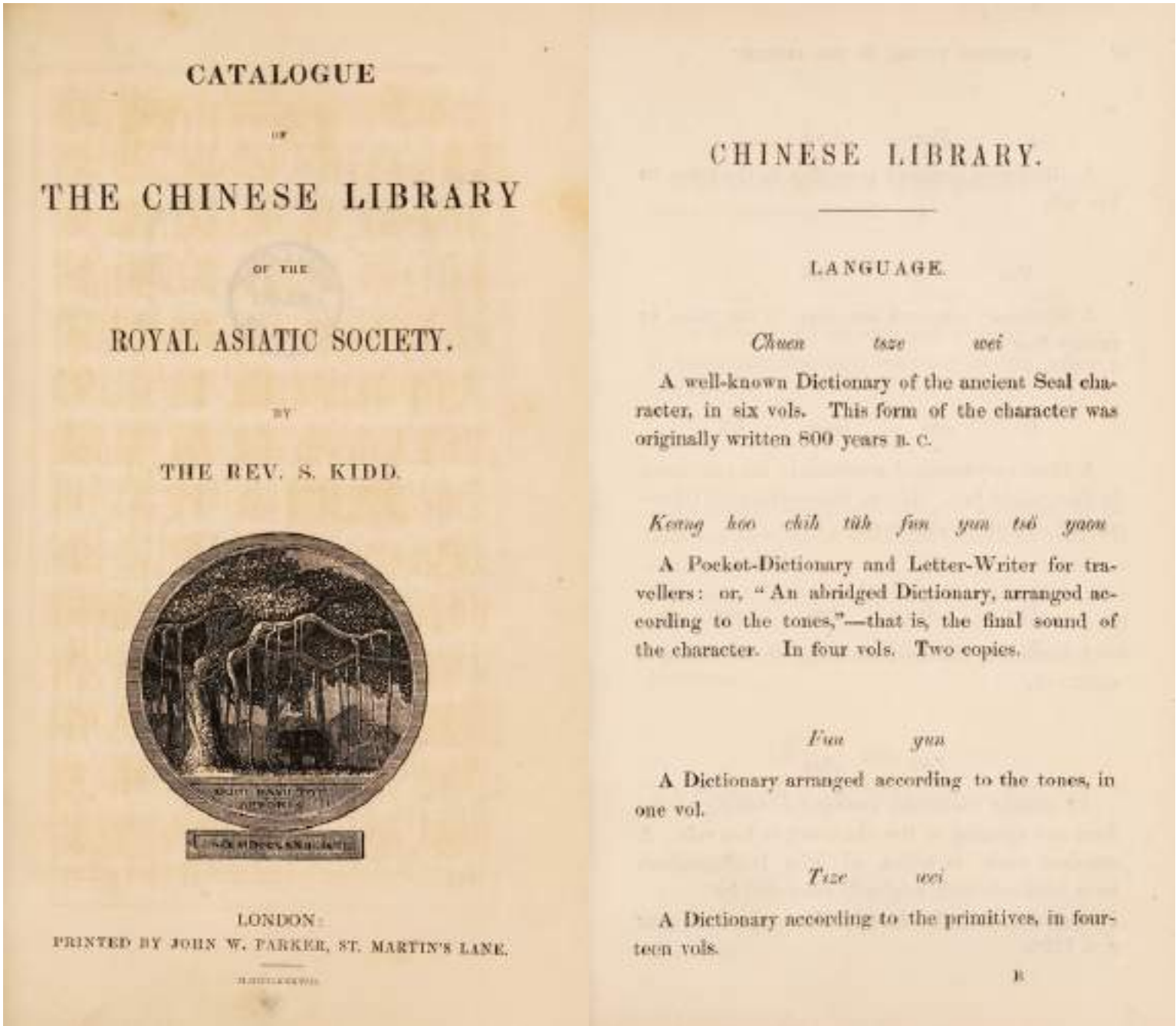
‘*Yn* and *Yang* are the two differences of the *Materia Prima* among the Chinese, under which all material things are comprehended. *Yang* is matters in motions and whatever denotes perfection in respect to its opposite; as Heaven, the Sun, Fire, the Day, a Male...’

Chinese-English dictionary, 1807 [RAS Chinese 6]

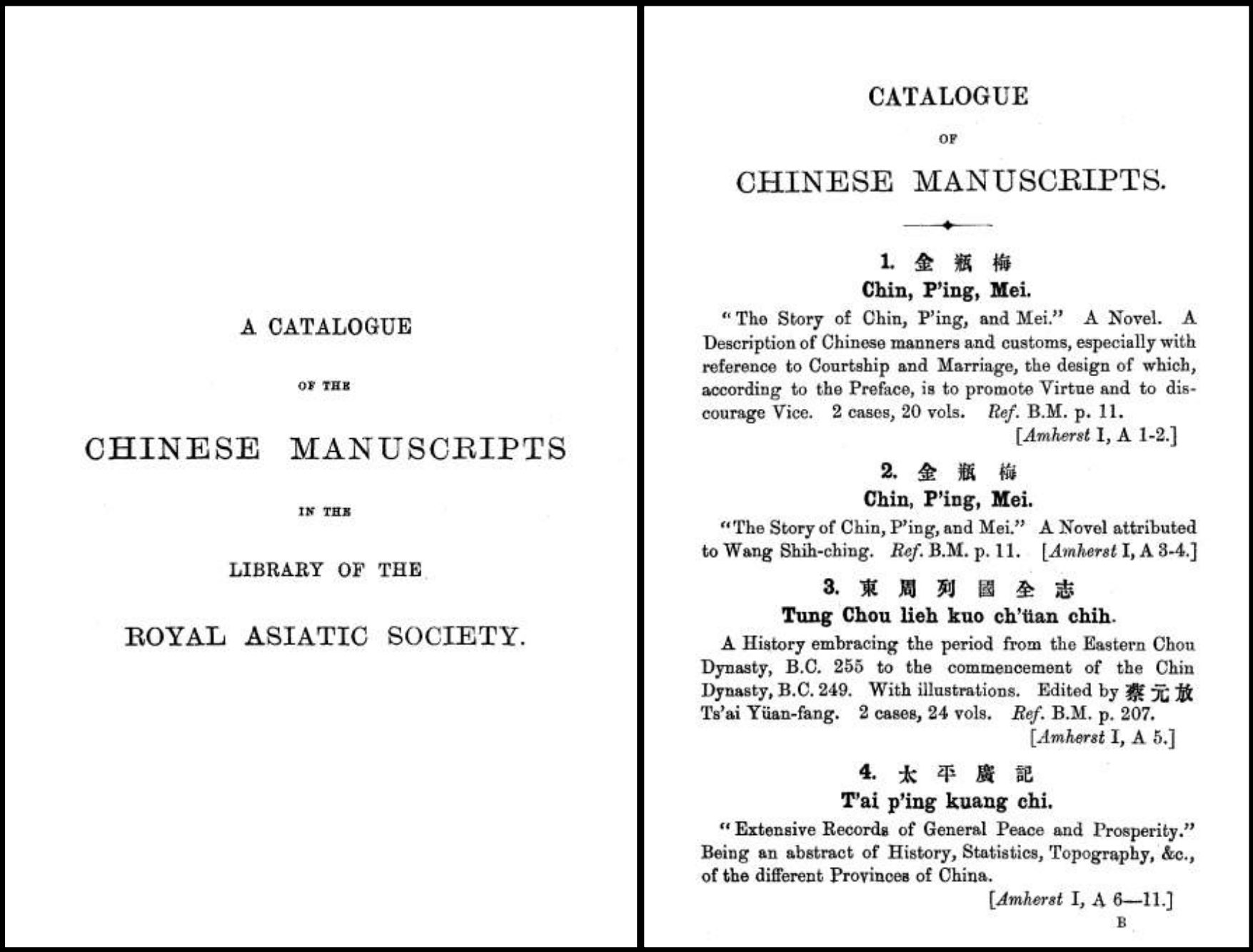
Memorandum of a collection of Chinese printed books
donated by Sir George Thomas Staunton, 20 March 1823

Weeks.		Vols.
15.	CLASS 1.— <i>Ancient Literature or Classics of the Chinese</i> : including those of Confucius, and a Mantchoo Tartar translation of what are called the <i>Four Books</i>	198
22.	CLASS 2.— <i>Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, and Works on Philology</i> , viz. the Imperial Dictionary of <i>Kang Hy</i> ; Pronouncing Dictionaries; Dictionaries of Ancient and Obsolete Characters; Illustrations of Chinese Tones; Poetical Dictionary, similar to the " <i>Gradus ad Parnassum</i> ;" Dictionary of the Mantchoo Tartar Language; Dialogues in Chinese and Mantchoo, &c.....	436
25.	CLASS 3.— <i>Natural History and the Arts</i> , viz. Treatises on Medicine, on certain particular Diseases; on Astronomy and Astrology; on Plants and Gardening; on Husbandry; on the Art of Drawing; on Weaving and Ploughing; on the Art of War; on the Discoveries of Europeans; also Herbars, Almanacks, &c.	232
17.	CLASS 4.— <i>Travels, and Books of Geography</i> , viz. General Topography of China; particular Accounts of the Provinces of Canton, of Pekin, of the Island of Hay-nan; of the Districts watered by the Yellow River; of the Tourgouths, of Thibet; of Maritime and other Foreign Nations, &c. ...	270
23.	CLASS 5.— <i>Modern Poetry, Plays, and Novels</i> , viz. Poems composed on public occasions, in celebration of Imperial Festivals; Poems by Candidates for Prizes or Degrees; Collections of Plays of the First Tartar Dynasty; Modern Plays now acting; Novels founded on Historical or interesting Domestic Facts, in illustration of the Passions: Moral Tales for the instruction of Youth, &c.	377
9.	CLASS 6.— <i>History and Biography</i> , viz. General History of the Empire; Annals of Particular Periods; History of the Four First Emperors of the Reigning Dynasty; Biography of the "Wise and Good;" Biography of Illustrious Women; Conquests of the Emperor Kien Long, &c.....	246
30.	CLASS 7.— <i>Laws and Government</i> , viz. The Present Civil, Penal, and Fiscal Codes; Penal and other Codes of Former Dynasties; Reports of adjudged Cases in Courts of Law; Instructions for Pleaders; Series of Imperial Pekin Gazettes; Collection of Provincial Reports and Government Decisions; Official Instructions on Moral Duties; Court Kalendar, &c. ...	554
14.	CLASS 8.— <i>Doctrines of FOE and other Superstitions</i> ; including	56
7.	CLASS 9.— <i>Publications of the Catholic and Protestant Missionaries</i> . Missals, Summaries of Faith, Translations from the Scriptures, &c.	20
24.	CLASS 10.— <i>Miscellaneous</i> , viz. Treatises on Ceremonials; Games of Chess and Draughts; Miscellaneous Instructions; Books for Children; Treatises on Coins and Medals; Extracts from Scarce Books; Catalogues of the Imperial and other Libraries, &c.	222

<i>Summary of the whole.</i>			
Class.		Works.	Vols.
1.	Chinese Classics.....	15	198
2.	Dictionaries	22	436
3.	Arts and Sciences	25	232
4.	Travels and Geography	17	270
5.	Poetry, Plays and Novels	23	377
6.	History and Biography	9	246
7.	Laws and Government	30	554
8.	Native Superstitions	14	56
9.	Books on Christianity	7	20
10.	Miscellaneous	24	222
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		186	2,610
		<hr/>	<hr/>



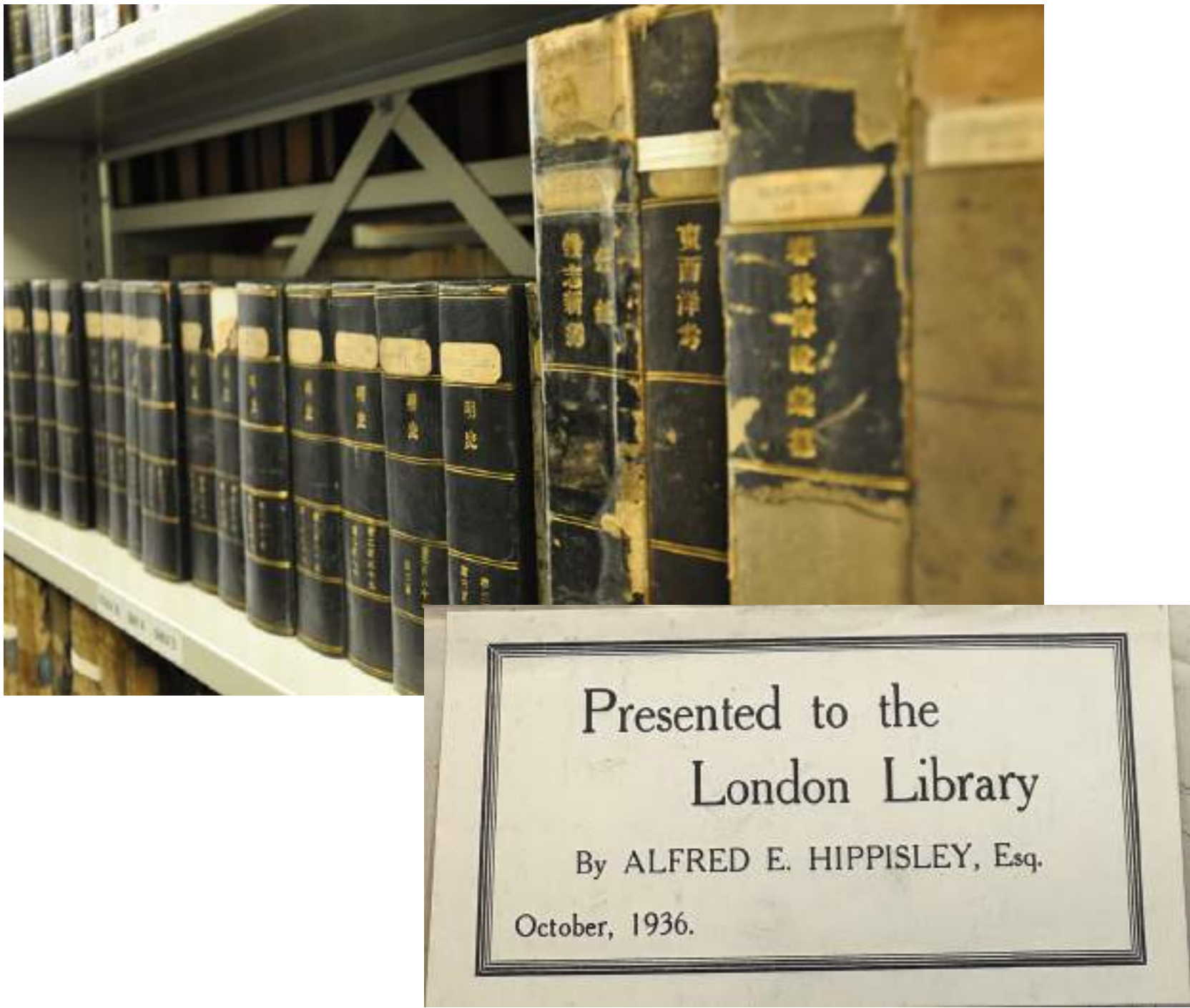
Catalogue of the Chinese Library of the Royal Asiatic Society, Samuel Kidd, 1838



A Catalogue of the Chinese Manuscripts in the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society, Henry Holt, 1890



Angus C. Graham collection



Hippisley collection



‘Rattan Shields’



‘Henan Road, Shanghai’



‘Silk Filature’

Views of China, ca. 1860-1920 [Glass Slide.01]



‘Comprador and Staff, Oriental Bank Corporation, Hong Kong’



Grand stand, Hong Kong Race Course, 1860s

Howell Collection: Views of China, Japan and the Philippines [Photo.51]



Wang Yuanlu, Taoist priest at the ‘Caves of the Thousand Buddhas’

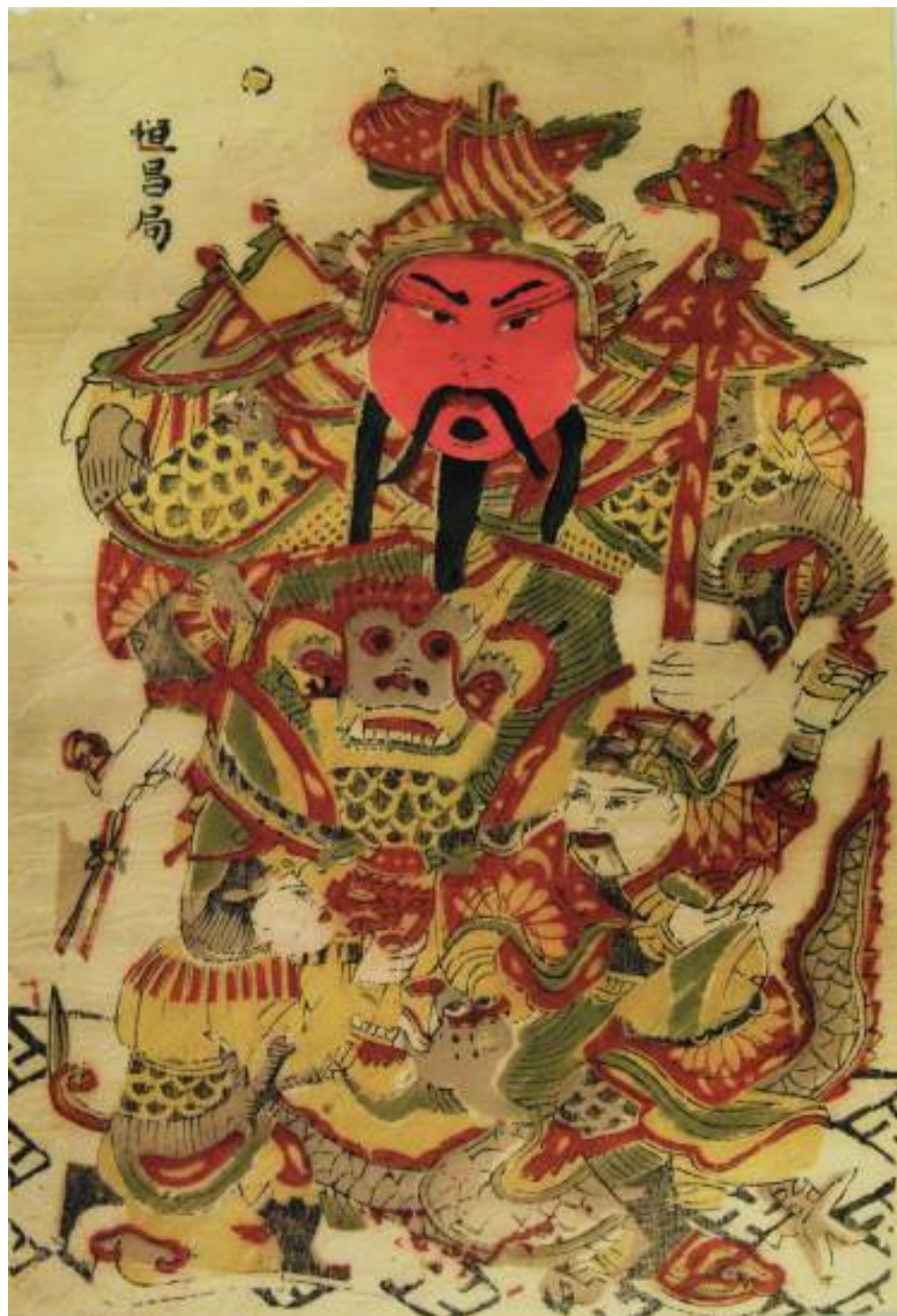
Aurel Stein Collection [Photo.40]



**The Approach of the Emperor of China to his
Tent in Tartary to receive the British
Ambassador, 1799 [Head Cat. 005.001]**



Lord Macartney and the young
Staunton holding his train



Door god offering wealth
[Head Cat. 043.005]
Hodgson Collection



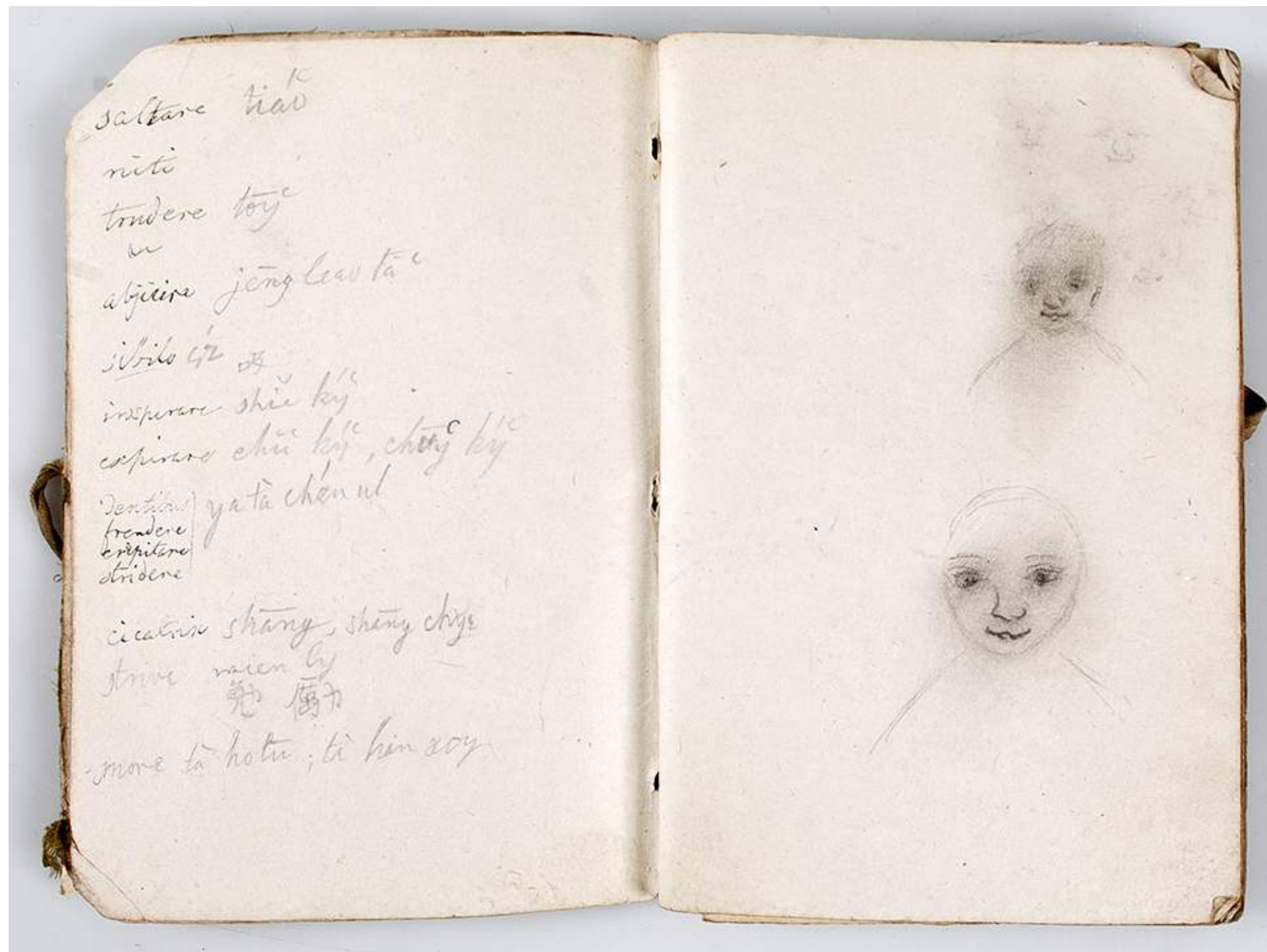
Door god holding a sword
[Head Cat. 044.011]
Morrison Collection



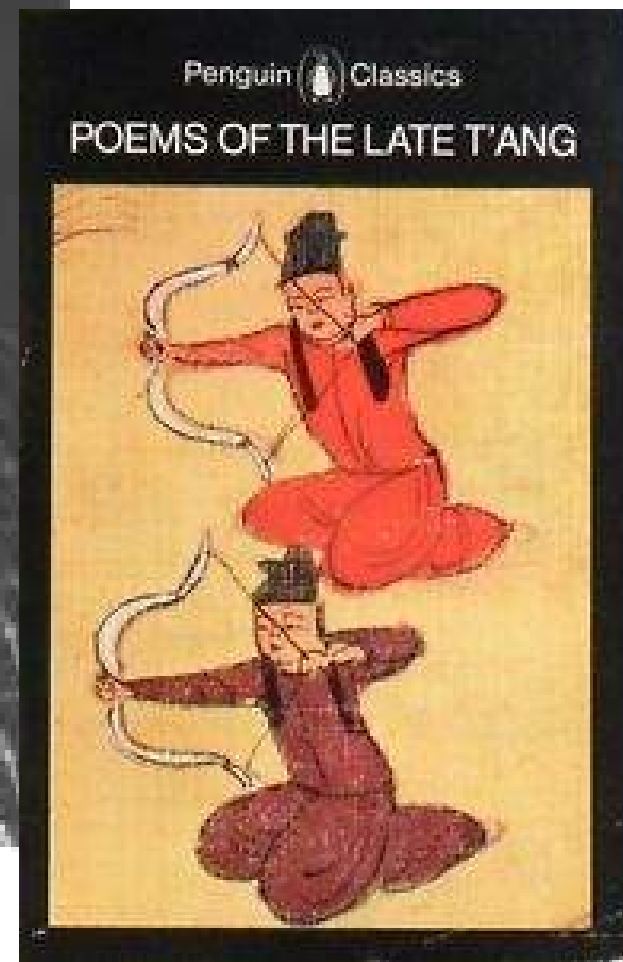
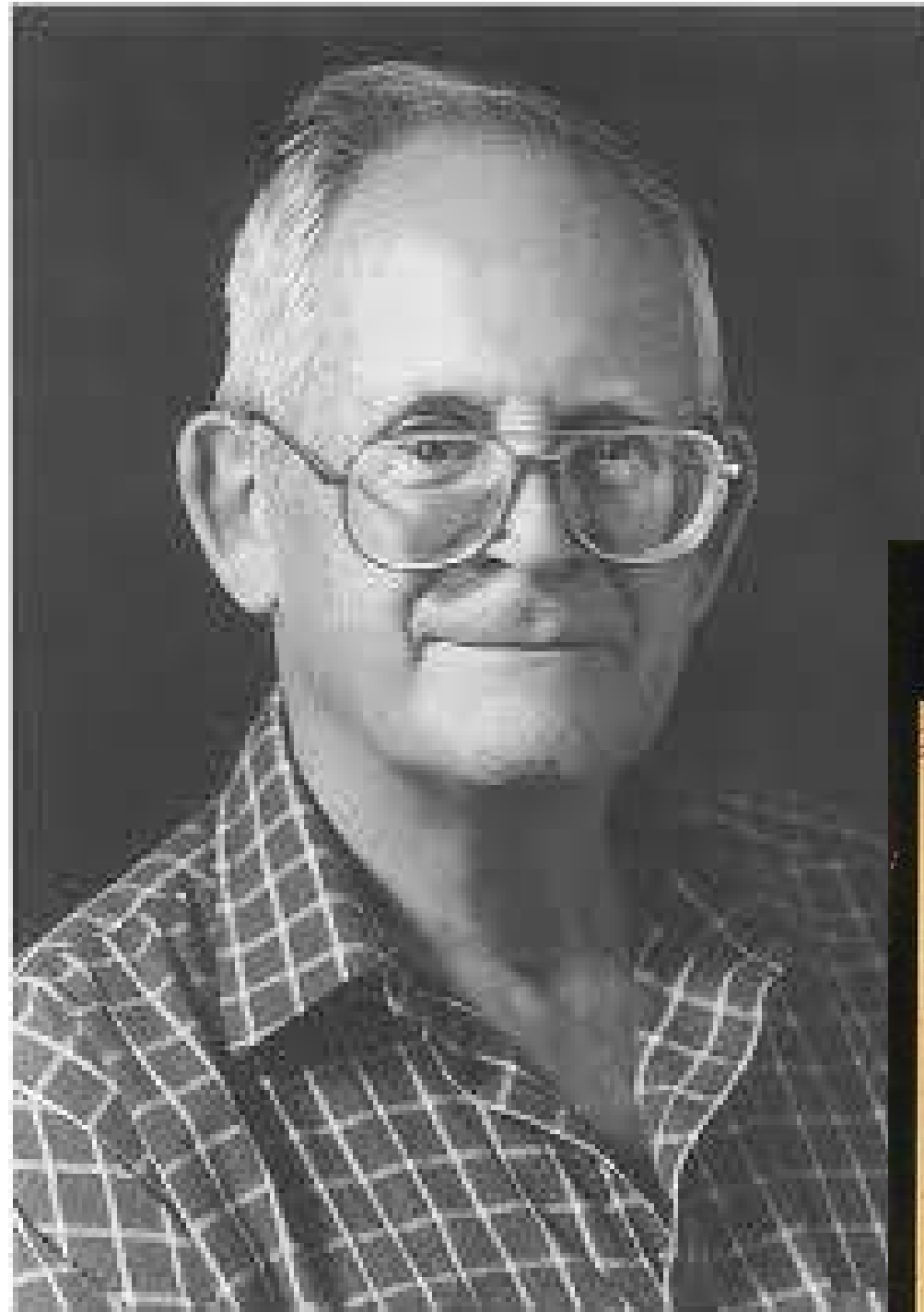
Decorative square wishing
wealth and happiness
[Head Cat. 044.017]
Morrison Collection



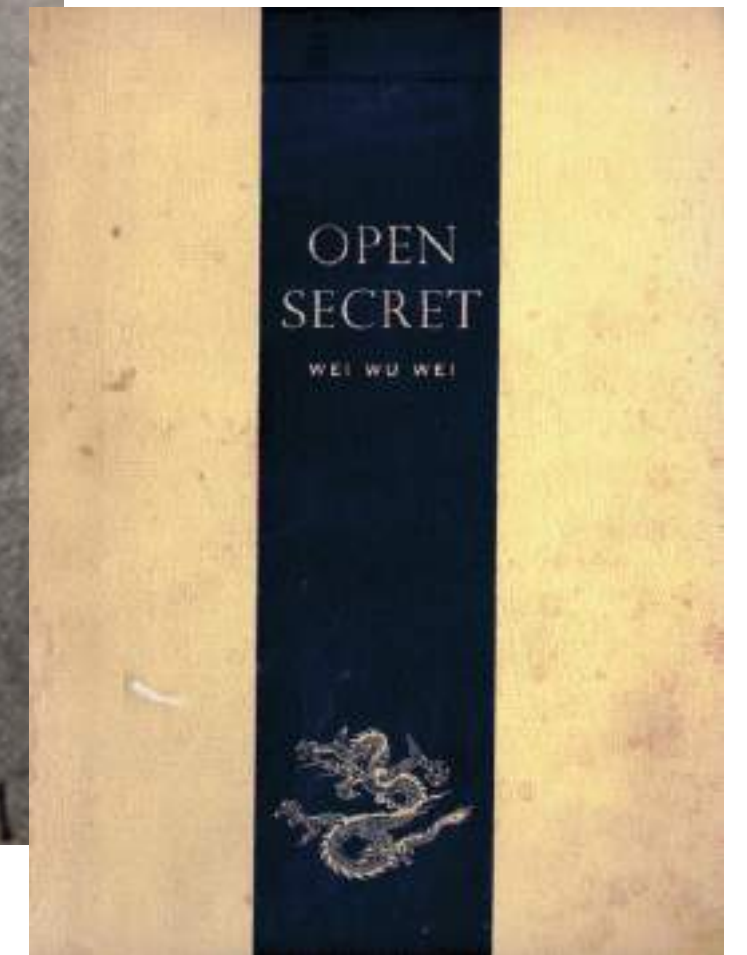
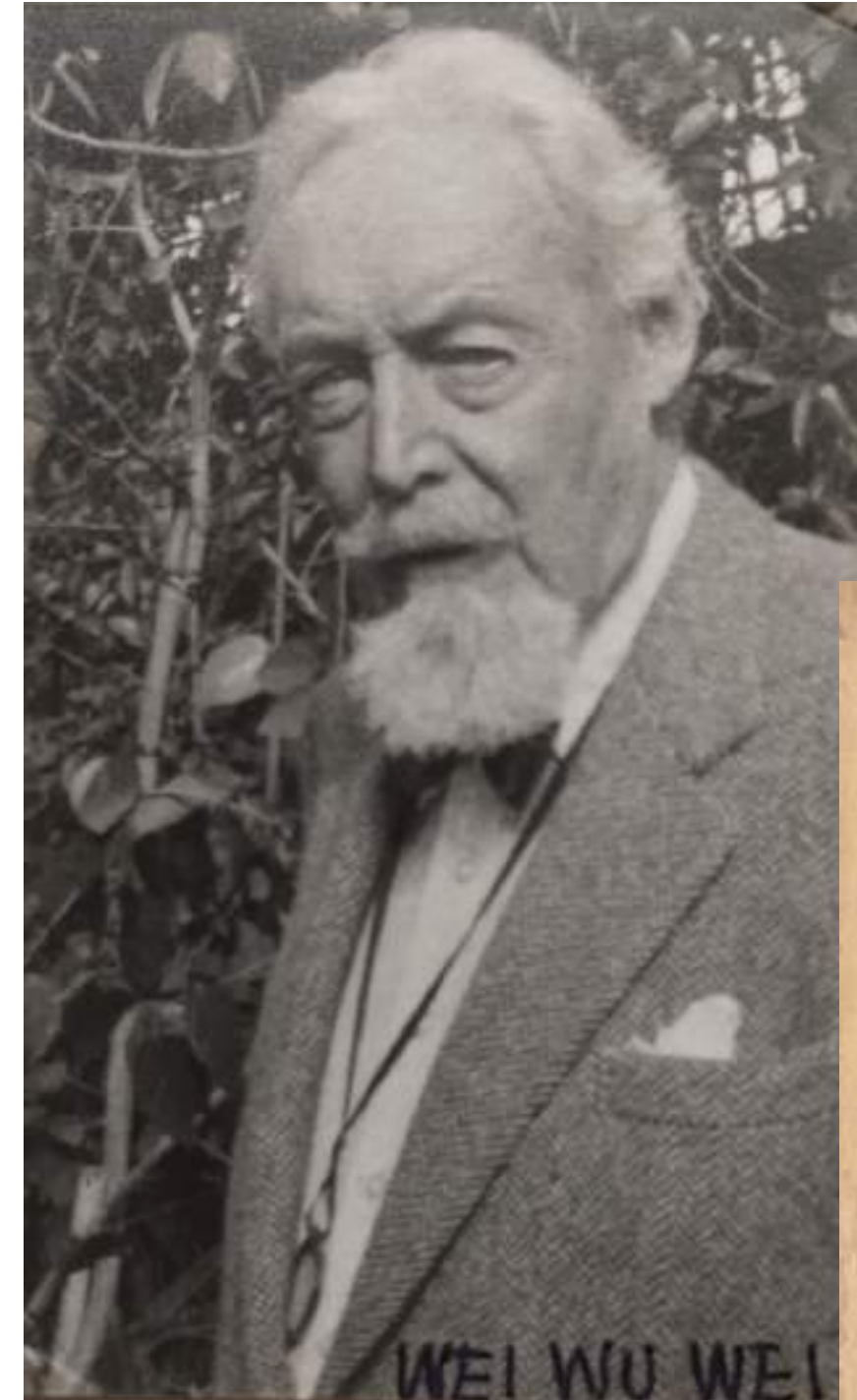
Thomas Manning (1772–1840)
[RAS 01.006]



Sketches of the 9th Dalai Lama made by Thomas Manning
[TM/9/3]



Angus C. Graham (1919–1991)



**Terence Gray, alias Wei Wu Wei
為無為 (1895–1986)**

Online Catalogues

Library Catalogue

- manuscripts, printed books, artworks, photographs, maps and objects
- <https://ras.koha-ptfs.co.uk>

Archive Catalogue

- personal archives, institutional archives and special collections
- <https://royalasiaticcollections.org>

Digital Library

<https://royalasiaticcollections.org>

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