

**DESCRIPTION OF CHINESE
POTTERY AND PORCELAIN;
BEING A TRANSLATION OF
THE T'AO SHUO**

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Description of Chinese pottery and porcelain; being a translation of the T'ao shuo by Stephen W. Bushell

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STEPHEN W. BUSHELL

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DESCRIPTION OF
CHINESE POTTERY
AND PORCELAIN

BEING A TRANSLATION OF THE
TAO SHUO

陶說

WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

BY

STEPHEN W. BUSHELL

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NOTE

THE translation of the *T'ao Shuo*, now for the first time published in its entirety, was completed by Dr. Bushell in 1891, and has been printed with little alteration from the MS. as he then left it. Of the twenty-one figures with which he contemplated illustrating the work, eighteen were to be taken (see pp. xi, xvii) from the sixteenth-century Manuscript Catalogue of porcelain by Hsiang Yuan-P'ien. This work was published by Dr. Bushell in 1908 (*Chinese Porcelain of Different Dynasties*: eighty-three plates in colour by W. Griggs; with the Chinese text reproduced by line-blocks, and an introduction, translation, and commentary: Clarendon Press).

It may be mentioned that a set of Chinese illustrations of the manufacture of porcelain similar in style to those described on pp. 7-30 is reproduced in Stanislas Julien's *Histoire et Fabrication de la Porcelaine Chinoise*, Paris, 1856. They are only fourteen in number instead of the twenty described in the text of *T'ao Shuo*; those wanting being Nos. 3, 8, 12 (which bears the same title as 7), 14, 19 and 20. Two of the remaining three have been reproduced in Cosmo Monkhouse's *History and Description of Chinese Porcelain*, 1901, and in Dr. Bushell's South Kensington Museum Handbook, *Chinese Art*, 1906.

The *Lettres du Père d'Entrecolles* mentioned on p. ix have been added in an Appendix. The text has been printed, practically without alteration, from a copy of the *Lettres Édifiantes* in the British Museum.

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¹ The numbers in brackets are the plate-numbers in *Chinese Porcelain of Different Dynasties*.

INTRODUCTION

BY THE TRANSLATOR

THE *Tao Shuo*, 'Description of Pottery,' in Six Books, by Chu Yen, was the first special work written upon the subject of Chinese Ceramics, and is still generally considered by native connoisseurs as the chief authority on the subject. I translated it for my own use some years ago; and when Mr. W. M. Laffan, the well-known publisher of 'The Sun', wrote to me last year from New York, calling my attention to the fact that we had no books of reference in English from original sources, and asking if I would undertake the translation of this one, I was pleased to offer him the MS., after the thorough revision which a more extensive knowledge of Chinese porcelain showed to be required. There are some important collections in America, notably those made by Mr. Dana of New York, and by Mr. W. T. Walters of Baltimore, and I hope that this book may be of some use as an aid to their classification.

The author Chu Yen, known also as Chu Tung-ch'uan, or by his literary title of Li-t'ing, was a native of Hai-yen, in the province of Chèkiang. In the year 1767, as we learn from the third preface (p. 170), he was engaged by Wu, Governor of the Province of Kiangsi, and given an appointment under the jurisdiction of the Governor, and he seems to have been stationed there up to the time of the publication of his book in 1774. During his residence in this province he made a personal investigation of the processes of manufacture of porcelain at Ching-tê Chên, the celebrated site of the Imperial factories, as well as of the private potteries which supply the whole of China in the present day. Ching-tê Chên is situated on the south bank of the Ch'ang River, and the porcelain