

**CATALOGUE OF THE
MORGAN COLLECTION
OF CHINESE PORCELAINS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649414123

Catalogue of the Morgan Collection of Chinese Porcelains by Stephen W. Bushell & William M. Laffan

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

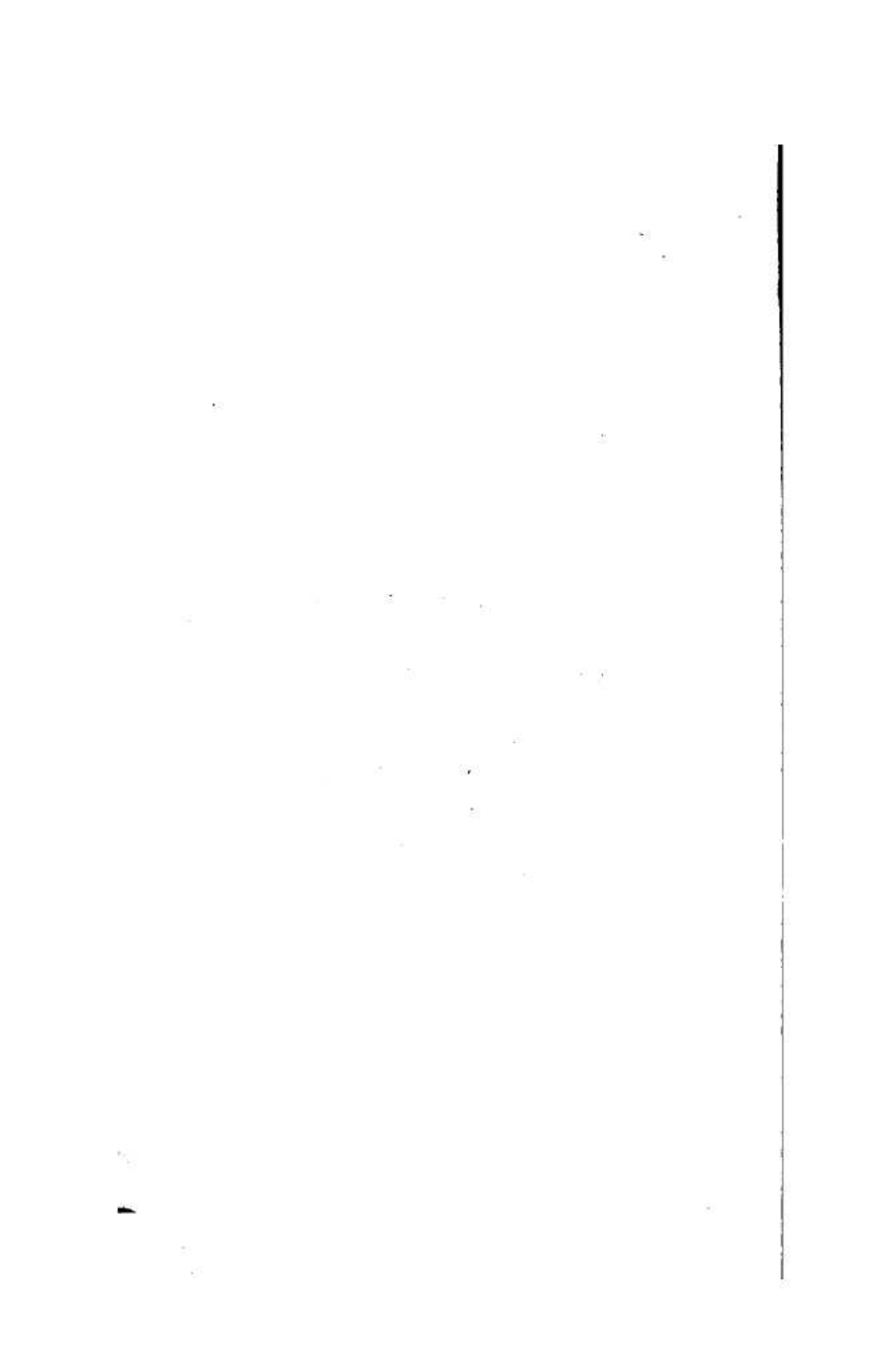
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STEPHEN W. BUSHELL
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NEW YORK
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
MCMXIII

Arc 1783.5.5



Of this fourth edition of the un-illustrated catalogue 500 copies have been printed, March, 1913

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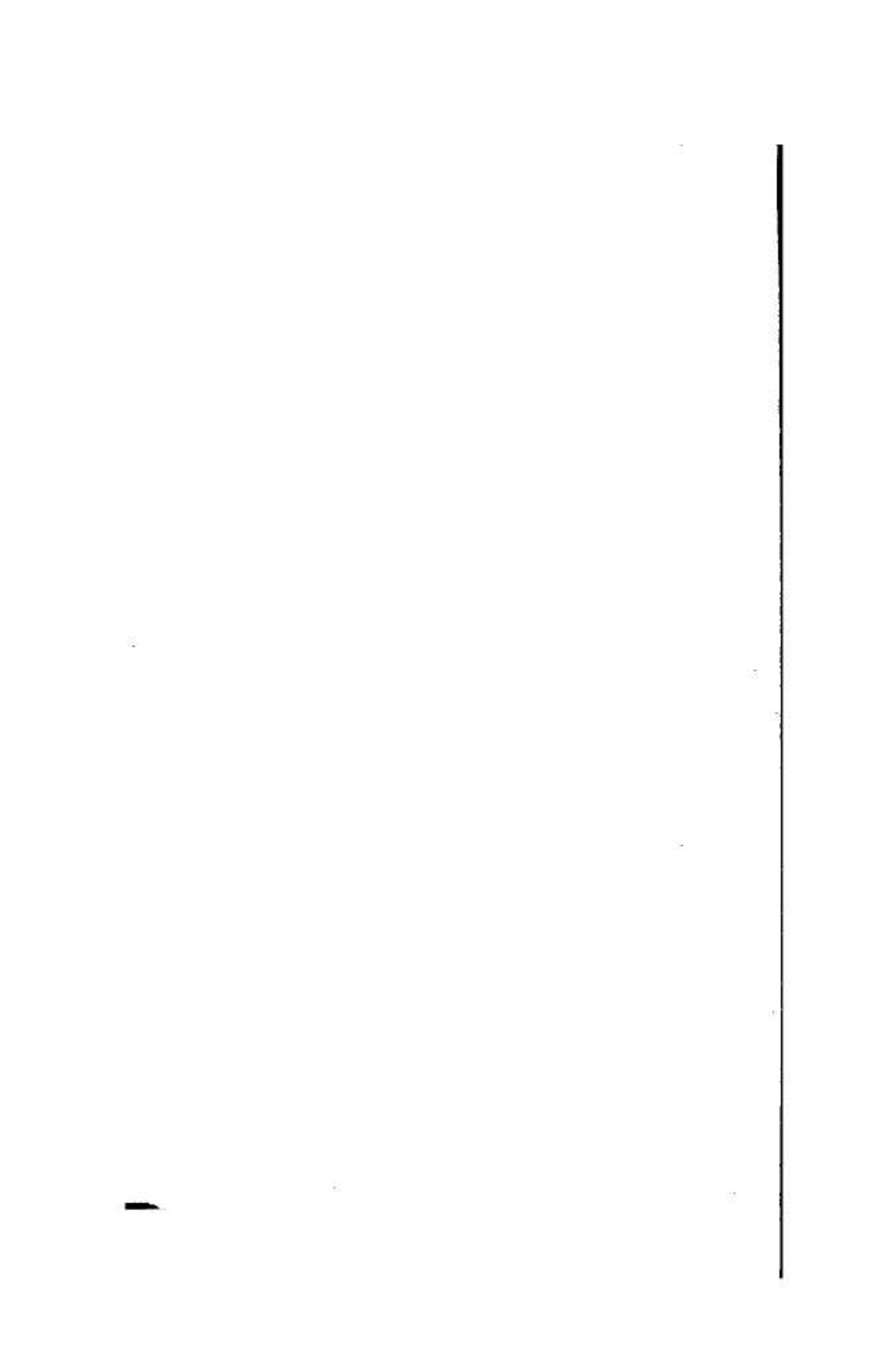
PREFACE TO THIS EDITION

THIS work has been made available to visitors by the aid of Dr. Stephen W. Bushell, C.M.G., the eminent Oriental scholar and sinologue, who has revised (1906) the original catalogue of Mr. Morgan's collection, privately printed in a limited edition. Dr. Bushell has also written an introductory article on the general subject of Chinese porcelain and its history, similar to his *Chinese Art*, in the South Kensington Museum series, and it will be found to contain a short and authoritative account of the industry from the earliest times to the present day.

The purpose of the present catalogue is to afford to those interested in the subject of Chinese porcelain an opportunity to study the objects exhibited in the Morgan Collection in the light of the latest knowledge that is to be had on the subject. The collection is the most comprehensive that is known, and it has been described as succinctly and lucidly as appeared possible, and without any technicalities that could be avoided.

W. M. L.

February 1, 1907.



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

ACCORDING to the Chinese the art of making porcelain was known to them in the seventh century of our era. Chinese literature ascribes the invention to a much earlier period—some twenty-five centuries before Christ. If, however, we accept the modern definition of porcelain, namely, that it is white, hard, translucent body, vitrified throughout, it is not at all certain that the art existed until much later than the seventh century. Chinese writers appear to describe true porcelain, but we cannot be sure of their meaning. We are only certain of it when, in addition to the writing, we have an actual example of the thing written about. Certain it is that no trace of this early porcelain remains. We have Chinese pottery of great antiquity, and now, at the beginning of the twentieth century, China is beginning to yield it with comparative freedom, the reasons doubtless due to the intrusion of Western ideas and the breaking down of the prejudices of many centuries. This pottery is all said to come from graves or burial grounds, which its character fully indicates. It has much in common with the ancient pottery of Western nations, and, on a superficial inspection, it would be difficult to separate certain vases of the earlier dynasties from like pieces of Babylonian or Egyptian origin.

If, however, we demand examples, or fragments