

**A MANUAL OF CHINESE
RUNNING-HAND
WRITING: ESPECIALLY
AS IT IS USED IN JAPAN**

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A Manual of Chinese Running-Hand Writing: Especially as it is Used in Japan by R. G. de St. Aulaire & W. P. Groeneveldt

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A MANUAL

OF

CHINESE RUNNING-HAND WRITING.

A MANUAL
OF
CHINESE RUNNING-HAND WRITING,
ESPECIALLY AS IT IS USED IN JAPAN,

COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES

BY

R. J. DE ST. AULAIRE AND W. P. GROENEVELDT.

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INTRODUCTION.

At the commencement of the labour, the results of which we now offer to our fellow-students of the Chinese and Japanese languages, we had no other object than acquiring for *ourselves* the resources, necessary to the attainment of as good an acquaintance as possible with the Chinese running-hand writing.

After being occupied some time with the study of those languages, the necessity of a familiar acquaintance with their running-hand writing occurred to us, and we felt the want of an adequately compiled guide to the speediest and most certain attainment of that knowledge. However, as nothing in the least degree approaching one existed, our alternative was either, as others have been obliged to do before us, to seek out of all the specimens of running-hand a number of the most frequently occurring characters, and by so doing slowly attain our object, or to take upon ourselves the task of compiling a Manual, which would supply our want in a satisfactory manner.

We perceived, that, by choosing the former, very much time and pains would necessarily be bestowed to make any satisfactory progress, and that still many forms, escaped from memory, would compel us to a tedious and time-wasting search, not even always leading to a successful result. We determined therefore to take the second course, and in carrying out this plan, we have been able to congratulate ourselves on such favourable results, that the idea occurred to us, that *others*, perhaps, might avail themselves of the fruits of our labour; and this induced us to make our work public.

Our respected instructor, Professor Dr. J. HOFFMANN, who gave his full concurrence to our undertaking, very readily granted us access to all the works in his possession, calculated to afford us materials: and gave us the Japanese Encyclopedical Popular Dictionary *Man bō*

sets-joo futs'ki sô ¹⁾) to insert in our Manual all the specimens of running-hand writing that it presents. From this work we have derived the principal contents of our Manual, which have been augmented by a number of the most difficult forms of running-hand writing, taken from a similar dictionary *Man dai sets-joo ei rin bô-sô* ²⁾).

We cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing our thanks to Professor HOFFMANN, and acknowledging that, of whatever service our work may be to science, a great deal of it is to be ascribed to him who instructed us in the principles upon which this writing is based, who has so willingly supplied us with materials for our labour, and who, in many a difficulty, has assisted us with his superior knowledge.

Actual faults, that is to say, running-hand forms, which do not correspond with the standard characters next them, will rarely, if ever, be found in this work: the method adopted in compiling it affords a sufficient guarantee against such. The dictionary first mentioned we cut up entirely, and the large number of characters so obtained, amounting to about 45,000 we distributed, with the exception of the superfluous ones, according to the method followed in the first part of this work. Now, as the standard form stood next each running-hand form, little danger of error was incurred in making the fac-simile. Might such have happened here or there from a slip of the pen, one part of the work will always serve to rectify the other, as it is scarcely possible that the same mistake will have been made twice. For these and other inaccuracies we must calculate on the reader's indulgence, hoping that such will not be withheld, when he reflects that our studies do not allow us to devote more time to a lengthened revision of this work, which has already required so much.

The work, as it will be seen, is divided into two parts: in the first the characters are arranged after the standard and in the second after the running-hand form. We shall endeavour to describe briefly the method and aim of both parts.

In compiling the first part, we have worked upon the following plan: we have considered each Chinese standard character as consisting of two parts; namely Principal or Radical, and Subordinate or Additional group; in many characters these two component parts are so closely connected that they run into one, in others they are distinctly separated: in the former case, we have placed the character in its whole; in the latter each component part has been given separately. Besides, many characters in use, even did they consist of two distinctly separate parts, we have frequently placed entire, as they, for the most part, are again used as sub-

¹⁾ 萬寶節用富貴藏。

²⁾ 萬代節用字林寶藏。

ordinate or additional groups: nevertheless, the component parts of these characters are given separately as well.

Some subordinate or additional groups are not represented in the dictionaries as independent characters; these we have, as we thought best, brought under the most suitable Principals or Radicals.

It often happens that running-hand forms are derived from some vulgar form of the character to which they belong; where this was the case, we have, as far as we could do so with certainty, annexed the vulgar form.

If then it is desired to know the running-hand form of a standard character, it must be searched for in its whole, if the radical and its additional group are closely connected; if, however, these two parts are distinctly separated, each must be searched for apart.

cf. pag. 1. In compiling the second part, we went to work with the running-hand forms, as with the standard characters in the first part: when the separateness of the parts was clear, we have taken them separately; when the component parts ran into one, we have given them entire.

To arrange these forms, we have taken as characteristics of distribution the first and the last stroke of each form. The whole collection is divided into six chief divisions, according to the shape of the first stroke; and each chief division is again divided into eleven subdivisions, according to the shape of the last stroke. The whole is thus distributed over sixty-six rubrics, the order of succession of which may be easily remembered, since in each chief division the same subdivisions occur, and in the same order. Lastly, in each rubric the forms are distributed in proportion to the number of strokes, which, since they, for the most part, run into one another, must be counted by the tempos or touches of the pencil. It will easily occur to every one that, to give this counting the certainty and exactitude desired is scarcely possible and that, in many cases, it will happen that a running-hand form will be searched for under another number of strokes than that, under which we have placed it: this difference, however, will seldom be of more than one stroke, it is nearly always certain if the maximum or minimum has been taken, and so it is known immediately that search must be made under one stroke more or less, and as the divisions are generally small, the pains and loss of time, occasioned by this, will be insignificant.

As the number of rubrics would have been too large and the search too difficult, if we had made a new division for each differently formed characteristic stroke, we have, in the chief- as well as in the subdivisions, brought more strokes together and endeavoured by this, as far as possible, to keep modifications of the same standard stroke near one another. The table of Chief- and Subdivisions on pp. 57—59 of Part. II. will make this plainer to the student and enable him to determine with certainty the chief- and subdivision of every character he meets with.