

**THE GILDS OF CHINA:
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
THE GILD MERCHANT OR
CO-HONG OF CANTON**

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The Gilds of China: With an Account of the Gild Merchant Or Co-hong of Canton by Hosea Ballou Morse

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HOSEA BALLOU MORSE

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WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
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CO-HONG OF CANTON**

THE GILDS OF CHINA

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE TRADE AND ADMINISTRATION
OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE

With 2 Maps and 16 Illustrations

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SHRINE OF THE GOD OF WAR IN BANKERS' GILD, SHANGHAI

THE GILDS OF CHINA

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
THE GILD MERCHANT
OR CO-HONG OF CANTON

BY

HOSEA BALLOU MORSE

SOMETIME STATISTICAL SECRETARY, INSPECTORATE
GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, CHINA

WITH 2 ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

IN first approaching the subject treated in this booklet, my intention was to write a review article which should compare and contrast the organisation and working of guilds in China and in the Western world. My writing soon over-ran the space which any review editor could grant to such a subject ; and I found, moreover, that the information at my disposal on Chinese guilds was mainly in the shape of *matériel pour servir*, and that, properly speaking, no analysed account of the guild system was available. I was accordingly led further into my subject than had been my original intention. I might even have gone further and, by diluting freely, have made more of a book ; but I trust that those who may read this compact booklet will find that the information contained in it will satisfy their requirements.

I bring to the subject a certain degree of personal knowledge, but I have always referred to information already in print, whenever it existed. Where there is no reference to other authorities, the fact stated must be accepted on my own authority, either from my personal observation, or coming from my study of Chinese history and social institutions.

Among the authorities cited, none has greater weight on Chinese guilds than Dr. Daniel J. Macgowan. An American citizen of the best type and duly qualified Doctor in Medicine, he entered on medical mission work at an early age ; and he threw himself so heartily

into the work that, in 1855, he refused the post of American Consular Agent at Ningpo, on the ground that he "had no time for other occupations." He found time, however, to contribute to the Journal of the North-China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society on its first organisation in 1857; and he wrote frequently, and on many subjects, for nearly forty years, up nearly to his death, an octogenarian passed; his valuable monograph on Chinese gilds in 1889 being one of his latest. It is an honour to follow in the steps of this cheery and hard-working sinologue.

H. B. M.

EWELL, *May* 1909.

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