

## FOREWORD

This collection contains, with the exception of the monograph entitled "Traces of Zoroastrian and Manichaean Activities in Pre-T'ang China" which appears in Part I, reprints of most of my articles on sinological research published in European journals and elsewhere up to the year 1972. However, the individual papers which form separate chapters in books edited by other scholars are not included, neither are those written in Chinese.

Monographs and articles related to the study of Taoism are mainly found in Part II. In Part III, there are several articles dealing with the history of Chinese popular fiction, as well as two book reviews related to works in the same field. The last part of this collection, Part IV, has articles on topics outside the above-mentioned fields.

The monograph in Part I is published for the first time. In essence it is also a piece of historical research on Taoist activities—though perhaps dealing with a comparatively earlier period—and is therefore not different in nature from the articles included in the second part of this book. However, because of its deep involvement in other branches of the humanistic pursuit, and also because it remained hitherto unpublished, it has been singled out to become an independent section.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the earlier publishers who have given me permission to reprint many of my articles; the Australian National University for its generous subsidy; Professor Paul Demiéville for his friendship and kindness in agreeing to write a preface to this collection containing some of the articles which have first been published in the *T'oung Pao* graced with his editorship.

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