

PREFACE

Now that this little work is finished, I wish to thank the late Professor Dr. G. Haloun, the regretted Sinologist of Cambridge University for his encouragement in writing this particular biographical study. My thanks are also due to the encyclopedist of the new age: Professor Dr. J. Rahder of Yale University, who was kind enough to go through the whole manuscript and whose remarks have been very valuable to me.

When I drew on the knowledge of my colleague Dr. G. Groot, this time it was not to consult him in his capacity as an authority on prehistoric Japan; nor did we have to go out together with spades and trowels to unearth shells, shards and weapons in Chiba Prefecture in order to lay bare the earliest origins of Japanese history, but it was his great knowledge of the Japanese language which came to my help on this occasion.

In a study like this one, it would be rather imprudent, to put it very mildly, not to call on Oriental advisers. In the first place I owe special thanks to Dr. Kataoka, who came all the way from Paris to the Lowlands to go with me over some Japanese texts. Without this learned Japanese adviser, I should not have dared to render difficult Oriental poems into English. Further I am also greatly indebted to miss T. Ugaya, whose indulgence I must ask for mentioning her aid, in spite of her reluctance to be remembered.

If there is anything of value in this study, it is largely due to the kind cooperation of the above mentioned persons.

While writing this book—product of a Nomad civilization as I am—I have largely led a travelling life. Therefore I could and would not omit to mention the helpful service of so many University librarians at Cambridge, London, Princeton, Columbia, and other Universities, for the unusual favour of granting me the privilege of carrying rare and valuable books to far and distant places.

I followed the Hepburn spelling in the romanization of Japanese words, thus rather easily achieving a uniformity. I apologise for the lack of consistency in my transcription of Chinese words.

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