



ERICH HAENISCH

The author of the following translation of the well-known chapter of the *Shih chi* which describes the rise of the simple peasant, Ch'en Shē, is the senior German sinologist, Erich Haenisch. On August 27, 1950, he celebrated his 70th birthday, and the Editor of ASIA MAJOR welcomes this opportunity to offer sincere, if belated, wishes to one who was a faithful contributor to the journal from its first appearance. Erich Haenisch's activities in the field of Far Eastern studies have resulted from his early training and later experiences: his studies under Wilhelm Grube, his collaboration with F. W. K. Müller, and his wanderings through China, Eastern Tibet, Manchuria and Mongolia, and the period which he spent teaching at the Military Academies of Wuchang and Changsha, all contributed to decide the course of his work.

In three distinct and different directions, led by inclination or fate, he has pursued his researches, and from them has resulted a large number of preliminary studies and completed works.

A whole generation of German sinologists owe their training to him, and for them he wrote the *Lehrgang der Chinesischen Schriftsprache*, a textbook in three volumes, of a kind till then not accessible to European students, in the publication of which the present writer is happy to have assisted.

The second field to which Haenisch was drawn by training and inclination to pursue his studies, was Chinese colonial history; especially that of the 18th century, and in 1928 and 1936, in Peking and Ulanbator (Urga), he had the good fortune to see the records, written in Chinese and Manchu, of the Chinese Colonial Ministry and its governors abroad, together with documents in Mongolian, Tibetan, Eastern Turkish and other languages. One of his early historical writings, which appeared in *T'oung Pao* (Vol. XII) in 1911, was *Bruchstücke aus der Geschichte Chinas unter der gegenwärtigen Dynastie, I: Die Eroberung von Tibet*, in which he dealt with 37 official documents relating to the Tibetan campaign of 1718-1720, translating from the Manchu version of the *Chun-ko-êrh-fang-lüeh*. And among his latest works is one, published in 1950 in *Miscellanea Academica Berolinensia* entitled *Zwei viersprachige Inschriften zu den Dsungarenkriegen*, in which he deals with the campaigns against the Dsungars in the Ili region from which, after many battles against a valorous foe, the Manchu Dynasty emerged as the foremost power in Central and Eastern Asia.

A series of works on the Mongol Empire represents the third field of studies to which Professor Haenisch has devoted himself. Its culminating point, without a doubt, is his "Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen" (*Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih*), a reconstruction, from the Chinese transcription, of the famous Mongolian national heroic epic of A.D. 1240, which he edited together with a German translation and a glossary.

Let us hope that Erich Haenisch, who has now retired and is thus released from daily routine, will find time in rest and in peace to give us a work on the *Geschichte der Mongolenzeit in China* and a *Geschichte des chinesischen Kolonialreiches*.

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