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it was announced in London. An average World-wide repercussions were caused by if American states endorsed the American stern Hemisphere.

y, but speedy Spitfires took a heavy toll of s damage was done. Meanwhile the R.A. man areas. Lord Beaverbrook announced anes every month to England. The Petain- ose responsible for France's participation

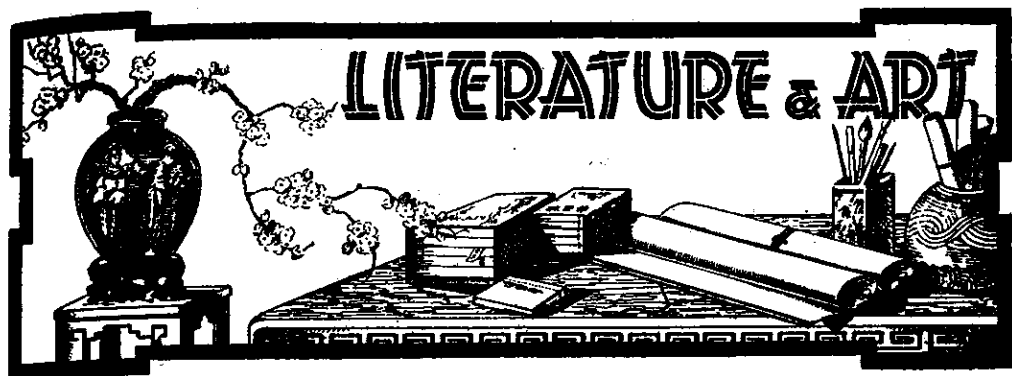
rent as a Nazi envoy visited Turkey. A ed in Tokyo as the policies of the Konoye. Italy lost five planes in Africa, where they F. 28 Nazi planes were downed in furious led with craft locked in deathly combat.

ght to have been crippled severely by the id aerodromes. British and South African sessions.

hen the R.A.F. gave impressive demonstra- an territory. Ten prominent Britons were of Dobrudja and Transylvania by Rumania to be imminent.

he English coast during which more than destroyer lost.

in the Mediterranean, and shot down one of the warships. Sale of old destroyers to rs by the Swiss High Command to soldiers rman threat to Switzerland.



## ANCIENT CHINESE TILES

BY

H. G. HAMBURGER and S. P. YUI (余壽朋)

ANCIENT CHINESE pottery of the Chow Dynasty with inscriptions is still known to be in existence and the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities has published an illustrated description of such pottery (Bull. Mus. F. East. Antiqu., Stockholm, Vol. 1, p. 29). But such works of art are extremely rare and it will be of interest to glean additional facts about them from earlier Chinese publications. We give here some particulars of a treatise by Ching Teng on "Characters on Tiles of Tsin and Han," published in a small edition by a private institution about a century and a half ago. (程敦, 秦漢氏當文字三卷, 1787).

A description of considerable interest has been given by W. Percival Yeŕts in the "Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society" and published in 1927 under the title of "Notes on Chinese Roof Tiles." His article is accompanied by some remarkable illustrations and embellished by extensive quotations from Chinese and Japanese literature on the subject. The glazing of similar but later ceramic is treated and the chemical analysis is mentioned.

The Chinese house proper is roofed with hollow semi-cylindrical tiles. The character Wa (瓦) is a representation of two tiles connected on their concave sides with a small portion of mortar which actually was often omitted in practice. In the olden days, only the Imperial Palaces had ornamented plates at the bottom of the upper tiles.



Common Tiles



Tiles with ornamental Plates

Han Fei-Tzu says: "Common tiles have no bottom" (瓦底無當) which sentence might also be rendered "Common tiles have no value" but skilled commentators prefer the character Tang (當) to have the meaning of bottom or support.

The diameter of the circle at the lower end varies between eight inches or less and twelve inches; we may venture to say that it was approximately a Chinese foot, the standard length of which has varied frequently. The semi-cylindrical portion was two feet in length and the tile thus had a considerable weight.

Being fundamentally a thing of practical use, these tiles at first were not estimated in the way which they really deserved on account of their cultural values. They were not mentioned in descriptions of ancient relics, even in the famous essay by Erh Yung-show (歐陽修, 集古錄).

Towards the end of the Sung Dynasty in 1091 A.D., a scholar of repute searched the site of the ancient palaces and found a tile in a pond (Wylie, "Notes on Chinese Literature," Shanghai, 1867, p.156) and when in the Yuan Dynasty Li Hao-wen (李好文) wrote an illustrated history of the Chang-an district, the number of tiles with inscriptions unearthed in various localities had mounted to seven (Wylie, p.45). But these finds were neither fully described or confirmed by others.

Some five hundred years later, in the beginning of the reign of the Ch'ing Emperor Ch'ien Lung, Lin T'ung (林嗣) discovered another tile which he converted to the use of an ink-slab and in the first book on tiles with inscriptions (edited by his brother), this tile was celebrated in several poems. At this time, the people became greatly interested in such tiles; peasants and shepherds searched the sites of the olden capitals of Tsin and Han in the near vicinity of the comparatively modern city of Sian, in the province of Shensi. More tiles were discovered, some with floral designs but most highly valued were those with inscriptions. Tiles from places other than the sites of the Tsin and Han Palaces were, however, held to be of inferior quality. After several years of collecting, Lin T'ung's son succeeded in obtaining no less than thirty different kinds of tiles.

A certain Hsia of Hangchow, a collector of bronzes and stones engraved with ancient characters, was likewise successful in securing about twenty varieties of tiles which he guarded as jealously as a treasure and never showed to others. One Chia competed with him with a total of thirty specimens for which he paid high prices but both were outdone by a man by the name of Yui who created a record of forty varieties of tiles. Each of the three wrote a separate book on the subject but as the author of the work under consideration was acquainted with all of these people, he was able to obtain rubbings of all pieces in their respective collections. By this time, people of the type of a certain Mr. Hsin, who had been less successful in collecting, now started to make imitations which could scarcely be distinguished from genuine tiles.

At the end of the eighteenth century, a high official from Hangchow paid a visit to the Palace sites but he and one of his staff were fain to be content with only a dozen tiles of varying designs. Many others also tried their luck but after seventy additional finds had been recorded, no more tiles could be unearthed.

With all this material at his disposal, Ching Teng compiled and published his work so that at least such valuable knowledge be lost to the world.

His first volume contains 66 illustrations, the second 48 and the last, as a supplement, a further 25. In all, there are some forty different designs.

The wood cuts which are designs of artistry of a singularly identical. The choice of tiles and from its appearance it was under the supervision of a scholar, if not

The two pieces of the time in Stockholm, and described in circular tiles, one with the most peculiar type.

Unlike the earliest pieces of the Tsin Dynasty, those immediately following in a complete circle. Twelve characters each and the meaning of the characters live ten thousand years: let the

The other plates contain many which refers to long life and happiness, normal span," "Live happily for a long age be ten million years," "Eternity eternal life was so dominant in the which brought about so many tiles to survive a century.

The inscriptions on tiles used such as: "Convenience," "A place name of a palace or of a famous

Only a few of the plates give holding some agricultural office, with the wish "Be happy!" and a for the six kinds of domestic animals

Fabulous animals occur on tiles by its eagle-like appearance resembling the Army of Birds, which had a temple a turret of twenty storeys of the Emperor style, here it might be remembered supposedly is meant by the Chinese couple of deer with the inscription twenty-two temples in Superior V discussion on the shortness of their temples at the same spot, connected these three characters with identical "Three birds" respectively. And c "Live long!"

In the following pages we are in the Tsin and Han Dynasties as they were in Tsin and Han."

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different designs.

The wood cuts which are apparently done after the original rubbings, all show designs of artistry of a singular perfection; each plate is unique and not even two pieces are identical. The choice of the characters of the inscriptions has been made with care and from its appearance it would seem that each plate has been produced under the supervision of a scholar, if not by his own hand.

The two pieces of the time of the Chow Dynasty recently acquired by the Museum in Stockholm, and described in the Museum's bulletin as above-mentioned, are semi-circular tiles, one with the image of a "Tao-Tieh," the other with two dragons of a peculiar type.

Unlike the earliest pieces shown in Ching Teng's work, dating back as far as the Tsin Dynasty, those immediately after the Chow bear inscriptions with many characters in a complete circle. Twelve characters are grouped into three sentences of four characters each and the meaning is "From Heaven may come a spirit: let the Emperor live ten thousand years: let the people live in health and safety!"

The other plates contain many less characters but the meaning almost invariably refers to long life and happiness, some of the variations being: "Long life beyond the normal span," "Live happily for ever," "Live as long as the sky (endures)," "May thine age be ten million years," "Eternal happiness." It is noteworthy that this wish for eternal life was so dominant in the Tsin Dynasty which apparently was so secure and which brought about so many tumultuous changes, but which could not even manage to survive a century.

The inscriptions on tiles used for ordinary buildings are without any deep meaning, such as: "Convenience," "A place for rest," "A place for feasts." Some indicate the name of a palace or of a famous garden: "Superior wood," "Sweet wood."

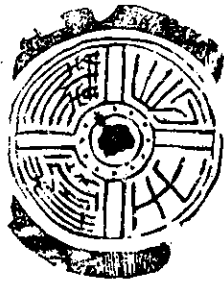
Only a few of the plates give the title of an official, one being that of a person holding some agricultural office, another, distinctly exceptional, of a common citizen with the wish "Be happy!" and a third, possibly of a farmer, with wishes of prosperity for the six kinds of domestic animals.

Fabulous animals occur on tiles as late as the Han Dynasty. There is a bird which by its eagle-like appearance resembles the "Red Bird," the leader of the Heavenly Army of Birds, which had a temple erected in its honour in the capital of Han. From a turret of twenty storeys of the Emperor Han Wu-ti comes a phoenix after the Cantonese style, here it might be remembered that the Greek word for the big Arabian bird that supposedly is meant by the Chinese word "Feng" indicates a purple colour. Also a couple of deer with the inscription "First in the world" can be traced to one of the twenty-two temples in Superior Wood at Chang-an (Sian) by a somewhat lengthy discussion on the shortness of their tails. Three birds on a tile commemorate two other temples at the same spot, connected by a play upon words "San Cha Kuei" (三爵觀, 三雀觀), these three characters with identical pronunciation meaning "Three cups of wine" or "Three birds" respectively. And on yet another tile, a wild goose brings the invitation "Live long!"

In the following pages we are reproducing a few stone rubbings of roof tiles of the Tsin and Han Dynasties as they were published in Ching Teng's "Characters on Tiles of Tsin and Han."



維天降靈 延元萬年 天下康甯  
 "From Heaven may come a Spirit, let the Emperor live ten thousand years, let the people live in Health and Safety."



長生無極  
 Live long without Limit!



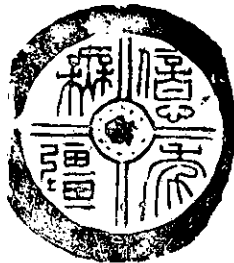
長生未央  
 Live long without End!



鳳  
 "Phenix"



與天無極  
 Live as long as the Sky!



億年無疆  
 Live 100,000 Years!



延年益壽  
 Live long and increase Age!



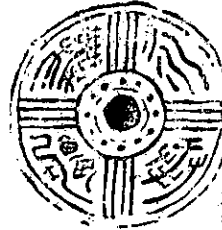
(Three Birds.)



千秋萬歲  
 Ten Million Years!



永奉無疆  
 Live Forever!



永奉無疆



右空  
 (Official Title.)



永受嘉福  
 Forever receive Happy Breath.



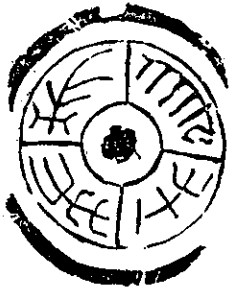
便  
 Convenience.



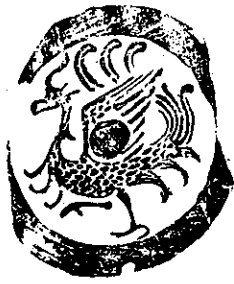
朱鳥  
 "Red Bird"



大  
 Great.



長生未央  
Live long without End!



鳳  
"Phenix"



蘭池宮當  
(Name of a Palace.)



甲天下  
(Two Deers), the first in the World.

Limit!

ars!



延年益壽  
Live long and increase Age!



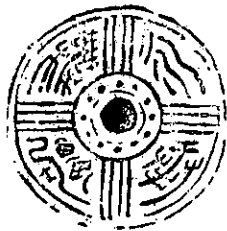
(Three Birds.)



上林  
"Superior Wood."  
(Chang Lin)



衛  
Guard!



永奉無疆



右空  
(Official Title.)



有萬意  
Be happy!



延年  
(Wild Goose.)  
Live long!



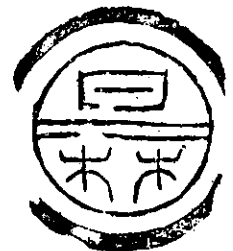
朱鳥  
"Red Bird"



大  
Great.



金  
Gold.



甘林  
"Sweet Woods."



爲 衛  
Guard and Settle!



樂  
Happiness.



蠃  
(Four green-striped frogs.)



六 畜 蕃 息  
Prosperity for the six Animals.



延 年  
Live long!  
(Half-tile.)



萬 歲 衆 當  
Inscription on a Tsin Dynasty Imperial Tomb Tile with wish for Eternity.



... ONE MUST write only w  
sun which comes from an infinite  
and flint—only such stuff can be  
But what about myself?" Here  
the task that he had decided upon  
which he needed badly. As to h  
as its rate was comparatively ger  
they won't take it. He is not to  
some of the problems that agitat  
but most of them probably conce  
numerable young men and wome  
fore, he decided to write about th  
it. There is no sense in going a

He strode over to his desk,  
lines, and wrote down without  
compromising his art, this title:

Then he paused and stared at  
set down his happy family. "Sho  
do, for Peking is such a dead city,  
atmosphere even though you build  
absolutely no. As to Kiangsu  
sometime and may break out at an  
more so. Szechwan and Kuangtu  
and Honan? There's kidnapping  
if one of its members is kidnapp  
Tientsin, the rent is too high. I  
out of the question. I wonder he  
provinces are too remote and ina  
mind and failing to find a suitable  
by another thought: "But there  
of the Western alphabet to stan  
diminish the interest of the read  
them. But where, where? Hur  
the rent is too high. How abo  
the provinces are over-run with  
possible places that he could thin  
A. will have to do as the name

\* Pen-name of Chou Shu-jen, 1