

and have them reproduced in facsimile manuscript copies, like the volume secured this year from Peking. This would have the great advantage of permitting libraries to have all of their volumes of exactly the same general appearance and would perhaps permit ultimately the re-assembling of a nearly complete copy of this monumental work probably in some great library in China.

*A monograph
of Chinese incense.*

Among the miscellaneous treatises secured this year, one of unusual interest is the *Hsiang ch'eng*, or Treatise on Incense, by Chou Chia-chou (*tsu* Chiang-tso), in 28 books, bound in 12 volumes, in 2 cases. The author's preface was dated 1641 A. D., just at the close of the Ming dynasty, and the work seems to have been published early in the Ch'ing dynasty, probably shortly after the accession of the Emperor K'ang Hsi to the throne in 1662. It was considered of sufficient importance to be copied into the great *Ssu k'u ch'üan shu* manuscript collection of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung.

A note by the publisher, Chou Liang-chieh, says: "When Chou Chiang-tso died, his son, Chou Hsi-ya, turned over the printing blocks to me in the hope of enlarging the circulation of the work. I published it. I realized that the refined men of the country would want to place a copy of this book on their desks. One need not burn incense in order to detect its subtle fragrance."

*Biographical
sketches of Sung
poets.*

A biographical and bibliographical work of unusual interest and value is the *Sung shih chi shih* compiled by Li O (*tsu* T'ai-hung, *hao* Fan-hsieh) in 100 books bound in 32 volumes in 4 cases. The author in his preface, dated 1746, states that since 1725 he and several friends had been searching for information about poets of the Sung dynasty, especially as to their official literary careers, with criticisms on their writings and stories concerning them. In all 3,812 authors were studied. The author gives as his reason for making this compilation the following statement [translated by Mien Woo and M. J. Hagerty]:

In the Sung dynasty, which arose after the general decline of the Five Dynasties, there was a great revival of culture and literary interest. Its poetry compared favorably with that of the T'ang dynasty period. The literary men of the Ming dynasty imitated the T'ang writers so exclusively that they paid little