

These two works, the *Nan T'ai pei yao* (Essentials Regarding the Censorate) and the *Wu T'ai pi pu* (Supplementary Notes Regarding the Censorate), do not show names of their authors, but the *Nan T'ai pei chi* is credited to Su Yüan-t'ai in the official history of the Yüan dynasty. However, this title does not agree exactly with the work reproduced in the *Yung Lo ta tien* and the number of books does not agree. But the anonymous author of the manuscript note inserted at the end of the volume reproduced by photolithography thinks the chapter here included is an abstract of Su Yüan-t'ai's work. There is no hint as to the author of the *Wu T'ai pi pu*. These works are of very great importance, supplementing the fragmentary official history of the Yüan dynasty. Certain chapters—for example, the one giving the regulations covering issuance of paper money and the control of salt and tea—were omitted from the *Yüan tien*. The anonymous publisher of this volume says: "For years I have sought and seen many fragmentary volumes of the *Yung Lo ta tien* handling no less than 100 volumes, but in general they were insignificant notes and trifling materials of no great importance. But this work is complete in itself."

*Laws and ordinances of the Yüan dynasty.*

The fourth volume of the *Yung Lo ta tien* secured for the Library of Congress is a manuscript copy of a volume contained in the National Library at Peking. It comprises book 7963, containing the first part of a description of the prefecture of the Shaohsing Fu in Chekiang Province, which fills 10 books in all.

It is to be hoped that methods can be worked out for making manuscript copies or photolithographic reproductions of all the volumes still extant of this remarkable work, which embodied the complete text or at least a very full abstract of all important works extant in China at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

It is interesting to note that manuscript copies in facsimile can be prepared in China at about the same cost as natural-size reproductions by means of the photostat in America. It may prove possible to make photostat copies of the volumes of the *Yung Lo ta tien* which are found in American, European, and far eastern libraries