

very name, "Illustrated classic herbal" must have stressed the figures more than was usual in previous herbals. Doubtless a study of the rich materials now available in the Library of Congress Chinese collection will do much to elucidate the history of this interesting field of materia medica and botany in which the Chinese occupied a position superior to that of the western world up to the birth of modern medicine and scientific botany.

The copy secured by the Library of Congress was made from a manuscript in the Imperial Museum Library in the Forbidden City, Peking, and was according to a note written in red ink on a fly leaf brought from Japan to China by Yang Hsing-wu (*tzu* Hsing-lao), a well known Chinese bibliographer, the compiler of the *Liu chên p'u*, a well-known work containing reproductions of folios from Sung and Yüan printed books.

The work as received consists of preface, 7 folios, table of contents, 25 folios, and 404 illustrations (often with scanty text on the verso) bound in 5 thick volumes with no subdivision into books.

This copy was secured for the Library of Congress through the kindness of T. L. Yüan who for three summers worked in the Library of Congress Chinese collection and who is now librarian in chief of the new Metropolitan Library in Peking and also one of the official custodians of the property of the Ch'ing imperial family (the former Manchu imperial family) in which capacity he has access to all the numerous palaces, museums, and libraries of the Forbidden City.

This Japanese manuscript in the Palace Museum Library in Peking is very probably identical with the Japanese copy described by Shibuya and Mori (two Japanese authors) in the *Ch'ing chi fang ku chih* a bibliographic work published in China in 1885. This work mentions two copies of the *Shao Hsing chiao ting ching shih ch'êng lei pei chi pên ts'ao* found in Japan, in the Isshu-Do library in 19 books lacking part of the herb section and another copy kept by Mr. Naose in his study called Kai Sen Koku which is divided into 5 books. This copy is said to have fine drawings the same as the original edition but the text is greatly reduced. It is supposed to