

about 1775, nor was it included in the Provincial reprints of this great *ts'ung shu*. Besides being included in this collection of reprints the *Nung shu* was also published separately from the same blocks and copies of this modern reprint are not uncommon in China and are perhaps the source of the erroneous characters found in some of the recent quotations in Chinese works of the original account of the manufacture and use of movable type written by Wang Chêng in 1313 A. D.

As matters stand, therefore, the Library of Congress now contains a complete copy of the 1899 Cantonese reprint of the *Nung shu*, a photographic copy of the preface, and of the account of the manufacture and use of movable type from the Ming edition of 1530, and also the reprint made by assembling the scattered parts of the *Nung shu* in the *Yung Lo ta tien* and printed in the Wu Ying Palace in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It is now possible for scholars in this country to discuss with confidence the evidence brought forward in this book going to show the early use in China of movable metal type cast in matrices. Until now there has been some doubt as to whether the chapter relating to the manufacture and use of movable type was in fact a part of the *Nung shu* as published early in the fourteenth century, since it was supposed that this particular chapter was omitted from the Ming dynasty reprint of the *Nung shu*. The very great importance of establishing definitely whether or not the Chinese did invent the use of movable type, including metal type cast in matrices, was held to be ample justification for going to much trouble to secure definite evidence on this point.

This work is also of fundamental importance in the study of Chinese agriculture, and it is exceedingly fortunate that the Library of Congress has now obtained a reprint of it in its original form in 36 books. It is especially valuable because of its beautiful illustrations, showing agricultural implements and machinery in use in China in the early part of the fourteenth century. The *Nung shu* consists in reality of three distinct works, each having a separate title, all three works being printed