

48 Palace or Imperial editions, printed in only 50 copies on special paper for some emperor of the Ming or Manchu dynasty, all volumes bound in the imperial color, i.e. yellow.

During May 1st 1928 to May 1st 1929 the following important accessions were made:

1) Two copies of the Wu Ying Tien chü chên pan ts'ung shu, a collection of 139 works selected by Emperor Ch'ien Lung, reprinted during the years 1773-1794; the first large Chinese work printed with movable wooden type, in 811 resp. 600 volumes. Only six complete copies of this work are said to be in existence.

2) The original edition of the great Chinese encyclopedia T'u shu chi ch'êng, that contains about five times as much reading matter as the latest edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, compiled on order of Emperor K'ang Hsi and printed between the years 1686-1726, in 502 t'ao (covers) and 5,020 volumes. Every volume of this stupendous work, printed on brown paper, is in the best of condition, without a single defect. This is the first big Chinese work printed with movable copper type, the actual number of types being 230,000. The only other known extant complete copy of this work outside of China is in the British Museum, London. The Royal Library at Berlin has about four-fifth of the work, while the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, has a nearly complete copy printed on white paper, the missing portions filled up from the reprint of A.D. 1862.

3). 48 Catalogues in 575 volumes, principally of Sung, Yüan and Ming works, especially important to us for verifying the authenticity of the large number of our Ming works.