

compiled under supervision of Prince Kung, printed in A.D. 1896, in 1,156 volumes.

The original edition of the great cyclopedia *T'u shu tsi ch'eng*, compiled between 1686 and 1726, printed in 1726, consisting of 5,020 volumes, bound in 502 *t'ao*; the first large Chinese work printed with movable copper type (the only other complete copy outside of China in British Museum).

Two copies of the *Wu Ying tien chü chen pan ts'ung shu*, a collection of 139 works selected by the emperor K'ien Lung, reprinted during 1773-94, the first large Chinese work printed with movable wooden type, in 811 and 600 volumes.

Shi san king, Rubbings from the stone tablets in the Hall of Classics connected with the Confucian Temple, Peking, of the 13 canonical books, the text of which, consisting of more than 800,000 characters, was written during twelve years and completed in A.D. 1740 by Tsiang Heng (1672-1743) and by order of Emperor K'ien Lung cut in stone, with imperial writings; in 208 volumes.

The *Cheng t'ung Tao tsang*, Collection of the works contained in the Taoist Canon, lithographically reprinted on extra white paper, published by the Commercial Press, Shanghai, 1923-25, in 1,200 volumes.

The original manuscript of the *P'ei wen yün fu*, Concordance of terms and phrases, compiled in 1704-11, by a board of 76 scholars under personal supervision of the emperor K'ang Hi, printed first in A.D. 1724 in 160 volumes (also in the possession of the Gest Library), in 105 volumes.

In view of the fact that first editions of older works are no longer obtainable, the so-called *ts'ung-shu* are of fundamental importance for any Chinese library. These are collections of reprints of old books now out of print or not easily accessible separately. The greater part of earlier literature can now be found in the *ts'ung-shu* exclusively. The Gest Library is fortunate in owning fifty-five such *ts'ung-shu*.

One of the greatest treasures of Mr. Gest is an extensive collection of Sutras from a Tripitaka edition which were obtained in a remote part of China. At the time of my sojourn in Montreal (July 11 and 12, 1929) the consignment had just reached Vancouver, B.C., and I had no occasion to see it; but Mr. Gest was good enough to show me photostats of a number of pages. This collection consists of

698 volumes printed under the Sung in A.D. 1246.

1,635 volumes printed under the Yuan (14th century),
mostly in A.D. 1306.

876 volumes printed under the Ming (16th century).

2,114 volumes in manuscript, dated A.D. 1600.

Total 5,323 volumes.

This collection will undoubtedly form the most superb Buddhist library anywhere in existence.