

from the library of the Han Lin College the volumes of the *Yung Lo ta tien* which were kept there. These he read, and selected those parts which would aid him in writing the history of the Yüan dynasty and then recopied them into one large volume. * * * As an additional source he endeavored to obtain information from Yüan dynasty rubbings, of which he accumulated more than 3,000 examples. He devoted his energies for more than 10 years to compare texts and make researches and then wrote this new history of the Yüan dynasty in 257 books. None of the modern historians could compare with him in extent of knowledge.

Once I inquired of him: "Have not these statements in this barbaric language been translated repeatedly and will you not sometimes find conflicting statements? Are not records compiled by unofficial writers sometimes unreliable material to use in writing an authentic history?" He replied: "As for the conflicting statements, we must search extensively for proofs, and in deciding questions of this kind I never dare to rely entirely upon my own judgment. And the records which are not considered to be based upon facts must be examined in the light of facts, and these are not difficult to determine." From this we may observe how careful and critical he was.

The Emperor T'ai Tsu (Genghis Khan, 1206-1228 A. D.) has a record of brilliant military achievements that have been described in remarkable records in the old works but were omitted by the compilers of the official Yüan history. The present new history describes these events in detail.

From the time of Shih Tsu (Kublai Khan, 1260-1294 A. D.) the laws and statutes were clearly drawn and complete. They included a poll tax, duties, regulation of the issuance of paper money, sea transportation, river conservancy, criminal law, regulation of official uniforms, sacrificial prayers, posthumous titles of Emperors and officials, all of which were omitted from the old history of the Yüan dynasty, but are now gathered together from ancient sources and set forth in different chapters.

It is clear that this new history of the Yüan dynasty is the work of the greatest possible interest in giving us more complete records of the Mongol dynasty, which at one time ruled practically all of central and northern Asia and even conquered Russia and administered it for a period of nearly half a century.

Many of the most important administrative methods of all modern civilized governments, such as post roads, post offices, paper currency, detailed gazetteers, etc., were perfected and used on a large scale by the Yüan Emperors, doubtless aided and advised in all these reforms by their Chinese officials. The unbiased student of the history of