**A NOTE ON “BOOK-PRODUCTION AND PRINTING IN COREA.”**

The following pages on book-making and printing in Corea formed the concluding words of the paper on “Corean Books and Their Authors,’’ by the late Bishop Trollope; but they were not printed in Volume XXI, since a brief explanation was needed in introducing the subject and was not forthcoming at that time.

Bishop Trollope thought that he had something important to say as to the early date of the use of movable metal type in Corea. A reference in the Notes, page 254, chapter xxiii, of Mr. Carter’s book “The Invention of Printing in China and Its Spread Westward,” published in 1925, to the effect that movable type “based on Yi Kyoo-bo, a Korean writer who lived from A. D. 1169 to 1241, and who, according to Dr. J. S. Gale of Seoul, described movable type,” and Mr. Carter, saying,—“I have been unable to obtain access to Yi Kyoo- bo’s works,” led Bishop Trollope to begin examining his own books in his now famous library of Corean books, and thereby to trace the actual references in Yi Kyoo-bo’s works; after which he presented the facts in the nature of a discovery when he gave his lecture on “Corean Books” to the Korean Branch of the R. A. S. on February 26, 1930.

It was unfortunate that the Bishop, before beginning his research, had overlooked the reference in Dr. J. S. Gale’s History of Korea, published in the monthly magazine, “The Korea Mission Field,” and also another reference made by Dr. L. G. Paik in his “History of Protestant Missions in Korea” to the same statement of Dr. Gale’s to the effect that movable type was used in Korea in A. D. 1232 by Yi Kyoo-bo.

Bishop Trollope’s article is, however, of interest, since he gives interesting details which are the result of careful investigation through his knowledge of the Chinese char- acter in which the books were written. The reference in his article to Courant’s ‘‘Bibliographie Coreenne” makes it a fitting occasion for its publication in this volume of the Transactions, containing a translation of the Introduction to Courant’s “Bibliographie Coreenne.”

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**BOOK PRODUCTION AND PRINTING IN COREA**

**By the late Bishop M. N. Trollope D. D**

Something needs to be said about the material side of book production一in which Corea has played such a distinguished part As far back as the time of Confucius the only method of writing in the Far East appears to have consisted in fixing the characters on strips of bamboo, which, as M. Wyte says in his invaluable “Notes on Chinese Literature,” “was not calculated to encourage a great extension of the art.” It was not until the invention of what the Coreans call “the four friends of the student”— pen, ink, paper and ink-slate—that writing could have become a common art. And, so far as China is concerned, we are not without the information which must lie at the back of Corean practice with regard to all these. There seems good reason to believe that the brush pen (used for all writing on silk or cloth before the invention of paper) was invented by Mong Nyem (or Mong-t’yen) (蒙恬), a General of the Chin Emperor who built the Great Wall of China and died in B. C. 209. Even more historical is the invention of paper in China by Tchai- Ryong, (蔡倫) who died in A. D. 114 and who is said to have used bark, tow, old linen and fish-nets for the purpose, just as in the West the best paper is made of rags. As for the manufacture of cakes of ink out of lamp-black and glue (which, when I was a boy, was always called “Indian ink,” though ‘‘Ink de Chine” is more true and justifiable), it appears to have been invented by a famous scholar, Wei-Tan (韋誕), in the 4th century A. D.

The important subject of the introduction of these writing materials into Corea, and their development and improvement there, demands treatment in a separate essay — for improved and developed they certainly have been The ink, for instance, manufactured in Haiju (海州) became, as it still is, so famous that it appears to have been one of the articles included by demand in the tribute sent [page 104] yearly to the Emperor of China. So also with the Corean paper, made from the fibre of a tree called by the botanists Broussonettia (allied to the mulberry), and thus the ancestor of modern paper made from film and pulp, was of such excellent quality that it was greatly sought after in China and also formed a regular part of the Imperial tribute. With these materials to hand, all that was required for printing was the type, or the wooden block by which the moveable type was preceded. Recent excavations at Tun-hwang (燉煌) in West China have revealed dated Buddhist Scriptures printed from wooden blocks as far back as 868 A. D.;and we know that in Japan they were used for printing Buddhist eharms a century earlier，although it is more than probable that the Buddhists in Corea, like those of China and Japan, used block printing long before. The date given for the introduction of block printing in Corea is 932 A. D. ,which is also the date at which the Classics were first printed from wooden blocks in China by a famous General Fung, who may or may not have been an ancestor of the “Christian General” of present day fame bearing the same name. From that time onward block printing became more and more common in the Far East But it is with the use of moveable metal type that the name of Corea is specially connected and to this i am particularly anxious to draw your attention, as I believe that I have something new and iniportant to contribute on the subject

There seems to be no question that China must claim, as usual, the first credit even for this, as there is what seems to be an authentic record of an attempt made by one Pi-shing (畢昇) to mould type in clay, in China, about 1040 A. D.; and 300 years later, in 1314 A. D. , an elaborate account of a me-thod of making moveable wooden type for printing was written by a well known scholar in China. But it does not appear that any of these devices ever succeeded in getting themselves generally adopted. What, however, is a matter of common: knowledge and general acceptance is the fact that in 1403 A. D. the then king of Corea (2nd of the Yi[page 105] dynasty) launched out with an extensive scheme for casting moveable metal type and using it freely. I am not now going to discuss the proofs of this, as the facts and the documents have been set forth already by Sir Ernest Satow in Vol. X of the Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, 1882, by Courant in his Introduction to the “Bibliogra- phie Coreenne” (1894) , and more recently by Mr. Carter in his book on “The Invention of Printing in China and Its Spread Westward” (1925). It was, morever, the regular practice from that date, i. e. 1403 onwards, to print at the end of books issued from the royal press short post-press articles written by well known scholars, describing and praising the actions of successive sovereigns in this matter. Thanks to them, we know the years in which the successive founts of type were cast, and with a little trouble it would be possible to make out lists of books printed from the several founts cast since 1403. Not only so, but in one of the gossipy histories written by Song-yen(成俔) (1439-1504) we have a detailed account of this new invention and of the troubles of early compositors with the new type.

This casting of metal type seems to have been a great hobby of successive kings of the Yi dynasty for close on 150 years (1403 to 1544) , so much so that they confiscated monastery bells and other metal utensils to supply the necessary material. Then for about 200 years there seems to have been a lull, until the middle of the 18th century, when the work of casting metal type and printing was taken up with renewed energy by the excellent kings Yong-Tjong (英宗) and Tyeng-Tjong (正宗) whose combined reigns covered 76 years, from 1724 to 1800.

So much for the history of the moveable type used in Corea as hitherto recorded for us by European authors who have treated the subject Everything goes back to 1403, which was in any case 50 years before Guttenberg and 70 before Caxton. Mr. Carter, in his book on printing, and the Germans from whom he got most of his information, seem to have been on the verge of a discovery, which for lack of[page 106] pushing their enquiries far enough they failed to make. However much credit may be due to the first kings of the Yi dynasty for the development of printing from moveable type, it is now plain that they were not the first to introduce it into Corea; still less did they invent it One of the last recorded acts of the old Koryo dynasty in 1392 A. D. , on the very eve of the revolution, was the reorganisation of the department of books which had existed for over three hundred years, and placing in its charge the metal type and duty of printing books therefrom; and that, you see, takes us back 11 years earlier than 1403.

Nor is that all . Yi Kyoo-bo, (李奎報) one of the best known scholars, statesmen, and poets of Koryo, lived from 1168-1241, and is one of the few of such an early date whose works have been handed down to us fairly complete, reprinted more than once, and finally reprinted in 1913 by the Japanese Committee of which I have already spoken. And amongst his collected works thus printed is the preface, which he wrote in 1234, to a new edition of a book of which the history is as follows. As far back as the middle of the previous century a committee of 17, headed by a well known scholar named Choi Whan (崔恒) (1102-1162), had been in- structed by the king to draw up a revised book of the Rules of Government, Court Ceremonial, etc.”and to put an end to the existing confusion. The work, completed in 50 vol-umes, became the standard of practice in the Koryo court and kingdom, but in process of time copies became scarce and disfigured by errors. And Yi-Kyoo-bo’s father, who must have been a slightly junior contemporary of the compilers of this volume, under royal orders wrote out two fair copies of the whole book, of which one copy was deposited with the Board of Rites and the other kept in his own house. Shortly after, in the confusion resulting from the removal of the capital from Songdo to Kangwha in 1232 A. D., the Government copy of this book was lost and Yi Kyoo-bo adds, “I therefore had 28 copies printed with metal type, and distributed to the heads of the Government Departments.” [page 107]

This was in 1234, which pushes back the use of metal type in Corea an other 170 years, or over 200 years before Gut- tenberg, and nearly 250 before Caxton. There can be no question as to the authenticity of the statement, nor as to the date, which is made apparently without any idea that he was saying anything unusual. And the character he uses to describe the type (鑄) could not be possibly used for anything else, as it is the character always subsequently used in this connection, whereas previously it was used with another Chinese character (鑄錢), both together meaning money, and used on coins.