

Yü

His critical work on the text of this classic, *Wên-hsüan yin-i* (義), 8 *chüan*, was published with a preface dated 1758; and his *Wên-hsüan chi-wên* (紀聞), 30 *chüan*, was printed in the 碧琳琅館叢書 *Pi, lin-lang kuan ts'ung-shu* (second edition 1909). He produced several other works, including a collection of verse which seems not to have been printed.

[1/487/10a; 3/419/17a; 4/133/21a; 7/36/16a.]

HIROMU MOMOSE

YÜ Huai 余懷 (T. 澹心, 無懷 H. 曼持, 曼翁, 廣霞), Aug. 25, 1616-1696, July, poet, was a native of P'u-t'ien, Fukien. When the Manchu troops advanced to Nanking in 1645 he was a student of the Imperial Academy in that city. Thereafter he lived for a time in Hsia-p'ei, Kiangnan, but spent most of his life at Nanking. An intimate friend of Yu T'ung [q. v.], Yü Huai, too, was a poet who seems to have had sufficient leisure to devote to his art. The best known of his works is the 板橋雜記 *Pan-ch'iao tsa-chi*, in 3 *chüan*, giving his reminiscences of the life of the singing girls of Nanking during the more tranquil days before that city fell under Manchu rule. This work was first printed in 1697 in the initial instalment of the *Chao-tai ts'ung-shu* (see under Ch'ên Chên-hui) and has passed through many editions since that time.

Several minor works by Yü Huai may be mentioned: 硯林 *Yen-lin*, a treatise on ink-slabs, written in 1686 and first printed in the above *ts'ung-shu* in 1697; 茶史補 *Ch'a-shih pu*, being notes on the history of tea, written to supplement a more complete work, *Ch'a-shih*, on the same theme by a contemporary, Liu Yüan-ch'ang 劉源長, and published by the latter's son in 1677; and 婦人鞋履考 *Fu-jên hsieh-wa k'ao*, a brief treatise on the foot-wear of women, which appeared in the *T'an-chi ts'ung-shu* (see under Wang Chung) late in the K'ang-hsi period. A work of his on the personal names of women mentioned in Chinese history, 宮閨小名後錄 *Kung-kuei hsiao-ming hou lu*, is a supplement to a work by Yu T'ung on the same subject. It was printed in 1694, two years before Yü Huai died. Collections of his poems and essays appeared under two titles: 研山堂集 *Yen-shan tang chi* and 味外軒稿 *Wei-wai hsüan kao*. Two other works by him have recently been printed: a book of miscellaneous notes in 8 *chüan*, 東山談苑 *Tung-shan t'an-yüan*, which appeared in 1934; and a collection of poems in irregular meter, entitled 玉琴齋詞

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Yü-ch'in chai tz'ü, which was reproduced in 1928 from the original manuscript (*shou-kao pen* 手稿本) in the Kuo-hsüeh Library, Nanking.

[2/70/16a; 3/428/31a; 17/1/54a; Yu T'ung [q. v.], 良齋倦稿 *Kên-chai chüan kao*, for poem in ch. 9/8b which gives the date of death; *Shan-pên shu-shih ts'ang-shu chih* (see under Ting Ping) 40/29a.]

FANG CHAO-YING

YÜ Min-chung 于敏中 (T. 重常 H. 叔子, 耐圃), 1714-1780, Jan. 23, official, was a native of Chin-t'an, Kiangsu. He came from an illustrious family; his great-grandfather, Yü Sst'ch'ang 于嗣昌 (T. 九扶 H. 毅庵, *chin-shih* of 1661, d. 1672), was magistrate of Hsiang-yüan, Shansi (1668-72), and his grandfather, Yü Han-hsiang 于漢翔 (T. 章雲 H. 岸峯, *chin-shih* of 1682), served as commissioner of education in Shansi. His father, Yü Shu-fan 于樹範 (H. 舫齋, d. 1756), was magistrate of Hsüan-p'ing, Chekiang. In his infancy Yü Min-chung was adopted by his uncle, Yü Fang 于枋 (T. 小謝 H. 午晴, d. 1758), a *chin-shih* of 1724. Later Yü Fang had sons of his own and Yü Min-chung returned to his own family.

In 1737, when he was twenty-four *sui*, Yü Min-chung became a *chuang-yüan*, or *chin-shih* with highest honors. Made a first class compiler of the Hanlin Academy, he served in that capacity for seven years, studying Manchu and learning the history and functions of government. In 1744 he was in charge of the provincial examination of Shansi and early in 1745 was sent to Shantung as commissioner of education. Two years later he was transferred to Chekiang. In 1750 he returned to Peking, but after several promotions was again sent to Shantung to direct education. In 1754 he was recalled to Peking to serve as a vice-president of the Board of War. Two years later he was allowed to return to Chin-t'an to mourn the death of his father but, in 1757, long before the mourning period was over, he was specially recalled to Peking and appointed acting senior vice-president of the Board of Punishments. Early in 1759 a censor charged him with failure to report the death of his mother in 1756—an event which would ordinarily have prolonged his mourning period. But the Emperor asserted that Yü's services were indispensable and ignored the charge. Later in 1759 Yü was made a vice-president of the Board of Revenue.

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work concurrently on the Grand Council, in which capacity he served continuously for twenty years. In the meantime he served as president of the Board of Revenue (1755-73), as an Associate Grand Secretary (1771-73), and as a Grand Secretary (1773-80). In 1773, after Liu T'ung-hsün and Liu Lun [qq. v.] had died, he became Chief Grand Councilor, and for the next six and a half years was the most powerful minister in the empire. He was intimate with the Emperor, who made him adviser on national affairs, and was skilled, moreover, in the formulation of edicts. He also undertook the tedious task of editing the Emperor's poems which the latter often composed at intervals during an audience and which Yü would write down later from memory. It is said that, even under these circumstances, he seldom made an error. His predecessors, Chang T'ing-yü [q. v.], Liu Lun, and Wang Yu-tun 汪由敦 (T. 師茗 H. 謹堂, 松泉, 1692-1758, posthumous name 文端, Grand Councilor, 1745-58), had exhibited the same ability, and likewise had assisted the Emperor in editing his poems.

Yü Min-chung was constantly with the Emperor in the capital or on a tour, and many important policies of the middle Ch'ien-lung period were decided by the Emperor in accordance with Yü's advice. He enjoyed a powerful position at Court, much as Chang T'ing-yü, O-ér-t'ai and Fu-hêng [qq. v.] had before him, and as Ho-shên [q. v.] did after him. However, he was not treated as respectfully as were his predecessors, nor did he enjoy the confidence of the Emperor as Ho-shên did. He was younger than Emperor Kao-tsung by three years, and was in office during the years when the Emperor was active and dominant. He was not above reproach in the matter of bribes, though in this he was far less culpable than the corrupt Ho-shên. In 1774 a eunuch, Kao Yün-ts'ung 高雲從, was tried for having divulged to several high officials the Emperor's private ratings of certain minor officials. The eunuch disclosed that he had once requested Yü Min-chung to help him in a lawsuit, and that on another occasion he had reported to Yü the Emperor's private criticism of an official. The Emperor, on hearing of Yü's connection with the eunuch, vehemently denounced him. The eunuch was executed, but Yü was allowed to remain in office. The Emperor said that Yü would in time have received an hereditary rank for his assistance in directing the Chin-ch'uan War (1771-76, see under A-kuei), but that a cancellation of it would now be his

punishment. Nevertheless, after the war was concluded in 1776, Yü was commended for his services and was given the rank of a *Ch'ing-ch'ê tu-yü* with the rights of perpetual inheritance. His portrait was placed in the Tzū-kuang ko (see under Chao-hui), along with those of the generals in the campaign. He was also given the privilege of wearing the double-eyed peacock feather and the yellow jacket—honors which were for the first time bestowed on a Chinese civil official. Early in 1780 Yü died of asthma. He was canonized as Wên-hsiang 文襄 and his name was entered in the Temple of Eminent Statesmen. His portrait was painted by Father Joseph Panzi (see under Hung-li) and about 1781 it came into the possession of Jean-Baptiste Bertin (1719-1792) the French Secretary of State.

In the decade and a half after his death Yü Min-chung was several times posthumously denounced by the Emperor. In 1780, only a few months after his decease, a nephew, who had been in charge of his personal financial affairs, transferred many chests of goods from the house in Peking to Chin-t'an and secreted them with a view to keeping them himself. Yü's only son having died, his (adopted?) grandson, Yü Tê-yü 于德裕 (T. 惇甫, *chü-jên* of 1779), appealed to the authorities to help him restrain the culprit. The Emperor ordered an investigation, and on a vague charge of corruption directed that, with the exception of twenty or thirty thousand taels which were to be left to Yü Tê-yü, all the property should be used by the local authorities to defray the expense of public works. The investigation disclosed that Yü Min-chung had contributed farm land worth nine thousand taels to support his poorer clansmen. Since this was in the Emperor's view a laudable act, the land so donated was allowed to remain in the clan. But it was also found that Yü Min-chung had had a garden built for him by a former grain intendant of Kiangsu, and for this the intendant was cashiered and Yü was denounced for corruption. Nevertheless, in 1782, the Emperor permitted Yü Tê-yü to inherit the rank of *Ch'ing-ch'ê tu-yü* and appointed him secretary in a Board.

A second incident which came to a climax in 1782 was equally unfavorable to Yü's memory. In 1774 he had advised the Emperor to permit the authorities in Kansu province to sell, to those who could afford it, the rank of Student of the Imperial Academy—the revenue in grain and silver thus obtained to remain on deposit in the province. This policy brought on large-

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scale corruption, involving Wang Tan-wang (for further details see under Ch'ên Ta-shou) and numerous other officials. For the mistaken counsel he had received in this instance the Emperor laid full blame on his former minister. In the same year (1782) Yü's younger brother, Yü I-chien (see under Ch'ien Fêng), an official in Shantung, was executed for corruption, and this event also threw a shadow on Yü's name.

In March 1786 the Emperor wrote a poem in which he compared Yü Min-chung to Yen Sung (see under Juan Ta-ch'êng), a powerful and unscrupulous minister of the Ming period. Although he characterized him as having been neither as corrupt nor as powerful as Yen, he definitely placed on him the responsibility for the Kansu episode and ordered that his name should no longer be celebrated in the Temple of Eminent Statesmen. Finally, in 1795, shortly before his abdication, the Emperor scanned Yü's officially prepared biography and then declared that, in view of his activities as a minister, he should be further posthumously punished by being deprived of his hereditary rank. This rank, held by Yü Tê-yü, was thereupon abolished.

Yü Min-chung left a literary collection, entitled 素餘堂集 *Su-yü t'ang chi*, printed in 1806. Some of the items seem to have been written by disciples or secretaries, among them Lu Hsi-hsiung [q. v.]. In addition to his official duties at Court, Yü also directed the compilation of a large number of official works of the Ch'ien-lung period, in particular the Imperial Manuscript Library known as the *Ssü-k'u ch'üan-shu* (see under Chi Yün). In 1787 the Emperor was apprised of many errors in that work—some made by editors, others by copyists. For these errors Yü was posthumously denounced, for he had a hand in framing the policies guiding this great compilation, and moreover, had recommended one of the offenders, Lu-fei Ch'ih [q. v.], who had charge of the copyists. These scribes received no salary, but were promised official ranks on completing a stated amount of work in a given time. It was an economical way to conduct so large an enterprise, but it could not prevent errors, which it took a long time to discover and eradicate. Recently fifty-six letters written by Yü to Lu Hsi-hsiung concerning the *Ssü-k'u ch'üan-shu* were published in facsimile (1933) under the title *Yü Wên-hsiang lun Ssü-k'u shou-cha* (論四庫手札). These letters show that Yü took more than casual interest in the selection and editing of the works which entered into that unique library.

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Yü Min-chung's wife, Yü Kuang-hui 俞光蕙 (T. 滋蘭), studied under the artist Ch'ên Shu [q. v.], and achieved some skill in painting flowers. Their house in Peking, known as Yü-yü shu-wu 雨餘書屋, was famous for its wisteria.

[1/325/1a; 2/21/1a; 3/27/1a; 29/5/1b; Chang Hsüeh-ch'êng [q. v.], *Chang-shih i-shu* (1936), 7/16a; *Chin-t'an hsien-chih* (1885) 14/12b, *passim*; *ibid.* (1923 ed.) 12/6; Wei Ch'ien-hêng 章謙恆, *傳經堂詩鈔 Ch'uan-ching t'ang shih-ch'ao*, 10/11b; Hu Chi-t'ang, *P'ei-yin hsüan shih-chi* (see under Hu Hsü) 2/20b, *fu-lu*, p. 8; *T'oung Pao*, 1920-21, p. 187, note concerning Panzi's portrait.]

FANG CHAO-YING

YÜ 豫, Prince. See under Dodo.

YÜ 裕, Prince. See under Fu-ch'üan.

YÜ Yüeh 俞樾 (T. 蔭甫 H. 曲園), Dec. 25, 1821-1907, Feb. 5, scholar, was a native of Tê-ch'ing, Chekiang. His father, Yü Hung-chien 俞鴻漸 (T. 儀伯, 1781-1846), was a *chü-jên* of 1816. His elder brother, Yü Lin 俞林 (T. 壬甫 H. 芝石, 柯九老人, 1814-1873), was a *chü-jên* of 1843 who rose in his official career to prefect of Fu-ning, Fukien (1870-73). Precocious and studious, Yü Yüeh became a *hsü-ts'ai* in 1836. In 1839 he married Yao Wên-yü 姚文玉 (1820-1879), who left a collection of poems, entitled 含章集 *Han-chang chi*. In 1844 Yü Yüeh became a *chü-jên*, and in 1850 a *chin-shih* and a member of the Hanlin Academy. A poem he composed for the examination was highly praised by Tsêng Kuo-fan [q. v.] who was one of the examiners. Yü Yüeh was at different times, over a period of six years, a teacher at Hsin-an, Anhwei, and there his friend, Sun Tien-ling 孫殿齡 (T. 蓮叔), printed in 1851 a collection of his prose works under the title 好學爲福齋文鈔 *Hao-hsueh-wei-fu chai wên-ch'ao*, 4 *chüan*. In the following year Yü was made a compiler of the second class, and in the autumn of 1855 was appointed commissioner of education in Honan. He remained at this post for about two years but, owing to certain accusations lodged against him, was dismissed in 1857 and then went into retirement in Soochow. When the Taiping Rebellion spread eastward in 1860-62 he migrated with his family from one place to another, first to the ancestral home at Tê-ch'ing, then to Shang-yü, to Shanghai, and finally to Tientsin. Except for a trip to Peking in 1862, he remained in Tientsin for three years. While there, Ch'ung-hou [q. v.], superin-

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EMINENT CHINESE
of the
CH'ING PERIOD
(1644-1912)

Edited by
ARTHUR W. HUMMEL

VOLUME II
P - Z

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1944