

BOOK NOTICES

Hanyu Dazidian. Vol.1 (1986) Pp.1-810. Vol.2 (1987) Pp.811-1543. Xinhua Shuju. 20 RMB each volume.

This is a major undertaking, first conceived at a national lexicography conference held in Guangzhou in 1975. It is based on the work of 300 some scholars in Sichuan and Hubei, which started in 1979.

It is expected that the total work will cover around 56000 single characters. Each character is spelled in pinyin, accompanied by its M.C. fanqie, and O.C. rime group. It is also accompanied by various ancient samples found in inscriptions and in the Shuowen.

The characters are ordered by a system of 200 radicals, 14 less than the standard Kangxi system. Volume 1 covers through the first 39 radicals. Volume 2 covers 28 more. This makes a total of 67 radicals so far, or about one third of the total number of radicals. Assuming an approximately even density among the radicals, we may expect that there will be 4 more volumes to be published, and that each volume covers an average of 9300 characters.

No doubt the availability of such a comprehensive dictionary will greatly facilitate future research in Chinese historical linguistics.

Moser, Leo. 1985. **The Chinese Mosaic: the Peoples and Provinces of China.** Boulder: Westview Press. Pp.272.

"Although the 'Han' Chinese constitute 95 percent of the population of the PRC, they are much more diverse than most Westerners realize. The numerous subgroups of Han speak dialects that seem almost like different languages, and they have a wide range of cultural traditions (differing cuisines, operatic forms, life styles, and attitudes toward authority, for example).

This book presents an overview of the Han Chinese people, traces their historical and geographical backgrounds, and describes in detail the unique characteristics of each of the principal Han groups. Dr. Moser looks at the links in China between language and political culture and in the final chapters of the book addresses the topics of

race, religion, and ethnicity; provincial stereotypes; folk culture; and how China has sought unity in diversity." From the publisher's introduction.

Tsou, Sarah Lu. 1988. *Teach Yourself Living Mandarin*. Pp.221. Hong Kong : Longman Group Ltd.

"After completing this book you should be able to: 1) pronounce and spell in Hanyu Pinyin; 2) use over 600 words to compose sentences correctly for conversational use as laid out in the individual units; 3) appreciate the areas of Chinese culture introduced in the individual units; 4) use a Pinyin dictionary effectively; and 5) recognise approximately 80 characters, of which one third are also used as radicals.

Material: The material has been chosen to be of immediate use, and to provide a good grounding on which to base further studies. The main teaching points covered are: 1) Hanyu Pinyin; 2) key question words and their sentence structures; 3) dictionary skills; 4) important radicals; 5) useful characters; 6) over 600 basic words and 400 supplementary words.

Method: This is an unconventional approach designed particularly for non-Chinese speakers. The programme uses guided conversation on cassette tapes to stimulate students and encourage them to practise their pronunciation. Exercises provide opportunities for students to expand their vocabulary, learn new phrases and compose sentences for themselves." From the author's Introduction.

Chen, Yongbao. 1987. *Minnanyu yu Kejiahua zhi Huitong Yanjiu*. Pp.188. Taizhong : Ruicheng Shuju.

This volume begins with a historical sketch of the the northern origins of the Minnans and Kejias. The next chapter discusses the Minnan rime book tradition - the 15 phonetic categories. Chapter 3 outlines the phonetic features of Minnan and Kejia. The former is divided into 3 groups: Zhangzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen. The latter into 2 groups: Sixian and Hailu. Chapter 4 discusses the conservative phonetic features preserved in these 2 dialect groups. The volume ends with a short conclusion and a bibliography.

Tian, Shou-he. 1989. *A Guide to Proper Usage of Spoken Chinese*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press. 183 p. U.S.\$11. "The book addresses the needs of both teachers and students of Chinese. In particular, it aims to remedy a situation in which students of Chinese inadvertently learn incorrect grammatical and vocabulary points which subsequently become "fossilized. ... For teachers and more advanced students, it also serves as an easy and efficient reference for the essential grammatical and vocabulary points given in Chinese textbooks for beginners." From the back cover.

Ijic, Robert. 1987. *La marque de determination nominale "de" en chinois contemporain*. 326 pp. Paris: Editions L'Harmattan.

Ijic, Robert. 1987. *L'exploitation aspectuelle de la notion de franchissement en chinois contemporain*. 240 pp. Paris: Editions L'Harmattan.

Suwa, Tetsuo. 1988. *Seinan Chugoku Nashizoku no Nokominsei to Bokuchikuminsei*. 284 pp + maps. Tokyo: Gakushuin Daigaku.

Hashimoto, Mantaro. 1988. *Nashigo Ryo*. 381 pp. Tokyo: Gai-kokugo Daigaku.

This monograph is a compilation of lexical and syntactic data from Naxi as collected by the late Hashimoto.

Zhu Dexi. 1988. *Gendai Chugokugo Bunpo Kenkyu*. Tokyo: Haku-teisha. *Studies in the Syntax of Modern Chinese*. Translated into Japanese by Matsumura Fumiyoshi and Sugimura Hirobumi.

Numoto, Katsuaki. 1986. *Nihon Kanjion no Rekishi*. Tokyo.

Sato, Kiyoshi, ed. 1987. *Kanji to Nihongo*. Kanji Koza vol.3. Tokyo: Meiji Shoin.