

Postscript

May the Lingnan spirit last forever

The preceding account of the life and work of Chung Wing Kwong is more than simply the biography of a university president. It is valuable primarily for placing a pioneering educator and his achievements in their historical context. It does this by addressing the most significant aspects of Dr Chung's career and his work to build up Lingnan University. It illuminates the early years of the school with attention to Lingnan's significant role in the modernization of education in China. The reprinting and translation of this work is intended to fill a gap in the existing literature on the development of Chinese society and education, with particular attention to Guangzhou, home of the university, and the many links between the people of Guangdong and the wider world. For many of today's readers, moreover, an English-language biography of Chung Wing Kwong will provide a link to our predecessors, and deepen appreciation of Lingnan's fascinating past.

Beginning with the first issue of the *Lingnan Newsletter* by the Lingnan Alumni Association of Hong Kong on January 20, 1954, and until I moved to Canada in the 1990s, I have spent many years following in the footsteps of senior alumni, serving as a member of the publications

committee, and assuming responsibility for editing the newsletter. During this time, I had contacted with numerous teachers and friends of Lingnan. Whenever they mentioned the abundant lofty achievements of our alma mater, it was as though they were speaking with delight about a treasured inheritance. In the words of the *Alma Mater Song*, I am a Lingnanner, and thus “In the care bright years are bringing joys in happy throng.” My eyes and ears have been filled with inspiration, and I have found particular fulfillment in the investigation and compilation of our school’s history.

Lingnan University by Charles Hodge Corbett was published in 1963 by the Board of Trustees of Lingnan University in the United States. For the purpose of translating several chapters of Mr. Corbett’s book, I was honoured to receive suggestions from Lin Yee-min, formerly a member of the Lingnan University Board of Directors. Mr Lin introduced me to several personages in the history of Lingnan, noting the importance of one in particular, namely President Chung Wing Kwong, and recommending that someone should translate the record of his legacy into English, to ensure that the glory of Lingnan’s history would not be monopolized by Westerners.

Lingnan alumni deeply remember Dr Chung’s constant travel between the two hemispheres as he unstintingly contributed life-long service to Lingnan. In 1966, a “Chung Wing Kwong Biography Editorial Committee” was formed under the leadership of Mr Lin Yee-min and Mr Tso Iu, and with the promotion of several other alumni, Mr Yeung Wah-yat’s account was prepared. Alumnus Yeung Wah-yat completed

The Biography of Chung Wing Kwong in 1967. His account effectively brought to life the biography of the teacher who has been regarded by our generation as a spiritual leader.

Now it is more than four decades since Mr Yeung's work was published. This year is the one hundred and forty-fifth anniversary of President Chung's birth. I still bear in mind Director of the Board Lin Yee-min's exhortation, made with serene words and a solemn heart, but did not consider my own abilities to be sufficient. So first I posted a notice in the *Newsletter* of the Lingnan Alumni Association of San Francisco. Like "throwing bricks to attract gems," I offered a preliminary draft translation of the biography, seeking corrections from fellow alumni. I also gained the cooperation of Dr Emily Hill of the History Department of Queen's University, Canada. We have made every effort to maintain accuracy in our choice of words and phrases. Therefore the spelling of personal names mentioned in this book mainly follows Cantonese pronunciation and the renderings of their name that alumni and others adopted themselves. We have now completed the project after working together for several years. The translation that we have completed reflects the value of that important work. Our only hope is for the fulfillment of Mr Lin Yee-min's wish that President Chung's entire life — lived in word and in deed "for God, for Country, and for Lingnan" — would be permanently recorded for a hundred generations to come, and moreover ensure that Lingnan's glory will shine on forever.

Preparation of the present translation has been based on the third

edition of the *Biography of Chung Wing Kwong*, sponsored by four past chairmen of the Lingnan Alumni Association: Lam Chik-suen, B. L. Wong, James T. Wu, and K. Y. Luk. It was first presented in preliminary draft form to Lingnan alumni as instalments in the *Newsletter* of the San Francisco Lingnan Alumni Association, edited and published by Alumnus Warren Achuck, past president of the San Francisco chapter of the Lingnan Alumni Association. The response was gratifying, and we received many requests for continued work to complete a full translation. In addition, the sponsors of the third edition urged us to complete the work, with their full endorsement. Therefore I also would like to acknowledge, with great appreciation, the support for this publication received from the Lingnan (University) College Educational Development and Research Foundation. This project has been realized thanks to their generosity and strong belief in its value.

In closing, a warm salute should go out to Lingnanners around the world in deep appreciation of their wise advice and continuing encouragement. They have brightly illuminated the precious shared memories of our college years. We all are deeply committed to ensuing that the Lingnan spirit will live on and on.

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