A Study of Three Tyre Broken Characters from the Tablet Inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty

This thesis is the study of the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty based on the materials of the unearthed broken tablets of the Ching Dynasty. The contents are divided into three parts.

Part One has eight sub-divisions:

1. To explain the purpose of engraving the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty and how and why the tablets were ruined.

2. To show that the tablet inscriptions reveal three types of characters (i.e. ancient character, seal character and square plain style character), and the single type character tablet inscriptions belonged to the Han Dynasty.

3. To prove that Han Dan Chun (漢端公) was not the person who inscribed the tablets.

4. To study the record of the broken characters of the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty made after Sui-Tang Period and also the discovery of the broken characters after the late Ching Dynasty.

5. The tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty included Shang Shu (尚書), Chun Chiu (春秋) and Tso Chuan (左傳). However, Tso Chuan was inscribed up to the 18th year of Huan Kang (桓公元). Only thirty-five
pieces of tablets were inscribed.

(6) The respective numbers of tablets for Shang Shu, Chun Chi and Tso Chuan.

(7) The numbers of passages, the chronological order of the passages and the main editions of Shang Shu, Chun Chi and Tso Chuan.

(8) To explain the meaning and the shapes of the ancient characters (古文字) of the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty.

Part Two compares the difference between the broken characters recorded in Li Xu (李鉉) and the unearthed broken characters of the Ching Dynasty, based on the references of Chang Shih Pai Jen Tang Fu Kan Tang Kai Cheng Shih Ching (張氏馬嘉仁考定考釋)(張氏馬嘉仁考釋) and Shih San Ching Chu Shu (十三經注疏).

Part Three is the reconstructed diagram. According to Ching Shih Fu Kan Tang Shih Ching (張氏馬嘉仁考釋) and the broken characters of the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty, this part attempts to restore the origin of the inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty.

To conclude, the tablet inscriptions of the Wei Dynasty were engraved during the early Cheng Shih (正始) Period (240 A.D.), and the passages were extracted from Shang Shu, Chun Chi and Tso Chuan. There were altogether thirty-five pieces of tablets.