

## OBITUARY NOTICE

### James H. Stewart Lockhart

The members of the Royal Asiatic Society will have heard with deep sorrow the news of the death of Sir James Haldane Stewart Lockhart, one of the oldest members both of the parent Society and of its vigorous North China Branch. He died in London on 26th February, nearly sixteen years after his retirement from the service of the Colonial Office.

Born in Scotland in 1858, Lockhart would have been 79 years of age on 26th May. Edinburgh was mainly responsible for his education. From Edinburgh University he entered the Colonial Service as an Eastern Cadet, and proceeded in 1879 to Hong Kong. During his twenty-one years of service in that Colony he held a variety of posts and received the thanks of the Secretary of State for special services rendered in connection with the delimitation and settlement of the New Territories, which were added to the Colony as a leasehold in 1898. By this time he had become Colonial Secretary of the Colony, a post which he held till 1902, when he was promoted to be first Civil Commissioner of the British Leased Territory of Weihaiwei. There he remained until his retirement in 1921.

Lockhart received the C.M.G. in 1898, and became a K.C.M.G. in 1908. He was one of the first to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. from the newly founded University of Hong Kong, and during the latter years of his service in China he was elected an honorary member of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. His interest in Chinese pictorial art led him to make a collection of pictures which were exhibited in London in 1928. He also made a noteworthy collection of Chinese copper coins. But his chief interest, outside his official work, lay in the direction of Chinese literature. Although he published little, he was

recognized to be one of the best Chinese scholars among the foreigners of his time in China. He spoke Cantonese fluently, and after his transfer to Weihaiwei he acquired a good working knowledge of "mandarin"—now known as the National Language. His acquaintance with ancient and modern Chinese literature was extensive. His publications included a translation of the *Ch'êng Yü K'ao* (成語考) under the title of *A Manual of Chinese Quotations*. The first edition of this work appeared in 1893. Though it was not a book that could be expected to have a wide popular appeal it was found useful by students of the language, and a second edition was published in 1903. Much more recently he edited and prepared for the press an *Index to the Tso Chuan*, which had been compiled but left unrevised by the late Sir Everard Fraser. This useful compilation was produced by the Oxford University Press in 1930.

Though he was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Lockhart's travels in the interior of China were not extensive; he made some interesting journeys, however (when travel in China was more arduous than it is now), in the provinces of Kwangtung Chehkiang and Shantung. The journey which he remembered and spoke of with the greatest pleasure was one which he undertook in 1903, when he visited Chou Fu, the Governor of Shantung, at Tsinan, and afterwards made a pilgrimage to the sacred T'ai-Shan and to the temple and tomb of Confucius at Ch'ü Fou. There he was received and hospitably entertained by Duke K'ung Ling-yi, the head of the family which traces its descent to Confucius himself. Shortly before leaving China on his retirement, Lockhart—on the strong recommendation of the writer of this notice—paid a short visit to the beautiful Yen-tang mountain in the interior of southern Chehkiang.

After his return to England in 1921, Lockhart kept up his Chinese studies with undiminished enthusiasm, and he was a regular attendant at the Council meetings of the Royal Asiatic Society. He also frequently presided at the ordinary

meetings and lectures given under the Society's auspices. In 1928 he became honorary secretary of the Society, and the time and thought which in that capacity he gave to the Society's interests and welfare will not be forgotten. He was the Society's nominee on the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies in London University, and held that post until failing health necessitated his resignation in 1935.

Both in Great Britain and in China Lockhart was well known to a wide circle of British and Chinese friends, who will never cease to think of him with respect and affection. Most of his contemporaries in Hong Kong have passed away or have left the Colony, but there are still many Chinese in Weihaiwei, where he was held in great esteem, who will lament the passing of a kindly and sympathetic administrator and a warm-hearted friend.

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R. F. JOHNSTON.