

6—YÜAN CHWANG OR HIOUEN THSANG ?

The name of the celebrated Chinese pilgrim and translator is spelt in English in the following ways (among others):—

1. M. Stanislas Julien. Hiouen Thsang.
2. Mr. Mayers.¹ Huan Chwang.
3. Mr. Wylie. Yuén Chwàng.
4. Mr. Beal. Hiuen Tsiang.
5. Prof. Legge.² Hsüan Chwang.
6. Prof. Bunyiu Nanjio.³ Hhüen K'wàn.

Sir Thomas Wade has been kind enough to explain this diversity in the following note:—

“The pilgrim’s family name was 陳, now pronounced *ch'én*, but more anciently *ch'in*. His ‘style’ (official or honorary title) appears to have been both written 玄¹ and 元². In

玄
夫

元
夫

modern Pekinese these would read in my transliteration (which is that here adopted by Dr. Legge)—

- 1 *hsüan chuang*.
- 2 *yüan chuang*.

The French still write for these two characters—

- 1 *hiouen thsang*,
- 2 *youan thsang*,

following the orthography of the Romish Missionaries, Premare and others, which was the one adapted to English usage by Dr. Morrison. I doubt, *pace* Dr. Edkins, that we are quite sure of the contemporary pronunciation, and should prefer, therefore, myself, to adhere to the French Hiouen, seeing that this has received the sanctification of Julien’s well-known translation of the pilgrim’s travels.”

¹ Reader’s Manual, p. 290.

² Fa Hien, p. 83, etc.

³ Catalogue, p. 435.

It is quite clear from the above that in the Chinese pronunciation of the first part of the name there is now nothing approaching to an English H. And of course Julien never intended to represent that sound by his transliteration. Initial H being practically silent in French, his Hiouen is really equal to Iouen, that is, to what *would be expressed by Yuan* in the scientific system of transliteration now being adopted for all Oriental languages. But the vowel following the initial letter is like the German ü, or the French u, so that *Yüan* would, for Indianists, express the right pronunciation of this form of the word. It is particularly encouraging to the important cause of a generally intelligible system of transliteration to find that this is precisely the spelling adopted by Sir Thomas Wade.

This is, however, only one of two apparently equally correct Chinese forms of writing the first half of the name. The initial sound in the other form of the word is unknown in India and England. Sir Thomas Wade was kind enough to pronounce it for me; and it seems to be nearly the German ch (the palatal, not the guttural,—as in Mädchen) or the Spanish x, only more sibilant. It is really first cousin to the Y sound of the other form, being pronounced by a very similar position of the mouth and tongue. If it were represented by the symbol HS (though there is neither a simple h sound nor a simple s sound in it), then a lazy, careless, easy-going HS would tend to fade away into a Y.

The latter half of the name is quite simple for Indianists. Using c for our English ch and ŋ for our English ng (ñ or in or m̄), it would be simply cwāṅ.

Part of the confusion has arisen from the fact that some authors have taken one, and some the other, of the two Chinese forms of the name. The first four of the transliterations given above are based on Sir Thomas Wade's No. 2, the other two on his No. 1. All, except only that of Mr. Beal, appear to be in harmony with different complete systems of representing Chinese characters in English letters, each of which is capable of defence. The French, not having the sound of our English CH, for instance, have endeavoured

to reproduce it by TS. This may no longer be used even by French scholars; but in Julien's time reasons could be adduced in support of it.

It appears, therefore, that the apparently quite contradictory, and in some part unpronounceable, transliterations of this name, so interesting to students of Indian history, are capable of a complete and satisfactory explanation, and that the name, or rather title, is now in Pekinese—whatever it may have been elsewhere and in the pilgrim's time—YÜAN CHWĀNG.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

7. THE PUMMELO.

37, *Harrington Road, South Kensington,*
March 22, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—Can any member of your Society throw any light on the origin of the word 'Pummelo'? Its immediate parent is 'Pompelmoes,' by corruption into *Pummelnoes* or *nose!* and then making it singular—*pummelo*. But what of Pompelmoes? It is some Malay or Dutch name given to the large variety of 'Citrus decumana.' I understand that in the Mauritius, or some adjacent island, there is a cape called 'Pompelmoes' point—where the Pummelo is largely grown; but whether the fruit received its name from the cape, or the cape from this kind of fruit grown there, is not clear.

Then there are the Indian 'Sūngtără' and Kāmālā oranges. Rumphius, 200 years ago, said there were oranges in China called *Sēng Kam* and *Bit Kam*. These words appear to have something to do with Sung and Kam of the former. Perhaps some member of your Society may be able to throw some light on these points.—Yours faithfully,

G. BONAVIA.