

Study of Works on Plants for Famine Relief in Ming Period

by Motonosuke AMANO

The Ming period was remarkable for frequent natural disasters. There is record of about 1,011 instances of crop-failure in 276 years. To cope with the food situation, Ming people made a vast range of researches on plants, of which about ten works were published.

The author studies these works and the various editions of them. In particular, he mentions *Chiu-huang pên-ts'ao* 救荒本草 by *Chu Su* 朱橚 and *Yeh-ts'ai pò-lu* 野菜博錄 by *Pao Shan* 鮑山. The former refers to 414 kinds of plants with illustrations and explains their growing districts, shapes, edible portions, tastes and cookery. The latter describes 435 kinds of plants and their properties and cookery, also with illustrations.

Chang Hsüeh-ch'êng's Idea of Chinese Historiography

by Atsushi TAKADA

Chang Hsüeh-ch'êng 章学誠 (1738-1801) was a scholar in the reign of *Ch'ien-lung-ti* 乾隆帝 and is famous for his peculiar idea of Chinese historiography. The author makes reference to one of his representative works *Wên shih t'ung-i* 文史通義. In this work, *Chang* tried to explain the Confucian Classics, the *I-ching* 易經, *Shu-ching* 書經, *Shih-ching* 詩經, *Li-chi* 礼記, *Ch'un-ch'iu* 春秋, and *Yüeh-ching* 樂經, as annals, whereas they had so far been considered to be books of political philosophy. However, he did not regard them simply as descriptions of historical facts, but as the records of government carried out by ideal wise politicians of ancient China.

The author follows *Chang's* theory on the above mentioned Chinese Classics and studies the *Yüan-tao-p'ien* 原道篇 and *Yüan-hsüeh-p'ien* 原学篇, two chapters of the book. He then refers to the attitude of a Chinese scholar under the reign of a foreign dynasty.