

(Title page for the Zhan Guo Ce)

The Records of the Warring States

Zhan Guo Ce

Translated by

B.S. Bonsall, D.Lit. (Lond.)

INTRODUCTION: My father, the Rev. Bramwell Seaton Bonsall, M.A., B.D., D.Lit. (Lond,) was a Wesleyan Methodist missionary to China from 1911 to 1926.

After his return to England he continued his interest in China and the study of its language and literature. In the late 1920s he obtained his Doctorate, that involved a complete translation of the Zhan Guo Ce (Chan Kuo Ts'e), the Records of the Warring States.

In his retirement in the 1950s he completed a translation of all 120 chapters of the Chinese novel, the Hung Lou Meng, often known as the Dream of the Red Chamber. This was later accepted for publication by The Asia Society of New York, but the project was abandoned when Penguin announced its proposed translation by Professor David Hawkes, with John Minford.

These two translations by my father, made without having access to libraries or discussions with other scholars, were probably the first to be made into English of these two complete works.

I am grateful for the cooperation of the Librarian of the University of Hong Kong Libraries, and his staff, for making it possible to offer, in digital format, copies of the original typescripts of these two translations from the University of Hong Kong Main Library.

Geoffrey Weatherill Bonsall, Hong Kong, July 2004