

The Contrast of Ching Gaozong's First Collected Works of Imperial Text

Wang Chong-ci
Antiquities Department
National Palace Museum

Abstract

The two purposes of this essay is define different versions of the first collected works of imperial text and clarifying Ch'ienlong Emperor's cognitive process of Lohan. In the 29th year of Chi'enlong (1764), the first collected works of imperial text was published. After being published, it was included in *Sikuquanshu* and *Sikuquanshu Huiyao*. There were a lot of versions including those copies for recording, reward, and furnishing. Because the publishing and copying were at the same period and under the supervising of the court, the mistakes were few. Even if there were, it could be likely due to the transcribing negligence, which could not be taken as the characteristics of various versions. However, through contrasting different versions of the first collected works of imperial text, the mistakes were derived from the correction of transcribing negligence and Chi'enlong emperor's personal revision. They could not be taken as only transcribing negligence. The basic contribution of the essay was contrasting the textual discrepancies. It could induct characteristics of different versions and even get earlier characteristics before publishing. In addition, the traces of discrepancy correcting were related to Ch'ienlong emperor's cognitive change on the order of Lohan. Based on the case, the essay clarify his cognitive process of Lohan.

Keywords: the first collected works of imperial text, imperial anthology, Lohan, Chi'enlong Emperor, *Sikuquanshu*