

## **Dianshizhai Lithographic Press and its Production on Examination Aids**

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### **Abstract**

Dianshizhai Lithographic Press (or “Tien Shih Chai Photolithographic Publishing Works”), founded by British businessman Ernest Major (1841-1908) in 1879, had produced significant numbers of examination aids in its twenty-one year of business. These aids had greatly simplified the preparation of civil service examination and had helped prepare candidates in two major areas: knowledge they needed to acquire before they sit for the examination and techniques on answering the examination questions.

This paper examines lithographic-printed examination aids produced by Dianshizhai Lithographic Press in late-Qing dynasty. There are two sections and a concluding section in this paper. Section one outlines the establishment and growth of Dianshizhai Lithographic Press. Section two examines the rise and fall of examination aids produced by Dianshizhai Lithographic Press. The concluding section assesses the position of Dianshizhai Lithographic Press in the history of Chinese publication. It also discusses the decline of the production of lithographic-printed examination aids in early twentieth century.

**Keywords:** Qing dynasty, Dianshizhai Lithographic Press, lithographic techniques, examination aids, Ernest Major, civil service examination, book production