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Additional Commentary, Notes and Biography

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*HIS WORKS AND THEIR MEANING*

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# *T'ao Yüan-ming*

(AD 365–427)

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**A.R. DAVIS**

*Professor of Oriental Studies*

*University of Sydney*

**Volume II Additional Commentary, Notes and Biography**

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## PREFATORY NOTE

This second volume contains the text of T'ao Yüan-ming's works which my translation in Volume 1 renders, together with additional commentaries and notes and a composite version with text, translation and discussion of the traditional biographies of the poet.

The text of T'ao's works printed here has been chosen, character by character, from the various texts which I have been able to see in the course of this study. Thus it does not follow exactly any one text hitherto printed, without of course differing very widely from other modern texts of the works, which generally follow that printed by T'ao Shu in his *Ching-chieh hsien-sheng chi*. Already in the Southern Sung editions of the works, variant readings are noted, but it has not seemed worthwhile to me to present these and the variants of later editions in an attempt at a 'critical apparatus.' So much of the information could not be truly firsthand, and while the choice between variants can sometimes be defended on logical grounds and 'objective' criteria such as graphic confusions or taboo substitutions can be adduced, all too often the basis of selection seems to be due to what I should like to call an 'educated subjectivity.' Professor Wang Shu-min in his *T'ao Yüan-ming shih chien-cheng kao* seems to me to have given a fine display of this 'educated subjectivity', and I have very seldom in fact gone against his decisions in choosing my text.

I have therefore only noted the more major departures of other critics and myself from the general readings accepted in the Southern Sung texts. Since, as I have said, T'ao Shu's has become the most common text of the works, I have especially noted my departures from it. I have made my annotations in the usual Chinese *chiao-k'an chi* form. On the editions of T'ao's works the studies by Hashikawa Tokio and Kuo Shao-yü are to be commended.

In the case of my composite biography I am attempting something rather different and in comparing related but separate texts it has seemed to me important to note all the variations between them. Since it would have been more cumbersome to present this in the Chinese *chiao-k'an chi* style, I hope that the form I have adopted (explained in the introduction to the Biography) may be acceptable.