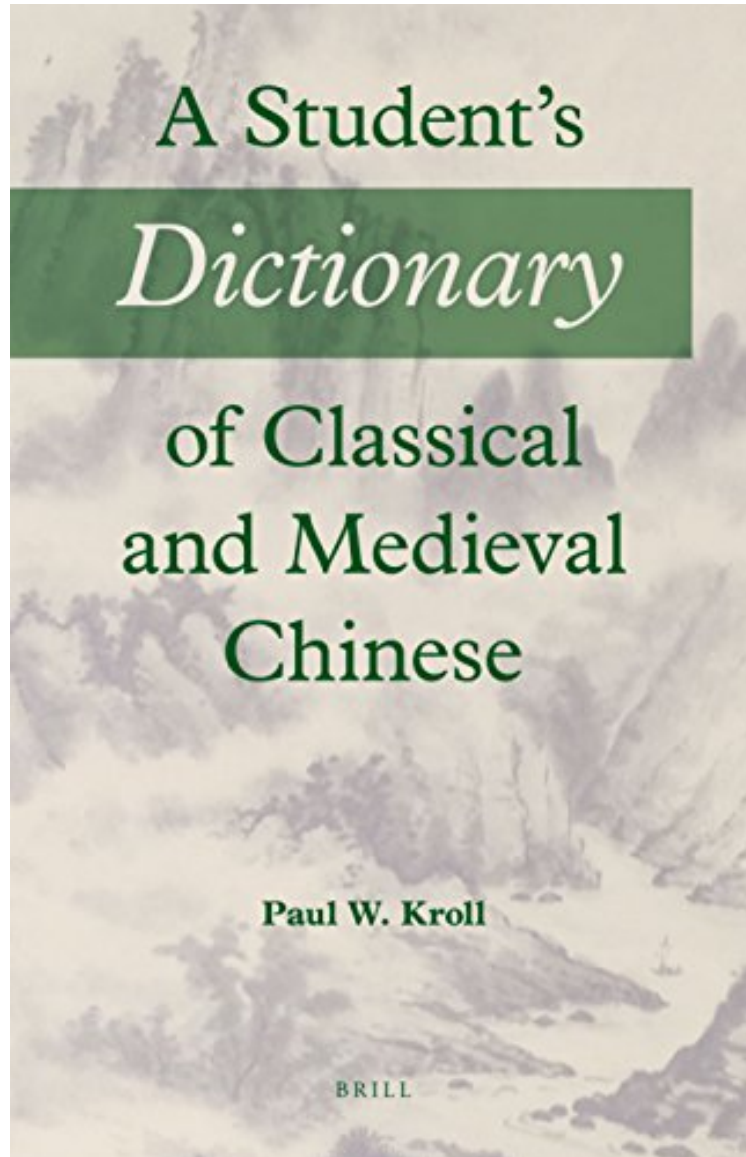


(Read ebook) A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese

## A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese

*Paul W. Kroll*

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**Paul W. Kroll : A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful ResourceBy RussaellI've used this book for a year now, and it's always come through. There are many variants of classical Chinese, different eras, different parts of the country, and many variants of the characters, but it's only rarely I can't find a character in this book. I see that another reviewer commented that the design is flawed, but I actually think the design is clean and even beautiful. The bane of

studying Chinese is trying to read tiny characters and figuring out how to write characters, especially arcane ones. For modern characters I use two other books to see how to write the characters. One of these books is a Chinese primary school dictionary showing how to write the 2500 characters primary school students are responsible for. Many additional characters use these characters as components. The second book is *Reading and Writing Chinese*, by McNaughton, which shows how to write the first 1100 or so traditional and simplified characters. It also defines the 2500 basic characters. This is a wonderful resource, though occasionally the sequence of strokes McNaughton gives is different from that recommended in China today, but this is a minor issue. Also, there are characters he says aren't used any more that are indeed still well in use, especially in names. For example, (I live in China.) This book has made my study of older Chinese much, much easier and more fun than it would otherwise be. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. An essential reference work. By GMode This dictionary is an essential tool for any serious student of classical Chinese. In addition to being concise and thorough, it is well-organized and easy to use. The care and precision with which Prof. Kroll has edited the dictionary is evident throughout. Two things are important to note. First, this is a character dictionary rather than a word dictionary (a "zidian" as opposed to a "cidian," to use the Chinese terms). Many entries do give examples of words, phrases, or expressions containing the character in question, and the examples given are consistently helpful. But for most binomes and other multi-character words one will have to look elsewhere. Second, as Prof. Kroll states in his introduction, the definitions given are for texts dating from the Warring States through the Tang period. Many of these definitions are still relevant for texts written after the Tang -- the dictionary will be of great use to anyone wanting to read texts from the Song onward. But in general, for any usage judged to be later than Tang times, one will not find that usage among the definitions given. Again, one will need to consult other reference works. Among the dictionary's invaluable features are the frequent definitions given for flora and fauna (including Latin equivalents), and for Taoist and Buddhist terms (with Sanskrit equivalents provided for the latter). Appendices include tables showing the sexagesimal cycle; the heavenly stems and earthly branches; Yijing trigrams and hexagrams; the lunar lodgings and Jupiter stations; and detailed reign titles for the Han through Tang. For a dictionary the paperback edition is relatively light and portable. Prof. Kroll and his collaborators have produced a work that will benefit all students of classical Chinese in the twenty-first century. Brill publishers should be commended for issuing a reasonably-priced paperback edition. This dictionary is a monument to scholarship, but is also clear, concise, and eminently useful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Access the Chinese Classical and Medieval Worlds By J. Romane This is a really good research tool. Chinese character lexicons tend to be difficult to use. Here the student can find words using mandarin pronunciation in Pin Yin organized alphabetically. There is a chart for identifying characters using radicals tied to the lexicon. Also there are aids to understand the sexagesimal cycle, the heavenly stems and earthly branches along with the yijing trigrams and hexagrams, lunar lodgings and Jupiter stations. There are also reign titles from Han through Tang. This lexicon covers words from the Han through Tang dynasties. Sung through Qing dynasties are not necessarily here.

*A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese* is the long-desired Chinese - English reference work for all those reading texts dating from the Warring States period through the Tang dynasty, and beyond. Comprising 8,000+ characters, arranged alphabetically by Pinyin, with an index by radical and stroke-count, and various appendices, including one with reign-eras and exact accession dates of emperors according to both Chinese and Western calendars.

'This volume is a signal contribution to the field that reflects a truly herculean effort on the part of Professor Kroll and his colleagues. Each entry elucidates finely grained distinctions in meaning, with an especially impressive attention to nuances in the English language that is crucial to making these differences clear. For students of classical and medieval Chinese this dictionary will be indispensable, but even seasoned scholars will find its comprehensive and precise analyses of tremendous value.' Pauline Yu, "President of the American Council of Learned Societies" This dictionary is both helpful and unusual: besides the more common meanings for each entry, it provides the reader with a rich panoply of expressions from the realms of religion (Buddhism, Daoism), medicine and materia medica, as well as cosmology and many other fields. Extremely useful for every student of traditional China, indispensable for the study of early and medieval China.' Michael Lackner, "Professor of Sinology, University of Erlangen, Germany" This reference work was worth the wait. It will be consulted by seasoned China scholars as well as beginning learners. The definitions of over 8000 primary characters are exact, elegantly concise, and yet complete. [ ] This dictionary will revolutionize Chinese language learning. A massive achievement, it will be a tool that no serious student of Chinese language (Classical, Medieval, or even Modern) should do without. Ronald Egan, "Stanford University" "This is the new standard in a Chinese-English dictionary of classical Chinese, far better than than the older dictionaries that students have too long used. It is a student's dictionary that scholars and teachers will find necessary as well. Professor Kroll's long experience, combined with meticulous research and an exceptional precision in the English lexicon, offers a range of definitions, both primary and extended, that give the user a sense of what the word means and how it can be used. The inclusion of the Middle Chinese pronunciation is an immense convenience, immediately showing the student which characters are merely graphic variations for extended usages in a particular frame of reference. His

precision in terms of material culture and the natural world is no less welcome.' Stephen Owen, Harvard University

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About the Author Paul W. Kroll, Ph.D. (1976), University of Michigan, is Professor of Chinese at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has published widely on medieval Chinese literature and cultural history.