

OBITUARY

ARTHUR CRISTOPHER MOULE

Arthur Cristopher Moule, who died at the age of 84 on 6th June, 1957, was the youngest son of George Evans Moule, Bishop in Mi-China. He was born on 18th May, 1873, at Hangchow, Marco Polo's Quinsai, to which he later devoted so much scholarship. He was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where in spite of ill health he took a second class in the Classical Tripos in 1895. He worked for a time in the office of the architect Walter Shirley (afterwards Earl Ferres) and went out to China in 1898, where he was at first engaged on building churches. In 1904 he was ordained as a missionary of the S.P.G. and served in North China until returning to England in 1909. Thereafter he held a number of curacies and livings in England, being Vicar of Trumpington, near Cambridge, from 1918 to 1933.

Meanwhile he had established himself as a Chinese scholar by his studies on the early history of Christianity in China, notably in his book *Christians in China before the year 1550* (1930), which was awarded the Stanislas Julien Prize from the French Academy. In 1933 he was elected Professor of Chinese Language and History at Cambridge in succession to Herbert Allen Giles. In 1937 he was elected a fellow of Trinity College. He occupied the Chair until he reached the retiring age in 1938. Moule was the first holder of the Chair after its establishment on a fully-paid basis, by means of a grant from the Universities' China Committee.

In the thirties he collaborated with the late Paul Pelliot on the magnificent edition of Marco Polo, planned and financed by Sir Percival David. It was a grievous disappointment to him that only the first two volumes were published, and that since the war rising costs and other difficulties have prevented the completion of the project. Just before he died a volume entitled *Quinsai, with other Notes on Marco Polo* appeared, containing among other things material which would presumably have been included in the projected third volume. He also published another book, *The Rulers of China, 221 B.C. to A.D. 1949*, shortly before his death. During his lifetime he contributed numerous articles to learned periodicals, including the *JRAS*. He joined the Society in 1926 and was on the Council from 1934 to 1938.

E. G. PULLEYBLANK.