

# **Alexander Wylie's Contribution to the Transmission of Chinese Scientific Knowledge to Europe**

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'The life of the Scotchman Alexander Wylie (1815-1887) was closely intertwined with China', as Legge said. As a missionary of The London Missionary Society, Wylie spent nearly thirty years in China from 1846, superintending the London Missionary Society's printing establishment in Shanghai, taking charge of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Shanghai, and translating scientific works and writing articles in both Chinese and English. One of the most important of Alexander Wylie's connections with China is his contribution to the study of Chinese culture and civilisation and to the transfer of knowledge between China and the Western world.

Wylie studied not only of Chinese, but also of the Manchu and Mongolian languages, and was deeply read in the history, geography, religion, philosophy, arts and sciences of Eastern Asia. He published several books and contributed many papers and articles to journals, periodicals and newspapers on many fields such as literature, religion, literary, history, philology, mathematics and science. His research work was welcomed and evaluated highly by sinologists both during his lifetime and after his death.

The present article will focus on his English writings about Chinese science and technology in what follows and the way in which he brought information about China to Europeans. The article consists of four sections, describing his works and contribution in the four areas of mathematics, astronomy, geography (including asbestos), bibliography and other works, separately.