

W. A. P. Martin's Translation Techniques in the First Volume of *Wan Guo Gong Fa*

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Wan Guo Gong Fa (Beijing, 1864) is a classical Chinese translation of the 6th edition of Henry Wheaton's *Elements of International Law* (Boston, 1855). It is the fruit of the cooperative work of a translating group which is represented by W. A. P. Martin, then an American Presbyterian missionary. As the first trial of the same type in East Asia, *Wan Guo Gong Fa* provided a great ideological impetus to the collapse of the traditional world view and acceptance of modern international law in East Asian countries, as well as a literary example to introduce Western writings of social sciences into the same area. It will thus be dually significant to investigate the translating techniques adopted in *Wan Guo Gong Fa* and the translator's tendency.

This article takes the first volume of *Wan Guo Gong Fa* as the main object and makes a comparative study of important terms, definitions, concepts, paragraphs and chapters in the Chinese translation with their counterparts in the English original. It becomes clear through this investigation that *Wan Guo Gong Fa*, even though some insufficiencies exist, is a generally faithful translation. In order to make the knowledge of international law known to Chinese readers, it made use of various helpful techniques, such as building new words with Chinese characters, combining terms and expressions which had existed in Chinese, omitting difficult but unimportant terms, paragraphs and notes of the original, as well as adding new notes, etc. With the same view, the translator showed a tendency to explain the notions of international law with those of Chinese traditional culture, which may allow the text to be more comprehensible to readers on the one hand, but may also be cause for misunderstandings on the other.