

Acknowledgements

This book, having grown out of a German-Russian research project designed and headed by Gotelind MÜLLER-SAINI (Heidelberg University) and Nikolay SAMOYLOV (St. Petersburg State University), is above all indebted to the financing bodies of the project (2017-2020), the DFG (German Research Foundation) and the RFBR (Russian Foundation for Basic Research). We would also like to thank the IWH (International Academic Forum Heidelberg) for being able to hold our main conference there in 2019, together with colleagues from mainland China, Taiwan and Germany who joined us for the occasion. This book is based on the contributions of that conference and the ensuing discussions which led to a reworking of the conference papers into chapters of the present book. Along the way, we were also able to hold smaller workshops in St. Petersburg and Heidelberg, and we had occasions to present our ideas at EACS (European Association for Chinese Studies) conferences in St. Petersburg and Glasgow, receiving valuable comments from various colleagues in the field. The present book has been edited in Heidelberg with the funding of the DFG, which quite naturally shifted the actual editorial task to the German project leader, supported by her team. Neshric TIMOTHY has translated chapter 14 from Chinese into English very carefully and also checked through several chapters for English language use; Michael DUNN and his native-speaker feedback have been crucial for caring about the other chapters and homogenizing language over the whole volume to heighten the accessibility also for readers beyond the sinological field. Fabienne WALLENWEIN has shouldered the most substantial part of the technical editorial tasks very professionally, together with Neshric TIMOTHY as well as Mariana MÜNNING and Aleksandrs DMITRENKO of the Heidelberg project team, who also meticulously dealt with all the tiny problems that inevitably turn up whenever one assembles an index for a voluminous book. Finally, Christian KOLB, Daniela JAKOB, and above all Nicole MERKEL-HILF have been instrumental for realizing the publication with CrossAsia-eBooks in electronic as well as printed form. A heartfelt thanks to them all for their dedication, perseverance, and good spirits in spite of our fairly “Prussian” time regime over months, hoping that the reader will enjoy the outcome.

