Acknowledgments

My thesis would not have been possible without the advice and support from many people.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my first supervisor, Prof. Dr. Gotelind Müller-Saini. Her research on anarchism and Esperanto in the early 20th century drew me to Heidelberg. As one of her PhD students, I am very grateful for her supervision and support over so many years.

I would also like to thank my second supervisor, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Führer. While studying my MA Sinology at SOAS, he directed me to the difficult aspects of Sinology – Phonology in particular. This dissertation would not have been possible if he did not introduce me to the armamentarium of Sinology.

As well, I would like to thank the Wei family for giving me access to Wei Jiangong's books and manuscripts, for supporting my research in China for several years, and essentially welcoming me into their family. Without the support of the Wei family and Wei Zhuang, this book could not have been written.

My appreciation furthermore extends to the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, who provided me with a generous scholarship for my dissertation.

I furthermore gratefully acknowledge the data storage service SDS@hd supported by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg (MWK) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) through grant INST 35/1314-1 FUGG and INST 35/1503-1 FUGG.

Many other teachers, friends and colleagues have helped me with their advice, help and motivation. I would like to especially express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Iwo Amelung, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Behr, Prof. Dr. Joachim Kurtz, Prof. Dr. Dorothea Wippermann, Dr. Thomas Kampen and Dr. Viatcheslav Vetrov. My research would not have been possible without the help of the librarians Anne Labitzky and Hanno Lecher.

I must also express my thanks to my students, whose critical questions and fruitful discussions inspired and challenged me.

I am indebted to Dr. Johannes Sturm, Dr. Herbert Voß and DANTE e.V. for helping me with the technical layout. Aaron Chiang helped me with English-language proofreading. I thank Zhang Xuansu for proofreading the Chinese abstract and Susann Henker for her help with the illustrations.

Finally, I am thankful for the immense support of my family and friends. I would like to especially extend my gratitude to Christoph Mügge, Dr. Josie-Marie

Perkuhn, Oliver Schulz, Dr. Verena Körber and Marco Bertarini. My parents have supported me incomparably throughout.

All sorts of mistakes or inaccuracies in this text are entirely my own responsibility.