



孔廟大成殿

TA CHENG HALL OF CONFUCIUS TEMPLE

聖賢畫像暨事略

PORTRAITS AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHY
OF CONFUCIUS AND HIS SAGES

臺北市孔廟管理委員會 印行

中華民國七十七年六月

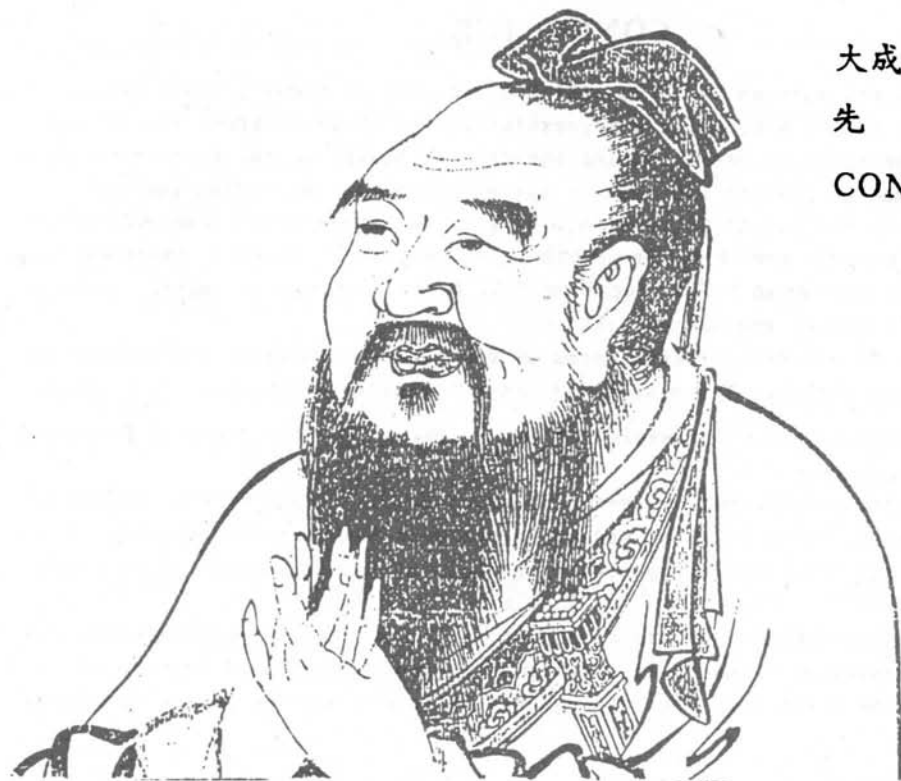
PUBLISHED BY TAIPEI CONFUCIUS TEMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



庭園
Garden

大成至聖
先 師 孔 子

CONFUCIUS



CONFUCIUS

Confucius was born on Sept. 28, 551 B.C. in what is today's Chufu County in Shantung and died in 479 B.C. After a successful public service career in his native state of Lu, he spent 13 years touring the various states in the then known world in a futile attempt to present his idea of statesmanship to the ruling monarchs. He returned home at the age of 68 to devote himself to scholarship. Some 3000 people studied under him at one time or another. Among them 72 were regarded as accomplished scholars well-versed in the so-called "Six Arts" - etiquette, music, archery, horsemanship, calligraphy and mathematics.

Confucius is generally acknowledged as the greatest educator, philosopher and statesman in Chinese history. The essence of his political philosophy is jen, which may be loosely translated as "benevolence." Jen is to be put into practice through loyalty and magnanimity.

The greatest achievement of Confucius as an educator lies in his promotion of popular education. Until his time education had been the special privilege of the nobility. It was his idea that every body regardless of his background should have access to education.

Confucianism, enriched by his disciples in the succeeding generations, was elevated to the status of a quasi-state religion during the reign of Emperor Wu in the Han Dynasty. The great sage has been honored by rulers and the people of China ever since.

A biographic sketch of the Confucius, the Four Lesser Saints and Twelve Wisemen

The offering sacrifice in Confucius Temple, there is a fixed form of "Four Sages" "Ten Philosophers" except Master Confucius to express solemnity.

Before "Four Sages", there is "Ten Philosophers" in the sacrificial ceremony of Confucius Temple, originally. The "Ten Philosophers" are ten disciples based on the chapter "The disciples travelled with me between the Chen and the Ts'ai", from the Analects of Confucius. They are: VIRTUE: Yen Hui, Min Sun, Jan Ken, and Chung Kun; SPOKEN LANGUAGE: Tsai Yu, Tze Kung; POLITICS: Jan Chi, Jih Lu; LITERATURE: Tze Hsia. Then, added Yo Yuo, and Chu Hsi, "Ten Philosophers" became "Twelve Philosophers".

復聖顏回

YEN HUI, THE FU SAGE



YEN HUI, THE FU SAGE

Yen Hui, also named Yen Tsu-yuan or Yen Yuan, was one of Confucius students. He was born in the kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of Chou Dynasty. Being a bright and earnest person, he learned much from studying only one thing. Yen Hui was renowned because he did not take his anger out at others nor did he ever commit the same mistake twice. Confucius placed him at the top of those who were honored for the virtuous personalities. Yen's life was austere and simple. He lived in narrow, dirty alleys and always was lacking in food and drink. Others would distress under such pressure, but he remained steadfast, satisfied to lead a simple and virtuous life. His hair turned gray at the age of twenty-nine from overwork and malnutrition. It is said he died at thirty-two, but he was always remembered by following generations as the Fu Sage.



宗聖曾參

TSENG SEN,
THE TSUNG SAGE

TSENG SEN, THE TSUNG SAGE

Tseng Tsu-yu is another name for Tseng Sen, the son of Tseng Che and one of Confucius students. He was born into a poor family in Nan Wu Town during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty and was admired for his obedient nature. He made a living at manual labor.

Although he was not a highly talented person, he was able to understand Confucius philosophy. He passed Confucius' doctrines of loyalty and reciprocity down to Tsu Ssu, and wrote "Tseng Tsu", a book of 18 chapters. He is honored as the Tsung Sage.

述聖孔伋

KUNG CHI, THE SHU SAGE



KUNG CHI, THE SHU SAGE

Kung Chi, better known as Tsu Ssu, was the grandson of Confucius and disciple of Tseng Sen. He wrote the "Golden Mean", the most representative work on Confucianism. His epigrams for discussing Man's mind were regarded as the principles of the New Confucianists of the Sung and Ming Dynasties. His theory of the Mean has been an important aspect in Chinese philosophy. The "Golden Mean", along with "The Great Learning", "The Confucian Analects", and "Mencius" constitute the Four Classics in Chinese history. Kung Chi, who felt that teaching the philosophy of his sage ancestor was his responsibility, had several hundreds of students, including Mun Ko (Mencius). He died at the age of 62 and was revered as the Shu Sage.

亞聖孟軻

MUN KO, THE YAN SAGE



MUN KO, THE YAN SAGE

Mun Ko, better known as Mencius, was the off-spring of Mun Sun, a noble in the kingdom of Lu. He came from Tsou County of Shantung Province during the Warring States Period. When Mun Ko's father died at an early age, he took instruction from his mother, Chou, and studied under Kung Chi, or Tsu Ssu. Seven chapters of "Mencius", a book of his teachings and deeds composed by his students has been handed down to today. Mencius professed honoring rulers of good faith and denying those without principles, as well as placing more emphasis on righteousness and justice than on utilitarianism. He also advocated the theory that everyone is born with a good nature. The saying, "It is possible for anyone born to become as great as the Emperors Yao and Shun", is vital to Chinese philosophy. Later generation honored him as the Yan Sage, which puts him next only to Confucius in greatness.

先賢閔損

MIN SUN



MIN SUN

Min Sun, also called Min Tsu-chien, was one of Confucius' students from the kingdom of Lu in the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. Confucius classified him as virtuous for his obedient nature. In his childhood, Min suffered under the maltreatment of his stepmother. She would line his clothes with weeds in the winter, while she lined her own sons' clothes with warm cotton. One day, while taking his father out in a carriage, Min almost succumbed to the cold. When his father learned what had happened, he went back to cast his wife out of the house. However, Tsu-chien said, "If mother leaves, there will be three of your sons who go cold, but if she stays, then only one will suffer." His mother was touched by his kindness and admitted her error, treating Min afterwards as though he were her own son.

先賢冉耕

JAN KENG



JAN KENG

Jan Keng, also known as Jan Po-niu, was born in the kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. He was classified by Confucius, his teacher, in the group of virtuous people. Some time later, he was taken ill and Confucius came to call on him. Through the window, Confucius took Jan's hand and sighed, "Death is part of our destiny, but why is it that this man suffers from such an illness? Why is it?"

先賢冉雍

JAN YAN



JAN YAN

Jan Yer, also called Jan Chung-kung, was born in the Kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. Confucius, his teacher, classified him in the group of virtuous people. Although his father was not known for his good deeds, Chungkung was praised for his sincerity. Confucius Commented, " Chung-Kung's father can be compared to a multi-colored ox, while the calf is pure red and healthy. The calf is much in demand as a sacrifice for national worship. The people could refuse to sacrifice it, and still, the gods of the mountains and rivers would keep it tightly in their grasp. "Confucius further praised him by saying, "He is capable of being a ruler,"

先賢宰予

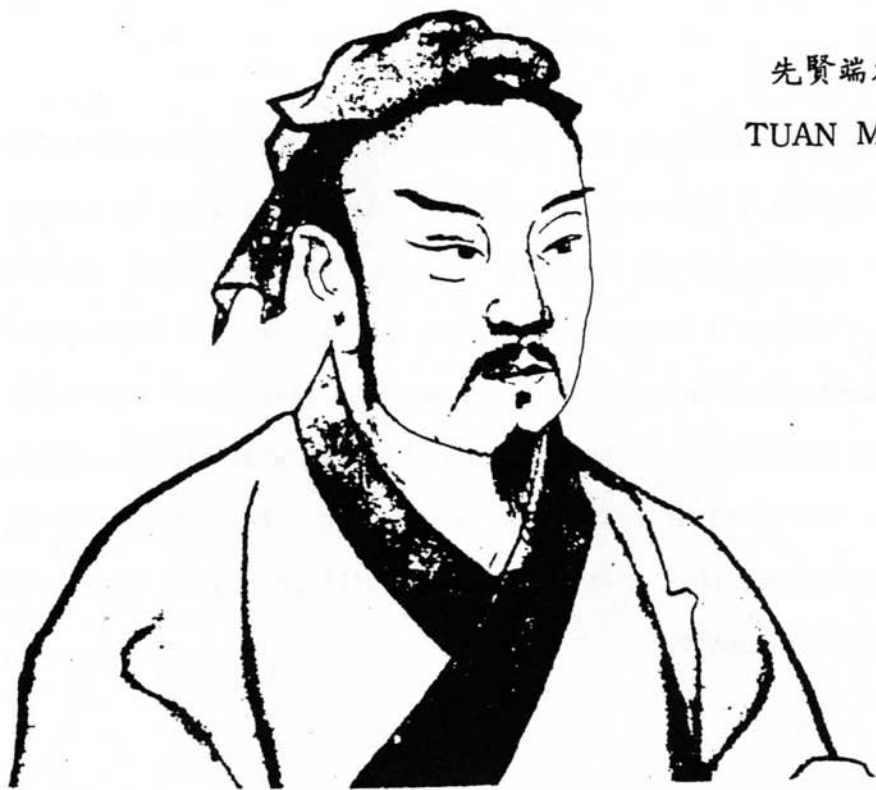
TSAI YU



TSAI YU

Tsai Yu, also known as Tsai Tsu-wo, was one of Confucius's students. He was born in the kingdom of Lu and was later classified by Confucius in the group of people who were good at speech. Once he asked Confucius, "If somebody informs a benevolent person that a man fell into a well, should the benevolent descend into the well to save him?" Confucius replied, "Not necessarily. Anyone might believe what another says and run to help, but he himself will not be trapped. He may be tricked by someone's logic, but that does not mean he will be fooled into doing something stupid himself."

先賢端木賜
TUAN MO SSU



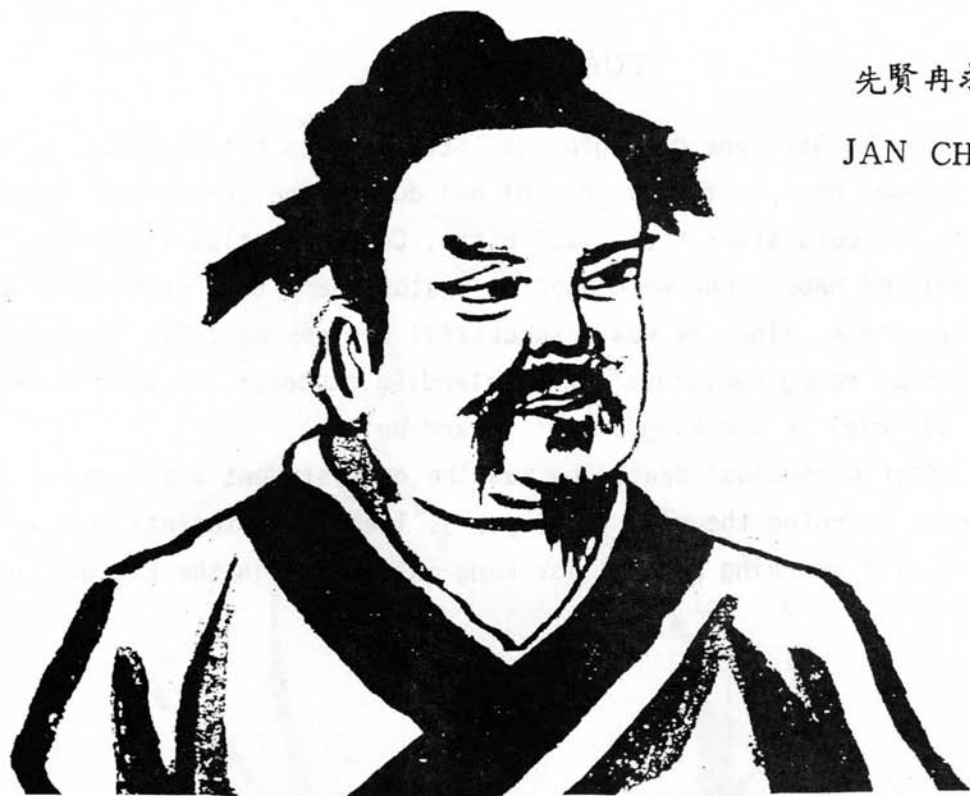
TUAN MO SSU

Tuan Mu Ssu, one of Confucius' students was better known as Tsu Kung. He was born in the kingdom of Wei during the Spring and Autumn Period, 31 years after Confucius' birth. Confucius classified him in the group of people who were good at oratory, and this prediction was quite accurate. Since he was a successful businessman, Tsu Kung became the richest among Confucius' 72 outstanding students. He also serves as an official in the kingdoms of Lu and Wei.

After Confucius' death, he was the only student who stayed by his grave mourning the sage for 6 years. The other students left after a three-year mourning period. Tsu Kung later died in the kingdom of Ch'i.

先賢冉求

JAN CHIL



JAN CHIL

Jan Chil was also known as Jan Tsu-yu or Jan Yu. He was born in the kingdom of Lu, 29 years after the birth of his teacher, Confucius. He was modest, reserved and talented. Confucius classified him in the group of people who are keen at politics. Once serving as a general of Chi Kang-tsu, he achieved merit by fighting with the kingdom of Chi.



先賢仲田

CHUNG YU

CHUNG YU

Chung Yu, Confucius' student, was also known as Tsu Lu or Chi Lu. He was born in the kingdom of Lu and was later classified by Confucius, his teacher, in the group of people who were good at politics. Being an obedient son, Tsu Lu often carried rice home from miles away for his parents. When anyone pointed out his faults, he was appreciative and always took their advice. Once he served as an official in the kingdom of Wei.



先賢言偃

YEN YEN

YEN YEN

Yen Yen, better known as Tsu-yu, came from the kingdom of Wu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. He was 45 years younger than Confucius, his teacher. Since he had such vast knowledge of rites and literature, he was classified by Confucius in the group of people who specialized in literature. When Tsu-yu was serving as an official in Wu of the kingdom Lu, Confucius asked him, " Was there ever a really good man in your government"? Tsu-Yu replied, "Yes, his name was Chan Tai Mieh Ming, a man of righteousness and justice. He never took a short-cut while walking. If not on business, he never stepped into my private rooms". Tsu-Yu's grave was located at the foot of Lu Mountain in Chang Sho Country of Chiangsu Province. He was the originator of the literature in the kingdom of Wu.

先賢卜商

PO SHAN



PO SHAN

Po Shan was also called Tsu-chia, born during the Spring and Autumn Period in the kingdom of Wei, 44 years after the birth of Confucius. He was excellent in literature and loved to study poetry. Confucius classified him in the group of people who specialized in literature.

Once he served as an official in Chu Fu of the kingdom Lu. He taught people of humanity. "Your knowledge must be vast and profound, and your goals, consistent. All aspects of a matter must be made clear through inquiry. Consider first the light and simple aspects, then the more difficult and complicated ones. Then you will find humanity."

He later lectured in a place called Hsi Ho. Wei Cheng-tsu, an official of the kingdom of Chin, honored him as his teacher.

先賢顏孫師

CHUAN SUN SHIH



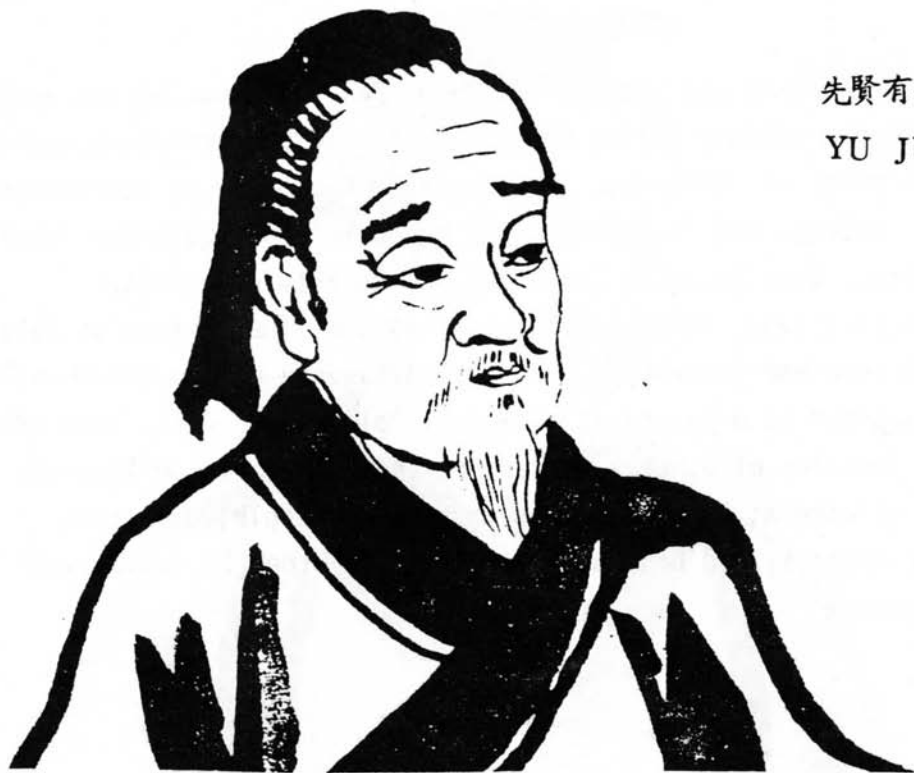
CHUAN SUN SHIH

Chuan Sun Shih was also called Chuan Sun Tsuchang. He was born in the kingdom of Chen during the Spring and Autumn Period, 48 years after the birth of Confucius. He surpassed the other in appearance, manners, talent, and capability, but he could not reach the ideal of humanity. Once he asked Confucius how to attain humanity.

Confucius said, "Anyone who possesses the fine virtues of politeness, tolerance and generosity, honesty, diligence and benevolence can be regarded as a person of humanity. Politeness will save one from the insults of others; tolerance and generosity will evoke the love of others; honesty brings trust from people; diligence foretells success; and benevolence encourages other to follow your instructions'

先賢有若

YU JUO

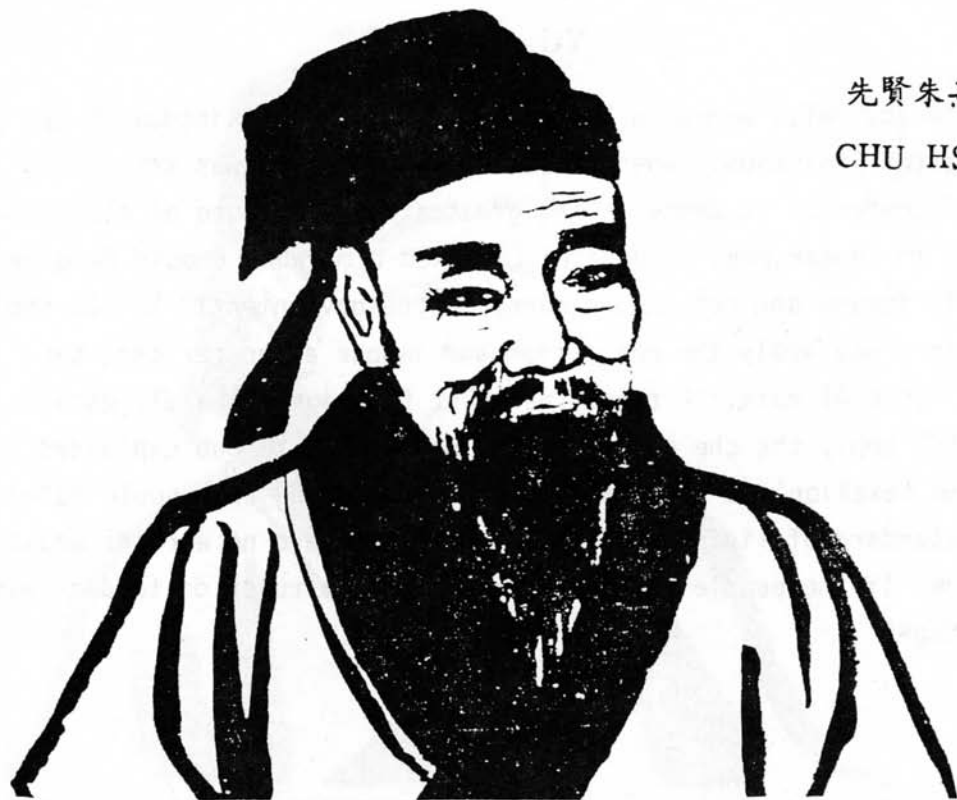


YU JUO

Yu Juo, also named Yu Tsu-yu, was born in the kingdom of Lu, 12 years after Confucius. When Confucius died, Tsu-yu was treated by some of Confucius students as the greatest sage because of the similarity in appearance. Lord Ai of Lu asked him "What should be done if there is famine and not enough money in the government?" Yu Juo replied "Why don't you apply the che method and impose a ten per cent taxation? Lord Ai said, "A twenty per cent taxation is hardly enough, how can I apply the che method of ten per cent?" Yu Juo explained, "Cut the taxation and limit your expenses allowing the people raise their standard of living first. Then you will have no worries about shortage. If the people are not rich what can a ruler do to deal with a shortage?"

先賢朱熹

CHU HSI



CHU HSI

Chu Hsi, or Yuan-hui and Chung-hui, was born in Wu Yuan in the Sung Dynasty. Being an extremely smart person, he took a government position at the age of twenty. He was once falsely accused by Shen Chi-tsu, an inspection official, and lost his position. At the age of 70, he resigned to live in Chung An, then moved to Chien Yang. His theory of academic research was to trace everything to its root seriously. His commentary on the Confucian classics was considered a standard exposition by the new Confucianists of the Sung Dynasty. During the reign of Kan Hsi of the Ching Dynasty, Chu Hsi was honored as the twelfth wise man for his annotations on the Four Classics.

NOT FOR SALE

PORTRAITS AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES IN THE TA-CHENG HALL OF CONFUCIUS TEMPLE

PUBLISHED BY: THE TAIPEI CONFUCIUS TEMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

PUBLISHER : YUEH-CHING WANG

PRINTER : YU YIOU STATIONARY & PRINTING CO.

ADDRESS : 2ND FLOOR, NO. 33, CHANG-AN W. RD., TAIPEI

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1988

統一編號

031022770044

