



Book Review

Finally, the complete eight-volume Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh is published

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Abstract

This article introduces the main content of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, which took nearly 20 years to be fully published, and the difficult process and twists and turns behind it that are unknown to the public. On the surface, this long publishing process is a funding issue, but in fact it is a political ecology or political orientation issue. To be precise, it is a major issue of how to evaluate the real contributions of historical figures in a realistic way.

Key words: Chia Yung Hsieh; Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh; a pioneering geologist in China; after many twists and turns; Lisheng Zhang

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1. Introduction

The author of this article has published a long book review, *A complete chronicle of Chia Yung Hsieh (C. Y. Hsieh) and his life and works*, in the third issue of the international English journal *Naturalis Scientias* in 2024. *A complete chronicle of Chia Yung Hsieh* has provided a detailed and objective introduction to Mr. Chia Yung Hsieh (hereinafter referred to as Hsieh), one of the great founders of China's geological sciences, his unique and great contributions to China's geological cause, his path to studying geology, and his numerous "China's firsts" and some "world's firsts" in many fields of earth sciences. Readers who want to know the details of the above article, please log in and read through the following link of the above article: Yin, JZ. 2024. A complete chronicle of Chia Yung Hsieh (C. Y. Hsieh) and his life and works. *Naturalis Scientias*, 1 (3): 260-285. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62252/NSS.2024.1019>.

Mr. Hsieh's great contribution to the earth sciences of China and the world is not only in the field of various geological science theories, but also in the field of mineral exploration. His contributions have not yet been matched by any other geologist in China or even in the world.

As soon as the above article of the author of this article came out, another good news came: the eight-volume *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* was finally published (Figure 1).

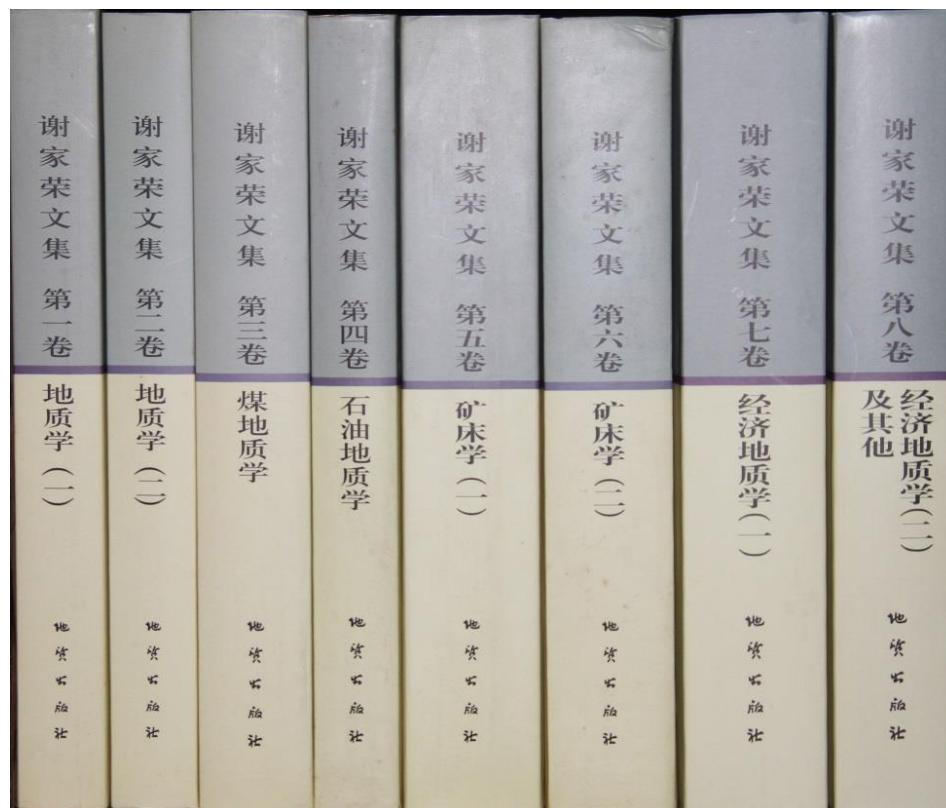


Figure 1. The complete version of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, which was finally released after 20 years

The author of this article has therefore struck while the iron is hot, and with the strong support of Professor Lisheng Zhang (hereinafter referred to as Prof. Zhang), the executive editor of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, now gives a relatively detailed introduction to the

publication of this collection of works. It is hoped that it will help readers who are interested in understanding Mr. Hsieh's academic thoughts and related creations to deepen their understanding through further reading of his works, and then promote his academic thoughts through publicity.

2. About Chia Yung Hsieh

It is necessary to briefly introduce Mr. Hsieh's life story to refresh everyone's memory and cognition of him.

Professor Hsieh (1897-1966), a well-known geologist and late academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was once the vice chairman of the China Geological Work Planning Steering Committee and director of the Planning Department, the engineer-in-chief of the Ministry of Geology, and the standing committee member and the engineer-in-chief of the Reconnaissance Committee of the Ministry of Geology.

Hsieh is recognized an all-round geologist. The breadth and depth of his research in the field of geology are unique in the Chinese geological community, and he is the first and pioneer in many aspects. Among them, his attainments in mineral deposits (including coal petrology, mineralogy, coalfield geology, and petroleum geology) are the deepest. Hsieh is the geologist who has discovered the most mineral deposits in China so far. He was the first to propose that China's oil is not limited to the northwest, and actively advocated the general search for oil throughout the whole country. He was also one of the first geologists to notice the search for oil in the Northeast Plain.

Hsieh formulated the strategic policy of "conducting large-scale and comprehensive geological survey in oil-bearing and potential oil-bearing areas throughout the country" for China's oil reconnaissance in the 1950s. At the same time, he pointed out the correct tactical policy of "determining oil reservoirs and studying trap structure types, which is particularly critical in China where oil exploration has just begun", and advocated that "in order to achieve the reserves required by the second five-year plan, several large new oil fields must be discovered. In order to enable some new oil fields to be put into production and obtain output within this period, we must not only work in the proven oil fields in the vast northwest region, but also accelerate exploration in areas with convenient transportation and easier development, so as to achieve twice the result with half the effort". Hsieh prepared the ideological and theoretical basis for the eastward shift of China's oil exploration strategy, and made significant contributions to the eastward shift of China's oil reconnaissance and exploration strategy, especially to the discovery of the Daqing Oilfield, North China Oilfield and Bohai Bay Oilfield.

Professor Hsieh is also known for his diligence in writing. He completed nearly 500 geological works in his lifetime, many of which still have important theoretical and practical significance.

3. Summary of the Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh

In 2005, the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* Editorial Committee was established to commemorate the 110th anniversary of Chia Yung Hsieh's birth, and plans were made to publish an eight-volume edition of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*. The Editorial Committee is composed of Academician Xuejing Xie and Prof. Zhang as Chief Editors, and Professors Zhang, Yuntang Pan and Tingyu Chen as Executive Editors. A total of 30 academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering serve as consultants. In the same year, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China

included the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* in the list of key national planning books during the 11th Five-Year Plan period. The *Collected Works of Professor Hsieh* consists of eight volumes, and the key contents of each volume are as follows:

- Volumes 1 and 2: Geology
- Volume 3: Coal Geology
- Volume 4: Petroleum Geology
- Volumes 5 and 6: Mineral Deposits
- Volume 7: Economic Geology
- Volume 8: Economic Geology and Others

Through the efforts of the editorial committee, the first to fourth volumes of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* were published by Geological Publishing House in Beijing from January 2007 to August 2008, and the fifth and sixth volumes were published in July 2011. Later, due to the death of the original editor Junzhong Chen and mainly due to the lack of publishing funds, the publication of the seventh and eighth volumes was delayed for a long time. It was not until August 2020 when the four siblings Dr. Yuanhong Xie, Yuanru Xie, Yuanquan Xie, and Yuanjie Xie, the eldest grandchildren of Professor Hsieh, raised 200,000 CNY and remitted it to the publishing house, it was restarted and finally completed in December 2024.

The eight-volume *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* includes 457 pieces of Mr. Hsieh's works that have been collected so far, totaling about 7.6 million Chinese characters. The main contents of each volume are as follows:

3.1. Volume 1

The first volume contains 32 articles (books) written by Professor Hsieh between 1915 and 1925 which are the important documents for the early development of modern Chinese geology (Figure 2).

Among them are the *Gansu Earthquake Report in December of the 9th Year of the Republic of China* and *Earthquake Situation in Gansu and Other Provinces in December of the 9th Year of the Republic of China* which are one of the earliest classic documents for earthquake research in modern China and are valuable historical documents that record the great Haiyuan earthquake in Gansu in the early 20th century. There are *Preliminary Notes on the Composition and Structure of the First Specimen of Meteoric Stone Received by the Geological Survey of China*, *Study of Chinese Meteorites* and *A Brief Talk on Meteorites* which pioneered the study of modern meteorites in China. There is *Geology (Part 1)*, the first general geology textbook written and published by Chinese people. There is also *Geological Structure and Physiographic history of the Yangtze Valley Below Wushan*, an important work on Chinese geology and geomorphology co-authored by Hsieh and L. F. Yih, as well as many investigation reports and/or papers on Hubei geology written by Professor Hsieh when he was engaged in Hubei geological survey in his early years.

All these works not only bear witness to the early development history of Chinese geology, but also have important guiding significance for China's geological research today.

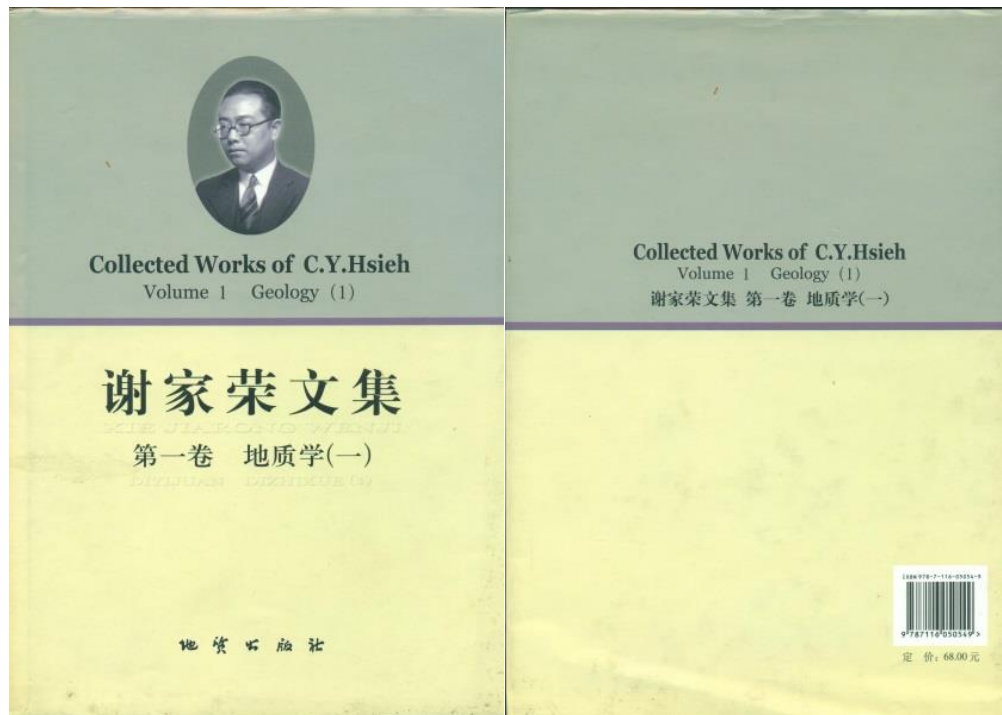


Figure 2. Front & back covers of the first volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.2. Volume 2

This volume contains 59 works written by Professor Hsieh between 1928 and 1963 (Figure 3). Among them are a series of articles on hydrogeology of Nanjing water supply completed by him in the late 1920s and early 1930s which pioneered the solution of urban water supply hydrogeology by Chinese geologists, the first batch of Chinese soil survey papers, such as *Soil Classification and Soil Survey (Introductory Note on the Significance of the Soil Survey)* and *Soil Reconnaissance in San-ho, Ping-ku and Chi-Hsien Area* published in 1931, important works on Chinese geology and geomorphology, such as *Note on the Geomorphology of the North Shensi Basin* and *Overview of Chinese Physiographic Periods* published in 1933-1934, important papers on the geology of Xishan, Beijing, such as *New Research on Geology of the Western Hills* and *An outline of the Geological Structure of the Western Hills of Peiping* (in English) published from 1933 to 1937 and important papers on the study of Chinese geotectonics in his later years, such as *On the Geotectonic Framework of China* and *Major Geotectonic Features of Southeast China* (in English). In addition, this volume also published for the first time the first chapter of his unfinished newly compiled *Geology of the Western Hills of Peiping*, *Stratigraphic System of the Western Hills of Peiping* and papers such as *Preliminary Observation of the Landslide Phenomenon in the South Wall of the West Open-pit Mine of the Fushun Mining Bureau* written by Mr. Mengxiong Chen under the guidance of Prof. Hsieh in studying the landslide in the open-pit mine of the Fushun Coal Mine in Liaoning Province, China in 1953.

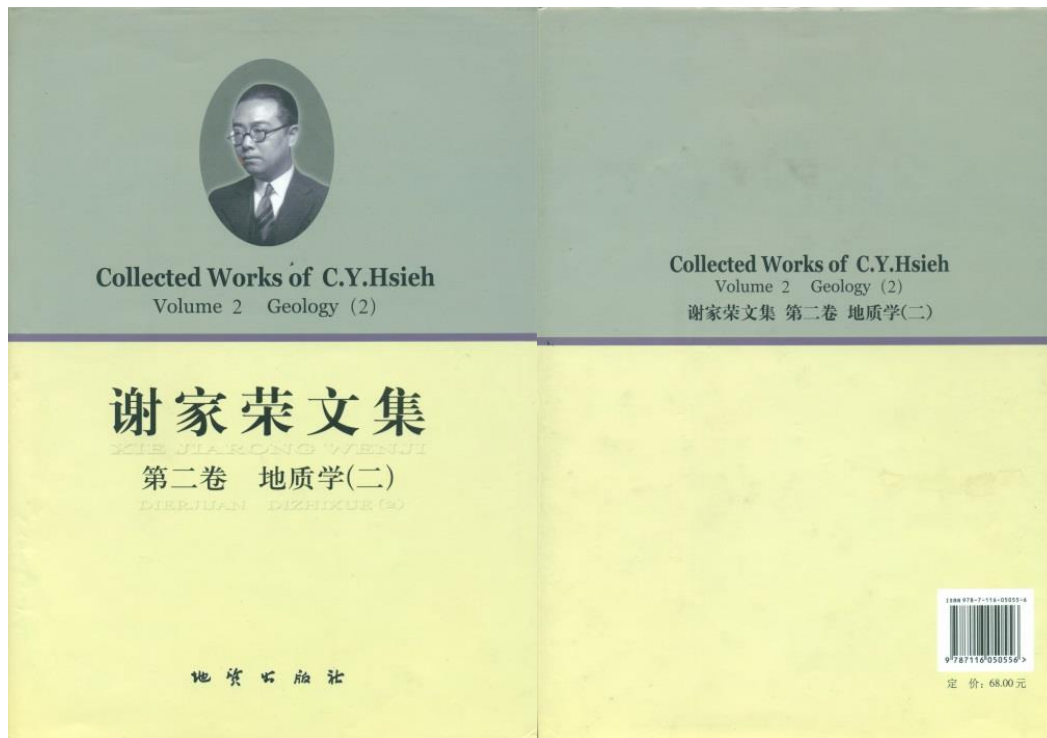


Figure 3. Front & back covers of the second volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.3. Volume 3

The third volume includes 55 papers and reports on coalfield geology and coal petrology completed by Professor Hsieh in the 40 years from 1916 to 1956, as well as 4 coalfield geology and coal petrology translations from the scientific translation series *Coal Genesis Types and Coal Petrology Research* published by Science Press in 1955 (Figure 4).

Among them are *Coal*, the earliest monograph on coal geology and coal mining in modern China; *A microscopical study of some coals from Szechuan, S.W. China* which pioneered coal petrology in China; *Some New Methods in Coal Petrography*, *Microscopic Study of Domestic Coal and Fuel Research and China's Fuel Problems*. *Coal Field & Coal Mining Industry in China, a General Survey* which has an important position in the history of China's coalfield geology and coal industry, *The Discovery of the New Coalfield in Huainan* which records a glorious page in the history of China's geology and mining, and important geological works such as *Coal Geology Research*, *Some Geological Problems in Exploring China's Coalfields*, *China's Coalfields*, *Coal Genesis Types and Their Significance*, and *China's Coalfield Types and Coal Quality Changes (Outline)* .

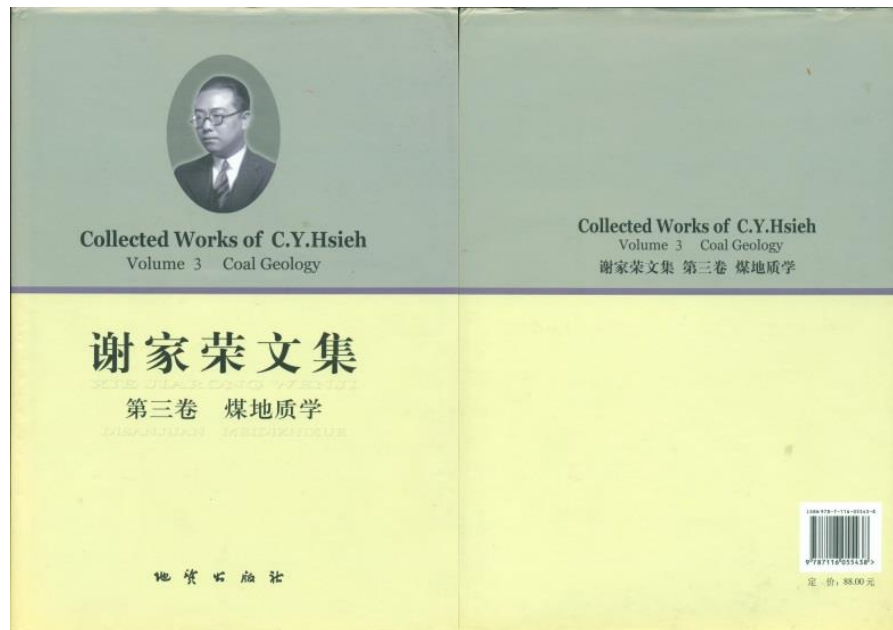


Figure 4. Front & back covers of the third volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.4. Volume 4

The fourth volume includes one monograph on petroleum geology completed in 1929 and 49 papers (including 7 papers in the *Petroleum Geology Collection* in 1957) by Professor Hsieh between 1916 and 1966, 2 translations, and 4 translations from the scientific translation series *Academician Gubkin and Petroleum Geology* published by Science Press in 1954, as well as the preface written for the translation series (Figure 5).

Among them are the first petroleum geology report written by a Chinese, *Gansu Yumen Petroleum Report*; China's first petroleum geology monograph *Petroleum* that systematically discusses terrestrial oil generation; *China's Petroleum Reserves (Abstract)* which was the first to calculate China's oil reserves; *On Oil Exploration in the Region South of the Yangtze River* which was the first to clearly point out that China's oil is not limited to the northwest; *Expanding the Scope of Oil Exploration*-which was firstly to expound China's correct oil exploration strategy; *Opinions on Northeast Oil Shale and Petroleum Minerals* which was firstly to point out that "the most important minerals that have not been discovered in the Northeast are oil,....."; *China's Oil-Producing Areas and Potential Oil-Bearing Areas* which provided an important basis for the selection of strategic areas for China's oil reconnaissance and exploration in the 1950s; *Reports at the Third Oil Reconnaissance Work Conference*, which comprehensively guided China's three-year oil reconnaissance; and *China's Oil-Producing Areas and Potential Oil-Bearing Areas and Opinions on Future Exploration Work*, which made ideological and theoretical preparations for the eastward shift of the focus of oil exploration strategy.

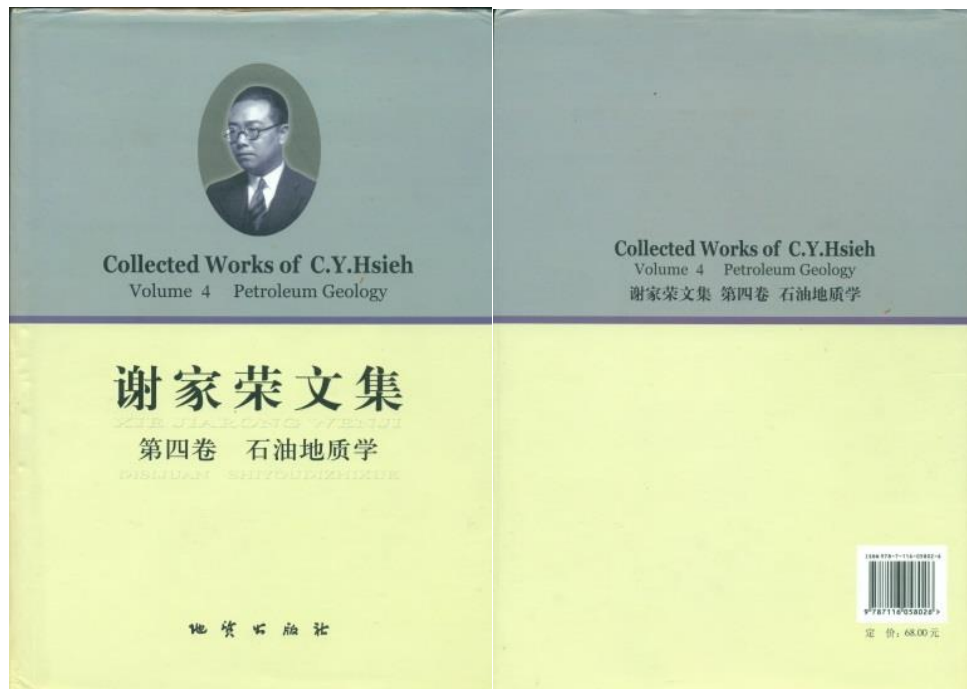


Figure 5. Front & back covers of the fourth volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.5. Volume 5

The fifth volume contains 17 papers and 3 monographs written by Professor Hsieh between 1915 and 1936, and 9 book and newspaper reviews on ore deposits published in *Geological Review* between 1936 and 1948 (Figure 6).

Among these works, there are *An Outline of Mineral Deposits* which pioneered the study of Chinese mineral deposits and *On the Late Mesozoic-Tertiary Orogenesis and Vulcanism, and Their Relation to the Formation of Metallic Deposits in China* which has an important position in the history of the development of Chinese mineral deposits. The three monographs such as *The Iron Ores and Iron Industry of China* (compilation and review), *The Iron Deposits of Southern Anhui* and *Geology of the Iron Deposits in the Lower Yangtze Region* embody a lot of Professor Hsieh's efforts and are important documents in China's mineral deposits. The book *Geology of the Iron Deposits in the Lower Yangtze Region* has been an important reference for prospecting in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River for many years.

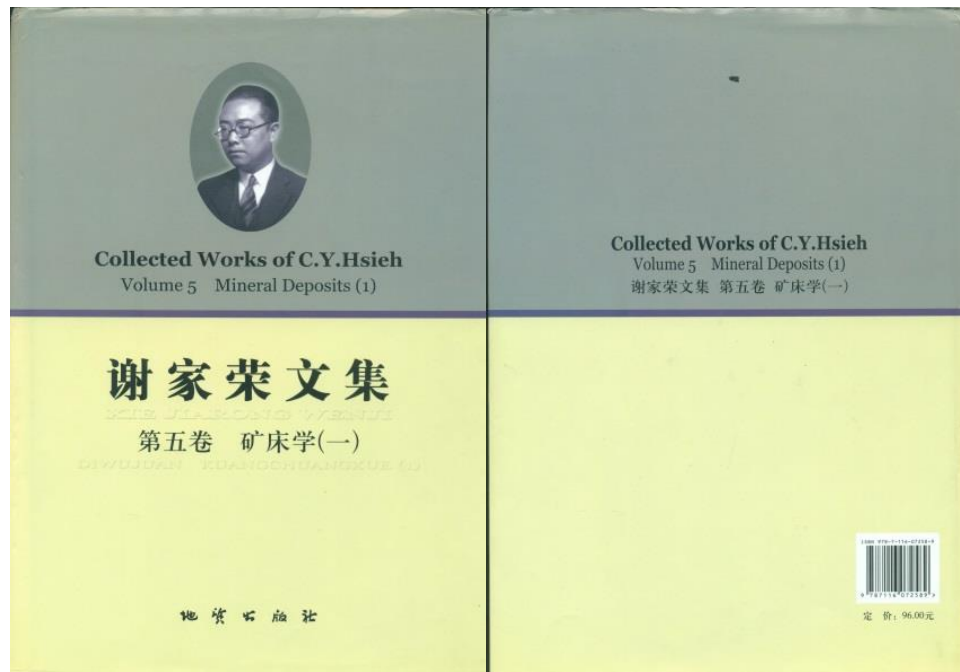


Figure 6. Front & back covers of the fifth volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.6. Volume 6

Volume 6 contains 44 papers and two monographs, namely, *The Lead-Zinc Deposits of Central Hunan* and *Mineral Deposits in China* written by Professor Hsieh between 1937 and 1966 (Figure 7).

Among the 44 papers, there are the famous *Report on Iron Ores in Kwanyinshan, Shuicheng and in Tiehkuangshan, Heichang, Kueichou, Tin placer deposits in Fuhochungkiang area, northeastern Kuangsi and southern Hunan, and with a note on the distribution of tin belts in China, Note on the ore deposits in the Yunnan-Kueichou-Sikang area with special reference to their distribution & geological age, A Brief Introduction to Uranium Ore, Bauxite in Zhangpu County, Fujian, Note on the phosphate deposits in China, Note on the lead, zinc and silver deposits in China, The Significance of Volcanoes and Volcanic Sedimentation in Several Mineral Deposits in China, and the first publication of Mineralization Problems in Yanshan Area, Several Problems in the Chromite Ore Area of Suolun Mountain, Geology and Mineral Deposits in the Bayan Obo Area, Several Problems on the Study of Tungsten-Tin Deposits in China, Granitization and Mineralization*, etc. The new edition of *Mineral Deposits in China* adds Chapter 11 (Abstract) according to the original intention of the author.

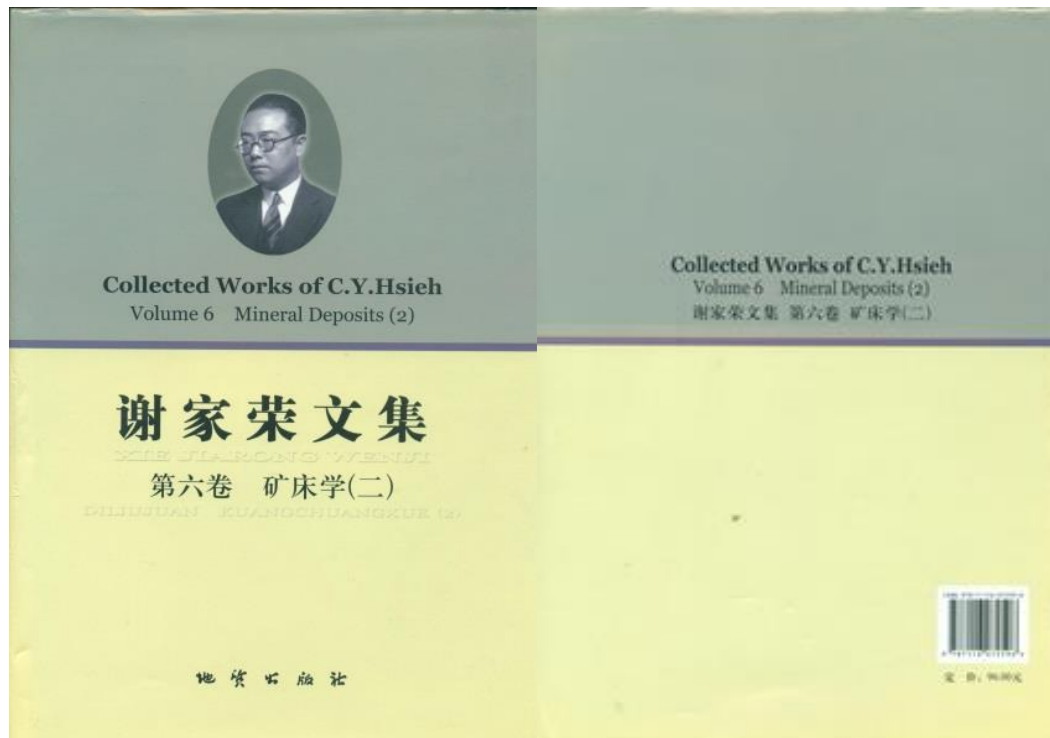


Figure 7. Front & back covers of the sixth volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.7. Volume 7

Volume 7 contains 37 papers and 6 monographs written by Professor Hsieh between 1921 and 1945 (Figure 8).

Among the 37 papers, there are, *Notes on the National Geological Survey of America* (the author's report on the inspection of Geological Survey of America (GSA) on the eve of his return from the United States), *Geological Research in the United States*, the Chinese translation of the paper submitted to the 14th International Geological Congress, *Pyrite and Sulfur Refining in China*; *Editorial of Geological Review*, *Progress in Economic Geology in China in Recent Years*, *Brief Reports on Tin Placers in Fuhochungkiang, Kuangsi*, *An Outline of Mineral Resources of Yunnan*, *A General Discussion on Bauxite in China* and *Results of Our Research on Bauxite in Kueichou and Yunnan*.

The six monographs are *An Overview of Geology and Mineral Resources of Hubei* co-authored with C. C. Liu in 1924, *General Statement on the Mining Industry (1918-1925)* in 1926, *Geology and Mineral Resources of S.W. Hupeh* co-authored with C. C. Liu in 1927, *Foreign Investment in Mining of China* co-authored with Minzhang Zhu in 1932, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Anxi, Yongchun and Yongtai in Fujian* co-authored with Y. C. Cheng in 1936, and *Geology and Mineral Resources between Weining and Kunming along the Xukun Railway* in 1941.

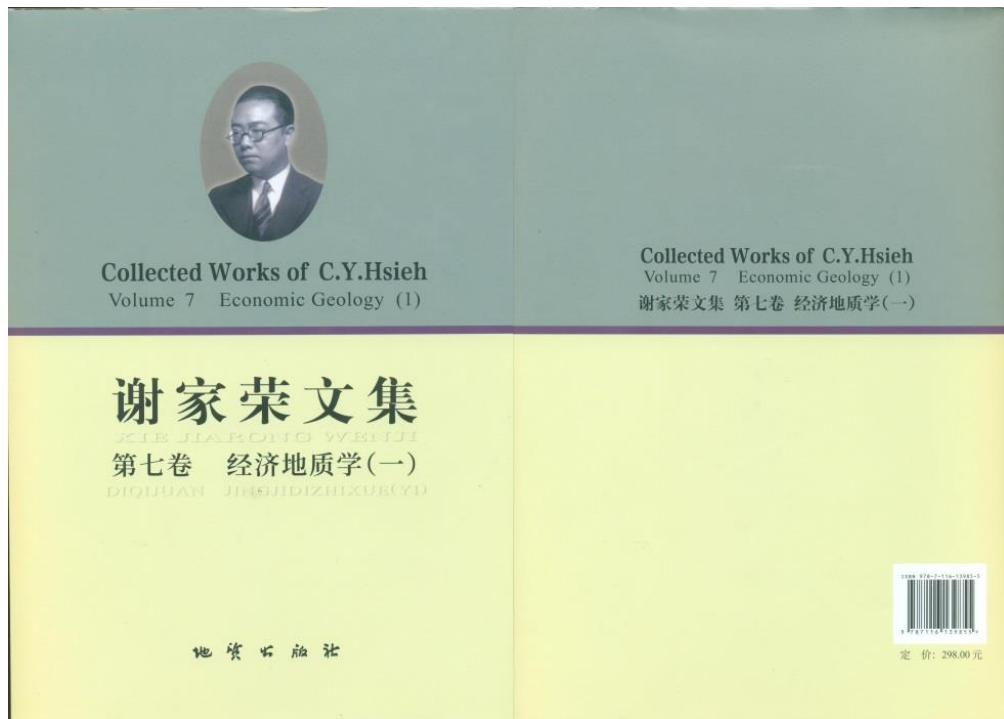


Figure 8. Front & back covers of the seventh volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

3.8. Volume 8

Volume 8 contains 132 papers and 3 monographs written by Professor Hsieh between 1945 and 1966 (Figure 9).

Among the 132 papers, there are *The Results of Our Research on Bauxite in Kueichou and Yunnan*, the famous *Palaeogeography as A Guide to Mineral Exploration*, *Annual Work Summary of the 37th Year of the Republic of China*, *Overview of Geology and Mineral Resources in Northeast China and Some Opinions*, *Some Opinions on the Future Range of Reconnaissance Based on Some Laws of Chinese Mineral Deposits*, *Distribution Laws and Prediction of Chinese Mineral Resources*, *Mineralization Theory and Prospecting*, *Let the Study of Granite and Granitization Serve the Purpose of Regional Geological Survey and Prospecting*, etc.; and Hsieh's last paper in his life is *Geotectonics and Prospecting* which has never been published before. The three monographs are *Basic Knowledge of Prospecting and the Discovery of Underground Resources in My Country* in 1953, *Reconnaissance Notice* (co-authored) in 1954, and *Preliminary Study on the Distribution Laws of Chinese Mineral Resources and Some Opinions on the Future Range of Reconnaissance* in 1958 which has never been published.

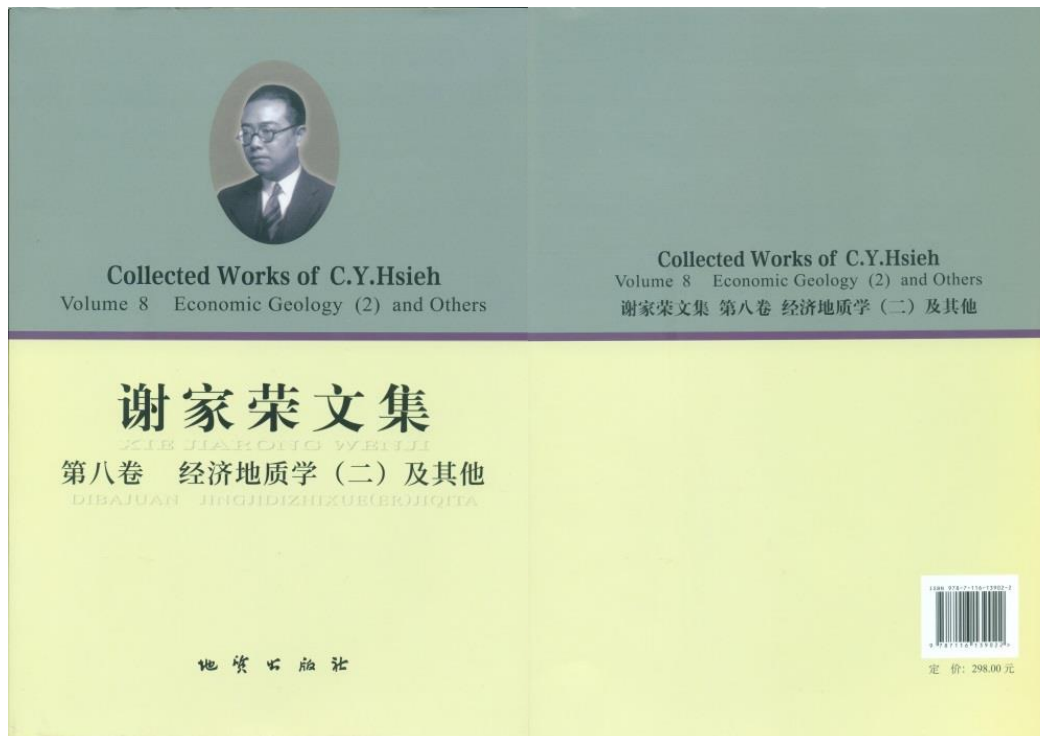


Figure 9. Front & back covers of the eighth volume of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*

4. The difficult and long publishing process

In the spring of 2005, after learning that the three-volume *Selected Works of Y. C. Cheng* would be fully funded by the Ministry of Land and Resources and published by the Geological Publishing House, Prof. Zhang immediately suggested to Academician Xuejing Xie (Hereafter referred to as Prof. Xie) that 30 academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering should be recruited to jointly propose to the Ministry of Land and Resources to prepare for a celebration of the 110th anniversary of Chia Yung Hsieh's birth and apply for 500,000 CNY in publishing funds from the Ministry to publish the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*. Prof. Xie immediately agreed and commissioned Prof. Zhang to draft a letter of advice to the Minister of Land and Resources.

After obtaining the consent of most of the 30 academicians (not yet completed), considering the special political environment in China, Prof. Xie finally decided to write a letter to Xianlai Meng, director of the China Geological Survey at that time, and to the Minister of Land and Resources on April 30 of that year, clearly proposing "suggestions on holding commemorative activities for the 110th anniversary of the birth of the famous geologist Professor Hsieh and publishing the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*. It is suggested that "the funds needed to organize the commemorative activities shall be budgeted by the commemorative activities preparation group according to the activities and reported to the Ministry of Land and Resources, and the Ministry of Land and Resources shall allocate the funds". At the same time, it is suggested that "the Ministry of Land and Resources" allocate 500,000 CNY for the editing and publishing of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, and the funds shall be used for the specific purpose", and "the funds allocated shall be controlled by the editorial committee, and no individual shall use them for other purposes for any reason." Later, the Chinese Academy of

Geological Sciences also made similar suggestions to the China Geological Survey. In May of the same year, the editorial committee of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* was established, and the editing work started immediately.

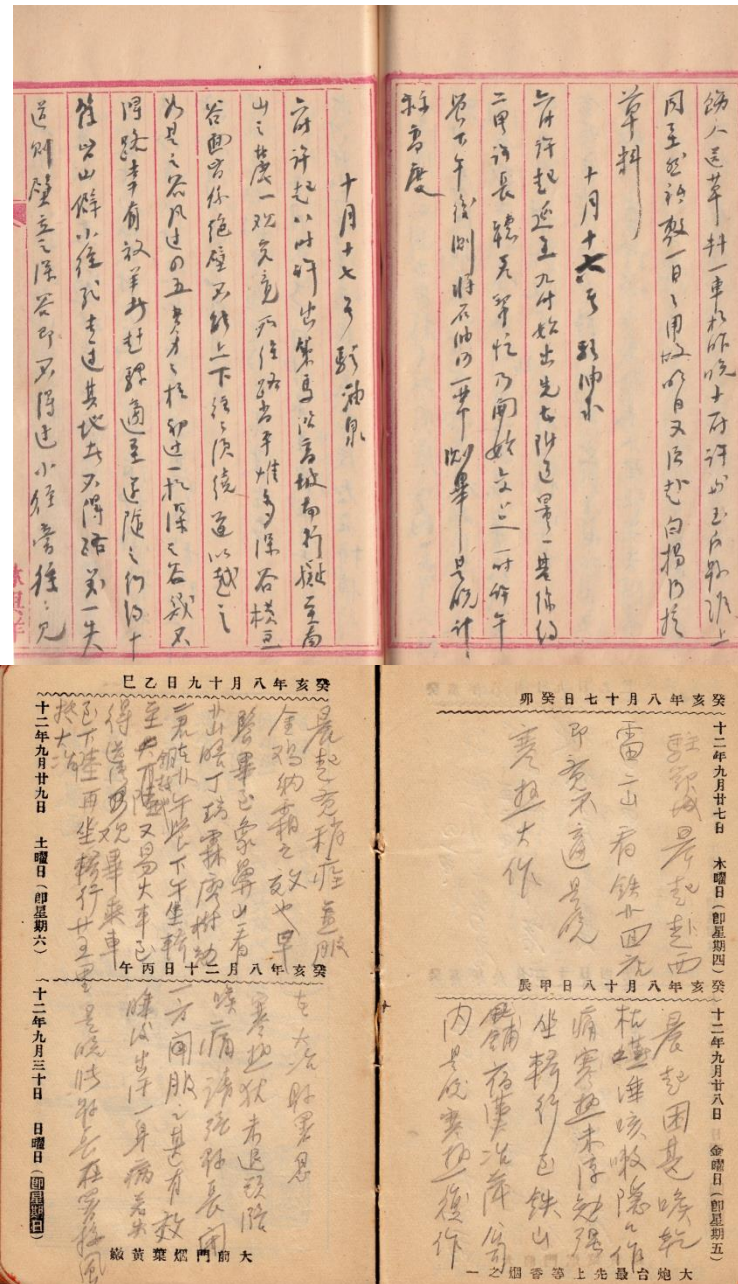


Figure 10. Photocopy of Mr. Hsieh's partial journal during field geological survey During the inspection of the Yumen oilfield in Gansu on October 17, 1921 (upper); on the way to investigate the geology in Hubei on September 27, 1923 (lower)

On April 19, 2006, the China Geological Survey made the following decisions on the commemoration of the 110th anniversary of Chia Yung Hsieh's birth:

- The commemoration will be organized by the Geological Society of China and the Chinese

Academy of Geological Sciences;

- The required funds will be self-raised in principle, and if there are difficulties, they can apply for individual project funds;
- The commemoration will include holding symposium and publishing a collection of papers.

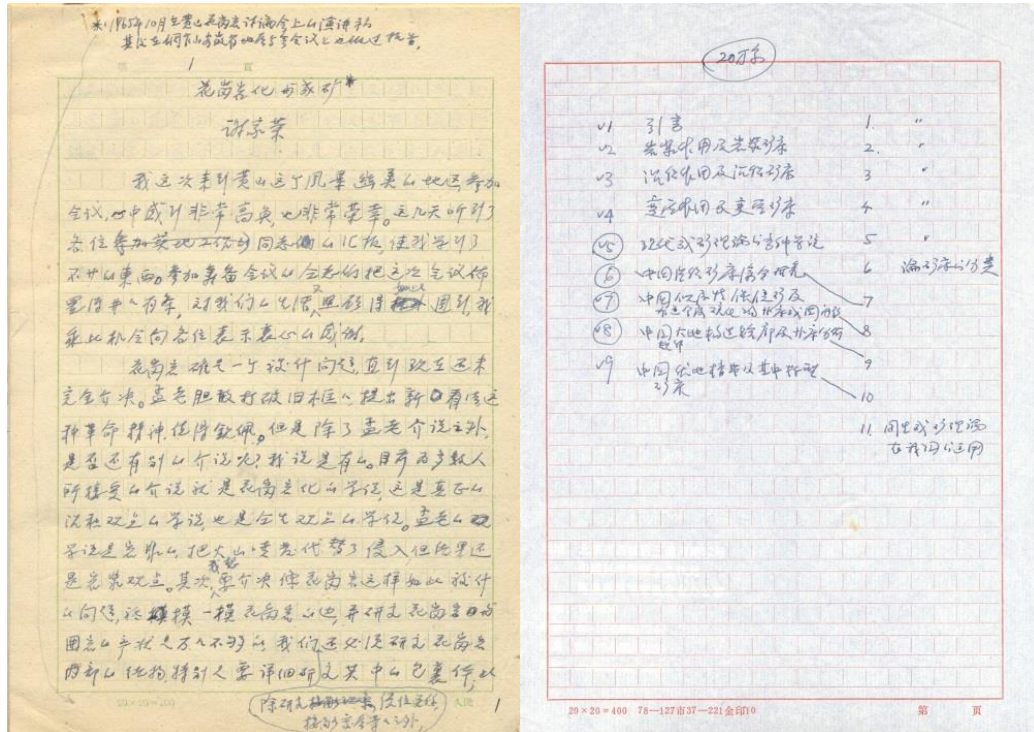


Figure 11. Photocopy of Mr. Chia Yung Hsieh's manuscripts

Left: Manuscript of the report *Granitization and Mineralization* at the Huangshan Granite Symposium in October 1965; Right: The catalogue manuscript of *Mineral Deposits in China (General)* personally written by Hsieh in 1966

The zero funding from the relevant departments brought endless troubles to the publication of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*. For this reason, Prof. Xie allocated part of the funds from his own project and went through great pains to obtain partial funding from the Beijing Jianlong International Investment Co., Ltd. These self-raised funds enabled the first to fourth volumes of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* to be published successively from January 2007 to August 2008.

On August 20, 2009, Prof. Xie wrote to Min Wang, then Vice Minister of the Ministry of Land and Resources and Director of the China Geological Survey, trying to raise funds to publish the collection. But there was no positive result. On May 31, 2010, Prof. Zhang wrote to the Institute of Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration on behalf of the Editorial Committee of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, hoping that the institute could solve the publishing funds, but there was no result.

After that, Prof. Xie and his students tried every means to raise some funds which were able to publish the fifth and sixth volumes of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* in July 2011. But until Prof. Xie passed away in February 2017, more than five years later, the seventh and eighth volumes were still not published, and the main reason was lack of funds. After that, a student of Prof. Xie who worked at Tsinghua University planned to sponsor the funds, but in the end there



was no result. After that, Prof. Zhang communicated and applied with relevant parties for the publication of the collection many times, but there was no result.

After the hope of completing the publication of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* through official funding was completely shattered, in August 2020, Dr. Yuanhong Xie, the eldest grandson of Hsieh and the eldest son of Prof. Xie, called Prof. Zhang from Berlin, Germany and said, "Not only because Hsieh is my grandfather, but also because of the importance of this person who made so many contributions to Chinese geology throughout his life and his works", he and his three sisters (Yuanru Xie, Yuanquan Xie and Yuanjie Xie) decided to raise 200,000 CNY for the publication of the last two volumes of the Collected Works. This finally made it possible to publish the seventh and eighth volumes more than 13 years after the publication of the fifth and sixth volumes.

Thinking of the tortuous experience of publishing the eight-volume *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* for more than 16 years, Prof. Zhang still sighs. In fact, his feelings are more than that. When collecting and arranging Mr. Hsieh's old works, there were also many difficulties. Mr. Hsieh has been engaged in geological work for 50 years and left more than 400 articles (books). Mr. Hsieh's materials, especially many of his precious manuscripts, were lent out and lost in the following decade. The two wooden boxes of Mr. Hsieh's materials, which were originally stored in the reference room of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, disappeared after being taken out by Prof. Xie, which became a "great loss and regret" in the heart of the executive editor Prof. Zhang. For this reason, Prof. Zhang said in the "Postscript to the Fourth Volume" that "if we can find something before the eight volumes of the collection are published, we will add it to the last volume." Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the lost materials were not found.

Prof. Zhang, who was always thinking about this, worked hard to include Mr. Hsieh in the academic growth data collection project for senior scientists in 2013, and collected three important documents during the project. One of them was a report entitled *Several Geological Issues in Coalfield Exploration in China* by Hsieh at the National Conference of Geological Workers on January 22, 1953. During the group discussion of the report in the afternoon of the same day, Hsieh gave written answers to these questions, namely *Answers to the Questions Discussed in the Report on Several Geological Issues in Coalfield Exploration in China*. The other was a transcript of Mr. Hsieh's report on *Oil Exploration Issues in Jiuquan Basin* made by him at the Yumen Mining Bureau on June 2, 1955, which answered the question of where to find the second Laojun Temple oilfield. There is also a report found in the archives of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, namely, a report entitled *Preliminary Opinions on the Ore-bearing Prospects of Dabaoshan and Its Surrounding Areas* made by Mr. Hsieh at the farewell meeting of all representatives of the Comprehensive Team of the Guangdong Dabaoshan Polymetallic Ore Survey and Exploration Method Research Team on November 6, 1960. After deleting Hsieh's signature, this report was submitted to the Party Group of the Ministry of Geology and the Party Committee of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences as Annex II of the *Report of the Dabaoshan Working Group of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences* on November 18, 1960. Because his name was so tampered with, his article was buried in the dust of history.

As there is no absolute certainty about the publication of the seventh and eighth volumes of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, Prof. Zhang included the full text of these three articles in the *A complete chronicle of Chia Yung Hsieh (C. Y. Hsieh)* that was published in December 2022. This can be regarded as a kind of compensation for the immeasurable merit. It is worth copying here the following statement from Prof. Zhang:

Finally, I need to make it clear to all readers that due to the huge workload of publishing the eight volumes of the collection, many people on the editorial committee are already over 60 or even 80 years old, and most of the other editors have their own busy business. The main editing work is undertaken by me. Due to my limited ability, mistakes are inevitable in the editing work. The most obvious is that some articles that obviously do not belong to the category of "economic geology" are included in these last two volumes. Due to various reasons they were not included in the first and second volumes and had to be put in these last two volumes. This is to make a statement and apologize to the readers.

101 years ago, Chia Yung Hsieh contacted P. L. Yuan to propose the establishment of the Geological Society of China. The 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Geological Society of China has just passed. It is a pity that the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* could not be published before this. But it is a blessing in disguise that it can finally be published. On behalf of the editorial committee of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to all the geological colleagues who care about and support the publication of the collection! I am primarily responsible for all shortcomings and errors that occurred during the editing process of this book. I welcome readers' criticism and corrections.

Lisheng Zhang, Executive Editor, *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*
At the Hi-Tech West Zone, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
February 20, 2024

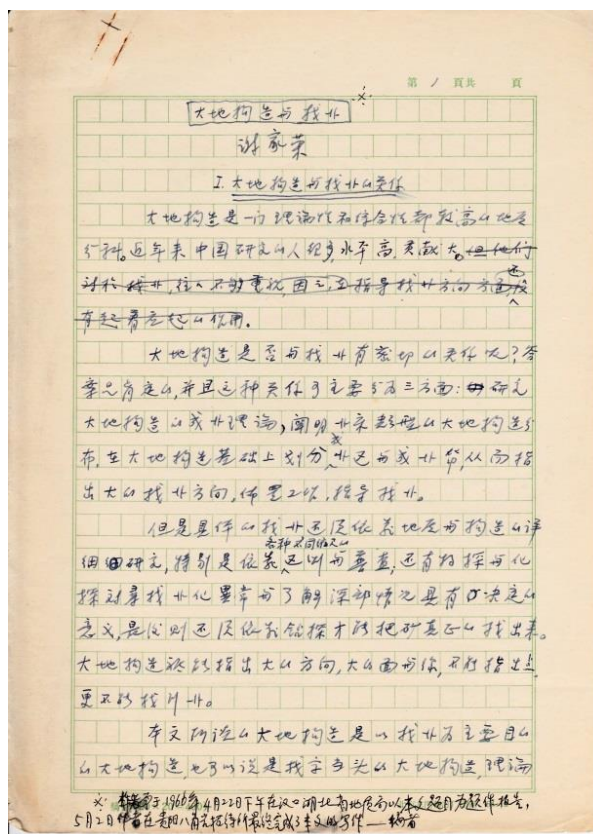


Figure 12. Photocopy of Mr. Chia Yung Hsieh's manuscript

On April 22, 1966, Hsieh gave a report on *Geotectonics and Ore Prospecting* at the Hubei Geological Bureau. This is the manuscript of his speech. Comparing Mr. Hsieh's manuscripts before liberation (Figure 10) and after liberation (Figures 11-12), we can find that his handwritings are very different. This has a lot to do with his state of mind at the times. In 1966, Hsieh and his wife committed suicide

5. Life is not easy, cherish every moment you have

From preparation in 2005 to the complete publication of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh* in the end of 2024, it has gone through a long process. It is basically the time distance between two generations in the traditional Chinese sense. In terms of the average life span of human beings, most people have only a few 20 years in their entire lives.

In fact, the publication of this collection of works is not just a matter of time, but also the torment and anxiety of the editors. On the surface, the greatly extended publishing time is a matter of money, but in fact it is a problem of the unique political environment of this country. Otherwise, with the status of Prof. Xie, the eldest son of Mr. Hsieh, in the Chinese geological community, it would never take so long. And Prof. Xie himself did not see the full publication of this collection of works during his lifetime.

Those who understand the political ecology of this country understand the reason. No need to say more. In other words, if there was no Prof. Xie, the academican, this collection of works would never have been published.

In many cases, a country's political ecology not only determines the fate of the vast majority of people, but also determines the final judgment of a person after his death. No matter how great a person's contribution is during his lifetime, if it is not in tune with the political ecology of this land, it will only be buried or even disappear completely. This is the greatest sorrow in life.



Figure 13. Prof. Zhang (left), Executive Editor-in-Chief, *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*, and Academician Xuejing Xie in the office at the Baiwanzhuang, Beijing on March 22, 2002

6. Acknowledgements

All of the information and pictures in this article are generously provided by Professor Zhang, the executive editor-in-chief of the *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*.

Objectively speaking, without Prof. Zhang's hard work, there would be no *A complete chronicle of Chia Yung Hsieh (C. Y. Hsieh)* and no eight volumes of *Collected Works of Chia Yung Hsieh*. Or it should be said that without Prof. Zhang, our readers would not see such a detailed set of publications. Perhaps you may have only seen the first few volumes, not the relatively complete version now.

Without sufficient determination and patience, without the great determination and unparalleled spirit of traditional Chinese intellectuals to "establish a mind for heaven and earth, establish a destiny for the people, carry on the unique knowledge of the ancient sages, and bring peace to the world for all eternity", the above-mentioned books about Mr. Hsieh would hardly have been published.

In today's very secular and utilitarian era, almost no one is willing to spend their lives to collect the old materials of the old generation of scientists. Editing and compiling old books and articles in obscurity, especially scientific collections that cannot be sold at all, is obviously incompatible with the current Chinese social reality where everything is measured by money. Because editing these antiques depends entirely on the editor's heart, there is no benefit or income, and there will be no social status, but it will make some leaders unhappy.

Therefore, I would like to pay my highest respects to the editors of this set of books headed by Prof. Zhang. You are the disseminators and inheritors of the founders of Chinese science, and the best practitioners of Chinese traditional culture. These books are your immortal lifelong monuments and your great history.

At the same time, on behalf of the editors of this set of books (if possible), I would like to pay my highest respects to all those who have contributed to the publication of the collection!



Figure 14. Prof. Zhang in Shanbao Village, Jiuba Township, Guizhou in August 2024.

Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study is available from the author upon reasonable request.

Declaration of competing interest

The author declares that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.



Use of AI tools declaration

The author declares that he has not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

