User's Guide

1. This index contains all of the 347,426 multisyllabic entries of the *Hanyu Da Cidian*. It does not include the monosyllabic entries of the dictionary, since a separate alphabetical index has already been published for them. The entries contained in this index are completely faithful to the original forms of the characters in the *Hanyu Da Cidian*. They have not been subjected to any simplification or modification whatsoever. This index uses Hanyu Pinyin (HP, i.e., romanization of Modern Standard Mandarin) to provide phonetic annotation for all of the multisyllabic Chinese character entries in the dictionary, enabling the user to locate the entries by means of their alphabetical order.

2. In the phonetic annotation of the characters, transcriptions are written without exception in lower case letters and without any breaks between syllables no matter how long or short the entries are. The purpose of the romanization is to indicate the pronunciation of the entries and to assist the user in finding them. The romanizations indicate only the original tones of the individual characters and do not take into account tonal changes that occur in speech. The index eschews archaic readings in favor of standardized contemporary pronunciations.

3. All of the entries in the index are arranged according to their alphabetical order and are distributed under the appropriate initial letter from A to Z. Entries that have the same spellings are arranged according to the sequence of their tones. In cases where entries have the identical alphabetical and tonal sequence, in principle they are arranged according to the number of their strokes. The letter “u” with an umlaut (i.e., “ü”) always comes after “u” without an umlaut. The character 兒 has both the full syllabic reading ㄦ and the reading r, which signifies suffixation of a nonsyllabic r to nouns (occasionally also verbs and adjectives), resulting in the retroflexion of the preceding vowel. In order to reduce the ambiguity of having to decide whether 兒 is stressed or unstressed, this index adopts the convention of romanizing 兒 as er when it occurs at the end of a word.

4. When a given entry has one form in characters but more than one pronunciation, it appears in more than one place in the alphabetical sequence. For example 長子 is found both as chángzi and as zhāngzǐ.

5. The romanization for entries consisting of more than six characters is reduced to four syllables, e.g., 車如流水馬如龍 is represented by chērúlǐushuǐ… Similarly, long entries containing commas are reduced to four syllables of romanization, e.g., 城門失火，殃及池魚 is represented by chéngménshīyú…

6. Page references in this index are to the volume, page, and column of *Hanyu Da Cidian*, e.g., “chèxiǎo 撤消 6-889A” and “chèxiāo 撤销 6-889B” indicate that 撤消 is in column A on page 889 of volume 6 and that 撤销 is in column B on page 889 of volume 6.

7. When entries that have the same form and sound are found in more than one
column or on more than one page, they receive a special notation. For example, “dòngrán 洞然 5-1147A / 1147B” indicates that 洞然 may be found both in column A and in column B on page 1147 of volume 5. Likewise, “hāngjiān 行間 3-912B / 913A” indicates that 行间 is found both in column B on page 912 in volume 3 and in column A on page 913 of volume 3. If separate entries having the same form and sound are found in the same column on the same page, only a single reference is entered and no special notation is given.

8. When the dictionary indicates that a given entry has both an ancient reading and a modern reading, this index separately lists the entry in two places for the convenience of the user. For instance, 葉公好龍 may be found both under yègōnghàolóng 9-456A and shègōnghàolóng 9-456A.

9. The first and last entries on each page are printed respectively at the top left and right of the headers to facilitate skimming and searching.