前 言

Alone among modern languages, Chinese integrates both semantic and phonetic components in its characters. *Chinese Characters: A Genealogy and Dictionary* deciphers this rich information to help students understand, appreciate and remember Chinese characters. Following traditional Chinese etymologies, each character is decomposed into smaller composite characters suggesting the character's meaning and/or pronunciation. Successive decomposition traces the over 4000 characters in this dictionary back to less than 200 pictographs and ideographs. This creation of new characters from simpler elements is depicted in a series of genealogical charts (字譜) which form the dictionary's organizing structure. Any character can be found by moving through these unique charts as long as the reader knows any part of the character or knows any character which shares the same part. The 字譜 method generalizes the "radical" (部首) system based loosely on the semantic components of characters, extending it to all components whether semantic or phonetic.

Written for the growing number of English speakers studying Chinese rather than the usual readership of Chinese speakers studying English, this dictionary integrates the study of etymology and vocabulary by including a total of nearly 20,000 words, characters, and phrases. Many early Chinese-English dictionaries were also written explicitly for foreigners, primarily the many missionaries settling in China, and their designs also reflected the particular needs of non-native speakers in learning Chinese characters. While this dictionary's use of diagrams and extensive cross-referencing is unique, several early dictionaries including Soothill's *Chinese Student's Pocket Dictionary* (1899), Wieger's *Chinese Characters* (1915) and Karlgren's *Analytic Dictionary of Chinese and Sino-Japanese* (1923) were similarly structured around character etymology.

As evidenced by the title of this dictionary, it is tempting to use genetic metaphors to explain the connections between Chinese characters. Of course, characters are just symbols that cannot be traced along a true genealogy. To the extent possible, the 字譜 decompose characters according to 許慎's 說文解字 (c.100), one of China's first and still most influential dictionaries. Exceptions arise due to omissions from the 說文, to new characters postdating the 說文, to the remarkably few inconsistencies within that work, and to my own misunderstandings and oversights. Since the 說文 is based on the 小篆 characters of the 秦 dynasty, it does not include information about earlier forms, such as the 甲骨文 characters. While no longer an authoritative source on character origins, the 說文 remains the reference point for all subsequent scholarship and for this reason was chosen as the basis of the 字譜.

After each character's dictionary entry, a brief explanation of the character's "etymology" (字源) follows. Many of these stories are from later commentaries on the 說文 and are more speculative about how the elements combine to suggest a certain idea. In choosing among explanations from different commentaries I relied on what seems plausible, on what can be succinctly presented, and on the judgments of tertiary sources, primarily the extremely helpful 形音義綜合大字典 by 高樹藩. I have resisted the temptation to insert my own stories, though readers should by no means feel similarly

bound. Please keep in mind that this dictionary does not incorporate the large and growing body of research on pre-秦 characters. While these characters are the primary attention of current research, they are of little practical interest to students of modern Chinese. For instance, while it may be true that the character bright 明 once was composed of window 囧 and moon 月 rather than sun 日 and moon 月, this distinction is only of academic interest as the current form has included sun and moon for over two thousand years. The traditional etymologies miss many of these subtleties, but they represent a remarkable amount of insight and information that many linguists are once again beginning to appreciate. With the visual assistance of the 字譜 it is hoped that these etymologies can become an integral part of learning Chinese.

This dictionary began as a distraction from my master's studies in economics at National Taiwan University and continued to serve this purpose during my economics studies at the University of Pittsburgh. I thank 林欣吾, 薛琦, 楊東連, 林宜民, 譚敬南, 羅瑋, 盧珊珊, 于慶, 陳麗眞, 牟嶺 and other friends and teachers for their encouragement of this long digression. For help in correcting many of the numerous errors in this dictionary, I thank 羅瑋, 李兵, 卓意雯, 陸金福, 安琨, 顏菁玉, 吳怡春, 王亞祥, 任彤 and especially 莊斐雯 and 劉康. In compiling this work I consulted a number of printed dictionaries, including 遠東漢英大辭典, 東方國語辭典, 精選英漢漢英詞典, 辭海, 漢英辭 典, 牛津高級英英英漢雙解辭典, *ABC Chinese-English Dictionary*, and online dictionaries including 國語辭典, the *Unicode Unihan Database*, and the *World Wide Web CJK-English Dictionary Database*. The ability to check word usage and frequency by searching Chinese homepages and discussion boards on the web was also of great help. Readers are invited to visit the website for this dictionary at http://www.zhongwen.com where etymology references for each character and more information on the above resources can be found.

李克

Rick Harbaugh
zhongwen@zhongwen.com

漢 字 的 發 展

According to legend, Chinese characters were invented by the historian 倉頡 under China's founder 黃帝 about 4500 years ago. Archeological research indicates that Chinese characters may have first appeared as early as 7000 years ago and formed a complete system of writing by about 3500 years ago. Approximately 2000 years ago the popularization of the ink brush fundamentally altered the shape of characters, changing them from the rounded "seal characters" (still carved on official seals) to the more angular characters used for most purposes today. Though convenient, the new writing style obscured the original logic of the characters, resulting in miswritings and the creation of illogical new characters. The scholar 許慎 responded with the etymological dictionary 說文解字 based on surviving samples of earlier scripts. By explaining the underlying logic of each character, this work succeeded in stabilizing the writing of characters in forms essentially comparable to, though differently shaped, than the seal characters.

Traditionally, characters are differentiated into six types. The basic units are pictographs (象形) portraying objects, e.g. tree 木, and ideographs (指事) suggesting abstractions, e.g. one 一. These pictographs and ideographs (collectively known as 文) combine to create two additional types of characters, logical aggregates (會意) and phonetic complexes (形聲). Logical aggregates combine the meanings of different characters to create a new meaning, e.g. a person 人 agains a tree 木 means rest 休. Phonetic complexes combine the meaning of one character with the sound of another, e.g. in the character 忠 the meaning of loyal is suggested by heart 心 and the pronunciation is the same as that of 中. The final two types of characters represent transformations in the meanings of these four types. Associative transformations (轉注) extend the meaning of a character to a related concept. Borrowings (假借) give an unrelated meaning to a character, generally that of a spoken word which has the same pronunciation as the borrowed character but lacks its own character.

Chinese Characters: A Genealogy and Dictionary follows the basic etymologies set by 許慎 and elaborated on by Chinese scholars over the centuries. These etymologies are based on the seal characters rather than on earlier forms, such as the characters on early bronzes, which sometimes have different etymologies. Note that the distinction between phonetic complexes and logical aggregates is often blurred by the phonetic component also suggesting a character's meaning. In the above example 中 contributes its meaning of centered to help suggest loyal 忠 ("centered heart"). For almost every phonetic complex some meaning contribution of the phonetic component has been suggested by a noted scholar. The most fanciful have been excluded, although some dubious ones are still included for their mnemonic value and insight into Chinese culture. The reader will note that the phonetic component of some characters is not closely related to the character's modern pronunciation. This problem, along with occasional alteration in the shapes of phonetic and semantic components, reflects the evolution of the written and spoken languages.

查 字 方 法

Each character (字) is listed under one of about two hundred genealogical charts (字譜), each of which starts with a basic pictograph or ideograph (文). In the indexes and cross-referencing, characters are always referenced by two numbers to the right of the character, one above the other. The top number is the 文 number indicating the genealogical chart that the character is listed under, and the bottom number is the 字 number indicating the position of the character in that chart. Using this reference system, you can find characters as follows:

I. If you know the character's pronunciation:

(1) Locate the character in either of the character pronunciation indexes (拼音索引表 or 注音索引表).

(2) Using the 文 reference number at the top and right of the character in the index, go to the appropriate genealogical chart. For instance, if the 文 number is 69 go to the 69th genealogical chart according to the large chart numbers at the top left of each page. Now using the 字 reference number at the bottom and right of the character in the index, you can find the character within this chart. For instance if the 字 number is 25 look down the chart until you find the 25th character. The character's definition, etymology, and derivative words are all shown in the accompanying dictionary text (字典) under the same 文 and 字 reference numbers. Usually this character entry will be on the same page as the character in the chart, though it may be on the previous or next page.

II. If you know the radical (部首):

Look up the 部首 in the radical index (部首索引表) as in a regular dictionary. Follow step (2) above.

III. If you know nothing about the character:

Count the number of strokes and look up the character in the stroke number index (筆劃索引表). Follow step (2) above.

IV. If you know a component character, a character that shares a component part, or a character that is derived from the character:

Find the known character by any of the above methods. After locating the known character in the 字譜, find the desired character in the same chart. If the character is printed in smaller type, then this character is not listed in the dictionary text next to the genealogical chart. Instead, use the accompanying 文 and 字 numbers to find the character according to step (2) above.

字 譜 及 字 典

This section contains the genealogical tables or trees (字譜) and the accompanying dictionary text (字典).

Genealogical Tables:

These 字譜 depict the relations between characters and serve as a means of locating characters. Each of the nearly two hundred tables begins with a simple pictograph or ideograph. Branching off from this character are all characters which derive immediately from it. Note that some of these characters are shown separately in large type and some are grouped together in small type. Large type indicates the primary listing of the character. Small type indicates that the primary listing is in a different table as given by the accompanying reference numbers. For instance, the character 想 (114-24) is found in small type under the character 心 (83-1) in table 83, but in large type under the character 相 (114-20) in table 114. Large type characters are followed by any characters which derive from them, but this chain is broken following small type characters.

Since every character other than the basic pictographs and ideographs is composed of more than one component character, a choice must be made where to put the character's primary listing. While some arbitrariness is unavoidable, the primary listing generally follows the phonetic rather than semantic component when both are present. This complements the emphasis on semantic components found in the 部首 method, and also allows for richer genealogical tables since the phonetic components are more numerous and generally contain more levels of composition.

Character etymology as suggested by character shape sometimes differs from the actual component as identified in the traditional etymology. In such cases the character is listed under all actual and apparent components. In cases where an apparent component is particularly suggestive relative to the actual components, the primary listing is made under that component. In these cases a vertical line segment in the table such as that before 絕 (33-17) signifies deviation from the actual etymology.

Since the tables attempt to show the full sequence of character evolution, some characters are included because they form important etymological links between characters rather than because they are inherently important. A "missing link" problem also arises in which characters identified in ancient writings are no longer used in modern Chinese. These characters have all their definitions labeled as "古".

Dictionary Text:

Characters are listed in the dictionary text near their primary listing in the genealogical tables. Pronunciations of each character are listed on the top line adjacent to the character. In cases where the Mandarin standards used in mainland China and Taiwan diverge, both pronunciations are included and differentiated by usage warnings. (See the following 略語表).

A brief etymology of each character begins on the second line. Almost all of the characters are consistent with the 說文 in that the listed parts are the same. Many of the descriptions are more elaborate as they incorporate later commentaries.

Definitions of the character then follow. Note that some definitions are not common in modern Chinese but are included to help clarify the character's etymology. When such a definition is no longer used it is noted with a "古" usage warning. Different definitions are separated by small boxed characters indicating the parts of speech. After the definitions is a double arrow followed by a referenced list of words which include the character in a non-initial position.

Words that begin with the listed character are shown in alphabetical order by phoneticization. Word pronunciations follow the Mandarin standard used in Taiwan. Word definitions are separated by parts of speech markers in the same manner as character definitions.

In cases where word definitions or usage vary in Taiwan and mainland China, these differences are indicated with usage warnings in the same manner as character pronunciation differences.

略 語 表

名 名詞 noun	介 介詞 preposition	稱 稱呼 appellation
動 動詞 verb	連 連接詞 conjunction	地 地名 place name
形 形容詞 adjective	量 量詞 measure word	人 人名 person's name
副 副詞 adverb	簡 簡略語 abbreviation	姓 姓 surname
代 代名詞 pronoun	象 象聲詞 onomatopoeia	詞 詞組 phrase
助 助詞 particle	數 數詞 number	感 感嘆詞 interjection

普 普通話 (China)	文 文言文 literary	客 客套語 polite
國 國語 (Taiwan)	昔 昔日用語 archaic	粗 粗鄙 vulgar
口 口語 colloquial	古 古文 ancient	貶 貶義 deprecatory

文 表

【一】	20 凵	40 尸	61 勹	81 气	102 予	121 卡	142 臣	161 雨	179 鹿
1 一	21 厂	41 彳	62 毛	82 火	103 爪	122 虍	143 囟	162 隹	180 魚
2 丨	22 匚	42 ㄠ	63 宀	83 心	【五】	123 羊	144 函	163 易	【十三】
3 丿	23 冂	43 夂	64 才	84 牙	104 瓜	【七】	145 臣	164 兔	181 鼠
4 丨	24 冖	44 今	65 弓	85 巴	105 矛	124 羽	146 豸	165 朋	【十四】
5 乚	25 冫	45 弋	66 屮	86 勿	106 ㄓ	125 虫	147 身	166 亞	182 齊
6 丶	26 卜	46 卅	67 山	87 斗	107 玉	126 衣	148 首	167 阜	
7 丿	27 卩	47 凡	68 口	88 止	108 禾	127 兆	【九】	168 韭	
8 乙	28 乃	48 卂	69 口	89 禾	109 瓦	128 至	149 角	169 飛	
9 乙	29 八	49 彡	70 土	90 毛	110 出	129 舟	150 貝	170 卤	
【二】	30 九	50 干	71 士	91 犬	111 田	130 西	151 呂	171 爲	
10 人	31 十	51 工	72 夕	92 牛	112 甲	131 臼	152 克	172 象	
11 儿	32 入	52 工	73 内	93 午	113 由	132 肉	153 糸	173 鬥	
12 匕	33 力	53 巾	【四】	94 毋	114 目	133 鬥	154 兩	【十】	
13 又	34 刀	54 女	74 丐	95 毋	115 冊	134 而	155 豕	174 鬲	
14 ナ	35 刀	55 子	75 丏	96 斤	116 皿	135 曲	156 釆	175 耈	
15 卩	36 丁	56 也	76 日	97 井	117 且	136 耒	157 串	176 辛	
16 㔾	37 几	57 已	77 木	98 文	118 疒	137 耳	158 車	177 馬	
17 丩	38 几	58 巳	78 戶	99 夭	119 民	138 米	159 酉	178 鳥	
18 勹	【三】	59 么	79 毛	100 氏	120 永	139 自	【八】	【十一】	
19 厶	39 大	60 广	80 月	【六】		140 臼	160 來		
				101 尤		141 缶			