



SHENG, Hsuan-Huai

National Chiao Tung University was founded by Hsuan-huai Sheng. He was born on November 4, 1844, in the city of Wuchin, Chiangsu, and passed away on April 27, 1946, at the age of 73.

During his career his positions included supervisor of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, supervisor of coal and iron mining in Hupei, head of the Chin-Hu Telegraph Office, governor of Chefoo in Shantung and inspector-general of customs for the East Sea, Minister of Trade and Taxes, Vice Minister of Transportation, and Minister of Transportation. During the late Ching Dynasty, he was dismissed by imperial decree and barred for life from imperial service over the "Paolu Incident". After his dismissal, Sheng first moved to Talién then Kobe in Japan. When the Republic was declared, he returned to Shanghai and became the chairman of the China Merchants Group and the Han Chih Ping Coal and Iron Company.

Sheng was considered Hung-chan Li's most trusted and able lieutenant. Virtually all of the new enterprises set up by Li during his term as the Minister of Peiyang were planned and carried out by Sheng. Sheng was generally involved with transportation affairs including steam navigation, mining and the all-important railways.

His achievements and contributions to education cannot be ignored either. In 1895, Sheng founded Peiyang University. This was the first university in China and is today Tianjin University. Recognizing a shortage of transportation expertise at the time, in 1896 Sheng submitted a proposal to establish the Nanyang Public School in Shanghai. The new school would become the forerunner of National Chiao Tung University. Nanyang Public School was later renamed Shanghai Industrial College. A school of commerce was established in 1901 and then a school of merchant shipping added in 1911. During this time, the college trained experts in civil engineering, architecture, railway engineering & management, commerce, shipping and other transportation-related fields.

Sheng passed away in 1916 due to asthma in Shanghai and in his will, he asked to be buried in monk's robes. His written works include *Yu Chai Tsun Kao* and *Sheng Hsuan Huai Chu Kan Hsin Kao* while he also compiled the *Chang Chou Hsien Che I Shu*, *Ching Shih Wen Hsu Pien* and *Lin Hu Tseng San Kung Tsou I*.

(Source: "The Father of the NCTU: Sheng Hsuan-Huai" by *Lai Mei-Chin*, Class of '98,

*Electrophysics)*

