

PREFATORY NOTE

Two systems for the romanisation of Chinese are currently in use in the West, one of Western origin – the Wade-Giles system – and the other, more recent and introduced by the Chinese themselves, called *pinyin*. Some currently available translations of and commentaries on Confucius use one system and some the other, making cross-reference occasionally confusing for non-specialists. To offset this difficulty, the following convention is observed in the Introduction. The translation printed in this book uses the Wade-Giles system, and therefore key Chinese terms are given in that romanisation. At their first occurrence, however, the *pinyin* equivalent is given in square brackets immediately after the Wade-Giles version. For example, the name of the great Chinese historian of the first century BC is given as Ssu-ma Ch'ien [Sima Qian] and his work as *Shih Chi* [*Shiji*] (*Historical Records*). In about one third of cases, the two systems give the same romanisation, and therefore in these instances one form only appears at the first occurrence of the word concerned.