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*Wylie's Comparative Study on Sino-Western Transmission of Astral Sciences in Ancient China: The Case of the Synthesis Study on the Weekly Calendrical System*

**Abstract** – Alexander Wylie's (1815-1887) study on the Weekly Calendrical System in ancient China is mainly embodied in his "On the Knowledge of a Weekly Sabbath in China" (1871, hereafter "Sabbath in China"). This work was a subsequent research, which originated from the study on the Nestorian Tablet which was carved in the 7th century and unearthed in the 17th century ("The Nestorian Tablet in Se-gan-Foo" in North-China Herald, 1854-1855). At the same time (1855), Li Shanlan (1810-1882), a mathematician and one of the closest collaborators of Wylie in China, calculated by using the method of calendrical system in 7th century China, and confirmed that the obscure "day of da yaosenwen" was exactly the Sunday. Besides quoting Li Shanlan's work in the "Sabbath in China", Wylie made use of historical texts and the method of comparative philology, and synthesized the works by Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), Édouard Biot (1803-1850), Augustus De Morgan (1806-1871) etc., historicizing the knowledge of a weekly calendrical system in ancient China. The "Sabbath in China" also had an influence on some Sinologists later such as Édouard Chavannes (1865-1918) and Paul Pelliot (1878-1945).