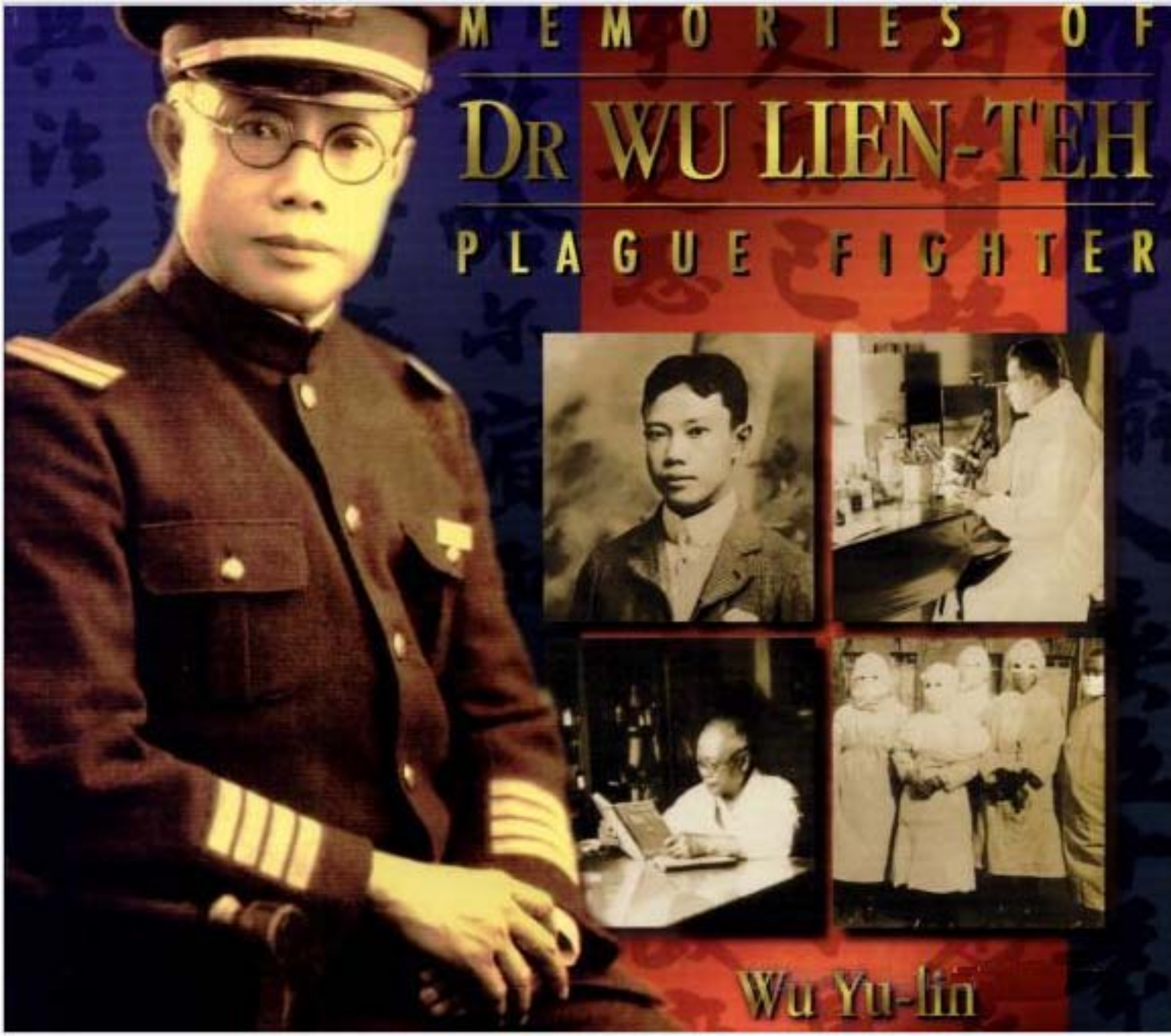




MEMORIES OF
DR WU LIEN-TEH
PLAGUE FIGHTER



Wu Yu-lin

On his return to Harbin from Peking, Dr Wu completed his Memorandum on the establishment of the Manchurian Plague Prevention Service with headquarters in Harbin and branch stations at strategic communication points throughout Manchuria. Having dispatched it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he then began his survey of the general plague situation in Manchuria and systematic research into plague problems in future years. In this connection, a joint Chinese-Russian research expedition, the first of its kind in history, to Manchouli and Borsja was carried out in July 1911 to gather information on tarabagan hunting. This joint expedition was headed by Dr Wu and Dr D Zabolotney.

The tarabagan (Siberian/Mongolian marmot), whose size is that of a cat, was suspected to be the main reservoir of the germ causing pneumonic plague. The tarabagan's thick fur, suitably dyed, could pass for sable. The flourishing trade had brought in large numbers of emigrant hunters from Shantung who lived in unsanitary underground inns to escape the severe cold. The first plague cases of the 1910-11 epidemic occurred among the tarabagan hunters and fur traders in Manchouli on the Siberian border, from whence it spread like wildfire.



59. Railway travel in Siberia, 1911.



60. Russian soldiers, 1911.



61. Dr Wu (extreme right), with Dr Zabolotney (second from left), on his way to Siberia for plague investigation in a special train provided by the Russian-owned Eastern Railway, 1911.



62. Chinese-Russian research expedition, the first of its kind in history. Dr Wu is at extreme right.



63. The tarabagan, a reservoir of plague, soon after capture in Manchouli, 1911.



64. Borzia with adjoining lake.



65. During the expedition, 1911.



66. A travelling Russian family, 1911.



71: Living conditions of plague investigation party – experimenting during the day and sleeping in cool, clean air of wide spaces at night, 1911.



72: Working on open plains during plague investigations, 1911.



73: Mongolian hut, 1911.



74: The Siberian eagle which feeds on tarabagans.

75: Tarabagans collected for research, 1911.



76: Tarabagan burrow opened up near Manchouli, 19 August 1911.