Murder in Canton: A Judge Dee Mystery

By Van Gulik, Robert

University of Chicago Press, 1993. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. No Jacket. The Judge Dee stories are written by Dutch diplomat and China scholar, Robert van Gulik (1910-1967). Judge Dee (Judge Di) is based on the historical magistrate and statesman Ti Jen-chieh, (630-700) of the T'ang Dynasty (618-907). While he worked as a diplomat in Japan and China before and during World War II, van Gulik became interested in the long tradition of Chinese detective and crime literature, a literature of which most Westerners were almost completely unaware. After the war, van Gulik tried to inspire Chinese and Japanese writers to begin writing traditional stories rather than merely imitating or translating Western detective stories. In 1949 he translated and published one of the old stories, the Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee ¿an 18th-century Chinese detective novel by an anonymous author. This did not have the desired result so he wrote The Chinese Maze Murders which was published in Japanese in 1951 and in Chinese in 1953. This success was followed by The Chinese Bell Murders and The Chinese Lake Murders and many more. Judge Dee began his career as a District Magistrate, the all-powerful judge, police chief, and administrator in,...

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