

*Appendix F*

## **People and Places in Pinyin and Wade–Giles**

This book uses the Wade–Giles system for alphabetisation of Chinese characters. This was invented by Sir Thomas Wade in 1859 and slightly modified by H.A. Giles in 1912. It is used in the *Cambridge History of China* and in Needham's encyclopaedic work on *Science and Civilisation in China* as well as in many of the historical works I have cited. In 1958 the Chinese government approved a new system called *pinyin zimu* (phonetic alphabet), and, in 1975, the State Council directed that Pinyin be the standard form of romanisation. As Pinyin has been official usage for only twenty years, it is not always easy to find a Pinyin version of names from the past. Tables F.1 and F.2 compare Pinyin and Wade–Giles versions of some significant Chinese names.