Qing Period Contracts in the Harvard-Yenching Library

by Eishi YAMAMOTO

This paper discusses a group of five 18th-century Chinese contracts (handwritten) in the Rare Book Room of the Harvard-Yenching Library, stored with similar manuscripts and block-print documents, some bound, in 2 boxes. The contracts in question are kept in one of these boxes under the name Qianlong qijuan (乾隆契券).

All five of the documents concern the sale or mortgage of properties in Wu (共) county, Suzhou (蘇州), during the Qianlong era of Qing China. Apart from prewar Japanese collections, such Suzhou contracts are rarely available to the public. In fact, it is clear that these five contracts were previously in the possession of the East Asia Institute (東亞研究所), a national policy research organization in Imperial Japan; each bears the Institute's stamp.

The Institute of Oriental Culture (東洋文化研究所), the University of Tokyo, also possesses many documents from the former East Asia Institute; of these, a group known as the Suzhou Jinshi Wen-shu (蘇州金氏文書) is of especial interest. The majority of the documents in this group deal with properties belonging to the Jin family in Wu county, Suzhou, and they resemble the Qianlong qijuan contracts in several respects. Investigation has shown that the latter are indeed closely related to certain documents in the
Suzhou Jinshi Wenshu.

Japan's National Diet Library also holds some documents from the East Asia Institute and — judging from the fact that these bear the same old classification number as the Qianlong qijuan — we can deduce that they share the same origin. Furthermore, the Tohoku University Library has certain contracts connected with the Jin family.

In conclusion, it can be said that, before the Pacific War, a collection of documents originally belonging to the Jin family were put on the market. Some were sold to the East Asia Institute, while others went to Tohoku University; some time later, the Qianlong qijuan documents were transferred from the Institute to the Harvard-Yenching Library.

The Traders Control by Gao-zu of Qian Han: The Revolt of Kan Wan Xin and Chen Xi against the Shang-gu-zhi-lu

by Hideki HAYASHI

Up to the present, many scholars have dealt with Shang-gu-zhi-lu (商賈之律), laws of traders, in connection with the study of social rank system in the Qin (秦) and Han (漢) Dynasties. In this paper, the methods to control the northern area of the Han Empire in the early Han era, where laws which intertwine with political issues will be discussed by the author.

Gao-zu of Han (漢高祖) attempted to firmly rule the northern area. In the late Qin era, the influence of Xiong-nu (匈奴) became stronger as they expanded southward. Under these circumstances, traders from Bai-tu (白土) conducted commerce between China and Xiong-nu, which had steadily developed. After taking over Guan-zhong (關中), Gao-zu fortified the Han-Xiong nu frontier against possible Xiong-nu attacks, and abolished the traders commerce. Upon conquering Dai (代) and Zhao (趙) districts, Gao-zu sent Zhang Cang (張蒼) from the central government, in