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The Process of Denasalization of Initial Nasals  
during the T'ang Period.

By Shinjō MIZUTANI

Since Henri Maspero pointed out in his work published in 1920 the denasalization which took place in the Northern Chinese dialect during the T'ang period, the fact has been generally acknowledged. Still it is not clear how the denasalization proceeded and, therefore, the debate concerning the value of Initial 'Jih' (日) in the *Ch'ieh-yün* 切韻, whether it was pronounced as *n'* or as *n'z'*, has continued without any convincing evidence.

Having examined the phenomenon in various dhāraṇīs written at the end of the Sui Dynasty or at the beginning of the T'ang Dynasty and in the *Ta-t'ang Hsi-yü-chi*, (大唐西域記), the writer has found the following points:

(1) This tendency of denasalization had already extended to the dialect of Lo-yang 洛陽 between the periods of Sui and T'ang. It seems to have begun to appear in the Ch'ang-an 長安 dialect not long before that period.

(2) This tendency was commenced first in the narrowing of Initial Jih and gradually expanded to other points of articulation.

(3) The denasalization first appeared in words having no nasal final and affected also those ending in nasals at the beginning of the 8. century.

Parallel with this new tendency the older transcription was maintained.

Finally, it has been made clear that the unbalance in the speed of phonetic change continued for a considerable length of time.

On the Origin of the Royal Family of Qomul  
in the Ming Period

by Jun MATSUMURA

In the *Ming-shih-hsi-yü-chuan* 明史西域傳 the accounts of *Ha-mei-li* 哈梅里 and *Ha-mi-wei* 哈密衛 are recorded as historical descriptions of two different countries. The fact is this, however, that both *Ha-mei-li* 哈梅里 and *Ha-mi* 哈密 are the transcriptions of the name of one and the same country 'Qomul', and as the *Ha-mei-li-chuan* records the history of the country during the Hung-wu 洪武 period according to the *Ming-shih-lu*, 明實錄, it should better be placed before *Ha-mi-wei-chuan* which treats of that after the Yung-lo 永樂 period.