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On the Ssü-li-fa 俟利發 (*Iltäbär*) and the Ssü-chin 俟斤
(*Irkin*) Titles of the T'ieh-lê 鉄勒 Tribes

by Masao MORI

The present writer points out the following facts:

1) In the Sui-period, among the chiefs of the T'ieh-lê tribes, the chief of the Ch'i-pi 契苾 tribe had the title of *Iltäbär-Irkin* (?) and those of the other tribes, including the Hsieh-yen-t'ò 薛延陀, the P'u-pu 僕固 (僕骨) (*Boqu, *Boqut), the T'ung-lo 同羅 (Toḡra), the Hui-ho 回紇 (Uyyur), the Pa-yeh-ku 拔野古 (Bayırqu) and the Fu-lo 覆羅 (?) tribes, are supposed to have had the title of *Irkin*.

2) In the 1st year of Ta-yeh 大業 (605), these T'ieh-lê tribes became independent of the Eastern and Western Turks and designated the *Iltäbär* of the Ch'i-pi tribe as the Qayan and the *Irkin* of the Hsieh-yen-t'ò tribe as the Small Qayan. But when they submitted themselves to the Turks again, the chiefs of the Ch'i-pi and the Hsieh-yen-t'ò tribes gave up the titles of Qayan and Small Qayan and retook their former titles, *Iltäbär* and *Irkin*.

3) In the 9th year of Wu-tê (626) or the following year (627), the T'ieh-lê tribes rose in arms against Chieh-li 頡利 Qayan of the Eastern Turks and wished to designate the chief of the Hsieh-yen-t'ò tribe as their Qayan. About that time, the chiefs of the Uyyur, the *Boqut, the Bayırqu, the Toḡra and the Hun 渾 (Xun) tribes changed their titles from *Irkin* to *Iltäbär*.

4) These five T'ieh-lê tribes, the chiefs of which took the title of *Iltäbär*, especially the Uyyur, the *Boqut, the Bayırqu and the Toḡra, were predominant among the T'ieh-lê tribes at the Sui-period and took the lead in the rebellion against Chieh-li Qayan with the Hsieh-yen-t'ò tribe. They were as predominant as ever under the rule of the Hsieh-yen-t'ò tribe, whereas those who had the title of *Irkin* were the chiefs of the weaker and smaller tribes.

5) When the T'ieh-lê tribes surrendered themselves to T'ang and the Tu-tu-fu 都督府 and the Tz'ü-shih-chou 刺史州 were established over them, the *Iltäbärs* were appointed to the post of Tu-tu and *Irkins* to the post of Tz'ü-shih as a rule.