

Changlegong palace. So we can say that Weiyang'gong palace, where the young emperor lived, acted as the political center during Dowager Lu's regency. In sum, Dowager Lu implemented her administration by placing the young emperor at the political center and the *shangjiangjun* as its actual mainstay.

Guan and Cao in the Qin and Han Period:
The Organization of Counties

by NAKAYAMA Shigeru

During the Qin 秦 and Han 漢 periods, the government of counties (*xian* 県) was staffed by a few high-ranking officers appointed by the emperor, and a number of subordinates appointed by those officers. During the Qin and early part of the Former Han period, these subordinates were two types: one was *lingshi* 令史 attached to court of the county as assistants; the other were called *sefu* 嗇夫 *zuo* 佐 *shi* 史 attached to bureaus generally called *guan* 官 administering granaries, the storehouses, public works, etc. *Sefu* was the chief of *guan*, and *zuo* and *shi* were *sefu*'s subordinates. From the latter half of the Former Han, this organization changed. *Guan* disappears from the historical record, and instead bureaus generally named *cao* 曹 became predominant. In this paper, the author discusses this change by focusing on the characteristics of *guan* and *cao*. His conclusions are as follows:

The characteristics of *guan* and *cao* were different: while *guan* was a subordinate office of the county, but relatively independent from county; *cao* was a bureau of county and assisted its officers. This characteristic of *cao* is similar to that of *lingshi* during the Qin and early part of the Former Han period. In addition, it is known from the inscriptions of the latter half of the Former Han, inscribed on the products of governmental factories (*gongguan* 工官), that *sefu* and *zuo* were superseded by *lingshi*. These facts

suggest that *cao* inherited the characteristics of *lingshi*, and that subordinates of the county were changed to assistants to county officers. Thus, the spread of *cao* and the disappearance of *guan* signifies a strengthening of county officers.

Local Society and State Control as seen in the
Copper-Plate Inscriptions of Bengal: 5th to 7th Century

by FURUI Ryosuke

The purpose of this article is to discuss the structure of local society, the condition of state control of it and the changes of both in Bengal during the Gupta and Post-Gupta periods (5th to 7th Century) through an analysis of copper-plate inscriptions, particularly so-called land-sale inscriptions. The research in view of the three aspects of subject and object of notification, applicant for land-purchase and acceptant of application, process of sale and donation may be summarized as follows.

Local society was connected on the supra-village level through an organization called '*adhikaraṇa*' at least in cases of land-sale and donation. In the Gupta period, in urban areas *adhikaraṇas* consisted of representatives of each group of city residents. In rural areas, they consisted of peasants (*kuṭumbin*) and the class of local leaders (*mahattara*). They decided matters relating to each land-sale and donation with the help of other members of society, such as record-keepers. Because applicants for land-sale belonged mainly to local society, *adhikaraṇa* in the period may have been an organization to cope with the problems inside. There are variations in levels on which *adhikaraṇas* were formed and on which social-unity was pursued. State control also varied in correspondence to them. As to the relation between state and local society, latter took the initiative. Though the participation of the members of local society inside or outside of *adhikaraṇa* can be seen in the Post-Gupta period too, there was a marked rise of the