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A Study of Feng-Ao's Letter Addressed to the Ruler of Palhae :
Paleography and Political Content

by AKABAME Masayoshi

There is a letter contained in the 43rd volume of *Wenyuanyinghua* 〔文苑英華〕 entitled "Yu-Bohaiwang-Dayizhen-shu 與渤海王大彝震書" written by Feng-Ao and addressed to Dayizhen, Palhae's eleventh king (r. A.D. 830-56). At the time the letter was written, it is thought that the Dayizhen's queen, his vice-king, and ministers formed the axis of power. However, despite the importance of such a rare document in understanding the history of Palhae, exactly when the letter was conceived and actually sent still remains a mystery.

In the present article, the author examines both the paleography of the document and its implications about the political structure at the time it was written. His conclusions are as follows.

To begin with, the letter was written and sent a little later than the 15th day of the second month of Huichang 會昌 3 (A.D. 841). As to the vice-king (*fuwang* 副王), he was Dayizhen's eldest. As to the two ministers mentioned in the letter, *changshi* 長史 and *pingzhangshi* 平章事, the former seems to have been Daqianhuang 大虔晃 and minister of Xuangzhao (edicts) 宣詔, the latter ranked lower. It seems that the axis of power in Palhae at the time consisted of the royal family (king, queen and heir to the throne)

surrounded by ministers of state and lower ranking bureaucrats (*pingzhangshi*), indicating a relatively complex power structure. However, it is difficult to estimate how much power was held by Daqianhuang, who was only one among several ministers of state at the time. On the other hand, since Daqianhuang eventually succeeded to Dayizhen's throne later on, it is apparent that at some time, he acquired power transcending the rank of minister of state.

Historical Consideration of the Mysterious Sound Said to be
Emanating from the Stone Monument Built
by Tang Emperor Xuanzong

by TODA Yasuhisa

This paper discusses the relationship between ancestors and descendants of the Chinese dynasties, by specifically analyzing the mystery surrounding the stone monument built by Emperor Xuanzong 玄宗 in the mausoleum of Mt. Hua 華山.

Previous theories have suggested that when such phenomena occurred, people think that Heaven (Tian 天) is warning the emperor about his poor governance or about a future catastrophe that might threaten the existence of the kingdom.

However, given the perception held by the ancient Chinese dynasties about this unusual phenomenon and the historical background of the time when the stone monument sounded, it is likely that the emperor at that time perceive the sound as the voice of Xuanzong.

One of the factors supporting this idea is an increasing awareness towards family among the ruling class from the third century on. In other words, strong psychological bonds between ancestors and descendants add another possible interpretation to the meaning of the unusual phenomenon.

In sum, this unusual and mysterious phenomenon may have