

was they along with the eunuch Pan Xiang who expedited the development project, the former doing the actual work along with wandering migrants. The county administrators opposed the project out of fear that the the hoards of migrants who had gathered under the *jianmin* would eventually disturb the public peace in the region, and possibly even cause the downfall of the dynasty. They also feared that the rise of the *jianmin* posed a threat to their own fiscale base. Thus, it is very likely that local administrators were involved in the opposition movement of the administrator class in general.

In future research on this problem, it is hoped that the activities of these administrators will be examined against the backdrop of the circumstances surrounding the nucleus of Ming Dynasty politics.

Poultry Farming and Export of Fresh Eggs and Egg Products in China during the War Interim Period

by YOSHIDA Tateichiro

Stockbreeding occupied an important position in relation to the export trade in China from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th. However, the research to date has paid little attention to its significance in modern Chinese economic history. This article attempts to delve further into the history of the stockbreeding goods trade in modern China and to show that it would be beneficial for research of modern Chinese economic history to consider livestock as producers of commodities by examining how poultry farming developed along with the export of fresh eggs and egg products during the period between the two world wars.

Most of the poultry farming in modern China was done by peasants involved in small-scale yard poultry as a secondary source of income. After World War I, the export of fresh eggs and egg products faced various difficulties and periodicals dealing

with foreign trade and poultry farming contain articles expressing doubts about contemporary Chinese poultry conditions; however, at the same time, these arguments also proposed that 1) existing poultry farming could contribute to increasing exports and developing the Chinese economy in the future and 2) that there was a need to develop poultry farming based on traditional forms conducted by peasants. Moreover, associations of egg dealers and the Nanjing Nationalist government tended to concur with this viewpoint.

From the late 1920s to the mid-1930s, hens bred for laying greater numbers of eggs were distributed to areas including the major egg producing regions, through Agricultural Extension Programs (農業推廣工作) and the Rural Reconstruction Movement (鄉村建設運動) in China. This can be regarded as being in accordance with the design for poultry farming development mentioned above. There was a movement to develop poultry farming in a different direction away from the existing practices, although it must be acknowledged that it did not result any expansion of the production scale per poultry farm household.

A Hypothesis on the Identity of the *Tubba'* Dynasty: A Historical Interpretation of the Relationship between Ḥimyar and Aksum

by SHITOMI Yuzo

According to a number of traditions among the Arabs, the kingdom of Ḥimyar in southern Arabia was under the rule of powerful rulers called *Tubba'* (pl. *Tabābi'a*) from the third/fourth century up to the fifth or the beginning of the sixth century. However, there is no consensus among these traditions nor even among modern scholars as to whether a *Tubba'* was self-styled, who was the first ruler assuming or given this title, and what were the origin and the meaning of it. Moreover, it remains