

lower level civil servants and commoners alike owned slaves and frequently trafficked in them.

The document in question was a official document transmitted from the lower to the higher ranks of the bureaucracy, in this case from the Dushishi 都市史 in charge of collecting *zhongwai-gujuqian* to the Jincao 金曹 of Linxiang-Houguo 臨湘侯国. While this document does not contain the traditional subservient expression “*gan yan zhi*” 敢言之 (I humbly dare to report) is not used, we do find a similar expression “*bai*” 白, since during the period in question “*gan yan zhi*” was used in official documents sent between different public offices, while in the same offices “*bai*” was widely used instead.

Finally, as to the reason why this wooden document was included in a bundle of bamboo lists, the author surmises that the Jincao, where it was to be kept, sent it to the Hucao 戸曹 together with the bamboo lists, because it was the duty of the Hucao to trace the transfer of ownership of slaves through each sales transaction. After ascertaining the information, the Hucao then disposed of all the documents.

The Activities of Merchant Marines, Mountain Hunters and the Military Command at Pinglu in Late Tang Period China

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In Late Tang Period Hebei 河北 Province, various nomadic and Sogdian peoples flowed into the frontier defense commands (*fanzhen* 藩鎮) and established the Five Dynasties. On the other hand, in Henan 河南 Province, maritime merchants and mountain hunters played important roles in the economy and in the Henan Military Command of Pinglu 平盧.

Pinglu was a very powerful military command that competed with the Chengde 成德 Command over the salt flats of Hebei and even launched an attack on the Wuning 武寧 Command based at the Henan Canal. In order to prevent Chengde from taking advantage of the its attack on Wuning, Pinglu set up alliances with the commands at Weibo 魏博 and Yiwu 義武.

The characteristic features of Pinglu’s military management were its extensive land and sea trade network, which included Bohai and Silla and would be a

basis of the East China Sea trade from the Song Period on, as well as the enlistment of mountain hunters into its ranks to conduct covert military operations.

Furthermore, acting as hubs linking the Pinglu Command to maritime merchant and mountain hunters were the region's Buddhist temples, which had formed the base of operations for the latter two groups. This is one reason why the Pinglu Command donated generously to these temples, while at the same time dispatching personnel to oversee them and muster both their financial and military resources.

The power amassed by the Pinglu Command enabling it to threaten not only neighboring commands but also the imperial court itself stemmed from, first, its promotion of maritime trade and its keen sense of current events, and secondly, from its organization of land forces (i.e., mountain hunters) into an effective militia.

On the “Law Governing Imperial Succession” in Manchukuo

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This paper draws on the medieval European concept of “the king's two bodies” (the political body and the natural body) to investigate the position and role of the Manchukuo emperor in that nation's power structure.

The conventional view of Manchukuo Emperor Puyi emphasizes his fate as a “puppet” ruler. However, this view confuses Puyi's natural body, the individual, with his political body as the ruler of a nation, a king, as a “head” of state who must first and foremost consider the well-being of his “limbs,” the nation's subjects. Therefore, the actions of a monarch are bound by laws and subject to restrictions in terms of royal duties and daily life, which enhance his sacredness and make him an object of respect. In the case of Manchukuo, since the Organic Laws stipulated the emperor as the head of state, the author focuses on Puyi's existence as a sacred ruler rather than as an individual, in order to evaluate his role objectively. Setting the issue of royal succession as its primary consideration and an important criterion for the consecration of kings, this article analyzes the Law Governing Imperial Succession, as pre-