

宋遼金元

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Contents of Number 15

News of the Field		1
Soviet Works on the History of China and Neighboring Countries in the 10 th -13 th Centuries, 1967-1976	<i>G. Ya . Smolin</i>	3
A Bibliography of Soviet Studies on the History of China and Neighboring Countries in the 10 th -13 th Centuries, 1967-1976	<i>I. Tsiperovich & L. Kuvshinnikova</i>	19
A Bibliography of Western Language Sources, 1971-1977, on the Five Dynasties, Liao, Sung, His-Hsia, Chin and Yüan Periods	<i>Michael C. McGrath</i>	54
Palace Women in the Northern Sung: their Social Organization	<i>Priscilla Ching-Chung</i>	79
Two Visits to the People's Republic of China	<i>Chu-tsing Li and John D.Lang Loia,Jr.</i>	98
Book Reviews: Books by Kwanten, Lin & Wang (Rickett)	<i>H. Franke, S. Sargent & S. K. Chang</i>	106
Dissertations:		
Completed		124
In Progress		142
A Bibliography of Chinese Periodical Literature on Sung and Related Periods for 1978	<i>Ku Jui-lan</i>	146
A Bibliography of Recent Japanese Scholarship on Sung and Related Periods	<i>Japanese Sung Comm.</i>	156
Book News		161

Editor's Note

It is a pleasure and a privilege to present to readers outside the U. S. S. R. the essay and bibliography, which open this issue and which cannot fail to impress with the scope and depth of Soviet studies in the periods covered by this journal. Their publication at this point is a pertinent reminder of the truism that scholarship has no national boundaries and of the need for continued scholarly cooperation regardless of the rise or fall of international tensions. Our Russian colleagues of course did all the work here, but acknowledgement must be made to Edmund H. Worthy, Jr. who initiated the discussions on our side to bring the Russian contribution before the eyes of scholars of the Sung and the conquest dynasties throughout the world.

My thanks to Michael C. McGrath for his patience in waiting till now for publication of his exhaustive bibliography which were completed over a year ago. Thanks also to Teresa K. Mei for her willingness to grace this issue with her handsome calligraphy.

The following are forthcoming in the BSYS:

Brian McKnight, "Maximum Security in the Sung: the Facilities at Sramana Island"

Suzanne E. Cahill, "The Heavenly Text Affair of 1008"

J. T. Wixted, "A Finding List for Chinese, Japanese and Western-Language Annotation and Translation of Yüan Hao-wen's Poetry"

News of the Field

Committee for the Study of Sung and the Conquest Dynasties

A third meeting of the CSSCD is planned in conjunction with the 1980 Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D. C., March 21-23. Luc Kwanten of the University of Chicago will organize and chair the meeting this year. For those attending please consult your program for time and place.

The Committee met for a second time at the 1979 Meeting of the AAS at Los Angeles, drawing about twenty participants. The Chairman, Brian McKnight of Hawaii, raised for discussion the possibility of applying for "affiliated body" status within the AAS. The principal advantage of receiving such status is priority in assignment of meeting rooms at the annual convention; the chief drawback is the requirement that the affiliated group prepare an annual report for submission to the AAS. No decision was reached.

Three of the participants spoke briefly on the state of studies in their respective subfields: Nathan Sivin of Pennsylvania discussed research in progress on science, technology and medicine of the Sung and Yüan periods; Jack Langlois of Bowdoin spoke on current Japanese research in the Yüan field; and McKnight discussed the state of research on Sung and Yüan law. In addition to other informal discussion the desirability of holding a third research conference on Sung and the conquest dynasties (with reference to the so-called Sung I and Sung II) was aired.

AAS Meetings

Presumably because of the difficulty for most people for reaching the "Western regions," the Sung, Liao, Chin, and Yüan periods were not well represented on the panels of the Los Angeles meeting. In fact, with the exception of Stuart Sargent's paper, they were not represented at all. Sargent's paper, "The Uses of Nature in Northern Sung Poetry," raised not only literary but also philosophical questions regarding Sung poets' conceptions of and attitudes toward nature. The preview of panels for the Washington meeting promises a good deal of more attention to these periods.

Conference on "Law and the State in Traditional East Asia"

This conference, which missed notice in our last issue unfortunately, was held at the Center for East Asian Legal Studies of the Harvard Law School, August 20-25, 1978. Two of the papers presented will be of particular interest to those working on the Sung and conquest dynasties. Jack Langlois delivered a paper based on the rhymeprose on law (Hsing-t'ung fu) of Fu Lin which he called "Living Law in the Sung and Yüan Eras," and Brian McKnight presented a paper entitled "From Statute to Precedent: the Transformation of the Sung System of

Laws," in which he treated the various types of Sung laws, their compilations by the government, and the evolution of those categories in actual use. Copies of the conference papers have been deposited at seventeen centers in the U.S., England and Japan.

The Sung Colloquium

The Sung Colloquium on Taiwan (Sung-shih tso-t'an hui 宋史座談會) continues to meet regularly and to sponsor publication, sixteen years after it was founded under the leadership of the late Chao T'ieh-han. Well over seventy meetings have been held to date, each devoted to an individual paper presented by a member. The Colloquium, which takes as its scope the conquest dynasties as well as Sung, is responsible for publication of the fine series of collected papers, Sung-shih yen-chiu chi, which has now reached volume 10.

Marco Polo Takes to the Airways

John W. Haeger has informed us that, quite without his authorization, his article, "Marco Polo in China? Problems with Internal Evidence," which we published in our last issue, appeared also in a 1979 issue of Cathay Pacific's in-flight magazine. A certain gloom has, as a result, settled over the editorial offices of the BSYS: has our appeal become too popular?

Publication in the PRC

It is gratifying to note the publication of a two-part article by James T.C. Liu of Princeton in the Peking University journal Pei-ching ta-hsüeh hsüeh-pao (che-hsüeh she-hui k'o-hsüeh pan), nos. 3 and 4 of 1979. The article is entitled "Liu Tsai ho chen-chi 劉宰和賑饑," and its publication, one hopes, bodes well for increased scholarly collaboration between scholars in the People's Republic and in the West.

Research on Yüan Legal History in Japan

Uematsu Tadashi 植松正 of Kagawa University has been active on two important projects. First, he is compiling a chronological index to the Yüan dynasty legal materials based primarily on the Yüan tien chang 元典章. The

[Research in Japan continued on p. 53]