

Talking about Dunhuang on
the Riverside of the Neva

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FOREWORD

This booklet is a collection of papers submitted to the Second Roundtable "Talking about Dunhuang at the Riverside of the Neva", which was held on September 3, 2010, at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (IOM), Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, as part of "Research in the Chinese texts which were discovered in Dunhuang, Turfan, etc. and now kept in Russia" research program. This program was organized by the Editor and supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) 21320070). This workshop was conducted under the cooperation between the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS, and the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University. For the conduct of the workshop, we are rather grateful to Dr Irina F Popova, Director of the IOM. The subject of the workshop was mainly concerning the Dunhuang manuscripts kept in Russia. We have a long tradition of cooperation in this field of study dating back to 1929, when Prof Kano Naoki published an article on Wen Xuan (Literary Selections) by the use of the photographs of the Dunhuang manuscript, which Prof Alekseev provided as a present for Kano's 60th birthday. We sincerely hope that at the time of publication of this booklet, the cooperation will have developed further and bring more fruitful results in the future.

TAKATA Tokio

Kyoto

February 2012

前 言

這本小冊子是 2010 年 9 月 3 日在聖彼得堡借俄國科學院東方文獻研究所為會場舉辦的題為“涅瓦河邊談敦煌”的圓桌會議中提交的論文集。本次會議是編者主持的日本學術振興會資助研究項目“敦煌吐魯番等地發現的俄藏漢文文獻研究”（科學研究費 B 21320070）的活動之一，也是俄國科學院東方文獻研究所和日本京都大學人文科學研究所的合作項目。會議的舉辦得到了東方文獻研究所伊麗娜·波波娃所長的悉心關懷，謹此表示感謝！該會議的主題是俄藏敦煌寫本，而在這一方面我們擁有悠久的傳統。1929 年狩野直喜教授利用阿列克謝夫教授為慶祝狩野六十壽誕寄來的俄藏寫本照片，執筆刊行了關於敦煌本《文選》的著名論文，這是早期日俄合作中的一段佳話。在出版這一小冊子的時候，我們衷心希望日俄兩國將來能夠繼續開展在敦煌學上的合作，得到更加豐碩的成果。

高田時雄

二〇一二年二月於京都

Remarks on
the Documents SI O/32 (4112) and Дх-18923
of the IOM RAS Collection

Irina F. POPOVA

The present paper has a preliminary character as a study of two documents from the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences, which make up part of the official reports (*die* 牒) by the local authorities recording investigations of the death and loss the government-owned (or fiscal, belonging to state) cattle.

The most important part of the Dunhuang and Turfan collections worldwide consists of documents. They are legal, official and economic papers of various contents. This part of the holdings is remarkable and even unique, as it contains long forgotten types of documents reflecting the daily life of the Chinese society in a provincial towns and districts located in the region on the Empire's borders. It is well known that in Oriental countries, particularly in China, great attention was given to the documents dealing with the affairs of the Imperial court and the machinery of State, but the official documents of the provincial and county level were not, as a rule, kept for a long time, and therefore each find in Dunhuang or Turfan is of the utmost importance for Chinese studies.

The documents from Dunhuang and Turfan show the range of the contemporary social problems and ways by which they might be solved. The life

of a large monastic community functioning in Dunhuang was regimented by many legal, economic and religious institutions. The discovered documents cast light on the life of the community itself, on its relationship with the laity as well as on the relationship between the laymen. Dr Éric Trombert has offered an opinion that the majority of documents dealing with daily life in Dunhuang found their way to the monastery library by chance. At the same time many other much more informative documents circulated in the town, but the monks did not consider it important to keep them, not to mention the documents that could not have been kept in the monastery as they circulated exclusively among the laity¹. Many documents from Turfan and other regions of the Chinese Central Asia, which have very different provenance, are kept within the so called “Dunhuang collections”. This is since, because of the outward material appearance, some documents from Central Asia were later recorded together with those from Dunhuang, therefore making additional problems for those researchers whose task was to study and localize them. The document Дх-18923, which came from Gaysāta and was acquired by the 2nd Russian Turkestan Expedition to Turfan headed by S.F. Oldenburg (1863-1934) in 1909-1910, is an example of this kind.

As the livestock-farming was a very important part of the economy in the Western Regions, the Central Asian manuscript collections represent a vast range of the documents, connecting with the breeding of cattle, camels, goats, sheep, or other stock, as well as with the use of wool, skins and meat of the animals. Some documents deal with the management of government-owned horses or cattle, with the use of public rangelands and with the operation of the horse or donkey post-service. The papers of this kind shed light upon the administrative and legal system of the Chinese Empire at the local level.

¹TROMBERT 1995, 2.

The legislation on managing livestock under the Tang Dynasty was highly elaborated. The most important regulations were included into the 15th chapter of the Tang Code “The Public Stables and Granaries” (*Jiuku* 廄庫) with 28 articles (Nos from 196 to 223)². The detailed regulations were also included into “The Statutes on the Stables and Pastures” (or “The Statutes for the Stables Master Office”, *Jiumu ling* 廄牧令) and “Ordinances for Chamberlain for the Imperial Stud” (*Taipu shi* 太僕式).

The articles of the Code concerning death (*si* 死), loss (*shi* 失) of the government-owned cattle and not fulfilling the assigned number of animals (*ke buchong* 課不充) provided a severe punishment for a guilty person. The state-property offence most often mentioned in the Code was damage or waste, or injury to the government animals, while crime or negligent behavior of officials in charge was considered a malfeasance. The legislation on the cattle management was very casualistic in character and imposed the penalties for unsatisfactory treatment of weak or sick animals (art. 198), for using government animals for the transportation of private articles (art. 199), for fattening the sacrificial animals for the Great Sacrifice not conforming to the law (art. 200), for making use of the government animals in a manner so that their backs are laid bare or their throats are worn through the harness (art. 201), and for unsatisfactory training of government horses (art. 202).

The Code set up standards for producing animals' young and to reducing their mortality. It was assumed that yearly total number of horses and cattle must give 50 % increase, and therefore the young was raised to 60 %, while its death-rate was to remain at 10 %. The responsibility for these statistics rested upon the officials of low rank, pasturage director (*muzhang* 牧長) and pasturage-man (*muzi* 牧子). If the standards were not met, these officials were sentenced to a corporal punishment by 30 blows with the light stick for

² *Gu Tang lü shu yi*, *juan* 15; JOHNSON 1997, 178-209; RYBAKOV 2001, 193-239.

loss of one animal. For 3 animals the punishment increased by one rank, but should not exceed 3 years of labour. Assistant director of the cattle pasturage (*muwei* 牧尉), *muzhang* and *muzi* were also responsible for the choice of suitable pastures. If the increase of the cattle driven to the new pasture became lower than it was before, the pasture was considered insufficient, and the officials were found guilty.

In the present paper we cite two manuscript fragments containing reports (*die*) of the local authorities, who were responsible for fiscal cattle, addressed to the higher administrative instances. In the time of Tang Dynasty, an advanced and complicated system of official papers exchange was developed, and fixed forms existed for the documents directed from the upper to lower level authorities, from the lower to upper level and for the equal level administration. The Chinese administrative law established the clear standards and procedure for each kind of them, especially for the official documents addressed to the Court and high officials. “The Six Statutes of the Tang Dynasty” (*Da Tang liu dian* 大唐六典, *juan* 1, *Shangshu du sheng* 尚書都省) ascertained to address with reports (*die*) to the officials higher than 9th rank.

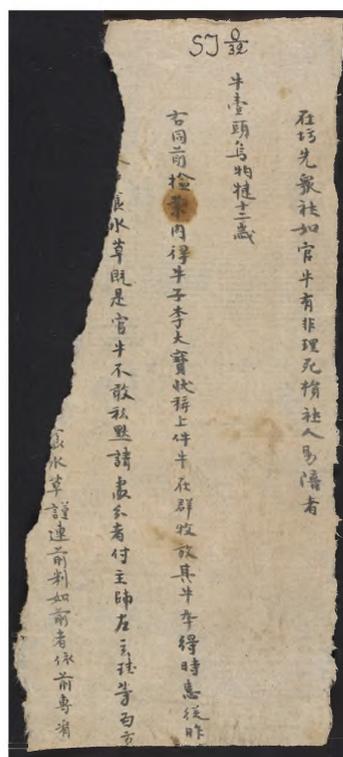


Figure 1: SI O/32 (4112)

[Translation]

(1) “[As for] Xianzhong community, [which is related] to [the present] precinct (*fang* 坊), if the government-owned ox [entrusted to them] died without [obvious] reason, the community members should compensate the loss. (2) [On] one ox – black and white, altered, twelve years of age. (3) During the investigation concerning the aforementioned [ox] the dispatch (*zhuang* 狀) was received from the cattle supervisor (*niuzi* 牛子) Li Dabao, who reported that the aforementioned ox, grazing in a herd, suddenly got ill. Next day (4) <.....> took water and grass. As it was a government-owned ox [the cattle supervisor] did not dare to keep silence and respectfully requested to settle the matter. He submitted to the commander (*zhushuai* 主帥) Zuo Xuanguai and others [the following] explanations: (5) <.....> took water and grass. Respectfully submitted [this] to be envisaged on the ground of the aforementioned investigation”.

[Commentary]

Fragment SI O/32 makes part of the report on the mortality of the government-owned cattle, or, to be exact, of the government-owned oxen (*guan niu die* 官牛牒). The inventory has no note about the provenance of the document, but according to the press-mark SI O (Serindia collection/Oldenburger), it was acquired by the 2nd Russian Turkestan Expedition to Turfan in 1909-1910 headed by S.F. Oldenburger. It is analogous to the documents recording investigations of death of the government-owned or post horses published by Henri Maspero⁴, and therefore could be dated around the same time, possibly by the beginning of the 8th century. We suggest as an Addendum the Chinese text and translation of the most ample of these documents.

The beginning of the document is missing, but according to the adopted

⁴MASPERO 1953, 136-149, pl. 301-302, 309.

form, it should start with names of the applying and applied institutions, the denomination of the type of the document, and a head-line, which usually represents a subject of the report⁵, in our case it is a government ox with a description of its color, marks, and age. Below follows the review of the case. The document SI O/32 obviously records a number of the cases. The 1st line of the fragment is a conclusion for the previous case.

According to the Tang Code the one guilty in the voluntary killing of the government-owned cattle was subject to rather a severe punishment – one and a half years of hard labour, while the involuntary killing was punished only by a fine⁶. Therefore, the liable persons, who might have been open to suspicion, took the initiative of investigation and compiled dispatches (*zhuang*) explaining the circumstances of the cattle's mortality. The document SI O/32 records the following: the cattle supervisor⁷ Li Dabao 李大寶 reported on the death of the government ox to his direct chief Zuo Xuangui 左玄珪, who held the post of the commander (*zhushuai* 主帥), the junior rank in the military administration of the county⁸. Their next move was submitting the message to

⁵AKAGI Takatoshi 2008, 77.

⁶*Gu Tang lü shu yi*, *juan* 15. 203, 10a-11b; JOHNSON 1997, 188-189; RYBAKOV 2001, 210-212.

⁷For *niuzi* 牛子 (lit. 'man tending cattle') we offer the translation 'cattle supervisor', not 'herdsman', or 'herder', as it is quite obvious that this post supposed some learning and its holder was authorized to compile dispatches (*zhuang*). Ch. Hucker mentions a position of 'cowherd' (*niuren* 牛人), ordinary or junior servicemen, members of the Ministry of Education under the Zhou Dynasty, who were responsible for providing oxen for sacrificial ceremonies (HUCKER 1995, 356).

⁸The meaning of the official title of *zhushuai* 主帥 is not clear. R. des Rotours translates *zhushuai* as 'officer', but notes the ambiguity of both the term and its' translation (DES ROTOURS 1947, 67). The subcommentary on the art. 76 of the Tang Code sheds some light on the meaning of this official title: 主帥以上謂隊副以上至大將軍 (*Gu Tang lü shu yi*, *juan* 8, 1b), in translation by W. Johnson: "Commanding officers and those of higher rank refer to officers between the ranks of vice-commander and general-in-chief" (JOHNSON 1997, 39). Therefore, the official title of *zhushuai* could be referred to any immediate commanding officer from the lower level of squadron vice-commander and higher to a general-in-chief (Cf. RYBAKOV 2009, 391).

the military authorities of the province, who were to make investigation and compile a report (*die*) addressed to the Department of Personnel (*bingcao* 兵曹) of the province level. The verification of this report was a duty of the administrator of the Department of Personnel (*bingcao canjun* 兵曹參軍)⁹, who on the completion of the case should have supposedly sent his report to the Department (*si* 司) of the War Ministry¹⁰. The document SI O/32 (4112) lacked the end, but on the analogy with the document cited by H. Maspero (see: Addendum), we can have some possible evidence to model the steps of the officials.

The document mentions the position of cattle supervisor (*niuzi*), directly keeping the records on the cattle. It is obvious that reporting of the livestock mortality was in his personal responsibility, which set him apart from the other petty officials and workers attending the government-owned cattle¹¹. In his report the cattle supervisor points that the ox was grazing in a herd when he got ill, and this note is of immense importance for the responsible official. Usually the cattle was held on the open pastures, except during the winter season, in case of illness or some other cases, when it was placed into a cattle-shed or stable and was bound and fed (*xisi* 繫飼). The this case the penalty would be increased by one degree¹².

⁹The duties of administrator (*canjun* 參軍 or *canjunshi* 參軍事) varied in different epochs, but the field of his administrative activity was always very broad. During the reign of the Tang Dynasty it definitely was the key post (of 7-9 rank) at the local military administration. Among administrator's duties was solution of the problems of civilian population (RYBAKOV 2009, 346 - 347; HUCKER 1995, 517-518).

¹⁰The War Ministry (*bingbu* 兵部) comprised the Head Department (*bingbu si* 兵部司), the Land Accounting Department (*zhifang si* 職坊司), the Vehicle Department (*jiabu si* 駕部司) and the Arsenal Department (*kubu si* 庫部司) (*Xin Tangshu*, *juan* 47. 37, 1185).

¹¹See: MA Junmin and WANG Shiping 1996, 83-91.

¹²*Gu Tang lü shu yi*, *juan* 15.196, 3b.

II. Дх-18923

Report submitted by Gaysata *shouling* Sabo Silüe on the search of the [Government-owned] Donkey 某年傑謝首領薩波思略牒爲尋驢事¹³.

[Description of the Manuscript]

Fragment, 10.5 x 30 cm. A horizontal strip of paper, its upper part missing. The paper is beige and solid. Thickness, 0.015-0.019 cm. Grid of 5 lines per 1 cm. 8 lines, all incomplete, containing 1 to 9 characters. At the bottom the text reaches the end of the strip. *Kai* script.

[Chinese text]

1. ... } 驢壹頭
2. ... } 神路尋玉河
3. ... } 例，恐被路
4. ... } 請處分。
5. [牒件狀如前，謹] 牒。
6. ... } 月 日，首領薩波思略牒。
7. ... } 不得失。
8. ... } 四日，斯 (=勘?)。

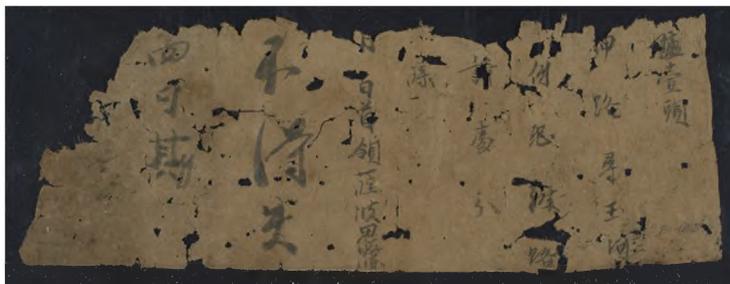


Figure2: Дх-18923

¹³Translated according to the edition by ZHANG Guangda and RONG Xinjiang 2002, 229-230; published facsimile in: *E cang Dunhuang wenxian*, vol. 17, 285.

[Translation]

(1) [On] ... one donkey. (2) ... [from] Shenlu, looking around Yuhe. (3) ... standard. [We are] afraid that of road ... (4) ... respectfully requested to settle the matter. (5) ... [The report (*die*) is submitted on the grounds of the foregoing dispatch (*zhuang*). Respectfully submitting this] report. (6) [On] ... month, day by *shouling* Sabo Silüe submitted report. (7) [Resolution:] ... is no loss. (8) [On]... forth day, here (or checked?).

[Commentary]

Fragment 卍x-18923 makes part of the report on the search of the government-owned donkey. The report was compiled by Sabo Silüe 薩波思略, holding the official title of *shouling* 首領, a county leader of non-Chinese origin from Gaisāta (Chin. Jiexie 傑謝). The document was studied by Zhang Guangda and Rong Xinjiang, who suggested reading and comprehensive commentary of the text. The site of Gaysāta, one of “Six settlements” (Liu cheng 六城) in Zhiluo Zhou 質邏州, was located in Dandan-Uiliq to the north-west of modern Khotan (Hetian 和田). The person Sabo Silüe (薩波思略 or 薩波斯略), in Khotanese Spāta Sīdaka (or Sīdaki), was an official, mentioned in a number of the Khotanese documents. The earliest of them is “Report submitted by Gaysāta commoner Silüe on the 2nd month of 16th year of Dali” 大曆十六年二月傑謝百姓思略牒 (S.5864 of British Library collection), with a date corresponding to 781. In the document 卍x-18917 “Report submitted by Gaysāta commoner Se-<...>-nuo on the 5th month of 4th year of *Zhenyuan* on the liabilities of Yilu” 貞元四年五月傑謝百姓瑟口諾牒爲伊魯欠負錢事 dated by 788, he appears under the low official title bailiff (*suoyou* 所由), responsible for raising of the taxes¹⁴.

The 1st line of the fragment represents a subject of the report, which

¹⁴ZHANG Guangda and RONG Xinjiang 2002, 223, 225, 237-238.

was submitted on the case of ineffectual search for a donkey. In China under the Tang Dynasty donkey were used for the post and delivery service, and in many cases the standards and guidelines for their breeding and use were almost the same as for the horses¹⁵. Once every three months, the horses and cattle were to be released for coupling, but the responsibility for this stock was the same as for the grazing cattle. The punishments for loss of the running stock were imposed according the “Statutes for the Stables and Pastures” (*Jiumu ling* 廄牧令), which made the following explanation: “If government-owned stock, grazing on a pasture, is lost, it is to be sought for one hundred days, and if it is not caught, the cost is estimated appropriate for the locality and time of the loss, and to summon a half [of this price] from each pasture-man (*muzi* 牧子) and a pasture director (*muzhang* 牧長). If the value of [their] household and slaves is not sufficient, it is defined according to the [price] in copper [coins] to add [a number of blows] with a heavy stick, [as is prescribed] according to standard. If [stock] is lost or dead, compensation is distributed according to personal responsibility. If [it was lost] from the stable, *zhushuai* [pays] equally to *muzhang*, and equerry (*siding* 飼丁) equally to *muzi*. If [the cattle after have been caught] dies without [obvious] reason, [the loss] should be compensated by the stock of local [people]”¹⁶. In the case reported by the document Дх-18923 the lost donkey was not found, but according the resolution “...is no loss”, the measures taken for its’ search were considered sufficient, nobody of the officials responsible for the catching was found guilty and no fine was imposed.

¹⁵See: MENG Yanhong 2006.

¹⁶NIIDA Noboru 1933, 704.

Conclusion

The cited documents are incomplete, but nevertheless their fragments contain some legal and social information. They prove that elaborated system of livestock management with detailed accounting existed in the 8th century China, including its far border regions. Both official papers report on the loss of cattle, e.g. cases are subject to the criminal trial and are submitted by the officials responsible for the military and civil affairs at the county level (*zhushuai* and *shouling*). The control over the livestock number was also within a circle of their administrative responsibility, still they obviously had no right to investigate the criminal cases. The document SI O/32 (4112) mentions the position of cattle supervisor (*niuzi*), a petty official, directly keeping the records on the cattle in a herd, but we did not find this title in any other sources.

Addendum

Report on the Mortality of Government-owned Horses (*guan ma die* 官馬牒)¹⁷

[Translation]

“On ... the day of [the Third] moon ... [clerk *lushi* 錄事].

Administrator (*canjun* 參軍), administrative supervisor ad interim (*lushi canjun* 錄事參軍)¹⁸, <...> Lian Yu 連譽.

¹⁷ Translated according to the edition and French translation of the text: MASPERO 1953, 140-143, pl. 302.

¹⁸ Administrative supervisor (*lushi canjun* 錄事參軍 or *lushi canjunshi* 錄事參軍事) was the civil post of the 8th rank, the highest grade in the administration of the military governor *dudufu* 都督府. V.M. Rybakov translates the appellation of this post as ‘the secretary assisting in solving matters’ (‘соучаствующий в делах секретарь’), Ch. Hucker – as ‘administrative supervisor’ (HUCKER 1995, 323), R. des Rotours – as ‘administrateur greffier’ (DES ROTOURS 1948, 510). Its holder’s duties included collecting files from the lower instances, copying papers and document inventory-making, use of stamps, providing personnel with paper, brushes, etc.

The 13th day.

Dispatch (*zhuang* 狀) from the garrison settlement Liuguzhen 柳谷鎮 submitted to the Province.

[On] one post horse [registered at] Xizhou 西州 (Karakhoja) – a chestnut roan gelding, ten years of age.

In the course of investigation concerning the aforementioned [post horse] the evidence of the stable-man (*mazi* 馬子)¹⁹ Gao Huai 高懷 was taken, according to which [he] previously started from Xizhou driving this horse, and drove [it] to Beiting 北庭. On the 28th day of the current month [he] returned to Liuguzhen and remained [there] for three days. When [he] fed [the horse, it] suddenly got covered with a white acetous perspiration. [And later on], when it was sent 5 li to the south of the settlement, it suddenly had an attack of icterus (*jihuang* 急黃) and died. As it was the post horse [the stable-man] respectfully requested to make investigation.

In this connection an order was received to investigate the causes of its death. According to the rules the commissaries (*dian* 典)²⁰ Sun [Huai]jun 孫 [懷] 俊 and Gao Guang 高廣 [were sent] to make the investigation clarifying if there was some other cause for the horse's [death] than that presented in the dispatch (*zhuang*). They reported that the horse having moved 5 li away from the settlement suddenly died of the attack of icterus. [It is] true and there is no other cause. As it was found that there was no other cause for the horse's death the stable-man was prescribed to inventory the hide and meat

(RYBAKOV 2009, 365).

¹⁹Here we follow MASPERO 1953, who translates *mazi* 馬子 (lit. 'man tending horses') – the post of a person responsible for employment of horses – as 'stable-man' ('palefrenier').

²⁰Commissary (*dian* 典) was a junior post that supposed no rank. The holder's duties included inventory-making. V.M. Rybakov translates the appellation of this post as 'keeper' ('хранитель') (RYBAKOV 2009, 252), Ch. Hucker translates it as 'manager, clerk' (HUCKER 1995, 499), R. des Rotours – as 'intendant' (DES ROTOURS 1947, 236), H. Maspero – as 'archiviste' (MASPERO 1953, 141).

himself and to collect [these for the storehouse]. After that he had to prepare the account (*lu* 錄) [on this case] for submitting to the Province. Presently the dispatch (*zhuang*) should be sent for [further] consideration.

The present report (*die*) is submitted²¹ [to Department of Personnel (*bingcao* 兵曹)²² on the grounds of the foregoing dispatch (*zhuang*).

[At the same time] the aforementioned [horse's] hide – one piece – should be handed over to the commissaries.

[Signed: Station-master Zhai 翟] Deyi 德義.

In the first year of Shenlong 神龍 [era], on the 1st day of the Third Moon (March 29, 705) the commissary (*dian*) Sun Huaijun and the administrator of the Department of Personnel ad interim (*bingcao canjun* 兵曹參軍)²³ Zhang Caiyi 張才義 compiled the [present] report.

[Resolution:] “Handed over to the department (*si* 司). Zhao Ying 沼應”.

On the 9th day of the Third Moon (April 6 [705]) clerk (*lushi* 錄事) <...> got [the report].

Administrative supervisor ad interim (*lushi canjun* 錄事參軍), [signed:] Si 思 <...>.

[Signed: Cheng 程] Lianyu 連譽 on the 13th day ...

From the stables (*mafang* 馬坊).

[On] the post horses – one dapple mare and one bay gelding.

²¹The report (*die*) was submitted to the Department of Personnel (*bingcao* 兵曹), that was an army division of more than 10 thousand man quartered in the district.

²²Administrators of the Department of Personnel (*bingcao canjun* 兵曹參軍) had a wide range of duties: they were responsible for organizing exams for army officers, for all kinds of military weapons, for construction of defense fortifications and keeping beacons in order, for post service as well as for organizing hunts (ROTOURS 1948, 696-697).

²³Ch. Hucker translates the appellation of this post as ‘discipline officer’ (i.e. an officer responsible for discipline) and specifies that there were 500 men and more subordinated to him (HUCKER 1995, 575). R. des Rotours offers the translation ‘chef de la police des troupes’ (ROTOURS 1948, 741), while H. Maspero – ‘commandant de cinq-cents hommes’ (MASPERO 1953, 142).

The aforementioned horses were sent to Yizhou 伊州. They got ill with asthma, the veterinary doctor [could not] cure [them], and presently [they] are dead, which case we request to investigate.

Today, on ... [day] of the Fifth additional month, respectfully [submitted].

The present report is compiled on the grounds of the foregoing dispatch. Respectfully submitted in accordance with the foregoing.

In the 1st year of Shenlong on the <...> day of the Third Moon the commissary Wei Ji 魏及 compiled [the present] report.

Commander (*zhushuai* 主師) Hu Yuanqing 胡元慶.

Judge of the Court Martial (*yaguan* 押官), head bailiff (*guoyi* 果毅) Fan Yuanxing 范元興.

[Resolution:] To investigate the cause. Handed over to the department (*si* 司). Zhao Ying 沼應.

On the 9th day [of the Third Moon] (April 5, 705).

The Department of Personnel (*bingcao* 兵曹).

Buyer [signed]: Cao Xiaonu 曹小奴.

Buyer [signed]: <...> Qi 其.

The post horses – one dappled mare and one bay gelding. Delivered.

Having received the order to investigate the aforementioned case we submit the following report (*zidie* 咨牒) on [the death] of the horses. In the course of [our] investigation of the case of the horses' [death] it was found that there is no other cause of their death than asthma, which is true.

The present report is compiled on the grounds of the foregoing dispatch. It is respectfully submitted in accordance with the foregoing.

In the 1st year of Shenlong, the Third Moon, day <...> commissary Zhu Ying 竹應 compiled [the present] report.

In pursuance [of the instructions] [the meat] was sold. Reported on

accomplishment.

Commander (*zhushuai* 主師) Hu Yuanqing 胡元慶.

Station-master (*caotou* 槽頭) Zhai Deyi 翟德義.

Veterinary doctor (*shouyi* 獸醫) Cao Zhijian 曹智監.

Administrator for the Department of Personnel (*bingcao canjun* 兵曹參軍) Cheng Lianyu 程連譽.

[Resolution:] “Handed over to the department. Zhao Ying 沼應”.

Written down by the commissary (*dian*) Zhu Ying.

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本文是俄國科學院東方文獻研究所所藏兩件文書的描寫、翻譯和註釋。該文書為地方官方調查官畜的死亡或遺失的牒文之殘片。其中 SI O/32 號殘片可定為“死官牛牒”，而 Дх-18923 號殘片為“傑謝首領薩波思略牒為尋驢事”，均殘破不全，但也提供了一些法制史和社會史資料。據此能夠證明八世紀中國已存在嚴密的家畜管理制度及詳細的會計規定而且施行於遙遠的邊疆地區。兩件文書均提及家畜的遺失構成刑事事件，由負責軍事民政方面的鄉級長官（主帥或首領）來上報。家畜的數目管理在他們管轄範圍之內，但明顯無權審理刑事事件。SI O/32 文書還提到稱作“牛子”的小吏記帳管理牧群的家畜數目，但此職稱不見於其他文獻。