

“Original statement on the submission of the *Lintai gushi* for detailed examination”

Cheng Ju, Grand Master of Court Service and Acting Vice Director of the Palace Library, submits:

Since the emperor’s moving out³⁸, I have seen that official documents have been based on patterns culled from recollections and accordingly they have been somewhat inaccurate. In the recent past as the court reestablished the Palace Library consulting old regulations, in a short period of time outstanding and talented men were assembled, and as I was selected as a deputy my heart was overflowing with joy. I consider the archives of books and records as the source of regulations, but the present records preserved amounted to that held by but one department only. Gathering at once the information found in orally transmitted works as well as in old books, and the extent of rules and regulations, and preparing them successively into . . .³⁹ divided into three *juan* with the title *Lintai gushi*. I have made . . .⁴⁰ to be delivered to the Memorial Forwarding Office. Upon reception I ask for permission to send a copy to be kept in the Palace Library for comments.” Respectfully

38 This most likely refers to the departure of the emperor Gaozong 高宗 (r. 1127–1162) from the north in 1127. He only settled permanently in early 1132 in Lin’an 臨安 (modern Hangzhou) which served as provisional capital until upgraded to permanent capital in 1138. In between Nanjing had been the official capital as well as Shaoxing after the Jin armies had sacked Lin’an in 1130 (Tao Jingshen 2009, 660–661; Kuhn 2009, 76).

39 Six characters are missing in the original text. The amended text in the *Sibu congkan* reads “distributed across three *juan*”.

40 Four characters are missing here. In Cheng Ju 2000b (5) the complete phrase reads: “and arranged these in a book. It consists of altogether twelve sections arranged in five *juan*, and it is entitled *Lintai gushi*. I have completed the work in two volumes which I am submitting to the Memorial Forwarding Office”. The version in Cheng Ju 1792 (38,19a-b) reads quite different from the two others: “It consists of altogether twelve sections arranged in four *juan* that I have completed in two volumes. I am submitting the book I presented to the Executive Office of the Department of State Affairs and I would like to ask to forward it with comments to the Memorial Forwarding Office (incorrectly written *tongdasi* 通達司 here). Therefore, I am asking to store copies in the library and the archive (*shengge* 省閣) to provide for discussions.’ I am sincerely laying this out

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putting on record the memorial I made. I am humbly awaiting Your orders. Received Imperial Order on nineteenth day of ninth month, consequently submitting memorial.

Note submitted to Department of State by Cheng, Drafter

Shaoxing first year, ninth month, twentieth day.

(seal of Department of State)

First year Shaoxing, 9th month, 20th day (October 12, 1131)

before the Department of State for examination. I am humbly awaiting Your instructions.”

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Recorded in the seventh month of the first year of the Shaoxing era (July/August 1131) by Cheng Ju 程俱, Gentleman for Court Audiences (*chaoqing lang*) and Acting Vice Director of the Palace Library (*bishu shao jian* 祕書少監)

