

Afterword

Lintai gushi in five *juan*. On the *bingwu* 丙戌 day of the second month of the first year of the Shaoxing era (March 19, 1131) [Fan 范] Zongyin 宗尹 (1098–1136)⁵⁸⁶, chancellor, [?] Shou 守, Participant in Determining Governmental Matters, and anonymous, Participant in Determining Governmental Matters explained: “Since the time of the Imperial Forefathers positions in the Institutes and the Archive have nurtured talented men and provided them with official appointments and in each era well-known dignitaries began their careers there. After the Chongning era (1102–1106) those selected for appointments were increasingly shallow. Since the beginning of the armed conflict and the running of the administration by redundant officials, the Palace Library has ceased (to function).

Now the difficulties have not ended, men with talents are worried. Daily calls should be made for outstanding men everywhere to come to court, and all functional official positions should be filled with the exception of the positions of tutors of the Heir Apparent (*taishao* 太少)⁵⁸⁷.

As matters (of state) are consolidated, there are (areas) which while being recovered remain precarious, and this is what the present situation is like. We think that the reintroduction of library positions should be considered in order to entertain the scholars within the empire.” The order (consequently issued) read: “The Palace Library shall be re-established by appointing one Vice Director as Director, as well as one Assistant Director, one Editorial Director, one Assistant Editorial Director, and two Editors and two Correc-

⁵⁸⁶ For more on Fan Zongyin see Franke 1976, 345–347.

⁵⁸⁷ The tutors of the Heir Apparent were collectively known as the *sangu* 三孤 (Three Solitaries): *taizi shaoshi* 太子少師 (Junior Preceptor), *taizi shaofu* 太子少傅 (Junior Mentor) and *taizi shaobao* 太子少保 (Junior Guardian) (Hucker 1988, 4864). See also Sun Fengji 1988 (2.26 (24)) on the *sanshao* 三少 and the same (27.5b–11a (545–548)) on *taishi*, *taifu* and *taibao*. These were prestigious titles given to high-ranking meritorious officials. Emperor Gaozong’s 高宗 (r. 1127–1162) only son had died in 1129 so there was no need to fill these posts at this time. Gaozong’s eventual successor, emperor Xiaozong 孝宗 (1127–1194; r. 1162–1189), was an adopted son from the family branch of the Song founder emperor Taizu 太祖 (r. 960–976). The adoption was formalized only in 1153 (Chaffee 1999, 179–180).

tors. On the conduct of the department and the appointment of officials itemized memoranda will be submitted to the Department of State Affairs.” On the *jiachen* 甲辰 day of the third month (April 6) your subject Cheng Ju, Gentleman for Court Audiences Provisionally assigned to the Imperial Archive, was assigned the post of Vice Director of the Palace Library. Your very unworthy subject has begun in the position of an Editorial Examiner of the compilation of the state regulations, and then continued as an Assistant Editorial Director. Presently taking up the (new) position in compliance with the orders and as the responsible official assuming an appointment that has been vacant for some time, I am uneasy and afraid that I will not measure up to it. When beginning my duties, I have searched for documents that were not available. I would like you to consider that I accessed the Palace Library three times previously, and each time I was there as a historiographer, I recorded precedents from the Three Institutes of the Imperial Ancestors through what I had heard and seen. Many of the old officials (employed in the library) had fled and died, but some of them had remained. We managed to recover old documents from the sludge of cinders, and after inspecting them and deciding (which ones to keep), we reported this to the Department of State Affairs. We asked to assign one clerk, twelve personnel versed in *kaishu* (cursive script), and one especially appointed subordinate official. As to those people looking after repairs and taking care of the vaults, guarding, cooking and cleaning, their number should not exceed eight. As to documents and calligraphic style, time allotted (in the library position), salary and rank, all of this should follow old regulations, in addition to what had been laid out in the new regulations.

After the Department of State Affairs had been informed about this, its order read “proceed”. Thereupon, scholars and commoners began to submit national histories, Veritable Records, imperial pronouncements, Collected Regulations and other texts, that they had privately collected, and the great ceremonies and great issues of the state because of these could be examined since. And as to the (positions) of Editor, Corrector and miscellaneous others provided for in the order of the Imperial Ancestors, on imperial order examinations were conducted in the Institute of Academicians and consequently men were appointed.

Your subject Ju respectfully lays out what the *Zhouguan* 周官 (*Zhouli*) says: “The External Recorder (*waishi* 外史)⁵⁸⁸ is responsible for the records of the four corners of the realm, and for the documents of the Three August Ones and the Five Emperors.⁵⁸⁹ The Grand Scribe (*taishi* 大史) sets right the

588 Given the actual duties described here, I have chosen the present translation rather than External Secretary (Hucker 1988, 7604) or “annalistes de l’extérieur” (Biot 1851, vol. 2. 70).

589 Ruan Yuan 1980, Vol. 1, *Zhouli zhushu* 周禮注疏 26.182 (820)). The sovereigns referred to here are legendary rulers of early China with the Three August Ones consisting of Fu Xi 伏羲, Nüwa 女媧, and Shennong 神農, and the Five Emperors comprising

year⁵⁹⁰ by arranging matters in sequence and announces this to the bureaucratic establishment, the capital and remote areas, and he proclaims the beginning of the new year to the vassal states.”⁵⁹¹ It is said that the Left Recorder writes down the words⁵⁹², the Right Recorder writes down the actions, and presently the Palace Library holds the capacity of both. During the Han and the Wei the terminology was not unified and they were called Historiographers (*shiguan* 史官).

Therefore, the Director of the Palace Library was addressed from the middle of the Longshuo 龍朔 era (661–663) of the Tang as Grand Scribe, and the Vice Director (*shaojian*) as Vice Director (*shilang*) of the Lantai 蘭臺 (Orchid Terrace)^{593 594}.

Huangdi 黃帝, Zhuaxu 顓頊, Ku 嚳, Yao 堯 and Shun 舜. The composition of the group may vary from text to text.

590 Biot 1851 distinguished here between “l’année moyenne” and “l’année lunaire” (vol. 2, 64 and 349) for the original term *suinian* 歲年. Since it is evident that the text refers to the duration of one whole year, I have dropped the distinction from the present translation.

591 Ruan Yuan 1980, Vol. 1, *Zhouli zhushu* 26.179 (817).

592 This is most likely a reference to a passage in the *Liji* 禮記 that reads: “(The ruler’s) actions are written down by the Recorder to the Left, his words are written down by the Recorder to the Right” (Ruan Yuan 1980, Vol. 2 *Liji zhengyi* 禮記正義 29.246 (1473–1474)). Couvreur 1913 (678–679) rendered *zuoshi* as “premier secrétaire”, and *youshi* as “second secrétaire”.

593 Drège 1991 (70) suggests that the appellation was chosen in reverence to the Lantai of the Former Han dynasty. For a study of the imperial collection of the Former Han see Fölster 2018.

594 The *Tang huiyao* reports on this matter as follows: “On the fourth day of the second month of the second year of the Longshuo era (February 27, 662) the name (of the library) changed to Lantai. Its director was then addressed as Lantai *taishi* 蘭臺太史, its Vice Director as Lantai *shilang* 蘭臺侍郎, and the Assistant Director as Lantai *dafu* 蘭臺大夫. On the twenty-third day of the tenth month of the first year of the Xianheng 咸亨 era (December 10, 670) all of these reverted to their old designations. On the fifth day of the ninth month of the first year of the Guangzhai 光宅 era (October 18, 684) (the name of the library) was changed to Lintai 麟臺 (Terrace of the Unicorn) and the designations for the Director and the other positions were consequently changed. On the fifth day of the second month of the first year of the Shenlong era (March 4, 705), the title was changed again to Director of the Palace Library (*bishu jian* 秘書鑿) like in the past” (Wang Pu 1989, 65.1123). The Guangzhai era was proclaimed in the ninth month of 684 as the first reign era of emperor Ruizong 睿宗 (684–690, 710–712) who ruled but in name as his mother, the famous Wu Zetian 武則天 (624–705) and later emperor (r. 690–705) Wu, took over the reins of power. The era ended in the twelfth month. It is evident that when Cheng Ju entitled his work *Lintai gushi* he was referring to the Tang precedent.

Since official writings and documents have lately been lost in large numbers, rules are recreated from memory, but if they are so handled, more deterioration will follow.

The repositories of historical records are the source for regulations, however, if they do not store any records, how are they to provide even one department with guidelines?

'In former times Sun Boyan 孫伯爨 was in charge of the documents of Jin' and 'Xinyou 辛有 had two sons called Dong 董'.⁵⁹⁵ Therefore, as the descendants of Boyan were addressed with the family name Ji in Jin 晉, and the descendants of Xinyou were addressed with the family name Dong in Jin, they were [Ji] Tan and [Dong] Hu 狐.⁵⁹⁶

Your servant hails from a family, desolate and remote, and although without pedigree, I devoted myself to the Lintai for fourteen years⁵⁹⁷, and in this time my duties also consisted in compiling precedents and supplementing fragmentary texts. Consequently, I have gathered anecdotes from the Three institutes and information from historical records, and arranged these in (chronological) order. Events are dealt with in different categories, and outlines of laws and decrees are recorded according to their evolution. I have produced a text in twelve sections that I have arranged in five chapters. I have notified the Department of State Affairs, and have sent a copy to the archive in the palace library, for officials to discuss. Your humble servant Ju respectfully submits this.⁵⁹⁸

595 These are quotations from the *Chunqiu Zuozhuan* 春秋左傳 (Ruan Yuan 1980, Vol. 2 *Chunqiu Zuozhuan zhengyi* 春秋左傳正義 47.376 (2078)). The Duke of Zhao evoked the ancestry of the record keeper in order to scold the record keeper Ji Tan 籍談.

596 The identification of Tan with Ji Tan is straightforward. The name Dong Hu is provided by the commentary to the above phrase which explains that the two sons of Xinyou in Jin assumed positions as record keepers. They were consequently known as Dong Hu.

597 According to Cheng Ju's Account of Conduct he entered the library in 1117 as a Character Examiner in the Office for the Compilation of the Collected Regulations of the Dynasty.

598 Cheng Ju 2000b, 218–219.