

The Establishment of Sovereignty and the Selection of Imperial In-laws in the Wan-yan Family of An-chu-hu during the Jin Dynasty: Analysis of the Nu-zhen Clan Structure in the Liao Period

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In the early 12th century, the Nu-zhen 女真 clan founded the Jin dynasty. The Wan-yan 完顏 family who had lived near the An-chu-hu 按出虎 river basin was the centre of political power in this country. This family had maintained a unique form of marriage through the Liao and Jin periods. They usually married people who belonged to seven specific Nu-zhen clans: Tu-dan 徒單, Tang-kuo 唐括, Wu-gu-lun 烏古論, Pu-cha 蒲察, He-shi-lie 紇石烈, Wu-lin-da 烏林荅, and Pu-san 僕散.

In this treatise, analyzing Nu-zhen clan structure in the Liao period, I studied the reason why the An-chu-hu Wan-yan family had decided upon these seven clans as usual marriage object.

The Nu-zhen clan was separated into four groups in the Liao period. The Tu-dan, Wu-gu-lun, and Pu-cha among the above-mentioned seven clans and the Wan-yan were the masters of these groups. They exerted a great influence on their own groups. The Nu-zhen diverted their clan name to their family name in the Jin period. The ranking of all these names were decided. The four names of Wan-yan, Tu-dan, Wu-gu-lun, Pu-cha took high rank. It is clear that the power structure of clans in the Liao period was maintained then.

In the above-mentioned seven clans, the An-chu-hu Wan-yan family preferentially married people who belonged to Tu-dan, Wu-gu-lun, Pu-cha and Tang-kuo that had grown into major clan equal with Pu-cha in the Jing-zu 景祖 period. This family attached importance to blood combination with several major clans that had exerted a great influence on the four groups, and they intended to maintain a hold on all Nu-zhen clans on the

basis of this combination.

The structure of this treatise is as follows:

Foreword

Chapter 1 The Imperial in-laws and these mother clans

Chapter 2 The establishment of the Nu-zhen family name

Chapter 3 The conception of four separated Nu-zhen clans in the Liao period

Chapter 4 The ranking of Nu-zhen family names and internal affairs of the Court

Chapter 5 The selection of mother clans of the imperial In-laws: Conclusion