

Papers on Inner Asia
No. 29

David Curtis Wright
Brigham Young University

**THE AMBASSADORS RECORDS:
ELEVENTH-CENTURY REPORTS
OF SUNG EMBASSIES TO THE LIAO**

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INNER ASIAN STUDIES**

**Bloomington, Indiana
1998**

Papers on Inner Asia

No. 29

David Curtis Wright
Brigham Young University

THE AMBASSADORS RECORDS: ELEVENTH-CENTURY REPORTS OF SUNG EMBASSIES TO THE LIAO

Bloomington, Indiana

1998

The series *Papers on Inner Asia* consists of scholarly papers of variable size (from 20 to 100 pages), each published and bound separately. Inner Asia is defined as the region that includes Islamic Central Asia (the areas sometimes called Western, Eastern, and Afghan Turkestan), Mongolia, Manchuria, and Tibet. The papers deal with various topics related to this vast region: history, philology, linguistics, anthropology, archeology, economics, contemporary problems, and so on. Works on certain subjects that transcend the boundaries of Inner Asia in its strict sense, but are relevant for the study of its languages, history, and culture, are also included, for instance, the ancient and medieval history etc. of the peoples of the East European steppes, or the modern history of Afghanistan.

The series is divided into the following subseries: (1) General; (2) Ancient Inner Asia; (3) Central Asia; (4) Mongolia, Manchuria, and Tibet; (5) Altaic linguistics.

The series *Papers on Inner Asia* is designed to ensure prompt publication of scholarly papers and to facilitate the publication of longer papers, which are large enough not to be accepted by most scholarly journals. As a rule, no stylistic editing is done, with possible exceptions for papers written in a language other than the author's native tongue. After the manuscript submitted for publication is reviewed by the editors, it is returned to the author whose responsibility is to prepare a camera-ready copy of the text in accordance with technical requirements set up by the Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, which undertakes to publish the paper within one month after the receipt of the camera-ready copy.

All correspondence related to the *Papers on Inner Asia* (requests for the copies of the technical requirements, proposals of papers for publication, submission of manuscripts, orders for single papers and standing orders) should be addressed to The Editor, *Papers on Inner Asia*, Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, Indiana University, Goodbody Hall 343, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, U.S.A.

The price of individual copies is \$ 3.50 for papers up to 50 pages in length and \$ 4.50 for papers of more than 50 pages. For overseas customers the rates are: surface mail — \$ 3.95 for papers up to 50 pages and \$ 5.50 for papers over 50 pages; air mail — \$ 4.95 and \$ 7.55, respectively.

(C) Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies

1998

ISSN 0893-1860

To the memory of my mother

JEANNENE DOWDING WRIGHT

16 April 1930 - 20 February 1996

τὸν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς με οὐ μὴ ἐκβάλω ἔξω

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	iii
Historical Introduction	1
Characteristics and content of the embassy reports	3
A. Lu Chen	5
B. Wang Tseng	9
C. Hsueh Ying	10
D. Sung Shou	11
E. Ch'en Hsiang	12
Supplemental reports	18
Annotated translations of embassy reports	20
Lu Chen	21
Kitan	29
Wang Tseng	48
Hsueh Ying	57
Sung Shou	60
Narrative of the Embassy to the Liao Announcing the Accession of Emperor Sheng-tsung	63
Bibliography	89

Preface

This is an examination of one aspect of the routine, non-negotiatory diplomacy between the Chinese Sung (A.D. 960-1279) and Kitan Liao (A.D. 907-1125) states in East Asia during the eleventh century. It consists of two main parts: first, a historical introduction on the embassy reports submitted by Sung Chinese envoys upon their return from Liao territory, and second, a section containing annotated translations of six of these reports.

Routine, annual diplomatic contact between the two states was established after the conclusion of the Treaty of Shan-yuan in A.D. 1005. There were no residential diplomats; envoys travelled to the neighbouring state to fulfill their diplomatic assignments and then returned to their own country. Birthday Felicitation Envoys (*ho sheng-ch'en kuo-hsin shih*) and their embassies offered birthday greetings and congratulations to emperors, empresses, and empress dowagers, and New Year Felicitation Envoys (*ho cheng-tan kuo-hsin shih*) conveyed new year greetings to the same. Other envoys were dispatched as the occasions for them arose. These included Lamentation Annunciation Envoys (*kao-ai shih*), who announced the deaths of emperors and empress dowagers; Condolence Envoys (*tiao-wei kuo-hsin shih*), who offered condolences to the bereaved emperor, empress, or empress dowager; Immolation Envoys (*chi-tien kuo-hsin shih*), who accompanied Condolence Envoys and made offerings to the spirit of the deceased; Personal Effects Presentation Envoys (*i-liu li-hsin shih*), who presented gifts from among the personal effects of the deceased emperor or empress dowager; Enthronement Annunciation Envoys (*kao teng-wei shih*), who announced the accessions of new emperors; Enthronement Felicitation Envoys (*ho tent-wei kuo-hsin shih*), who offered congratulations for a new emperor's accession; and Reciprocation Envoys (*hui-hsieh li-hsin shih*), who were sent in response to the arrival of Condolence Envoys or any of the various felicitation envoys. The duties of these embassies were formal and ritualistic. Other

specially-designated embassies attended to substantive political and negotiatory issues between the two states on an irregular, *ad hoc* basis. I refer readers interested in more detail on Sung-Liao diplomacy to the bibliography at the end of this study.

I thank the scholars who have read through and commented on various versions of this study. These include Denis Twitchett, Elizabeth Endicott-West, Herbert Franke, David B. Honey, Frederick Mote, and an anonymous reader for the *Papers on Inner Asia*. But I am, of course, solely responsible for any errors of fact, translation, or interpretation that remain.

Thanks are also due Mr. Karl Hale of Brigham Young University's Department of History, whose valuable technical expertise and unfailing good humour spared me many hours of grief during the production of the text of this manuscript.

This work is published in early 1998, near the second anniversary of my mother's death. I dedicate it to her memory.

DCW
January 1998
Provo