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## JAPAN IN THE CHINESE DYNASTIC HISTORIES

Later Han Through Ming Dynasties

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Editorra

fifth month of the twenty-fourth year (1391), the title of Intendant of Circuit was especially conferred upon [the Prince], and he was made to stay in the capital. Later the Emperor wrote "Founders' Instructions [to Posterity]" in which he enumerated fifteen countries not for conquest, and among them was Japan. Thereafter tribute ceased to arrive. Alarms from the sea also gradually subsided.

When Ch'eng-tsu35 came to the throne, he took the occasion of his inauguration to extend an invitation [to Japan]. 36 Again. in the first year of Yung-lo (1403), he sent the Senior Commissioner of the Office of Transmission, Chao Chü-jên, 37 and a member of the Court of State Ceremonies, Chang Hung-chieh, as well as the monk, Tao-ch'êng. They were about to leave the country when the tribute envoy arrived at Ningpo. The officer of the Department of Ceremony, Li Chih-kang, then submitted a report on precedents in connection with visits of alien envoys to China which said: "Such envoys are not to be permitted to bring weapons secretly for sale to the people. The local officials are to be notified to investigate ships, and any cases of offenders are to be reported to the capital." The Emperor, however, said: "When outlying barbarians bring tribute, they come from afar and in the face of great risk and dangers. Their expenditure is really enormous, so that it is only human that they should try to defray expenses with what they bring with them. Sweeping application of the prohibitive statute, therefore, is not proper. As to the weapons they bring, purchase them at market price. Do not alienate their good-will toward us."

In the tenth month, the envoy reached the capital and presented to the Emperor the memorial of King Minamoto Dōgi, 38 as well as the tribute. The Emperor treated the party with the utmost cordiality and dispatched an official to return with the envoy and to present to Dōgi a crown, an official robe, a golden seal with tortoise knob, and brocade and other exquisite silks. 39

In the eleventh month of the following year (1404), an envoy arrived with congratulations for the inauguration of the heir-apparent. 40 Just at that time, pirates from the islands of Tsushima and Iki plundered the people on the seacoast. Therefore instructions were sent to the King to capture them. The King dispatched an army and annihilated the pirates, holding. however, twenty ringleaders in bonds to be brought as an offering to the Court, together with tribute, in the eleventh month of the third year (1405).41 The Emperor was even more satisfied with this, and sent the sub-director of the Court of State Ceremonial. P'an Tz'ŭ. 42 with the eunuch Wang Chin, to bestow on the King a royal robe with nine markers, copper coins and paper money, brocade and silks, together with a promotion in Court rank. The captives offered to the Court were sent back to be punished in their own country; but when the envoy reached Ningpo, he had all the captives placed in jars and stifled to death.

In the first month of the following year (1406), another envoy, in the person of the vice president of a board, Yü Shihchi, 43 was sent. He carried with him a message with the Imperial seal expressing approval and appreciation, together with abundant gifts. A mountain in Japan was officially named Mount of Longevity, Peace, and Pacification, and a stone monument with the Imperial handwriting was built on its summit. In the sixth month, the delegate returned the visit in order to express appreciation for the regal costumes.

During the fifth and sixth years (1407-08), envoys came frequently with tribute, bringing with them as offerings the pirates who had been captured. One envoy, upon his departure, made the request that the two books, "Exhortations to Goodness" and "Instructions for the Inner Apartments," written by the Empress Jên Hsiao, be given him. Instantly the order was given that two hundred copies be bestowed on him.

In the eleventh month another tribute arrived, 47

In the twelfth month, the Crown Prince of Japan, Minamoto Yoshimochi, 48 sent an envoy with the report of his father's death. The eunuch Chou Ch'üan was ordered to go with condolences. The posthumous name "Kung Hsien" was granted; funeral offerings and contributions were also made. Then other officials were sent with an Imperial decree installing Yoshimochi as King of Japan. At this time an alarm over Japanese pirates was sounded on the sea, and officials were sent again to instruct Yoshimochi to strike and capture them. In the fourth month of the eighth year (1410), Yoshimochi sent an envoy to express his appreciation, and following that, he presented to the Court the captured pirates, to the profound satisfaction of the Emperor.

In the second month of the following year (1411), Wang Chin was sent again with an Imperial message of appreciation as well as gifts. He also made wholesale purchase of merchandise [in Japan]. The King 49 and his courtiers conspired to prevent Chin from returning home, so that Thin had to board a ship secretly and escape by another route. Thereafter for a long time no tribute arrived. The same year the Wa raided P'an-shih.

In the fifteenth year (1417), the Wa raided Sung-mên, Chinhsiang and Pring-yang. Tens of Wa men were captured and brought to the capital. The Court officials requested that they might deal with them according to the statute. The Emperor said, however, that since intimidation by punishment was less desirable than befriending with virtue, they would do as well to send them home. Thereupon, an officer, second-class secretary of the Board of Punishments, Lü Yüan, was appointed [with others] to carry an Imperial message of reprimand, telling [the Wa] to repent and improve their ways. He also told them to send home those Chinese who had been made captives. 52

In the fourth month of the following year (1418), the King sent the envoy Zuien<sup>53</sup> and others with tribute. The latter stated [as follows]: "Because of sea marauders running amuck, the tribute delegation has been unable to come to the Court. As

for those ruthless thieves, we knew nothing whatsoever about them. Therefore we beg that the Court pardon us and accept our tribute." Because of the amicable nature of this explanation, the Emperor accepted it and treated the envoy as formerly. But maritime aggression still did not stop.

In the seventeenth year (1419), junks of Wa made their way to the Wang-chia-shan Islands. The Commander-in-chief, Liu Jung, hastened at the head of a well-trained army to Sentinel Heights. The pirates, many thousand in number in twenty ships, had gone straight to Ma-hsiung Island and proceeded to lay siege to Sentinel Heights. Jung ambushed them and in a surprise attack cut off the line of their retreat. The pirates [then] fled to Yi-t'ao-yüan and rallied their troops for assault. [But] Jung beheaded seven hundred forty-two and captured eight hundred fifty-seven alive. Jung was summoned to the capital and was created Earl of Huang Ning. Thereafter the Wa did not dare to prowl off the Liao-tung coast.

In the twentieth year (1422), the Wa raided Hsiang-shan.

In the first month of the seventh year of Hsüan-tê (1432),<sup>57</sup> the Emperor's attention was called to the fact that while all outlying peoples on every side appeared at the Court, Japan alone had not brought tribute for some time.<sup>58</sup> The eunuch, Ch'ai Shan, was ordered to visit Liu-chiu in order to have the King of that island admonish Japan. An Imperial message was given [to the King].

During the summer of the following year (1433), King Minamoto Yoshinori<sup>59</sup> sent an envoy to the Court. The Emperor reciprocated with the bestowal of white gold and paper currency with designs. O During the fall, the envoy arrived again. Then in the tenth month of the tenth year (1435), when Ying Tsung succeeded to the throne, the envoy was sent with tribute. Upon the return of the envoy in the second month of the first year of Chêng-t'ung (1436), a gift of silver currency was made to the King and his consort.

In the fourth month, the Board of Works suggested as follows: "In the Hsüan-tê era Japan and the other countries were all given the tally as a mark of identification. As we now have a new era, let us take occasion to issue a new tally." [That suggestion] was followed.

In the fifth month of the fourth year (1439), Wa junks, forty in number, defeated the coast guards of T'ai-chou, T'ao-chu, Ningpo, and Ta-sung<sup>64</sup> in rapid succession; they also made Ch'an-kuo-wei<sup>65</sup> surrender. They slaughtered and plundered in reckless abandon.

In the fifth month of the eighth year (1443), they raided Hai-ning. Some time before, during the Hung-hsi era, 66 the peasants Chou Lai-pao of Huang-yen and Chung P'u-fu of Lung-yen, 67 harassed by levies of labor by officials, had revolted and joined hands with the Wa. Whenever the Wa came to raid the land, they had acted as guides. This time they showed the way to Lo-ch'ing; 68 landing ahead, they were scouting, when the Wa men suddenly departed. The two [peasants], left behind in the village, had to beg their way and were arrested. They were sentenced to capital punishment and their heads were exposed by the seaside.

The Wa were shrewd by nature; they carried merchandise and weapons together and appeared here and there along the seacoast. If opportunity arrived, they displayed their weapons, raiding and plundering ruthlessly. Otherwise, they exhibited their merchandise, saying that they were on their way to the Court with tribute. The southeastern coast was victimized by them.

In the fourth year of Ching-t'ai (1453), <sup>69</sup> [the Wa] came with tribute; arriving at Lin-ch'ing, <sup>70</sup> they robbed the inhabitants of their goods. When a spokesman went to accuse them, he was beaten nearly to death. The local official then made an appeal for their punishment. This was denied, as the Emperor was afraid of losing the good-will of the foreigners.

In the early part of Yung-lo, an edict decreed that Japan might send tribute every ten years, that the personnel be limited to two hundred, and ships to two, and that weapons should not be carried. In case of violation, [the Japanese] would be treated as offenders. Two ships were then given to them to be used in carrying the tribute. But later everything did not turn out as decreed.

In the early part of Hsuan-tê, a covenant was entered into that personnel should not exceed three hundred and that there should not be more than three ships. 71 The Wa, however, being greedy, brought merchandise in addition to the tribute, ten times as much, and asked that the regular price be paid. The officer of the Board of Ceremony said: "During the Hsuan-tê era, they brought as tribute such things as sulphur, sapan wood, swords, fans and lacquer ware, and payment was made either in paper currency at the market price or sometimes with cotton and silks. The articles were not large in number, but the profit on them was enormous. If we now pay at the former rate, it will be two hundred seventeen thousand coins of silver. Therefore the price should be drastically reduced and about thirtyfour thousand seven hundred coins of silver be paid." This suggestion was followed to the dissatisfaction of the envoy. The latter made the request that the payment be increased to the former rate. By Court order the sum of ten thousand coins was added, but even this the envoy considered too small, and he demanded that the Imperial gift be made larger. By order of the Court. fifteen hundred pieces of cotton cloth and silk were [then] added. Still discontented, the envoy returned home.

Early in T'ien-hsün, [King] Minamoto Yoshimasa<sup>72</sup> was eager to dispatch an envoy to the Court with an apology because his former envoy had offended the Celestial Court. Not daring to establish contact, he wrote a message to the King of Korea asking him to make a request on his behalf. Korea was instructed to state explicitly [to the Japanese] that when they chose an

envoy this time, they should appoint one who was mature in experience and well informed as to his status, and that reckless disorder such as occurred the last time would never be tolerated again. After that, the tribute envoy did not arrive for some time.

During the summer of the fourth year of Ch'êng-hua (1468), 73 [Japan] sent an envoy with tribute of horses and with an apology. He was treated according to precedent. In the party were three interpreters, who gave the explanation that they were originally villagers of Ningpo and had been captured by pirates in their infancy and sold to Japan. These men requested that they might take this occasion to visit their parents. Their request was granted, with the warning that the envoys should not be taken to visit their home, lest their countrymen be lured away from home to go to sea.

Again in the eleventh month, the envoy Seikei arrived with tribute. 75 [His men] wounded people in the market and officials appealed [to the Court] to administer justice for this offense. The case was referred to Seikei, who addressed a memorial to the Throne saying that the offenders should be subjected to the law of their own country, and that therefore they should be permitted to return home, where they would be lawfully punished. As for himself, he would hold himself responsible for his inability to hold them in restraint. [Thereupon] the Emperor set free [both Seikei and the culprits]. Thereafter the envoys became more and more unscrupulous.

In the ninth month of the thirteenth year (1477), an envoy came with tribute again and asked for the Fo-tsu t'ung-chi 76 and other books. By order of the Emperor, he was given the Fa yuan chu lin. 77 The envoy took pains to explain what the King desired and requested that more gifts than usual be granted. Accordingly, fifty thousand kuan 78 of coins were allowed.

In the eleventh month of the twentieth year (1484), 79 another tribute came.

In the third month of the ninth year of Hung-chih (1496), 80 King Minamoto Yoshitaka 81 sent an envoy. On his way home [this envoy] came to Chi-ning, 82 where a subordinate went so far as to commit murder with a sword. The officials requested that he be punished. [Then] an edict was issued to the effect that henceforth only fifty persons should be permitted to visit the capital and that any others should be detained on board ship. [The Court] ordered [also] that defense and other regulations be strictly enforced.

In the winter of the eighteenth year (1505), another tribute arrived. 83 At that time Wu Tsung 84 was already on the throne. He gave orders that the precedent be followed of presenting the envoy with a cast gold medal and tallies.

In the winter of the fourth year of Chêng-tê (1509), another tribute arrived. The Board of Ceremony proposed that in the first month of the following year a great New Year banquet should be given and that Korean subjects should be assigned to the east seventh section in the palace. For Japan there was no precedent and she should be assigned to the west seventh section in the palace. [This suggestion] was complied with. The Ministry of Ceremony also proposed that [since] Japan had used three ships formerly for her tribute goods, and since there was only one ship this time, the silver coins given should be made proportional to the number of ships. Besides, since [its embassy] had come without a memorial to the Throne, the Board said that it requested the Court to decide whether or not an Imperial response should be made.

In the spring of the fifth year (1510), King Minamoto Yoshizumi 86 sent his envoy, Sō Sokyo [in Chinese, Sung Suching], 87 with the tribute. It was at this time that Liu Chin 88 had come into power through intrigue and he accepted one thousand liang of gold and bestowed [on the envoy] the robe with a flying fish -- an unprecedented thing. Sokyo was the son of the Chu family of Yin-hsien and his given name was Kao. When still