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## Two Rhyming Mongolic Words in Kitan Assembled Script

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## **ABSTRACT**

This note discusses the reading, the meaning and the history of two Mongolic words, *šawa* 'bird of prey' and *čala* 'stone' of the Kitan language written in the second of the two writing systems of the Kitan Liao Empire, the assembled, or composite, or as commonly called, 'small' script.

## **KEYWORDS**

Liáoshĭ, Kitan language, etymology



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It is well-known from Tuōtuō/Toqto's¹ 脱脱 Liáoshǐ 遼史, History of the Liao, that Kitan has šawa 'bird of prey', a word cognate of Mong. sibayun 'bird'. This Mongol word also means a bird of prey, a hawk or falcon, for instance, in the famous jātaka of Prince Mahāsattva and the starving tigress in Shes-rab Seng-ge's Middle Mongol translation of the longest version of the Sūtra of Golden Beam (Suvarṇaprabhāsottama-sūtrendrarāja),² just as Daur šogō. In his last book (1986), summarizing his lifelong work on the pre-ninth-century and pre-Ottoman Turkic elements of Hungarian (p. 428), L. Ligeti reconstructed Kitan šowa 'falcon' from the Liáoshǐ transcription shàowǎ 稍 瓦,³ also citing šoβō and šoyō from his own unedited Daur records. Martin's (1961: 218) record of Urgungge Onon's Hailar Daur shows sho(u)oo; Russian-script Daur šogoo and Engkebatu's IPA records also indicate a long vowel in the second syllable (see also Kane (2009: 93, 97), quoting Daur foyoo, fowoo).

In another, earlier, important paper about the Middle Mongol fragments of a Square Script print of Sonom Gara's Erdeni-vin sang, and the relation of Pre-Classical and Middle Mongol, Ligeti (1964) discussed several Kitan words found in Chinese transcription in the Liáoshĭ and other sources: jau 'hundred', čaur 'battle, campaigne', taul 'hare', šawā 'falcon' (p. 288) and šawāji 'falconer'. For 'falcon', he quotes MNT šibawun 'bird; falcon', šibawula- 'to hunt with falcon(s), to go hawking, other Middle Mongol data from Sino-Mongol glossaries and vocabularies in Arabic script, living forms from his Daur and Moghol records, Minhe Monguor şū (De Smedt and Mostaert 1933: 383) and for the rest, he refers to Poppe's Comparative Studies. From his Arabic-script Middle Mongol data, Ibn Muhannā's šibān is the most interesting, because of its unrounded second syllable, a form also found in his own Marda Moghol record šiban. This occurs in the compound keu šibān 'garçon, gosse'. After Ivanovskij's šoyó, Ligeti quotes his own record of Hailar Daur šowō and Qiqihar Daur šo $\beta$ ō, šoyā (the latter is probably for šoyō). It may be added that now in Daur, 'bird' is dəgī, an Ewenki element, see Ewenki dəgi, dəgī 'bird; waterfowl', in some dialects 'duck', derived of dəg- 'to fly' (see Cincius, 1975, v. I, 228b-229b, s.v. dəg-, dəy-; dəyi, dəgī; dəgdəetc.), also dəgdə- 'to rise' and Daur dərdə- 'to fly' < Mong. degde- 'to fly up, to rise, to float', cf. deg and dege- of degedü 'upper, supreme', etc., Manchu de- in den 'high', dele 'top', dergi < de+ergi 'upper', etc., and Turkic yeg 'upper'.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Add also Urgungge Onon's Hailar Daur šo(u)oo 'falcon' (Martin 1961: 218), Yogur fu:n 'bird' (Bulučilaγu 1984: 109); Huzu Mgr. εau 'bird' (Qasbaγatur 1986: 147) and the data from Sún Zhú 1990: 725, where we find the following equivalents of Mong. sibaγun 'bird': Chahar, Baarin, Khorchin, Kharachin, Sönit, Ordos/Otok, Oirat/Alashan fubu: (but according to Qingge'rtai 1959, text no. 3, Baarin has [ʃɔvo:]), Oirat/Dulan (Kukunor) fubu:n, Oirat/Jungar fobu:n, Buriat fubu:n, Yogur fu:n, Monguor εau, Bao'an εaji (also in Čên Nai Siüng 1985: 137–139, εa with reference to Tibetan bya 'bird', also εaji id., cf. (Amdo) Tib. bya-gži'u; εaræt 'airplane' < (Amdo) Tib. bya-gru, and εazila 'little children' (cf. above Mong. köbegün sibayun; not in Bùhé [Böke] & Liú Zhàoxióng, 1982); Santa bunæt < Mong. boljimur, and Daur with the Tungus dəgi:. Yu Wonsoo et al. (2008: 105) recorded Tacheng Daur dəgi:. Yu



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This author's name is most probably a form of the verb *toyto-/toyta-*, Middle Mong. *toqta-/toqto-* 'to be(come) firm/stable, to be established'. The reading proposed here is an imperative name, 'be stable!' or 'remain alive!', similar to Khalkha *Soli* 'Change!', a name given to a daughter in a novella of Cendiin Damdinsüren, with the parents' wish to change the course of having too many daughters. Shimunek (2017: 486) reconstructed Toqto'a, a name attested in the *Secret History*, which is the imperfective verbal noun of the same verb, meaning 'stable, steady, long-standing' or the imperative of the transitive verb *toytoya-* from the same stem, as in Rybatzki 2006: 354–355. See Toqta/Toqto, an imperative name, in Rásonyi and Baski 2007/II: 769–770.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Kara 1979: 59-63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> It was also used as personal name; see *Liáoshĭ*, ch. 15 (Wittfogel and Fêng 1949: 587).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cf. Mostaert 1941–1944: 435b, Ordos küüked šuuxat and küüked šiwuu 'les enfants, enfant', with Huā Yí yìyŭ kö'ün šiba'un; see also Khalkha xüüxed šuuxad 'children' < \*köbegüked sibayuqad, and MKiT, 600b: keüked siuqad, k. sibayu.

Wu Yingzhe & Juha Janhunen (2010: 162) write: 'a group that is identified as the  $sh.au.\ a.$   $\sharp$ TENT  $\sharp$   $\sharp$   $\hbar.\hat{u}.\acute{u}r$  'tribe' [5-19]. The name sh.au.a.TENT, with the character  $\sharp$ TENT probably indicating a suffixal element, must correspond to the ethnonym Shaowa 稍瓦, as attested in Chinese sources ( $Li\acute{a}osh\check{i}$ ). Of this particular tribe it is known that it was specialized in 'catching birds' (Wittfogel & Fêng 1949: 89), that is, in trading in hunting falcons, and that the name Shaowa itself denoted 'falcon' (Kane 2009: 97 §3.068). Since this is so, it is very possible that the root  $\mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{P}\mathfrak{I}$  sh.au.a is a cognate of Mongolic \*siba-xu/n 'bird'. There might also exist an ethnonymic connection with the Shibe tribe, which in later history is Jurchen-Manchu speaking, but which in Liao times very probably spoke Khitan.'6

Liu and Kang (2014: 43) have eleven quotations of the stem form:

(Xing 1055) Xīngzōng 興宗 30.1;7

(Han 1078) Xiāo Tèměi 蕭特每 fūrén 夫人 Hán shí 韓氏 23-18 **えたカ** š.au.a;

(Ci 1082) Yēlù Cítè 耶律慈特 及出支m.án.ir<sup>8</sup> 14-19 **又央**为 š.au.a 非 po 'the hunting falcon(s') time';

(Qing 1095) General Xiāo Tàishān 蕭太山 Yŏngqīng 永清 jūnzhǔ 郡主): **ヌ出え** *m.án.ir* <sub>17-7</sub> **ス央**カ š.au.a 'hunting falcon';

(Fu 1102) Yēlù Wùméi fùshǔ 耶律兀没副署: 介夾 xəu.úr<sup>9</sup> <sub>29-19</sub>又欠为 š.au.a 公乃夾 n.am.úr 伏天矢 ñ.an.de 'in springtime (hunting with) falcon(s), in fall (...?)<sup>\*10</sup>;

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Liáoshǐ, ch. 32 (translation in Wittfogel and Fêng 1949: 133), about the imperial hunting at the autumn camp: waiting in the night when deer come to drink at the pond of the Forest of Vanquished Tigers, '[h] unters were ordered to blow horns and imitate the cry of the deer which were shot ...' The Kitan term for the seasonal camps of the sovereign appears transcribed in Chinese as nàbō 捺鉢, Yuan-time nàbǎo 纳寶, làbō 刺鉢, etc. see Wittfogel



Wonsoo 2011: 169 has Khamnigan Mongol *šubuunee üür* 'bird's nest' and šubuunee xušuu 'beak'. – While writing this paper, I unfortunately had no access to Stanisław Kałużyński's works on Muromskij's Dagur and Shibe materials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> There is at least one phonetic difficulty for the last assumption, namely the difference in the vowel harmony of the two words: *sibayun* is a back-vowel word, while *sibē* has front vowels. Cf. Mong. *sibegen*, Middle Mong. *šibe'e*, Khalkha *šiwee* 'pallisade'? – As to Kitan assembled script ≭TENT, its phonetic value proposed in Qing–Wu–Ji is aju. If it were ju, it could be compared with Ewenki jū 'hut, tent; home' – *une hypothèse gratuite*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> This word *m.án.ir* is translated as *liè* 獵 'hunt(ing)' in the bilingual Langjun Xingji 郎君行記 inscription of 1334. As to ₹, I follow the reading according to Qing–Wu–Ji, but the reconstruction is not certain, and the presence of a nasal instead of the vibrant seems more probable. For the proposed different reconstructions, *n*, ə*n*, *in*, *un*, ún, *ir* see Kim & Kim 2019: 19, character no. 144. See also Shimunek 2017: 318, 420, etc.

 $<sup>^9</sup>$  The word is indisputably a cognate of Mong. *qabur*, but the reading of its first character, a CVV-type syllabogram, is disputable. It transcribes Chin. *hou*  $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$  'empress', see Kane 2009: 96, 119; Qing–Wu–Ji III, 2073, entry no. 6688, character no. 250, esp. Ren 8-3, reading *heu*. With no. 273 *un*, it forms the genitive *xəu.un* = *xəwun* 'of the empress'. Toyoda (2015: 189) read *you*, Takeuchi (2011: 21) reconstructs *qau*, which is nearer to what is expected in the cognate of Mongol *qabur*. Old Mandarin in 'Phags-pa script reads *yiw* (see Coblin 2007: 159, no. 617, Xiw [ $\gamma$ iw]); in Uygur script, this type of Old Mandarin syllable appears as  $\gamma$ 43 (tngrim  $\gamma$ 44). See also  $\gamma$ 54 hiu/ $\gamma$ 44, Rybatzki 2006: 483 (tngrim  $\gamma$ 54).

(Lie 1102) Yēlǜ/Hán Díliè 耶律/韓迪烈: 及出支 *m.án.ir* 14-12 又及为 š.au.a 'hunting falcon'; 伏力 ñ.q.<sup>11</sup> 20-43 又及为 š.au.a 'dog(s and) falcon(s)'; 25-14 又及为 š.au.a 'falcon';

(Huang 1110) Huáng tàishūzǔ āicè 皇太叔祖哀冊 10-29 **えた** *š.au.a* 30 **久化** ※ *m.ri.er* 至 ゑ 平 矢 \**naima.u.ul.de* 'falcon(s), horse(s)+suffix eight together+dative-locative suffix'.

Qing-Wu-Ji (III, 1674), list the same eleven quotations of the stem form **又**央为 š.au.a (their abbreviations for the inscriptions are not always the same as those in Liú and Kāng 2014): Xing 30-1; Yu (= Xian) 47-52, 67-60; Di (= Lie) 14-12, 20-42, 25-14; Tai (= Huang) 10-29; Qing 17-7; Han 23-19; Chao (= Ci) Yēlù Chāozhī 耶律抄只 14-20; Wu (= Fu) 29-20, adding (Pu 1105) Yēlù Pǔsūlǐ 耶律蒲速里 tàifù 太傅 19-1; **又**央为 š.au.a 为 其 m.án.ir ui.de 'in the business of hunting with falcons', (Cha 1113) Xiāo Chálá 蕭查刺 (in Kitan 为 čal.a) xiànggōng 相公 (in Kitan 今 书 s.iang 九 次 ung) 14-29 及 出 え m. án.ir 又 央 为 š.au.a 'hunting falcon', and five more, longer, sequences with syntactic or derivative suffixes: š.au.a.an (Qing 18-21); (Ba 1 2-6); š.au.a.ad. 12b.te2 (Dao 19-14); š.au.a.aju (Yu 58-54), (Xiang 11-15); š.au.a.ar (Nu 32-14); š.au.a.iú (Jue = Yēlù Juéchǎngwěn 耶律玦敞稳 6-36); (Hui 12-19, 12-16). See also Qing-Wu-Ji I, 369, quoting š.au.a 'bird of prey' (Yu 67); sh.au.a.aju n.ú.úr [or ñ.ú.úr?] 'the Shaowa tribe' (Xiang 11); and š.au.a.iú 'bird of prey' (+ suffix) (Jue 6).

Shimunek (2017: 221, 370) reads both the *Liáoshī* gloss *sháowā* 村窟 and the Kitan assembled script **又**央为 *š.au.a* as *šawa*, supposing that the second syllable is short, that is, the last syllable of Mong. *sibayun* is a suffix, not present in the Kitan word. He postulates a Common \*Serbi-Mon-

and Fêng 1949: 131; Kane 2009: 46, entry 2.099. It is identified in Qing-Wu-Ji I, 444 with なちタ and なち生ち、 read in III, 2076, words nos. 6719 and 6720, as n.ad.bot and n.ad.abu.ad; Kim & Kim (2019: 308b) read n.ad.bu and n.ad.bu.ad. The reading ad seems to be based on the Middle Chinese value of nat 捺, Sino-Japanese natsu, Sino-Korean nal (as in nal.in 捺印 'affixing a seal', Martin, Lee and Chang 1967: 305; in Middle Chinese, 剌 had a t, 纳 a p coda), but certainly not in Chinese used in the Liao Empire. The character 5 does not appear in known Kitan transcriptions of Chinese syllables. In Chinggeltei and Wu 2002: 46–47, this character reads as w, and ☆ 5 至 5 as nowbow. The etymology, connecting this word with Mongol negü- 'to move; to change (pastures)' and bayu-'to descend, to settle' (cf. the Mongol nouns negüdel, bayudal), quoted from Wang 1990: 62, is unlikely. 11 It is certainly a cognate of Mong. noqai 'dog', Manchu niyexe 'puppy', but the reconstruction of the exact phonetic shape (esp. the vowels) of this Kitan word is still problematic. In the transcription of  $\mathcal{D}$ , q indicates the presence a strong velar stop or spirant, just as in the word 今カオt.q.a 'chicken', with similar problems, cognate of Mong. takiya (with many other forms), Jurchen tiqo, Manchu čοχο, and Turkic tawuq, etc. Qing-Wu (2002: 60) reconstruct t'-xəi-a or even t'axia, but Chinggeltei (2002: 107) gives t-qo-a. Róna-Tas suggests \*tikoa (Róna-Tas-Berta 2011, II:1493), but with the same élan, one could risk the reading \*tiqa, \*taqa, or \*tiqaa, and, for the 'dog', \*ñaqa. Cf. Qing-Wu-Ji III, 2047, word no. 6307, characters 247+ 168+169, t-qo-a; p. 1967, word no. 5121, characters 222+168, ñ-qo; Shimunek 2017: 372 \*t.aq.a and 356 etc. \*ñaq; Kim & Kim 2019: 202b read t(d).aqa.a and η(ni). aqa (here n is perhaps for n). According to Qing–Wu–Ji (III, 1906),  $\mathcal{D}$  also occurs alone, and this may suggest that it is a CV or VC type syllabogram, but in fact, line 50 (just as line 49) of YēlüWùméi's epitaph (Wu = Fu 1102) is written in linear style, and there め follows 村, forming part of the word b.q. 'child' (characters nos. 311+168, read b-qo in Qing-Wu-Ji III, 2192-2195, word no. 8576). It does not appear in Kitan transcriptions of Chinese words. Qing-Wu-Ji (III, 1906–1907, character no. 168), reads *qo*; it begins words nos. 4221–4228. 12 Reading uncertain.



golic \*stba<sup>13</sup> 'bird, eagle, hawk'. One could add 'falcon' or write simply 'bird of prey'. <sup>14</sup> It is unknown when the suffix -gun appeared in Ancient Mongol(ic), nor if 'bird' was the primary meaning and 'bird of prey' was secondary, although the latter, a restriction of the meanings, seems more likely. It is known, however, that in Middle Mongol, initial si- and ši- still alternated, as it is discussed by Ligeti in his notes on the Arabic-script Mongol Vocabulary of Istanbul (1963: 173–174) with other Middle Mongol and Moghol data. MNT has šibawula- 'to hunt with a bird of prey', but sisgei 'felt' as in MA sisgei, sisügei, Moghol siskei, etc. Let us add that onset s- is also preserved in Daur suidar 'dew', a back vowel form, vs. MNT ši'üder, and in Daur see- 'to urinate' (Martin 1961: 206; Engkebatu 1984: 216) vs. Mong. sige- etc.

Kim & Kim (2019: 67b), reconstruct [shauwa], compare it with Mongol forms and quote, among other occurrences, [m.an.ir ∫.au.a] 'hunting bird' and [ʃ.au.adʒu] 'one who tames a bird of prey; falconer', also the name of a tribe or clan, identified by Wu Yingzhe. It should be a cognate of Mongol sibayuči(n) 'falconer'.¹⁵

Liu-Kang (2014: 238–239) list six words beginning with the character no. 183 全; five of them have the stem 星为 with or without additional characters. 星为 is safely identified by Jì Shí 既实 1990 with the proper name that appears in Chinese transcription as Chálá 查刺, a proper name. Four words beginning with the sequence of characters nos. 390 and 189 为 are quoted on p. 533, two of these were also identified with the personal name Chálá. This suggests that characters nos. 183 and 390 (= Qing-Wu-Ji: no. 183.1) should have the same phonetic value; they are allographs.

Qing-Wu-Ji I, 413, list  $\mathfrak E$  and its dotted form as nos. 183 and 183.1, and quote more words beginning with characters no. 183 and no. 183.1.<sup>17</sup> According to Qing-Wu-Ji (I, 243–244), character no. 183  $\mathfrak E$  is  $\mathfrak f$  or  $\mathfrak f$  of  $\mathfrak f$  (that is,  $\check{\it jar}$  or  $\check{\it jal}$ ?) as well as  $\mathfrak f$  or, that is,  $\check{\it car}$ , based on the assembled script word 183+189  $\mathfrak E$   $\mathfrak a$  and on the Chinese transcription of the personal name, also Yēlü Rénxiān's 'lesser name' in the  $Li\acute{\it aosh}\check{\it i}$ . The syllabic value of the first character  $\check{\it aosh}$  is and was  ${\it ch\acute{\it aoh}}$  [tşʰa], rendering here Kitan  $\check{\it cal}$  [ $\mathfrak f$ ʰa]; its another Modern Chinese reading is  ${\it zh\bar{\it aoh}}$  [dza], a clan name or surname, also used for the homophonous  $\check{\it aoh}$  and  $\check{\it tal}$ , name of a tree.



<sup>13</sup> This \*siba and MNT šiba 'ricochet' in §198 šibayin sumun, luànjiàn 亂箭 lit. 'erring arrow' as well as Mong. siba are but homonyms.

<sup>14</sup> As the Guóyūjië 國語解 says: zhìnião zŏngchēng 鷙鳥總稱 'a general term for birds of prey', and explains that in the compound 杓窊印 sháowǎyìn 'seal of the shape of a bird of prey', the bird is a symbol of swiftness. Cf. also Liáoshī, ch. 57 (translation in Wittfogel–Fêng 1949: 168).

<sup>15</sup> See Ordos *šiwuuči* and *šiwūčin* 'oiseleur', *šiwūčin* gitad 'Chinois qui viennent prendre des oiseaux de proie en Mongolie pour en utilizer les pennes', *šiwūčin* nom de clan (Mostaert 1941–1944: 626a); Kalmyk *šowūči* 'Vogelfänger; Aufseher der Jagdfalken' (Ramstedt 1935: 266b), also in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in Sagang Sechen's *Erdeni-yin tobči*, as common word *sibayuči* (f. 18b27, s. •• noqai-či •• yaqai-či yurban ijayur-tan) and as ethnonym Sibayučin (f. 63b5, *Sibayučin-u Boljomur neretü kümün*; f. 69b11, *barayun yar-un gegüd Sibayučin* •• Urad •• Tangyud qoyar degere •• See also ff. 18b13, yeke aq-a inu Sibayuču[=i] •• Ningbu-yin yajar-a; f. 24b1, Boy[=r]aču • Sibayuču[=i] • Borte čino-a kemekü yurban köbegün; different in the Manchu translation: Boroja • Jiyačī • Burtečino axôn deo ilan nofi ... 'Boroja, Jiyačī, Burtečino, (these) three brothers ...' (Haenisch 1932: 32). The parallel passage in the Shorter Altan tobči, f. 3b22-24, reads aq-a inu Boroču •• ded inu Sibayuči •• odqan inu Börte [MS: bwyrwn] čino-a buyu •• (ed. Čoimaa, f. 36a22). – In the MNT, the -čin forms are plural; later, as in Khalkha angčin 'hunter', daičin 'valiant', gutalčin 'shoemaker', jočin 'guest', vs. emč 'physician', jolooč 'driver', togooč 'cook', mongolč 'Mongolist', etc., this strict difference gave place to alternation, though not a free alternation, of the -či and -čin forms as singular vs. -čid as plural. It is not self-evident that the Tabgach words of professionals with -čin are plural.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Another Chinese transcription of presumably the same personal name Č*ala* occurs in *Liáoshǐ*, ch. 28: scribe (*línyá* 林牙) Xiāo Chálā 蕭察刺, see Wittfogel and Fêng 1949: 596.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The latter is no. 390 in the list of Liu and Kang.

(Cha 1113) Xiāo Chálá 蕭査刺 (in Kitan カ čal.a) xiànggōng 相公 (in Kitan 今平 s.iang 九太 g.ung) 4 2 及出え m.án.ir 又央为 š.au.a 'hunting falcon'.

See also Kim & Kim 2019: 212, with the reproduction of the relevant part of the rubbing of Yēlù Rénxiān's inscription. They only have the undotted no. 183, read ʧal, with the weak affricate, and quote two words, ʧal.ai and ʧal.a, the latter interpreted in Korean as *cwul thong*, in Chinese as *jiŭzūn* 酒樽 'wine cup', quoting Bǎo Yǔzhù 2005. In fact, a possible Mongol equivalent, *čara* is a shallow plate, not a cup. The interpretation rests upon a passage in the biography of Yēlù Xiénièchì 耶律斜涅赤, whose second adult given name (zì 字) is Sālā 撒刺, meaning 'wine cup' in the language of the Liao (*Liáoshǐ*, ch. 73). The word may be reconstructed as *sara*, but not *čara*. The word *sara* is not attested in the known monuments of Kitan assembled script, but it may have been written as *s.ar.a*, as the attested personal name Saran, written as ��� Sar.a.an on his epitaph of 1100, suggests. 18

Here are some of the main instances:

Čala = 为 čal.a (Zhi  $_{10}$ ), 为头 čal.a.an, 星为出 čal.a.án (Gu  $_{24-3}$ ; Song  $_{24-11}$ ; Liang  $_{15}$ ; Chao = Ci  $_{12-27}$ ), 星为犬 čal.a.iú, (Hong  $_{31}$ ), personal name, stem occurring without and with syntactic suffixes.

On the epitaph of Shàngshí júshǐ Xiāo gōng 尚食局使蕭公 = Xiǎnwǔ gōng Bálǐ 顯(/显)武公 拔里 [= 日本 B.ar] jiǎngjūn 蔣軍 (Shang = Xian 1175), reads 全步文 244+362+246/118 s.iau.qú. 为天 čal.a.an, interpreted as qīng shí 青石 'blue/green<sup>20</sup> stone' (QingWuJi II, 1447).

The inscription in memory, āicè wén 哀冊文 (Kitan 九 为 爰 g.en.ir č.ai wu.un [= čaiwun < 冊文]) of Empress Xuānyì 宣懿 (Kitan 今 坎 业 关 关 S.iue.en i.i), Xiāo Guānyīn 蕭觀音 (d. 1075), Kitan text written by Yēlǜ Gù 耶律固 after 1101, line 29, has 足 为 穴 čal.a.iú 'stone (+ suffix)' 並 九 为 'inscription' (?); the latter word usually corresponds to Chin. zhì 志 'annals; records, epitaph'.

<sup>20</sup> The same line 33 begins with the words read as **全步**克 *s.iau.qu* 伐本 ñ.ar, and interpreted as *qīng sōng* 青松 'green pine' (cf. Mong. *narasun*). The title or heading of the inscription was carved on light green sand stone.



<sup>18</sup> Cf. note 19 below.

<sup>19</sup> For the phrase 'written character (carved in) stone', cf. Sagang Sechen's *Teachings*, strophe 27, line b: kürü-dür čabčiju talbiysan bičig metü 'like an inscription carved in stone' and Khalkha xöšöönii bičees, and the place name Bičigt Šurguulga, etc. Cf. also Qing-Wu-Ji I, 779, where in the title of the epitaph of Sālān Shìlǔ tàishī 撒懶室魯太師 (1100) = Saran Shilu taishī (今本为出 S.ar.a.an 又用 及 Š.il.u 及 tai.šī), the word 业 大 b/p.i, most probably bu.i, transcribes Chin. 碑, modern bēi 'stone with memorial inscription' (Middle Mongol has the Sino-Turkic bui taš and bii taš in Uygur script, Yuan North Chinese has buė in 'Phags-pa's square script).

In Xiāo Huíliǎn lángjūn's 蕭回璭郎君 epitaph (Hui 1080), line 27, it reads 公 本 n.ar/ra.ən 'tomb' (+ suffix), 足 カス čal.a.iú 'stone' (+ suffix) 午 列 キ tal.gu.ai 'stela, monument' (?) 全 カ ホ 立 カ ネ s.a.ad.ga.a.ar 'erected' (?).

If this is right, the first word should be a cognate of the stem of Mong.  $\ddot{c}ilayun$ ,  $^{21}$  similar to Kitan  $\ddot{s}awa$  cognate of siba, the stem of Mong. sibayun, discussed above. According to Qing-Wu-Ji (2018), there is a dotted form of  $\maltese$ , no. 183. Actually, both occur in the assembled script Kitan equivalents of the personal name transcribed in Chinese as Chala. The function of the dot is still not clear; it certainly does not indicate a reading of a Chinese word, synonymous with the Kitan one, as in the case of Kitan  $\maltese$ \* sair\*moon' and  $\maltese$ \*  $\ddot{u}e$  or  $\ddot{u}ue/io$  for Chinese  $\varXi$  (Modern Northern Chinese  $\ddot{y}u\dot{e}$ ) 'moon' and its homonyms (cf. Kim & Kim 2019: 118–119, nos. 81–82,  $\ddot{s}$  and  $\ddot{u}$   $\ddot{u}$ 

These two words, Kitan *čala* 'stone', equivalent of Mong. *čilayun* 'stone' from an Ancient 'Ogur' Turkic form \*tila < \*tïla of Old Turkic tāš, and Kitan *šawa* 'falcon', cognate of Mongol *sibayun* 'bird', Middle Mongol *sibawun*, *šibawun* etc., also 'falcon', suggest that

- (1) the back  $\ddot{i}$  has merged with the front i, and as such,
- (2) it palatalized the preceding consonants, resulting a  $t > \check{c}$  (if Kitan  $\check{c}al.a$  is not borrowed from an 'Ogur'  $\check{c}ala < tila < tila)^{22}$  and an  $s > \check{s}$  development, already in the Ancient Mongol period, that is, long before the 13<sup>th</sup> century; while Jurchen has bitexe (see its logogram in Kiyose 1977: nos. 216, 277) or bitxe (< bitexe < \*bitixe) > Manchu bitxe, Spoken Manchu/Enhebatu bitk, bitku, bi:tku. These forms in which the t is retained as a result of the elimination of the second i; so it is more archaic than Mongol  $bi\check{c}ig < *bitig`$  writing';  $^{23}$
- (3) that the regressive assimilation of the first syllable *i* was full in these Kitan words, though Middle Mongol monuments still have *siba'un*, *sibawun* and *šiba.un*, as well as *čila'un*, *čilawun*;
- (4) that the intervocalic stop b was substituted with a bilabial fricative or glide much earlier than in any other known Mongolic language; and
- (5) that the third syllable, *-gu.n* of the Middle Mongol forms of both words is, in all probability, a compound suffix, not present in Kitan.

<sup>22</sup> Kitan still had *di* sequences as the Chinese transcriptions of personal names such as Dilie and Diligu show.
23 For *bitig*, see Hungarian *betű* in Róna-Tas-Berta 2011: I/122-125. For Tabgach \**bitekčin* 'scribe' (cf. Middle Mongol *bičěči* 'scribe, secretary'), see also Shimunek 2017: 156-157, who interprets the final *n* as a plural, as in Middle Mongol *keremüčin* 'sable-hunters' (*MNT*), accepts Denis Sinor's view that *biti*- is possibly a back formation of *bitig*, and may be a loan from Greek through Syriac. Cf. also Old Turk. *bitkä* in *bitkäči* 'scribe' (*DTS* 104a; Clauson 1972: 304a). The phonetic value of the compound \*\(\mathbf{\Lambda}\) [...]g remains uncertain. There is no enough proof for its identification with Mongol *üsüg/üjüg* 'letter, written sign, writing system' or with *bičig* 'writing, writing system, written text' (cf. Wu 2018: 391). Manchu *bitxe* 'writing' <\**bitexe* (> Daur *bitəg* 'writing, book'), with its archaic *t*, may come from another pre-thirteenth century Mongolic, Xianbi or Shiwei, language, not from Kitan. Cf. more Tungusic cognates, including Negidal *bitəxə* and Nanai *bičxə* (in Cincius 1975: v. I, 86a). In the Sino-Jurchen vocabulary without Jurchen script this word occurs as *bite* and *bite'e*, reconstructed in Kane 1989, nos. 658, 873, 1090, 1093, 1094, 1096 as *bit[h]e and bit[h]e'e*, its derivation is *biteši* 'clerk' (Kane 1989, nos. 658: *bit[h]eši*) || Manchu *bitxesi*, Spoken Manchu/Enhebatu *bitkusŋ/bitkuzŋ*, cf. Daur *bityə:tʃin* 'scribe, clerk, scholar'. Is it possible that Jurchen had *bite'e* (*biteye*) > *bitē*?



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Middle Mongol MNT čila'un, čilawun, ZhiyuanYiyu, Hua Yi Yiyu, Yiyu čilawun, Yemen čilau; Clear Script Oirat čiloun; Khalkha čuluu. Sún Zhú's modern language data (p. 582): Chahar, Baarin, Kharachin, Sönit fulu: (= [f'olo:]). Bargu, Khorchin fulu:, Buriat fulu:n, Ordos/Otok filu:, Oirat/Alashan and Oirat/Dulan (Kukunor) fulu:, Oirat/Jungar folu:n, Daur folo:, Yogur folu:. Monguor, Santa and Bao'an have forms borrowed from Turkic taš. See also Apatóczky 2009: 86, and Kangjia filo (Sečenčogtu 1990: 301a). I did not find Moghol data.

The syllabogram čal, that renders a sequence of vowel-consonant consonant unknown in the Chinese language of the Northeast under the Liao, makes also clear that the Kitan assembled script was not 'tailored' along the Chinese transcription of Kitan words and the Chinese system of syllables of the time as some researchers imagined. Kitan assembled script transcriptions of Chinese words clearly show that contemporary Chinese phonotactics had no more any oral stop or liquid codas, only nasals (ng, n, m). It is obvious that the Kitan 'small script' is a mixed writing system of logograms or ideograms, CV, VC and CVC syllabograms and V and C phonograms (here V = monophthongs or diphthongs), whereas logograms may be used as syllabograms, for instance, 主 xuang 'imperial' (both graph and word < Chin. huáng 皇) for the Chinese family name Huáng 黃, and those of the numerals 乏 tau 'five', 太 iš/ši 'nine' and 玚 jau 'hundred', as in 乏気肉 tau.\*li.a 'hare', 那乏 jau.tau, from Chin. zhāotǎo 招討 'punitive official', a title, or 今本伏 pu.ši.ñ, borrowed just as Middle Mongol üjin from Chin. fūrén 夫人'lady'. Frequent is the Chinese script, a syllable may be written in a 'redundant' way, as in 又为夹 š.a.an, transcription of Chin. shān 山 'mountain'25, a.an transcribing Chin.ān 安 'quiet'26, or 日午为天 b.ar.a.an (or b(a).ra.a.an?) 'right (hand side)<sup>27</sup>, another Kitan word without the suffix -gun, see Daur baran, vs. Mong. barayun.<sup>28</sup> It seems that some graphemes representing a combination of a consonant and a vowel, may be used in both ways, CV or VC, and it may be the case with the logogram '9' used as syllabogram for ši/ si or iš/is.<sup>29</sup> Yēlǜ appears in the 'small script' inscriptions as 万年及火 y.ar.u.ud (or y(i).ra. ...?).<sup>30</sup> The Guóyŭjiě 國語解 'Explaning (terms in) the Language of the Empire' (Liáoshǐ, ch. 116) also mentions Yílà 移刺 as a transcription of the Kitan form of Yēlù, and renders the Kitan words in Chinese transcription yēlŭwăn 耶魯架 and its synonym pǔsùwăn 蒲速架 with Chinese xīngwàng 興旺 'prospering, flourishing; prosperity, florescence', the first could be compared with Mong. irayu 'harmonious, beautiful', but the semantic difference is too great. As for the second word, that

This ideogram/logogram occurs in the assembled script form of the Kitan word *pušin* 'lady, dame' borrowed from Late Middle Chinese *pyu žin* or Old Mandarin *fužen*, modern Chin. *fūrén*, discussed in Kane 2004: 224, n. 3. As to the explanation of the phonetic difference, it is known that the Kitan language did have an alveolo-palatal affricate without aspiration (see, for instance, *jau* 'hundred') which could substitute a Middle Chinese affricate without aspiration. It is also known that the assembled script has a grapheme for the non-Kitan phoneme 3 % as in the name of Empress Rényì ( % % . This phonogram % is modified from % the phonogram of the voiceless sibilant \$. 30 Cf. Shimunek 2017: 67, 198.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Just as *fo.on* = *fon* < \**pon* in the later Jurchen linear script (inspired by the Kitan 'large script'), see *fon* in the locative *fondo* (*fo.on.do*), Kiyose 1977: 101, also quoting Ligeti's (1953: 225) reconstruction in 'Note préliminaire sur le déchiffrement des "petits caractères" joutchen'; etc. It is unknown if the vowel of Kitan *po*, a cognate/source of this Jurchen word was long or short (Daur has *hoon*) and if Kitan had the contrast of short and long vowels, or if the Kitan scripts indicated such a difference as well as the contour, pitch and duration of contemporary Chinese tonemes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> In the Langiun inscription of 1134.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> In Xião Chálá's epitaph, Cha 1113, line 6, word 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> For instance, in the epitaph of Xião Zhònggōng of 1150, see Liu–Kang, 2014: 452; according to Kim & Kim 2019: 377b: *b.ar.a.an*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See also in the Vocabulary of Istanbul, Ligeti 1962: 18–19: bara'un (or barawun?) with Ibn Muhannā's barān etc., stating that the form barān 'est normale et caractéristique à certains dialectes mongols occidentaux', that is, for some Western Middle Mongol dialects. Doerfer, TMEN I, 206–208, no. 84, has barān/bara'un ġar 'rechte Flügel des Heeres', quotes MA بران غلا baran ġar (cf. also MA barawun) He suggests that barayun which also means 'west' if front is south, is derived from bara-, applied for the sinking sun, a witty idea, but what about jegün 'left (direction)' and, if front is south, 'east'? Shimunek (2017: 328) also quotes Otgon's Baarin [parăn]. Chinggeltei 1959: (wordlist) 2 and Sun 1990: 145 have Baarin baræ:n.

appears in the 'small script' as  $\Upsilon + \mathcal{R} \mathcal{K}$  pu.su.wa.ñ 'proper name; name of a tribe' in Liáoshĭ, ch. 31, and, according to Wittfogel and Fêng (1949: 543), 'development', connecting it with Manchu fusen 'propagation' etc. However, the Kitan word has back vowels, 31 while Manchu fusen has fuse-, a front vowel stem.

Despite the great progress achieved by Chinggeltei, Liu Fengzhu, Daniel Kane, and many other devoted scholars<sup>32</sup> in the decipherment of Kitan written monuments there are still too many ambiguous readings, dubious etymologies,<sup>33</sup> hasty or desperate identifications. I hope my present experiment with Kitan 'stone' and 'bird of prey' is not one of them. Although a good deal is done, a good deal remains to be done in this very complex but fascinating field of Kitan language, culture and history.<sup>34</sup>

It is sure that Kitan had a kind of vowel harmony, but some details remain to be clarified. For instance, the character  $\not$   $\not$   $\not$  occurs in words of back and front vowels, such as n.am.' 'autumn' and '  $\not$   $\not$  u (cf. Kim & Kim 2019: 129a), or the character  $\not$  u lin  $\not$   $\not$  u lin  $\not$  u lin v lin v

 $^{ ilde{3}3}$  For instance, 伏 考  $ilde{n}$ .iau, read \* $ilde{n}$ aw 'sibling, child' || Mong. nuyun '(male) child' (Shimunek 2017: 290 etc.), semantically dubious; the Kitan word means 'sibling, brother or sister' only (Daur noon/nion 'male child' || Mong. nuyun; Daur ninio/nioonio 'baby, small child' < Manchu nionio 'pupil of the eye' also an expression of affection used by adults to small children, cf. also Cincius 1975: v. I, 644a, 'зрачок, зеница ока; глазочек мой, деточка, крошка (ласковое обращение к очень маленьким детям)'. If 'baby' is the primary meaning, the Manchu word is semantically comparable to Mong. keüken čečegei, keüken nidün, Buriat xüügen n'üden, and Khalkha xüüxen xaraa 'pupil of the eye'); 'child' is b.q., compared with Mong. baya 'little', a plausible conjecture, cf. Bur. baga 'malyš', baganar / malyši, deti, detvora' (Čeremisov 72 a, b); Modern Mong. (xūxed) bayačūd 'children' and Ulaanbaatar slang bayā, vocative, 'hey, you kid!'. Phonetically and semantically dismissible is the comparison of l.iu- 'to die' with Turk. öl- 'to kill' and Mong. ölbere- 'to starve' (Róna-Tas 2017: 195), for this Mongol word, cf. also Mongol ölös- 'to be hungry' < öl 'food' etc., with the privative suffix -s, as in umdayas- 'to be thirsty' < umdayan 'beverage'. (The honorific verb for an emperor's death is read as *l.iu.rén* by Kane 2009: 91. Shimunek 2017: 246-247 reconstructs the stem as *liwr*-.) In Kara 2005: 18, I too, though more or less rightly read 失 as uei, based on the Kitan transcription 九失 g.ui of Chin. 🔯 guó, Old Mandarin gue, in 'Phags-pa script kue, in Uygur script Middle Mongol gui, but wrongly interpreted it as a negative noun, cognate to Daur uwei, Mong. ügei, instead of reading \*ui or üi 'action, deed' that reads in the phrase 失 ち伏 ui eu.ñ, Chin. 無事 wú shì 'without business, at leisure', of the Langjun Xingji inscription (1134). For this Kitan negative word, cf. also Shimunek 2014: 97; Wu 2018: 391; Kim & Kim 2019: 105a.

<sup>34</sup> I am grateful to the Chinese, Mongol and Japanese scholars, among them first to the late Professor Chinggeltei (who once was my guest in Budapest and whose guest I was in Kökeqota, where in a lecture I proposed the reading gur 'state, empire' and daur- 'middle' instead of guan and duan(da)): from them I received important monographs and source materials. My thanks due also to Ms. Wen-ling Liu of the East Asian Collection, H. B. Wells Library, Bloomington, IN, for helping me obtain several Chinese papers quoted in this article. I also thank the peer reviewer's useful corrections. I did not accept all the proposed changes, and here I try to explain why. I read \*naima with a short vowel coda for the logogram'8', because it seems that Kitan had such codas in čal.a 'stone', š.au.a 'bird of prey', t.q.a 'chicken', t.au.li.a (or tau.il.a?) 'hare', maybe, also in  $\tilde{n}.qa$  (if not  $\tilde{n}.aq$ ) 'dog', b.qa (if not b.aq) 'child' (is a question if  $\mathcal{D}$  had a two-way reading, aq and qa, or even qo), na.ga 'maternal uncle'. (In Qing–Wu–Ji 2017, III, 1625, the logogram 'eight' is read as *naim*, in Kim & Kim 2019: 38, *niæm*.) For 並 I read *ga* instead of *ha*, because I suppose that there was no phonemic difference between a weak velar stop and a weak velar spirant before a back vowel, but this is still another open question. Ákos B. Apatoczky, who has read the draft of this paper, also suggested some useful corrections. From him I learned that Ji Shi's Mongol name is Batu, but I only added the Mongol names of authors writing in Chinese when the Chinese name transcribes a Mongol one. Andrew Shimunek was kind to read my text and offer detailed comments, proposing helpful corrections and additions, most of those I incorporated into the present version.



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