

The Maritime Trade of Tang and Silla

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The relationship between Tang and Silla was closer than other countries and districts of North-east Asia . At Tang Dynasty , dispatching the formal envoy between them had 160 times by record in the history chronicle (which had 104 times before the middle 8Th. AD century , then 56 times) .

The traffic between Tang and Silla based on seaway . because the relationships of GaoLi , Silla and BaiJi fell foul of each other at 625 AD, GaoLi had blocked the land way from Silla to Tang .

The marine trade , development in political association between Tang and Silla , was occupied by personal marine trade gradually which accompanied with the Tang empire.

1. The office trade

The office trade , the exports and imports trade which controlled by the government ,generally divided into the court-giving trade and present tribute trade were adopted by them before the middle of 8TH century .

As data record , in the trade between Tang and Silla ,the commodity Silla exported to Tang included ginseng ,bezoar ,poris cocos ,horse , low horse ,dog , fur of seal , eagle(yao) ,gold ,silver ,copper and some handicraft goods as golden hairpin . patting golden (silver),carving eagle tail brush pot , patting golden (silver) figure of Buddha , and other kinds goods silk , silk fabric , morning sunlight silk fabric, thirty sheng satin ,longshao ,cloth .The objects which Tang exported to Silla included silk fabric ,clothes , live handicraft ,tea and other kinds of classic data about Confucianism , Buddha ,Taoism . The quantity above-mentioned trade goods ,accompanying with Tang and Silla political exchange ,was limited and nonperiodic proceeding . At same time Tang government picked and limited the quantity of Silla's envoy member who would go to Tang's capital .As *New Tang Annals* record "the quantity of court-giving trade foreign envoy should remain half of them in the place beyond the capital" ,the remembers who went to the capital were entertained by the department of protocol of Tang and contributed the gift and other objects. Tang government presented a gift in return to them, then the transaction which the quantity was limited

would not prohibit personal marine trade for increasing the economic force oneself. So the political struggle occurred in the Middle 8TH century changed the pattern of marine trade between Tang and Silla. A new era giving first to the personal marine trade had have come.

2 Personal Trade

China and semi -- island of Korea have tradition marine history, though it was blocked by a temporary situation, it would be flourish when the situation was normal.

-- Silla and Bo Sea two area officer -- set up in 765 AD. of Tang was a special management department to Silla marine trade. It was responsible for:

- (1) checking up the contraband goods in export and import;
- (2) issue the passport to the Silla merchant who wanted to go to Tang;
- (3) management the Silla aliens;
- (4) receive Silla marine envoy;
- (5) inspect in and register the goods and ships of Silla .

Other hand, Silla's merchants had set up commerce net from northern Deng Zhou, Lai Zhou ,Mi Zhou, to Southern Chu Zhou, Yang Zhou, Ming Zhou. At 839 AD YuRen (one live in china Buddhist monk came from Japan) met Silla's merchant ships which loaded coal from Mi Zhou to Chu Zhou.

By the record of some annals country in Zhejiang Province, there were some Silla lane set up at Huang Yan, Tai Zhou, Lin Hai in Tang era and some Silla people,s grave remained there. Some mountain and island was named -- Silla --. In this situation, one man -- Zhang Bao Gao who was a marine trade great merchant had rise up.

Zhang Bao Gao was birth in Guan island . (a Silla island). Guan island was in an advantageous geographical position for marine. Because it could see the coast of Jiang Su (China) to western over the Huang Sea to Southern would get to the Cheju-do island where was the communications hub of the Eastern Asia marine. Through South-Eastern Tsu- shima Kitakyushu. Chong island it would go to FuKuKa and KitaKyuShu of Japan. So Guan island was a translation key which combined with Tang, Silla and Japan. Zhang was familiar the sea very much because he had grown up in a sea island.

Zhang was very poor in childhood. He served as a low officer in Tang Ning Wu Army when he was adult. Ning Wu just was XuZhou town. So he was very familiar to the circumstances of Shan Dong semi-island and Zhe Jiang., and Silla,. At same time he much know the important position about his hometown "Qing Hai" town's from Silla to Tang.

When he did not achieved his ambition, he went back birthplace. For getting would proceed in the hotel where the envoy lived .So the court-giving trade delayed on the political interest between Tang and Silla .

Before the middle of 8TH century, the foreign trade, particular marine trade were not considered by Tang government at all, because Tang was the empire what delayed on agricultural economy flourished up. For example, in the < Two Tang book. Feed and Goods, Annals > what was a classic document portrayed the economic development of Tang mainly hardly had the record about foreign trade in it, only had the land route of silk trade which was the political aim need that Tang contracted with the Middle Asia and West Asia states. For North-Eastern Asia states, because they did not threaten Tang empire in history and land area, so at the initial period of Tang empire the diplomacy field did not consider them until GaoLi was stronger gradually in semi-island of Korea and the steady situation was broken. Tang did not want GaoLi which had dispute in territory with Tang dominated all the semi-island simply, so Tang stood by Silla for controlling GaoLi's development.

In other field, Silla, the weakest state in the semi-island, had to ally with Tang an over-sea empire in political to avoid swallowed up by GaoLi. If you understand the situation you would learn the reason why the marine trade taken up the court-giving trade between Tang and Silla and why the trade was not important in Tang management the empire.

Though Tang empire did not have desire for development of foreign trade, it promulgated a degree to prohibit personal foreign trade rigidly. According to the record of < Explanation of Tang's Law > chapter 8TH. 'all smuggle person must be sentence one year imprisonment, the more serious, the longer prison'. Tang had controlled seriously and limited the personal foreign marine trade.

At the middle period of Tang empire, Tang had defeated in political and military in the West area, so Middle Asia and West Asia states' envoys which wanted to Tang had to come from seaway. At same time the industry and commerce economy developing from the Tang empire's flourishing agricultural economy had run neck and neck with the agricultural economy. Under the situation Tang empire had changed principle about export and import and export and issued some policy which benefitted foreign trade development. 714 AD Tang set up a special department which management foreign trade -- Shi Bo Si.

At same time, the official marine trade was challenged to battle from personal marine trade seriously. One side the armed rebellion rised in Tang weakened the Tang centre right and Tang's prestige was not like sun in culmination, other side when Silla controlled the semi-island, the ally with Tang was not necessary, so the court-giving trade which had been fragile was weakened to a great extent. The loality force the king's believe and finding a base developing his cause, he told the king (Silla) " A lot of Silla person served as waitress in china, so I would like to gard Qin sea and prohibit sea rover robbing Silla's people". Then Silla's king gived him ten - thousand

soldiers and “Da Shi” officer he made sea rover do not robbing Silla’s people from 827-835 AD of “DaHe”. In other side he combined with and leadered local tyrants living coast area of Silla’s south -western sea.

Zhang Bao Gao’s trade method was dispatching ships at any time to Tang buying goods, then carried goods to Silla or sold them to Japan. By history record the active area of Zhang Bao Gao’s fleet in china Coast was about the field from Northern Shan Dong semi-island to Southern Jiang Su, Zhe Jiang. the trade centre of the fleets were Deng Zhou’s Wen Deng country. Qing Ning country, Chi Shan Hamlet. Fa Hua courtyard which was built by Zhang Bao Gas’s finance not only was the alien living place of Silla, but also was the Tang’s envoy hotel before they go to Silla. Yuan Ren’s < seek moral standard and visit a sacred land in Tang chronicle > recorded “ By said Zhang Bao Gao’s two ships had reached Chi Shan Hamlet in 27Th. June 839 AD, 28Th. for congratulation Silla king ascend the throne Tang’s envoy officer Wu Zi chen, Cui Wan thirty persons met with the officer Cui who was dispatched by Zhang Bao Gao to Tang buying goods at Ha Hua courtyard in evening. They said hullo to each other’.

Another trade centre of Zhang Bao Gao’s fleet was Chu Zhou and Si Zhou where were concentration and dispersion goods in Yangtze River valley. Ming Zhou port (today’s Ning Bo) of Zhe Jiang province was the place where Zhang Bao Gao’s fleet often went to.

Beside silk fabric, cloth, gold, silver, medicine, horse, furs and handicrafts, the fleet had managed china too.

We must point an important object-celadon which was a kind of china and produced in Zhe Jiang Yue Kiln . There was a famous celadon in Guan island of Korea . In a report which was published in 1985 by ‘Guan Island Cultural Academy of Korea <New Research about Zhang Bao Gao >, said “ Discovered important china--celador in Guan is- land were China china which were produced Yue Zhou of Zhe Jiang province. Those China china were original china of Korea’s celador. This affair proved that the trade fleets of Zhang Bao Gao went to Ming Zhou directly and brought the china worker to Guan island from Yue Zhou when they realized the importance of china trade”.

Lin Shi Min, a scholar of China, said in < in Tang , Wu Yue era Eastern Zhe Jiang and Korea semi-island commerce trade culture association Research >. “ There are two kind jade wall bowl botton discovered in ruins of Zhang Bao Gao activited. One kind was pating - glaze inside of bowl, a remain fire mark mud point like pine nut in the centre of bottom inside bowl which told us this was a sustaining point when the bowl was made, and the outside bottom at below had not pating-glaze and have a sustaining fire mark which is red- brown color around the bottom., another kind bowl

was pating - glaze at whole, have not the sustaining fire mark in the bowl's bottom inside ,but the fire mark point remain in outside of bottom around. The first kind belong to the middle Tang later period and it kiss to the Zhang Bao Gao activity era.

So all of this presents that the marine trade between Tang and Silla at the Middle 8TH. AD was an era--a personal marine trade era, that took Zhang Bao Gao as a representative . It was Zhang Bao Gao's era.

Making a comprehensive survey we think of that :

The marine trade between Tang and Silla was official trade at the Middle 8TH. AD. It remained the feature of small scale, having strong color about political and being affected by situation easily. After the Middle 8TH. AD it was personal marine trade era with characteristics of great scale , frequent times and typical commerce trade .