

30. JUNG BOR-SHENG (Institute of History and Philology, Taipei)
AGRICULTURAL GEOGRAPHY IN ORACLE INSCRIPTIONS OF THE YIN DYNASTY

ABSTRACT:

This paper provides an outline of the agricultural geography of the Yin (Shang) Dynasty by means of the study of agricultural geographical names in the oracle inscriptions. The agricultural districts of Yin (Shang) were either within the suburbs of the capital, or within the territories that could be directly controlled by Yin, or within the friendly states. Such a study may increase our understanding of the politics and lives of the Yin people.

With this aim in view, I distinguish the agricultural from other oracle inscriptions, dividing them into four classes: (1) used for divining agriculture; (2) used for divining the condition of the harvest; (3) used for divining agricultural damage; and (4) used for divining rituals about agriculture. I have discovered that the agricultural names in (1) and (2) are more frequent than those in (3) and (4).

For convenience I divide all these geographical names into two parts: (1) related to agriculture, and (2) related to the rituals for divining harvest and damage. I then investigate each one and put them into five locations, namely, Shang (the center), East, West, South, and North. However, there are many names whose locations are uncertain; there are even names which may or may not have been geographical.

It may be concluded that the agricultural districts of the Yin Dynasty, as revealed by the oracle inscriptions, are mostly clustered in four locations: (1) the suburbs of the Yin (Shang) capital (now Shang-ch'iu-hsien in Honan); (2) the western part of Yin (now the southern and south-western parts of Shansi province; a small district in the eastern part of Shensi near the border between Shansi and Honan; and the middle and northwestern parts of Honan); (3) the southern part of Yin (now the southern part of Honan near Shan-tsai-hsien; and Po-hsien in Anhwei); (4) the eastern part of Yin (now the northwestern part of Lin-tzu-hsien in Shantung, the southeastern part of Hua-hsien in Honan). Regrettably there are many locations of geographical names that still cannot be identified with certainty.

DISCUSSION:

Jung Bor-Sheng, besides his summary, explained his methodology in researching ancient place names. As a first step, he suggested an epigraphical approach to the inscriptions, securing, first of all, a correct transcription of the place names in question, and then noting correspondences among the inscriptions. As a second step, one could cautiously try to identify the place names from the oracle bones with

those in later written sources. Jung said he had not used any sources later than Shuijing zhu. Lastly, archaeological evidence should be taken into account, ideally producing a comprehensive map of Shang and Zhou place names correlated with archaeological sites. Jung regretted not to have had access to archaeological materials, so that he had forcibly fallen short of his goal.

Jao Tsung-yi began his comments by reviewing previous literature on Shang place names, such as the article by Wang Guowei and a very inspiring one by Gu Jiegang (卜辞中地名的扩展). It had been Gu's thesis that with the expanding geographical area of the Shang empire, names of central places were repeated in the outlying regions, so that whereas in the earlier period, all place names had to be located in the vicinity of Yinxi, this was no longer true in the later periods. The principle previously employed to always choose the possibility closest to Yinxi when there was a disagreement about the location of a place should be reconsidered, Jao suggested. In fact, the archaeological finds of the last three decades had abundantly shown how far the central power of the Shang royal house extended, at least in the later period. There was a need for a comprehensive survey and reconsideration of oracle-bone geography. Jung Bor-sheng said he very much agreed with this. He was himself not satisfied with his result of having virtually all the agricultural place names of Shang located within the central parts of the heartlands; even less so with Matsumaru's locating over 100 hunting grounds within a 12-20 km. radius around Anyang.

Virginia Kane pointed out that Jung had failed to periodize his material. Jung replied he had periodized all evidence about fangguo 方国, asserting that due to the nature of the material, it was hardly feasible to periodize the rest. As to areas of agricultural activity, they would not probably have moved a lot. Kane said she was convinced that periodization could reveal many interesting developments of Shang history, e.g., changes in geographical emphasis, and especially the circumstances surrounding the conquest of Yin by the Zhou.

31. DAVID N. KEIGHTLEY (University of California, Berkeley)
KINGSHIP AND KINSHIP: THE ROYAL LINEAGES OF LATE SHANG

ABSTRACT:

On the basis of inscriptional evidence, it is proposed that the following principles governed the system of succession and inheritance among the lineages forming the Shang dynasty: