"Myth and History: Shi Xing during the Imjin War and the Construction of His Myth by Chosŏn Korea" (in Chinese)

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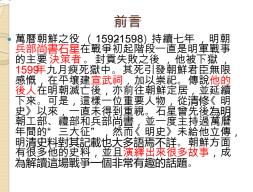
Abstract

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Foreword

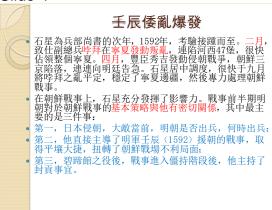
Shi Xing was the Minister of War and main policy maker of the Ming dynasty during the opening stages of the Imjin War. After the investiture of Japan within the tribute system failed, Shi Xing was imprisoned and died in 1599. In Chosŏn Korea, his death led to an outburst of emotion and he was venerated thereafter in P'yŏngyang's Sŏnmu temple. It is said that his descendants lived in Chosŏn as well. Shi Xing has, however, been marginalized in the official Ming dynastic history, even though he held many important posts and presided over the three large military campaigns of the Wanli reign. Many historical materials about him can be found in Korea, however, which are interesting for interpreting the history of the Imjin War.



1. Shi Xing's early life

- Shi Xing (1537-1599) became a *jinshi* in 1559. In his youth he was a man of letters, who followed Wang Shizhen. Because he was reckless and blunt, he soon was punished for his speech. In 1567 he offended the Longqing Emperor (r. 1567-1572), which reflected his daring but rash nature.
- In 1568 the Ministry of Personnel called him reformed, if "stupidly honest", and tried to reinstate him, but it was refused. His character affected his behaviour to a certain extent during the Imjin War.
- After five years of idleness in his hometown he was finally reinstated during the reign of Emperor Wanli (r. 1573-1620). From 1587 to 1591, Shi Xing's status rose and he served successively as Minister of Work, Minister of Rites, and Minister of War.

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The Imjin War erupts

- Challenges presented themselves one after another in 1592, the year after Shi Xing became Minister of War. In the second month, military officer Ba bai (1526-1592) launched a rebellion in Ningxia and occupied the entire province. In the fourth month, Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537-1598) invaded Chosŏn Korea and it lost three capital cities to the invaders. Again and again it requested emergency assistance from the Ming court. Shi Xing was involved in dispatching troops and in the ninth month the Ba bai rebellion had already been quelled, stabilizing Ningxia. Afterwards he concentrated on the war in Korea.
- During the first half of the Imjin War, Shi Xing intimately concerned himself with the main strategy of the Ming court, especially the following three items:

- First, the question of whether the Ming dynasty should send troops and when;
- Second, he directly directed the Ming army during the hostilities of the Imjin War, recapturing P'yŏngyang and reversing the unfavourable course of the war;
- Third, after the Battle of Pyŏkchegwan (1593) and the following military stalemate, he presided over the issue of Japan's tributary status.

二、石星力主援朝, 乃為繼室柳氏報恩?

朝鮮戰事初期,舉朝議論紛紛,石星在明廷<mark>堅決主張出兵援朝</mark>。朝鮮君臣從一開始就認識到,如果沒有石星的支持,明朝很可能不出兵;即便出兵,也不大可能全力以赴,因而對石星充滿感激之情。但不知從何時開始,朝鮮流傳起一種說法:石星之所以如此盡心誠意地幫助朝鮮,拯救朝鮮於水火,是因為其繼室柳氏曾受過朝鮮通事洪純彥的恩情,石星受其夫人的影響,因而要全力援助朝鮮。

- 2. Shi Xing forcefully advocated helping Chosŏn Korea, to pay a debt of gratitude owed by the family of his new wife lady Liu?
 - The early days of the Imjin War gave rise to many court debates and Shi Xing firmly advocated dispatching troops to help Choson Korea. The Korean king and his ministers realized that, without the support of Shi Xing, the Ming court probably would not dispatch troops. Even if troops were dispatched, there was also a not high probability that the Chinese would go all-out. Therefore, Choson Korea felt indebted to Shi Xing. However, it is unknown when a kind of saying started to circulate in Korea:
 - "The reason why Shi Xing with all his heart's sincerity came to the aid of Chosŏn Korea and saved it from the water and fire, was because the family of his new wife lady Liu in the past received favours from the Korean envoy Hong Sunyŏn. Because of the influence of his wife, he consequently wholeheartedly dedicated himself to supporting Chosŏn Korea.

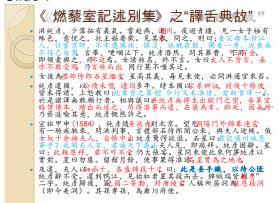
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The origin of Choson's myth

 This matter can be traced in Yi Kung-ik's (1736-1806) Yöllyösil kisul (Record and Narrative of the Burning Lamb's Quarters Studio) and T'ongmungwan-ji

- (Compendium of the Interpreter's Bureau); Park Chi-wŏn's (1737-1805) Yŏlha ilgi (Yŏlha Diary); Yun Haeng'im's (1762-1801) Sŏkchaego, etc.
- In 1928, Chong In-bo (1893-1950) compiled the relevant historical materials, 38 pages in total, and collected them in his book Tangnunggun yusajing. The narratives of all are similar with only minor differences, and Yi Kung-ik's Yöllyösil kisulcontains the most detailed version. At present, Korean academic circles hold it to be true, hence it is even more necessary to examine its veracity. (Chung Myung-ki has done a detailed study, and Kim Young-sook has examined Hong Sunyon's role in the diplomacy with the Ming dynasty, but he does not mention this anecdote).
- Yŏllyŏsil kisul is a traditional history record, which presents history in separate
 accounts of important topics, but it did not yet record that Hong Sunyŏn did
 favours for the new wife of Shi Xing. This is narrated instead in the Yŏllyŏsil
 kisul byŏlchi anthology, in the part titled Yŏksŏl chŏn'go (Classical Stories of
 Translated Tongues).



"Classical Stories of Translated Tongues" in Yöllyösil kisul

- Hong Sunyon was a little unconventional and possessed a code of brotherhood. He once attended a banquet and arrived in Tongzhou. At night he travelled to a brothel and saw a woman of outstanding beauty and wanted to delight her. He asked the hostess if she wanted to make him happy. Viewing her plain clothes, he asked her, and she said: "My parents are originally from Zhejiang and my father was an official in the capital. Unfortunately, we met disease and hardship and they died. They are in a temporary coffin in an accommodation for guests, it's only me, a single person, and I have to return to do the funerary arrangements without support. I have no alternative but to sell myself." When she finished talking, she choked with sobs and cried. Hong Sunyon inquired after the burial costs, and she could use 300 pieces of silver. Thereupon he upended a bag and offered it and in the end he did not get intimate with her. The woman inquired after his name, but he did not tell her. The woman said: "If the great man is not willing to talk, then I also do not dare accept this gift. Only then did he tell his name and left. Among his fellow travellers there were none who did not scoff at the impracticality.
- The woman afterwards became the new wife of Assistant Minister of Rites Shi Xing and Shi Xing became more important. Every time he saw eastern envoys he had to inquire whether the envoy Hong Sunyon was coming or not.

- After Hong Sunyön returned home, he was arrested and imprisoned for several years, because he did not repay a public loan. At this time our state sent out around ten envoys for the purpose of gaining Ming imperial recognition for the new king of Chosön, but all were not granted an audience. The king angrily stated: "This is the fault of the interpreters! If we go now and we are not allowed an audience, I will act to behead one interpreter. Consequently, no interpreters dared and wished to go. Close advisors suggested: "Hong Sunyön has not obtained a peek outside of the prison gates, we should compensate for the lost money and let him pay his debt and redeem himself and dispatch him. If he is granted the affair, and then if he returns and is in the gutter, it will be fortunate indeed. Although he will be dead, as a matter of course there will be no hatred." Thereupon, it was neatly brought forward and the intention explained, and Hong Sunyön generously allowed it.
- In the 21st year of King Sŏnjo (1567-1608), Hong Sunyŏn went to the yellow court and elegantly arrived in Beijng. Outside of the Chaoyang gate he saw a brocade tent connected to the clouds in the sky, and there was one horseman who speedily galloped and came and asked after Hong's specific business. He said Assistant Minister of Rites Shi Xing had enquired after the coming of Hong and he was awaiting to greet him with his wife. Suddenly he saw more than ten slave girls supporting the wife, and they carried her out of a tent. Hong Sunyon was stupefied and wanted to retreat. Shi Xing said: "Does the gentleman remember the favour you did at Tongzhou? I have heard my wife say that the gentleman is sincere and a righteous person in this world." The wife saw him and kowtowed. Hong Sunyon firmly refused. Shi Xing said: "This is paying a debt of gratitude and honoring you, the gentleman cannot not accept it." Hence a large banquet was spread out. Shi Xing asked the eastern envoy for what reason he had come, and Hong Sunyon replied with the truth. Shi Xing said: "Do not worry!" He stayed in the accommodation for more than a month, and the envoy's business was successfully granted an audience. Shi Xing really acted out of his position.
- Reaching his return, the wife had him ten letters with mother-of-pearl inlays, and each contained ten brocade paragraphs as components, and she said: "This is composed by my hand, to entertain the lord's arrival!" Hong Sunyon departed and did not accept them. When he returned to the Yalu River, he saw bickering people, set up his paragraphs and left. When the brocade was held level, the two characters bao'en (meaning "paying a debt of gratitude") stuck out. After Hong Sunyon returned, he gained the merit of the second rank of the radiant country, and conferred a think silk Tang fabric. People said that he lives in a cave named the Repaying a Debt of Gratitude Paragraphs Cave (nowadays the Beautiful Cave). His grandchild was a filial grandson, a Sukch'on County envoy.

原始出處為《菊堂俳語》

《燃藜室記述》末附其出處為《<mark>菊堂俳語》,</mark>可見,此事乃是來源於《菊堂俳語》。《菊堂 俳語》的作者是鄭泰齊(1612-1669)。 鄭泰 齊官至禮曹參判,曾三次以書狀官、正朝使身 份出使清朝。其所記細節略有出入。但所謂 "俳語",乃詼諧調笑語之意,故當不得 《菊堂俳語》中說法出自何處,既未說明, 《菊堂俳語》中說法出自何處,既未說明, 。 《朝普的《唐陵君遺事徵》書中也無考證,故 為現在所能追溯的最早源頭,就是鄭泰齊出使 為現在所能追溯的亦未可知。從現在所得 看來,以後諸家記述皆出自此書,因為李肯翊 的《燃藜室記述》乃是一部重要史書,故而以 他所記為准。

The original source is Kuktang paeŏ

- At the end of the Yŏllyŏsil kisul it is included that the source is the Kuktang paeŏ, which shows that this is the source. The author was Chŏng T'ae-che (1612-1669), an official of the Chosŏn Ministry of Rites. He was sent to the Qing dynasty as an envoy. The details of his record have a few discrepancies, but his so-called paeŏ conveys a humorous and teasing intention, and therefore it cannot serve as a true account.
- The origin of the account in the Kuktang paeŏis neither explained nor verified in Chŏng In-bo's Tangnŭnggun yusajing. Hence, the earliest source that can be traced is Chŏng T'ae-che's version that he heard on the way to the Qing dynasty and it is also uncertain. Judging from the information obtained so far, all the accounts of this story trace back to this source. Because Yi Kŭng-ik's Yŏllyŏsil kisul is an important historical record, his record serves as the standard.

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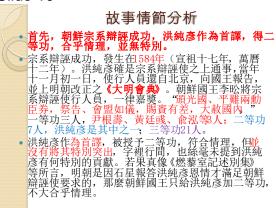
Other versions

First, there is the official *T'ongmengwan-ji*. This was compiled in 1708 by interpreters atSayŏkkwan, father and son Kim Chi-nam and Kim Kyŏng-mun, and printed and published for the first time in 1720 during the sixteenth year of King Sukchong's (1660-1721) reign. The seventh volume of the book mentions Hong Sunyŏn and narrated the story again. It mentioned Shi Xing had done two important things for Chosŏn Korea to repay Hong's kindness on behalf of his wife. One was to help resolve the Korean king's succession issue. Moreover, during the Imjin War, Shi Xing was the Minister of War. "Only by his

efforts and words he rescued them, and furthermore he gave weapons and gunpowder. We easterners came to recover our country and spared our fishermen through the efforts of Lord Shi Xing." *T'ongmungwa-ji* recorded this matter, which also came from the *Kuktang paeŏ*. Only the details of the story have changed.

- Second, there is the material recorded in the literary collections (wenji), successively in Yun Haeng'im's Sökchaego and Park Chi-wŏn's Yŏlha ilgi (in Okkap yahwa). There are also slight discrepancies in the details, but they all regard Shi Xing's efforts to come to the aid of Chosŏn Korea as his individual action to repay a debt of gratitude. However, upon closer inspection, you will discover that this retelling of repaying a debt of gratitude is full of loopholes.
- In addition, it still evolved in multiple versions, however the details are similar with minor differences.

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Storyline analysis

- First of all, the succession issue of the Choson king was successfully attended to, and Hong Sunyon functioned as the main interpreter and obtained secondclass merit. This is sensible and nothing special.
- The resolution of the succession issue happened in 1584 (seventeenth year of King Sŏnjo, twelfth year of Emperor Wanli). Hong Sunyŏn was indeed the envoy and main interpreter attending to this matter. On the first day of the eleventh month of that year, the envoys returned from Beijing and reported to the king, and the Ming court amended the Da Ming huidian (Statutes of the Great Ming). King Sŏnjo commended all the envoys on this embassy. Seven men were awarded second-class merits and Hong Sunyŏn was one of them.
- As the main interpreter, Hong Sunyŏn was awarded the second-class merit, which follows conventional etiquette, but was also not something outstanding. Between the lines there was also no mention of any special contribution by Hong Sunyŏn. If the story narrated in Yŏllyŏsil kisul is true, and the Ming dynasty granted the succession because Hong Sunyŏn was repaid a debt of gratitude by Shi Xing, then it is not very reasonable that the Chosŏn king only awarded Hong Sunyŏn a second-class merit.

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其次,從整個故事來看,許多細節皆不可信

鄭寅普《唐陵君遺事徵》所言:

"觀諸所載唐陵事狀,類皆俳而不莊物,其體

勢小說稗官之流。岱淵稍部勒之,燕岩濟以

陵屬,然亦少誇矣。求其樸而不俚、質而有

度,參諸左右而擊然而皆得其所當者,無有

也。於是眾說各主所聞,紛紜而英衷一是,

故一事之傳,彼此各異,即如(事)至滋疑於

如彼哉!(2)至於輸金之數,多寡多差

如彼哉!(2)至於輸金之數,多寡多差

(3)且所謂石星夫人之所以自致于其於

或謂賣身以贖父之死,或謂自鬻女問,將以

葬其父母,(4)或謂在皇城,或謂在通州。

唐陵之事遠矣,惡從以證其實哉!"
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Second, when purveying the whole story, many details do not seem credible

Chong In-bo's *Tangnunggun yusajing* states the following: "Viewing all the facts that were reported by *Tangnung*, they are all generally dramatic comedy and not serious matters. Their form is like the short stories of storytellers. [...] They seek simplicity and are unpolished, their quality has limits. [...] As a result of the diverse opinions of each master that I have heard being diverse and not agreeing with each other, and because the transmissions of one story each differ from one another, namely: (1) if officials from the Ministry of Rites and the Ministry of War at that time slightly verified the story behind this, then they would rather arrive at growing doubts afterwards, like this! (2) As to the figure of transported silver, the amount is thin and uneven. (3) Moreover, what is said to be the reason why Shi Xing's wife devoted herself to her parents, it is said she prostituted herself to redeem her father's death, and some people say that she prostituted herself in a brothel in order to bury her father and mother. (4) Some people say it was in the imperial city, and some people say that it was Tongzhou. The affair of Tangnung is already distant, I loathe engaging in proving its veracity!

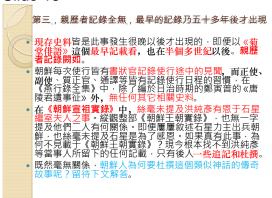
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故事情節之質疑 (5) 洪純春只喜其姓,洪姓在朝鲜並非鲜見、焉龍讓石星與其天人認定是洪純海底呢?《菊堂俳語)中本志言洪東海縣因將銀裝給柳氏和下鉱、《鄉室記述》加入這個細節,更濟染其傳為性,但也更為失真了。 (6) 《菊堂俳語》中將洪純彥在通州青樓初見柳氏和再見面時,有一時開說法即"三十年後"。也就是說。洪純蔣彥施恩更不可信。故而以後諸家記載皆省去了這個時間。這也充分說明,在複述者看來、這一情的太不可信。 (7) 作為朝中大臣的石星、不顧朝廷禮儀,大張旗鼓地在朝陽門外迎接排蔣亭一行,也與朝儀不行。只有這樣杜撰。才能讓人更加欽佩。但也就更為失真了。同時,石星從於五個體的侵壓。稱數十二年(1584年)四月,石星以東左期都如生,八月并為兵部左侍郎,他既不可能也無權力左右明廷更正《明會典》錯誤。

Doubts about the storyline

- (5) Hong Sunyŏn only told his surname, and the name Hong was not very rare in Chosŏn Korea. How could Shi Xing and his wife have firmly believed it was Hong Sunyŏn? Kuktang paeŏ does not yet mention Hong Sunyŏn is imprisoned, because he gave the silver to Lady Liu. Yŏllyŏsil kisul added this detail, exaggerating the legend even more, but losing even more credibility.
- (6) Kuktang paeŏ describes how Hong Sunyŏn sees Lady Liu in a brother in Tongzhou and when they meet again, it is described as "30 years later". In other words, Hong Sunyŏn did a favor for Lady Liu 30 years earlier and Lady

- Liu felt grateful and paid a debt of gratitude in satin 30 years later. This is bizarre, and moreover, it cannot be credible. Therefore, afterwards all authors omitted this time duration. This abundantly makes clear that from the point of view of the ones duplicating the narration, this plot was not credible.
- (7) Shi Xing, as a high official of the Ming dynasty, ignored the court etiquette and made a big show of welcoming Hong Sunyŏn and his party outside the Chaoyang Gate, which is inconsistent with court rituals. Only when this is fabricated, can you appreciate it, but then it loses credibility even more. At the same time, Shi Xing had not been appointed yet as Assistant Minister of Rites. In the fourth month of the twelfth year of Wanli (1584), Shi Xing was merely an imperial censor and in the eight month he was promoted to Left Assistant Minister of War, hence he could at that time not have had the ability and the authority to induce the Ming court to correct errors in the *Ming huidian*.
- (8) At that time Chosŏn Korea forbade the use of silver, and Hong Sunyŏn could impossibly have had 300 *liang* of silver. Even if it was government silver, it could not have been entirely handed over to an interpreter.
- Therefore, in reality it is not credible, in terms of common sense it is illogical.



Third, there is no record of witnesses, and the earliest record appeared more than 50 years later

- Existing historical materials all appear long after the incident happened, and even the earliest source, *Kuktang paeŏ*, appeared only half a century later. There is a lack of records left by people who personally witnessed the event.
- Every time Choson Korea sent envoys there would be clerks recording what
 the embassy heard and saw while en route. Other types of participating
 officials similarly had a habit of recording the itinerary of the embassy in the
 Yonhaengnok chonjip. Besides Chong In-bo's Tangnunggun yusajing,
 compiled during the Japanese occupation, there are no other related historical
 materials.
- In the Veritable Records of Chosŏn Sŏnjo there is not mention of Shi Xing's wife owing a debt of gratitude to Hong Sunyŏn. Even if we comb the entire Veritable Records, we will find not one word mentioning a connection between the two men. Even when it is repeatedly stressed that Shi Xing forcefully advocated coming to the aid of Chosŏn Korea, it never in the slightest degree suggested he did this because of a debt he owed. If there is really a factual basis for this, for what reason was it not put down in the Veritable Records of the Chosŏn Dynasty? Nowadays we cannot find any records left by Hong

- Sunyŏn and other involved parties, only postscripts and fabrications written by later generations.
- Since a connection is completely lacking, why did the Choson Koreans make up this kind of myth-like legend and story? We will see the explanation below.

三、石星力主出兵朝鮮的原因

1592年四月·豐臣秀吉侵朝·事出突然·朝鮮當即派使臣前往明朝求救·絡繹於道。但當時傳說紛弱有人說朝鮮勾結日本·為日本先鋒·將侵略明朝六有福建海商也提供類似情報。明朝只得不斷派人前往朝鮮打探情況·以便弄明事實真相。朝中議論變。為了弄清朝鮮軍員相,石星募人前往打探情報。次惟敬應徵。七月,沈惟敬前往前解于打探戰事情況。與此同時,朝鮮也三番五次派使臣前來請兵,其間最為關鍵性的事件是朝鮮請兵陳奏使<mark>鄭崑壽入明</mark>,最終令明廷下決心全力救援朝鮮。

Three, the reason why Shi Xing forcefully advocates sending troops to Choson Korea

- In the fourth month of 1592, Toyotomi Hideyoshi invaded Korea and it happened very suddenly. Chosŏn immediately sent out envoys to proceed to the Ming court to ask for help, and they came and went in a continuous stream. However, at that time circulating stories were diverse and confusing. There were people who said Chosŏn was colluding with Japan and served as the Japanese vanguard, and was going to invade the Ming dynasty. There were Fujianese sea merchants who offered similar intelligence. The Ming court could only unceasingly send people to Chosŏn Korea to make discrete inquiries about the situation, in order to figure out the truth of the matter.
- At the court it gave rise to much discussion. There were people who maintained that it was inappropriate to send the army, and there were people who maintained that they should stay calm and watch the changes. In order to gain a clear idea of the wartime conditions in Chosŏn Korea, Shi Xing recruited men to go and make inquiries discreetly for intelligence, and Shen Weijing was recruited. In the seventh month, Shen Weijing left for Chosŏn Korea to make discrete inquiries after the wartime conditions. At the same time, Chosŏn Korea again and again sent special envoys to request troops, and the most crucial event was that Chosŏn's envoy Chŏng Kon-su entered Ming China to memorialize the emperor to send troops, which finally made the Ming court decide to wholeheartedly come to the aid of Chosŏn Korea.



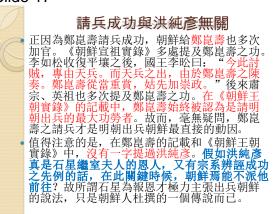
Chong Kon-su's request of troops

- In the eighth month of 1592 (twelfth year of Wanli), Chong Kon-su proceeded to Beijing as an envoy to present a memorial to the emperor to request troops.
 In his brief biography it is recorded as follows:
- After the lord left his petition with the Ministry of Rites, he pleaded for exemption from the emperor and dismounted his horse for a banquet, and furthermore requested to speedily take care of the military forces in order to deliver the small neighboring state from its grave danger. He also petitioned the Ministry of War and asked for advice. He also visited Minister of War Shi Xing, wept bitterly in sorrow and appealed to him; he was unbearably sad. The Minister was moved and also wept so much as to soak his clothes. He called people and said: "Chosŏn's special envoy to request troops is profoundly grieved with complete sincerity. Though he wept at the Qin court for seven days, none will be added."
- Chong Kon-su's Pugyong illok records in detail how he paid a visit to Shi Xing in Beijing and negotiated the process of requesting military aid. According to Chong Kon-su's description, in combination with the materials in the Veritable Records of Choson Sonjo, there are several points worth noting about this process of requesting military aid:
- First of all, Shi Xing, from start to finish, was the key figure deciding whether the Ming court would send troops. After the Korean envoy arrived in Beijing, he would communicate directly with him through various means and Shi Xing's attitude also become increasingly obvious. Chong Kon-su's party arrived in Beijing on the eighteenth day of the ninth month and set out on its homeward journey on the first day of the eleventh month. They stayed in Beijing altogether 42 days, and almost every day Shi Xing maintained contact. He also sent letters to Shi Xing to implore him to send troops. Chong Kon-su realized fully that Shi Xing was the most critical figure influencing whether the Ming court would send troops or not.

Chong Kon-su's request of troops

- Second, during the process of this request for troops, various sources confirmed that Choson Korea had been invaded by Japan, which made the Ming court decide to come to the aid of Choson Korea with wholehearted dedication. At that time, the people sent by Shi Xing to Choson Korea also obtained information about the disastrous aftermath of Hideyoshi's invasion. This fully confirmed Chong Kon-su's statements and strengthened Shi Xing's resolve to resist the Japanese. Therefore, Shi Xing immediately approved the purchase of gunpowder, horned bows and other gunpowder weaponry by Chosŏn Korea. These purchases were originally forbidden for Chosŏn Korea, but the ban was lifted to strengthen the armed forces of Choson Korea. While proposing that Liaodong province would first give Choson Korea gunpowder weapons, he suggested dispatching 20,000 Liaodong soldiers to Chosŏn Korea. However, at that time there were many at court who opposed sending troops, and Shi Xing in many ways mediated, and even wanted to personally lead troops to the east. On the tenth day of the tenth month, the Korean envoy learned the following: "Minister Shi proposed this and requested to personally go on an eastern expedition. Although he was not allowed, his language was continuously righteous and strong. We can gather what kind of person he is." He realized fully Shi Xing wholeheartedly wanted to come to the aid of Chosŏn Korea.
- Third, at the end of the ninth month, the Ming dynasty quelled the Ningxia mutiny and stabilized the domestic situation, which allowed the troops in Ningxia to be transferred to Chosŏn Korea. On the sixteenth day of the tenth month, the Ming Court ordered Li Rusong, the commander of Jizhen, Liaodong, Baoding, and Shandong, to take charge of the coastal defense against the Japanese and lead the troops coming to the aid of Chosŏn Korea. Therefore, Chŏng Kon-su's trip can be said to have succeeded and finally determined the question of whether the Ming court would rescue Chosŏn Korea.
- The reason why Shi Xing forcefully advocated coming to the aid of Chosŏn Korea was because he was duty-bound. The reason why the Ming emperor agreed to send troops was also based on his obligation as suzerain to protect his vassal states. He was well aware of the importance of Chosŏn Korea to the Ming dynasty, and it was the duty of the Ming dynasty to ensure the tranquility and stability of the Chosŏn Korean royal dynasty. This was the Ming court's duty-bound responsibility. Shi Xing's main reasons to send troops to Chosŏn

- Korea were thus born out of this great righteousness, and it is not possible to discern any personal motives.
- It can be seen that Shi Xing's firm attitude is also indebted to Chong Kon-su's persuasion, and the information obtained by the Ming dynasty confirmed that what Chong Kon-su said was true. At the same time, the Ming dynasty had ended the suppression of the Ningxia mutiny and just at that time had the military strength to proceed to Choson Korea.



The successful request for military assistance had nothing to do with Hong Sunyŏn

- Exactly because of Chong Kon-su's success in requesting military assistance, Choson Korea on many occasions promoted him to higher positions. The Veritable Records of Choson Sonjo in many places refers to Chong Kon-su's achievement. After Li Rusong recovered P'yongyang, the Choson king Sonjo said: "Today's dispatch of punitive force against the bandits is especially monopolized by the Heavenly army. And the dispatch of the Heavenly army is because of Chong Kon-su's memorializing. Following this undertaking, Chong Kon-su was handsomely rewarded. For the time being he has been advanced and promoted in the esteemed government." Afterwards, kings Sukchong and Yongjo (1724-1776) many times referred to his achievements. In the Veritable Records of the Choson Dynasty, Chong Kon-su was always regarded as the main contributor to the dispatching of troops from the Ming dynasty. Therefore, there is no doubt that his request for troops was the direct reason for the Ming dynasty to send military aid to Choson Korea.
- It is worth noting that in Chong Kon-su's account and in the Veritable Records of the Choson Dynasty, there is no mention of Hong Sunyon at all. If Hong Sunyon is really the benefactor of the wife of Shi Xing, and there was really a successful precedent in his handling of the succession issue, why did Choson Korea not send him at this critical juncture? Therefore, so-called Shi Xing strongly advocating sending troops to Choson Korea in order to repay a debt of gratitude is just a legend made up by Choson Koreans.

四、石星與封貢之議



Four, Shi Xing and the discussions about tribute

For almost half the duration of the war, China and Japan were arranging the matter of tribute. From the very beginning, Shi Xing had two strings on his bow, with war being given the first place, and peace took a backseat. After the defeat of Li Rusang at the Battle of Pyŏkchegwan (1593), he also endorsed peace negotations and inclusion in the tributary system. Therefore, afterwards peace was given the first place, and war took a backseat. Concerning the tributary matter, Shi Xing racked his brains, and he hoped to bring the war in Chosŏn to an end in one fell swoop. However, because of his faith in Shen Weijing, the tributary matter failed, and he himself was imprisoned, where he eventually died. (On the right is Shi Xing's calligraphy).

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石星與沈惟敬

在封頁過程中,石星居中策劃,在朝中仰仗首輔趙志皋的支持,在外則依靠沈惟敬聯絡交涉。無論中朝史料,皆將封頁失敗的原因,歸咎于石星過於信任沈惟敬,認為沈惟敬與日本議和使者小西行長的故意欺瞞,是封頁失敗的直接動因,有關失敗原因,研究很多,分歧也很大,在此只討論石星的責任,無法全面討論封頁之事石星與沈惟敬到底有著怎樣的關係,或許是探討明朝封頁問題的一個重要層面。

Shi Xing and Shen Weijing

During the process of arranging the tributary matter, Shi Xing was in the midst of planning, and at court he looked at Grand Secretary Zhao Zhigao for support, and outside the court he relied on Shen Weijing to conduct relations and negotiations. Regardless of the Chinese and Korean historical materials, they all attribute the failure of the tribute negotiations to Shi Xing excessively relying on Shen Weijing. They hold that Shen Weijing, during the peace negotiations with Japanese envoy Konishi Yukinaga (1558-1600), intentionally duped Shi Xing, which was the fundamental reason the tributary negotiations failed. There has been much research concerning the reasons of the failure, and the differences in interpretation are substantial. We can only discuss Shi Xing's responsibilities here, and cannot fully discuss the issue of the tributary status. In the end, the kind of relationship Shi Xing and Shen Weijing is

perhaps an important factor to explore regarding the Ming court's tributary issue.

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石星與沈惟敬 石星與沈惟敬 石星與沈惟敬的相識 中日韓的史料皆有所提及 強調 寶寶獨編 與朝鮮成海應《研經資主集》與日本川口長德《征 寶寶獨編 與朝鮮成海應《研經濟主集》與日本川口長德《征 韓國石星相議,是因為石星義女不介紹。沈惟敬 日長高石星相議,是因為石星。 "北惟敬與石星相議,是因為石星,在 "北惟敬與石星相議,是因為石星,在 "北惟敬,在是此,是 "北中國"。 "東京 "北中國"。 "中國"。 "

Shi Xing and Shen Weijing

- The acquaintance of Shi Xing and Shen Weijing is mentioned in the historical materials of China, Japan, and Korea. There are records in Shen Defu's (1578-1642) Wanli ye huo bian, Sŏng Hae-ŭng's (1760-1839) Yŏn'gyŏngjae chŏnjip and Kawaguchi Chōju's (1773/4-1834) Sei Kan i ryaku, but the details are slightly different.
- Shen Weijing was acquainted with Shi Xing, because they were introduced to each other by the father of Shi Xing's concubine. The reason why Shen Weijing was knowledgeable about Japan, was because his servant Shen Jiawang was acquainted with the country. Shen Jiawang said that Japan simply "sought to bring tribute to China" and nothing more. For this reason, Shen Weijing obtained Shi Xing's trust. At that time there were already people who did not trust Shen Weijing. Shi Xing did not listen, and during the war he only trusted Shen Weijing. Shen Weijing also again and again appears in the capacity of Shi Xing's personal messenger.
- On the fifteenth day of the eighth month of 1592, Shen Weijing was ordered for the first time by Shi Xing to proceed to Chosŏn Korea to make inquiries about the war situation. For the next two years, Shen Weijing was the most important liason between the Ming court and the Japanese troops during the negotiations. Many times he commuted between Liaodong and the Korean peninsula, and afterwards he even left for Japan to face Hideyoshi. However, he was overconfident and talked irresponsibly and reacted to the Japanese terms at will. He also hid the true situation from the Ming court and duped both sides. He was a cat's-paw. Shi Xing, however, stubbornly trusted him, and always followed his advise.
- After the failure of Li Rusong's assault at Pyŏkchegwan, he also agreed with Military Comissioner Song Yingchang to endorse tributary relations, and entrusted Shen Weijing with even more authority.

宋應昌對"封貢"之解釋

■ 明廷對石星、宋應昌等依賴沈惟敬 · 一味主和 · 多表示不滿。有大臣彈劾其 "許賞之誤,宋應昌辯解道 · 他只是把對責貢。一種策略 · 並非真想與日去 : "經略宋應昌來應昌表示支持: "經略宋應昌始末講貢之由 · 恢復朝鮮之故 · 大抵以達伐為 而 其違使密探 · 允問 捐金 · 則臣星應與之謀焉。"石星毫不諱言 · 支持宋應昌對貢之論。

Song Yingchang's explanation of the "investiture (of Japan) within the tributary status"

- The Ming court was unsatisfied with the fact that Shi Xing, Song Yingchang, and others depended on Shen Weijing who claimed to negotiate for peace. To respond to the criticism on "the approval of tribute", Song Yingchang explained that he simply viewed "tribute" as a strategy, but that he did not truly negotiate peace and the tribute matter.
- Shi Xing agreed with Song Yingchang on his argument of tribute. "The
 reasons for Song Yingchang's tribute argument and the restoration of Chosŏn
 were because battles were used as a form of authority and tribute served as a
 form of power, in the hope of success, without suspicion of fraud."

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兩次明使臣赴日 下: 宋應昌于1593年四月: 派謝

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在沈惟敬多方溝屬一下、宋應昌于1593年四月,派湖用样、徐一貫為使

調,將往名與上海,戶與日東方。豐田秀吉,豐田秀吉,對明使明日本

減,以必是為日本學之後成果,因此有數學的學學的學學的

是自己的人民。

是自己的人民,

是自己的人民。

是自己的人
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Ming envoys went to Japan twice

- In the fourth month of 1593, through Shen Weijing's negotiations with multiple parties, Song Yinghang dispatched the envoys Yong Zi and Xu Yiguan to Nagoya to visit Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Hideyoshi proposed seven requirements for the peace negotiations to the Ming envoys. "1. Provide the Ming emperor's daughter as a bride for the emperor of Japan; 2. Resume trade between Japan and Ming China; 3. Establish friendly relations between the high-ranking officials of both countries; 4. Cede the southern four provinces of Chosŏn [to Japan] 5. Provide a Chosŏn prince as a hostage to Japan; 6. Return the two Chosŏn princes captured by Katō Kiyomasa; 7. The ministers of the Korean court must provide written oaths stating their absolute obedience to Japan."
- These Ming envoys only told Song Yingchang that Japan showed respect and willingness to negotiate. Thus, Shi Xing and Song Yingchang made a submissive impression on Japan and continued to negotiate the tributary status with Japan. However, after a discussion at the Ming court, the results were to offer Japan the Chinese investiture for the King of Japan 對 without

tribute 贡, and to require their complete withdrawal, and to ask Japan to represent itself as a minister in front of the Ming empire. Yukinaga heard the Ming's requirements and noticed the huge difference in requirements between Japan and Ming China, so he met with Shen Weijing. They were worried about the failure of the negotiations and made a fake report of Kampaku's surrender 關白降表 together.

- In the tenth month of 1594, Japan dispatched Naitō Joan 內藤如安 (C. Xiao Xifei) (1550-1626) to come together with the Ming envoys to Beijing. Naitō Joan agreed with the Ming court's three requirements. 1). Japanese withdrawal from Chosŏn. 2). Chinese investiture of Japan but disallowance to send tribute 3). The promise of not invading of Chosŏn. After this discussion ended in the twelfth month, the Ming envoys went to Japan. In the beginning, Toyotomi Hideyoshi was delighted to receive the Ming's gold stamp and coronation costumes in order to complete the investiture ceremony. However, when Ming emperor Wanli called him the King of Japan, he was outraged, so he expelled the Ming envoys and wanted to kill Yukinaga.
- In the first month of 1595, Hideyoshi launched another invasion.

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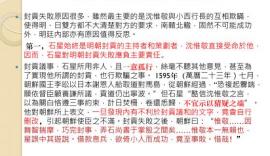
日本名護屋城遺址



Heritages of the Japanese Nagoya castle

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封貢失敗明朝方面的原因



Reasons for the failure of the Ming court's tribute arrangements

• There are many reasons for the failure of the investiture and tribute matter. The main reason was the mutual deception between Shen Weijing and Konishi Yukinaga, which made both Ming China and Japan unclear about each other's demands and made them act at cross-purposes. There were also factors at play within the Ming court that deserve reflection.

- First, Shi Xing was the main Ming planner for the investiture and tribute of Japan, and Shen Weijing was directly under his command, so Shi Xing was mainly responsible for the failure.
- Shi Xing did not listen to others' opinions and he even cheated to achieve his so-called investiture and tributary status. Shi Xing "believed in Shen Weijing's words, and thought that the Kanpaku would strictly follow the three restrictions... so it was not advisable to show any suspicion". In the report to the Chosŏn court, if he found any text that was not conducive to the peace negotiations, he would delete it himself, causing dissatisfaction among the Chosŏn envoys. After the failure of the investiture and tribute matter, the Chosŏn court said: "Weijing held Shi Xing between the palms of his hands. Weijing was originally a rascal, but (Shi) Xing mistakenly fell for his lobbying... It is a pity!"

石星性格上的缺陷

Drawbacks of Shi Xing's characteristics

- Regarding the peace negotiations, its true intent is only for [the benefit of] our state. It is important for a minister to be modest, to gather virtue, and to not deceive at all. However, Xing listened to his side of the story in the hope of success and by utilizing the deception. Then he did not concern himself with the failure of investiture and tribute. Although the entire state was aware and discussing it, he still saw them as newly appointed and impetuous, and rejected them while only listening to Weijing's words... This is all due to paranoia. Regarding the result, he wanted to get personally invited into the Japanese camps, smoothing th tiger's fur with his hand, such foolishness!
- Shi Xing was stubborn as he used to be when he first went into an official
 position, and he recklessly submitted a letter stating the faults of the Longqing
 emperor, which led him to be dismissed from office. His 'foolishness' was one
 of the reasons for the failure of investiture and tribute.

第二, 封貢失敗亦在於明廷的無知

一方面是對冊封禮儀的無知,另一方面是 對日本的無知。石星是兵部尚書·派兵征 伐是其職責所在,但封貢冊封應該屬於禮 部職掌·由石星主持封貢事宜·有越俎代 庖的嫌疑。同時·泱泱大明王朝·舉朝群 臣竟然找不出一位日本專家·只能通過招 募·依仗沈惟敬這樣一位"無賴"·去洽 談封貢事宜·焉能不敗?兵部、禮部職掌 不明,是一筆糊塗賬。

Second, the failure of investiture and tribute lies in the ignorance of the Ming court

- The Ming court was ignorant about the conference of the ritual investiture and about Japan as well.
- Shi Xing was a minister at the Ministry of War, so his duty was to send troops to conquer, while the investiture and tribute related tasks should be managed by the Ministry of Rites. Thus when Shi Xing was in charge of the tribute affairs, he was overstepping his authority.
- There was no expert on Japan at the Ming court and the court relied simply on Shen Weijing, which determined the failure of the negotiations. The distinction of responsibilities between the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Rites was not clear.

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對於日本的無知

Ignorance of Japan

- "Regarding the discussion on the tribute of the Kanpaku....Shi Xing wanted in vain to obtain it, but was too preoccupied to deeply investigate it, not knowing what kind of country Japan was, what kind of person the Kanpaku was...how can this help to serve the country?"
- To sum up, there were many reasons behind the failure of the tribute issue, among which the Chosŏn Korean and Japanese factors also played an important role. From the Ming side, Shi Xing should be seen as the most responsible person, because he employed an unsuitable person, and he was foolish to the extent of being so stubborn, that he did not listen to more people. It was also due to the lack of experts at the Ming court, which was one of the drawbacks of the courtiers.

五、**朝鮮對石星之感恩**

• 1597年(萬曆二十五年,宣祖三十年)九月壬辰, "逮前兵部尚書石星下獄,論死。"沈德符《萬曆野獲編》稱:"近日樞臣石星……論極刑,妻子亦坐流徙,則數十年來僅見者。"可見,在當時人看來,對於石星的處置,是相當重的。以兵部尚書之職而被論死,妻子皆被流放,全家遭殃,嘉年間罕見。當時明朝人感覺石星因東征封貢失敗被論死,有點冤枉。而朝鮮人則覺得愧疚,因為石星是為救朝鮮而被下獄論死的。

Five, Choson's gratitude towards Shi Xing

- In the ninth month of 1597, Shi Xing was put into jail and sentenced to death.
- "Recently the minister Shi Xing...was sentenced with an extreme penalty, his wife was also expelled, which was rarely seen in these ten years."
- These records suggest that the punishment of Shi Xing was relatively extreme
 for the standards of that time. Some Ming Chinese also felt miserable about
 the assignment of the death penalty, because of the failure of the tribute issue.
- Chosŏn Koreans also felt guilty, because Shi Xing died for saving Chosŏn.

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石星下獄與朝鮮之態度

Chosŏn's attitude towards Shi Xing's penalty

- Earlier, when Ming armies helped to reclaim large parts of Chosŏn lands after the Battle of P'yŏngyang, the Battle of Kaesŏng, and the Battle of Hansŏng, in the tenth month of 1594, the Chosŏn king and ministers discussed the construction of shrines for Shi Xing and Ming general Li Rusong to express their gratitude. After consideration, they decided to build a joint shrine for them. However, it was still in the midst of the war so the plans were in vain.
- After the failure of the investiture and tribute negotiations, Shi Xing was
 involved in trouble. In the fourth month of 1597, the Choson king and ministers
 heard this and planned how to report this to the Ming court to save Shi Xing.
 However, Choson did not take any action and in the tenth month of 1597, they
 heard that the Ming emperor punished Shi Xing with a serious penalty,
 because his negotiation proposal was thought to have endangered the state.
- Chosŏn King Sŏnjo expressed his gratitude, "Shi Xing has aided by saving P'yŏngyang and recovered the east. (I am) always thankful...Shen Weijing also made efforts to travel for our small state affairs. The people of the small state have never forgotten the kindness of these two lords. It is with great pity

- that we hear of this. Also, the people of the small state have no way to understand it, which especially adds to our feelings of injustice."
- These words show a sense of Chosŏn's gratitude and guilt. However, Chosŏn did not take any action to rescue him.



Shi Xing doing a favor for Choson and Choson's worship

- At the beginning of 1599, Ming minister Yang Yingchun 楊應春 met Chosŏn minister Yi Yŏnhwa 李彥華 in secret. Yang told that he met Shi Xing yesterday who asked him to convey some words to Chosŏn, saying that "I am especially dedicated to Chosŏn without wasting Chosŏn's food or unreasonably wasting any government troops. Due to this eastern expedition, my wife has been exiled far to Guangxi, and I have only one son, aged twelve, and I have not seen my flesh and blood for years."
- Yang Yingchun hoped that Chosŏn could intercede: "If the king of your state
 memorialized to the imperial court, this matter might be resolved...How about
 asking the minister to report to the Chosŏn king and dispatching envoys to
 come to report to the imperial court?" However, Chosŏn did not take any
 action in the end.
- In the tenth month of the same year, the Choson king was informed of Shi Xing's death in prison, and the king said, "Shi Xing did favours to our state but ended in this way, which I am shocked to hear." He then presided over a discussion on whether they should hold a ritual ceremony. Although the court was divided in its opinions, the Ministry of Rites decided not to hold any sacrificial ceremony.
- "... Shi Xing, as a minister, advocated for peace but was eventually convicted of a serious crime and died in prison, which is great righteousness and will not be extinguished today. How can our state hold a ritual for such a small favour, which will offend China's future generations?"
- Because of the fact that the so-called 'personal emotions (私情)' were at odds with the 'great righteousness (大義)', Chosŏn did not perform a ritual ceremony for Shi Xing. This shows that Chosŏn always prioritized the practical benefits in managing its foreign relations with Ming.

對報恩傳奇故事之解釋

1603年,提出 1603年, 1603年,



Explanations of the myth of gratitude

- In the eighth month of 1603, Choson built a shrine in P'yongyang, where the
 portraits of many Ming generals and ministers were placed, including the
 Minister of War Shi Xing. The expression of gratitude by Choson Korea to Shi
 Xing was only limited to the ritual of building a shrine to commemorate him.
- Shi Xing was imprisoned for the failure of the investiture and tribute negotiations, and he died in prison. He tried to ask Chosŏn to plead for him, but Chosŏn did not say a word and did not offer a sacrificial ritual upon hearing of his death. However, the Chosŏn king and ministers could not ignore his contribution to Chosŏn Korea. This is probably the reason for the constructed myth that Shi Xing expressed his gratitude to Hong Sunyŏn 洪純彥, who saved his wife, which led him to assist Chosŏn. In doing so, it could help to relieve the anxiety among the Chosŏn king and ministers, and justify their actions.

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《東泉先生實紀》

- 1599年(萬曆二十七年)九月·石星瘐死獄中,其妻、子皆發配粵西。天啟元年(1621)五月·因刑部侍郎鄒元標呈請·"宥原任兵部尚書永戌石星子石正奇回籍。" 1622年(天啟二年)三月·"蔭原任兵部尚書石星男茂恩指揮僉事。"前面提及石星曾對楊應春說·他只有一子·年方十二。《明實錄》中·提及的石正奇、石茂恩皆是石星子·或許只是同一人·一為名·一為字·天啟二年時當為35歲。
- 韓國現存一種資料《東泉先生實紀》·除了收錄石星資料外·更重要的是有前往朝鮮半島之石星後人的資料。其中載錄·石星有子二·長子曰石潭,次子曰石湃。此種史料矛盾重重·卷二先載錄石潭所書《遺書》·落款為"崇禎己巳(1629,崇禎二年)九月人不肖孤潭泣血謹書"

Tongch'ŏn sŏnsaeng silgi [Real records of Tongch'ŏn]

- In the ninth month of 1599, Shi Xing died in prison, while his wife and son were sent to western Guangxi. In the fifth month of 1621, the son of the previous minister of the Ministry of Punishment, Shi Zhengqi 石正奇, returned.
- In the third month of 1622, "the son of the previous minister of the Ministry of Punishment Shi Xing, Maoen 茂恩 commanded official affairs."
- In *Ming Shilu* (Veritable Records of Ming 明實錄), the names of Shi Xing's sons were mentioned as Shi Zhengqi 石正奇 and Shi Maoen 石茂恩. Perhaps they were the same person, one was his given name, *ming* 名, and the other

- was his courtesy name, or *zi* 字. In 1622 (The second year of Tianqi), his son was 35.
- This important existing record in Korea offered information on the descendants of Shi Xing, who went to the Korean peninsula. According to this record, Shi Xing had two sons, the elder son named Shi Tan, and the second son named Shi Jian. Volume 2 in this document included one essay by Shi Tan.
- These historical data are full of contradictions.



The myth of Shi Xing's son going to Choson

- It mentioned their trip to Chosŏn:
- The second Japanese invasion of Chosŏn in the year Chŏng'yu (1597) involved an ancestor who got into trouble, and who was even imprisoned. He felt he could not be freed so he called his brother and told him, "I have been loyal to the state, but I end like this, which is my fate. Under the overturned nest, how could the eggs remain whole? You go to Chosŏn as soon as possible to save your life, in order not to stop the inheritance from the ancestors. I did favours to Chosŏn, (it) will not treat (you) badly..."
- I followed my mother far away from suburb regions where epidemics struck...being released in the reign of Tianqi...The younger brother had already been to (Chosŏn), so I followed my ancestor's order and accompanied his mother to the east, arriving in Haeju...Finding the person Tangnung, I told him all the story of our escape to survive. He reported this to the king, who ordered me to the court and granted me a household registered at Haeju with a title of nobility.

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Contradictions in *Kajang* [Document of the family]

- The descendants of his younger brother Shi Lan wrote:
- ""The elder son named Tan did not have news after returning from his expulsion. The second son named Jian followed his father's order and entrusted himself to a merchant boat to Liaodong. And afraid of any venture

- near the north, (he) returned to the South China Sea, resting in Hŏnam (the southern region of Korea). Ten years of drifting south were gone with tears. Worshipping the relatives with the character Xing, who resided in Sŏngju 星州.
- Shi Tan and Shi Jian came to the Korean peninsula. Shi Jian first came to the Korean peninsula with a merchant ship and was able to live in Sŏngju. Shi Tan first went to Guangxi with his mother, and after Tian Qi returned from his expulsion, he came to the east with his mother and found Hong Sunyŏn, who reported this matter to the Chosŏn court. They finally lived in Haeju 海州. But the two brothers lost contact on the Korean peninsula, and did not know how the other brother was doing.
- Tongch'ŏn sŏnsaeng silgi [Real records of Dongquan] was said to be a private historical material compiled by the descendants of Shi Xing. However, there is no official historical record to confirm it. How can it not be included in the sillok [The veritable records of the Chosŏn Dynasty]? There is no information about them in it.
- This is contradictory to the record that Shi Xing once said that he had only one son, twelve years old.

正祖時期傳言石星弟石奎玄孫

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■ 1791年 (正祖十五年) 三月・有一對兄弟石漢英、石漢俊自言是石星弟石蚕之玄孫,正祖正設法表彰明遺民後孫・當獲知他們系石星弟之後人・非常高興・下教曰:

「吃專!尚書有思,我國木剛。其死乃由於我國、我國所以崇報之者, 直或後於上所雲諸名將。而提督之後,流在我國。年前別講義起之禮, 立廟造祠版, 譽之以桂字。尚書則其從孫,亦有與僧徹貞淨於海,远班於北部者。向於郊行,始覺有尚書弟奎之孫、之玄孫, 俾與聖尔之祖, 非難遽議,而曾聞或烈祠,惟尚書之像、銷而宛然如生雲。安峽流寓人石漢英、石漢俊等,今兵曹蛤馬,今日下送平壤地或烈祠,使之一號。

言辭之間・頗感欣慰・且派人將他們送到平壤・使之瞻仰武烈祠・並予以祭拜。且令人去查考石漢英、石漢俊所言是否屬實。不久・查考之人回話:"非但石哥之無所聞、並與記事述傳之李世瑛・憑問無路。
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The myth of a grandson of Shi Xing's brother Shi Kui during King Chongio's reign

- In the third month of 1791, a pair of brothers, Shi Hanying and Shi Hanjun, claimed themselves to be the great-grandsons of Shi Xing's younger brother Shi Kui. King Chongjo tried to offer honour to the Ming descendants.
- "Minister (Shi Xing) did favours, but our state has not repaid him. His death was because of our state, and those our state worship and retribute, how could we not (include) the descendants of those famous generals mentioned above? And the descendants of the admiral fled to our country. In previous years, we discussed the rituals of righteousness, building temples and serving with livestock. The grandsons of Minister [Shi] also drifted in the sea with the monk Huizhen and escaped to the eastern counties. When travelling to the suburbs, I realized that these were the grandsons and great-grandsons of Minister [Shil's younger brother Kui, while I would like to honour... However, it is unknown whether there are really direct descendants of the Minister. Then, the construction of temples had been regulated. Although it is difficult to discuss completely. I have heard that at the Mulyŏlsa Temple, there was only the portrait of Minister [Shi], whose face looked like a holy cloud. The displaced Shi Hanying, Shi Hanjun and the others were ordered to be given horses by the Minister of War. They were sent down to the Mulyŏlsa Temple in P'yŏngyang today so that they could perform worship."

• The Chosŏn king's words suggest his delight. These descendants of Shi Xing were sent to P'yŏngyang to visit the Muyŏlsa [Martial Shrine] and to pay their respects. He also dispatched officers to check whether, what Shi Hanying and Shi Hanjun had said, was true. Soon afterwards, the investigation officer came to report, "Not only was nothing heard about Shi's brother, but also there was no way to verify the narratives of Yi Seyŏng."

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正祖時期傳言石星弟石奎玄孫

儘管查無實據,正祖並不氣餒,他反而說:

水中之蟹,草間之蛛,尚為人愛惜,況以石為姓者,於我國果何如也?當壬辰之役也……惟大司馬石公,慷慨以東事自負,排甲乙盈庭之論,動百萬超距之眾,為大學,而志決身殲,而之寒,為不免為不見,於不報東土小大黎獻家祭而戶稅,尚不足,雖使環東土小大黎獻家祭而戶稅,尚不足,雖使環東土小大黎獻家祭而戶稅,此待又雖於大村之禦營給料,以待文跡之推現,別加收用。

The myth of a grandson of Shi Xing's brother Shi Kui during King Chŏngjo's reign

- Although there was no evidence, Chongjo was not discouraged but said:
- "[...] only the great Shi Xing, who was generous to take responsibility for the eastern affairs, responding to the diverse discussions in the court, moving millions of people over a distance, achieving virtues with no retribution, but ending his life by a serious slaughter. Even though all the small and large families in the eastern land were asked to offer family rituals and household blessings, it was even not enough to redeem hundreds of bodies... At this moment, offer them materials at the royal camp first, while waiting for the further inscriptions to be revealed, so don't charge more."

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正祖重視石氏兄弟之原因

The reasons for Chongio's attention to Shi's brother

Although there was no evidence, Chongjo was still very excited because they
claimed to be the descendants of Shi Xing. He then ordered to offer them an
official salary and to dispatch envoys to the empire to buy the genealogy
records of Shi Xing, in order to aid in investigating the truth. He didn't care

- whether they were the real descendants of Shi Xing's younger brother, but the claim of being a descendant of Shi Xing alone could satisfy him.
- This also proved that the Tongch'on sonsaeng silgi [Real records of Tongch'on] were wrong and questionable. Because, in accordance with the records in Tongch'on sonsaeng silgi, why could the king not find his descendants in Choson?

在朝明東征將士後裔之真假

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傳說石星、李如松、李如梅、陳璘等人後代,明朝滅亡後,都
想法逃到了朝鮮半島,成為朝鮮王朝的臣民。事實上,除了李
如松後代之外(乃其朝鮮妾所生),其他幾人的後代都無法在
朝鮮官方史料中找到確切證據、只是民間傳說。即便有家譜、
因為無法跟官方史料應證,也不大可信,很難說確有其事。即
便不是真的,也有重要的歷史意義。為何這麼說呢?
戰爭結束後,朝鮮國王李昖把明朝東征將領看成是施予"皇恩"
的具體執行者,為了表示對明東征將士的感激之情,他建造了
許多碑、祠、廟・作為崇祀明東征將士的場所。最主要的有宣
武祠、武烈祠、湣忠壇、連同明朝將領建造的關王廟。碑則相
當多,以記載明東征之恩,表達朝鮮君臣感激之情。
其中對石星、李如松、楊鎬、邢玠四人尤為特別對待。他們四
人成為朝鮮重點崇祀祭奠的對象。因而朝鮮在平壤建武烈祠,
崇祀石星、李如松及其部將,在漢城建宣武祠崇祀邢玠、楊鎬。
從此開啟朝鮮王朝懷念祭奠明東征將士之先聲,也使得朝鮮民
眾、從兩班貴族到平民百姓、對於明東征將領姓名、耳熟能詳。
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The authenticity of the descendants of the Ming generals in Choson

- There were folk tales that most of the descendants of Shi Xing, Li Rusong, Li Rumei, and Chen Lin fled to the Korean peninsula after the fall of the Ming dynasty, and became subjects of Chosŏn. In fact, except for the descendants of Li Rusong (born by his Chosŏn concubine), the descendants of several other people cannot be found in the official Korean historical materials, but remained folklore. Even if there are private genealogical records, they cannot match official historical materials so they are not very credible.
- After the war, King Sŏnjo regarded the Ming generals as the specific implementors of the "imperial kindness". To express gratitude, he ordered the construction of many shrines and temples.
- The most important four figures included Shi Xing, Li Rusong, Yang Hao, and Xing Jie, who became the key objects of worship in Chosŏn. Therefore, Chosŏn built the Muyŏlsa in P'yongyang to worship Shi Xing, Li Rusong and their generals, and the other Sŏnmusa in Seoul to worship Xing Jie and Yang Hao. Since then, it became the pioneering action of Chosŏn to commemorate the Ming generals and soldiers. From the *yangban* elites to the common people, they were all familiar with the names of the Ming generals who contributed to the Imjin War.

在朝明東征將士後裔之真假

The authenticity of the descendants of the Ming generals in Choson

- When King Injo surrendered to the Qing empire in 1637, Chosŏn was forced to become a vassal state of the Qing. In the following two hundred years, Chosŏn persisted in respecting the rituals of Zhou and served the Ming, and performing the related activities.
- In 1704, King Sukchong built the Altar of Great Retribution (Taebodan) in the garden of the Palace of Ch'angdŏkgung to worship the Ming Emperor Shenzong. Later, Chosŏn king Yŏngjo included Ming Taizu and Emperor Chongzhen, and the Chosŏn king personally paid homage every year. He also ordered the repair of the temples of Guanwang built by Chen Lin, a Ming general during the Imjin War, while the other Ming generals were also treated as the objects of worship there. Especially the portraits of Chen Lin and Yi Sunsin were worshipped at the Temple of Guanwang in Hansŏng, which created an upsurge of worshipping and commemoration of the Ming generals.
- Nine descendants of righteous soldiers from the late Ming dynasty were set up as a Han lineage (漢旅), being the watchmen of the Altar of Great Retribution and participating in the king's sacrifices at the Altar of Great Retribution. Even a special civil examination was established, which improved the social status of the descendants of the Ming dynasty, and even drew the attention of common Choson Koreans.
- It was in such an atmosphere that the legend of the descendants of Shi Xing, Li Rusong, Chen Lin and others appeared. The appearance of these legends celebrating the descendants of the Ming Imjin generals was inseparable from the long-term adherence to the atmosphere of respecting the Rituals of Zhou and commemorating the Ming in the late Chosŏn dynasty. Therefore, even if they are false, they provide us with hints to understand some perceptions in late Chosŏn society.

Slide40 Thank you!