

Weights and Measures under Mongol Rule : Reexamination Based on the Documents Brought from East Turkestan

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In the Uigur documents brought from East Turkestan we find many units for weights and measures. As is well known, YAMADA Nobuo conducted a preliminary research on these units, but he had to leave many uncertain because of the limited number of contract document source materials. Since then, a large number of Uigur documents have been edited, revised, and made available to academic researchers : They include contracts as well as administrative orders, official ledgers and private lists. We must utilize these sources to further develop Yamada's pioneering work. Moreover, we should take into account that most of the Uigur documents belong to the Mongol Era (13.-14. cc.), and some of the Uigur measure units are the same as those found in the Mongolian documents. From this point of view, one may say that it is necessary also to compare Uigur units with those in the area dominated by the Mongol Empire.

This paper investigates the units in the Uigur and Mongol documents, *qap*, *tämbin*, *saba* (liquid measure units) and *taġar* (grain measure unit), especially as regards their estimated values and their correspondences with those of China and Iran. As a result, it can be proved that these units fit into an unified system covering the whole area under Mongol domination, from China to Iran, just as the system of the denominations (i. e., weights of silver ingot) did. From this we may go on to the conclusion that the Mongol Empire unified the system of weights and measures in the whole area under their rule in order to direct and develop the contemporary Eurasian-wide commerce system.