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TWO MEDIEVAL CHINESE CHRONICLES ABOUT BYZANTINUM

(Summary)

The texts in the present paper concerning the Byzantine Empire are translated from Chinese fragments of Old and New Book of Tang. The Old Book of Tang (Jiu Tang Shu) is one of the 25 dynasty chronicles in the Chinese historiography and consists of 200 rolls. Its chief compilers are Liu Xu and Zhang Zhaoyuan in the period of Later Jin Dynasty (936–946). In Roll 148 called “Western armies” apart from evidence on Byzantium there is also information about other western countries and states, such as Nepal, Gaochang, India, Persia, the Arabs, etc. The New Book of Tang (Xin Tang Shu) is compiled by a group of historiographers with chief editors Ouyang Xiu and Song Qi. It consists of 225 rolls, written in the course of 17 years and was officially presented to the throne in 1060 (Song Dynasty). The translated fragment here is from Roll 146 “Western Regions” where we can find also information about the Arabs, the state of Kang (Samarkand), An (Bukhara), Shi (Tashkent), etc. The Chinese texts here are translated by Iskra Mandova and Yan Qiuxia, and are given in simplified Chinese while the original texts are from JIU TANG SHU (Zhuan, Liezhuan 148, Xirong, pp. 5313–5314) and XIN TANG SHU (Zhuan, Liezhuan 146 xia, Xiyu xia, pp. 6260–6261), Zhonghua shuju publishers, Shanghai, 1975.