

The Provision Orders of the Postal System of the Chinggisid Empire

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Recognizing their need of a fast and reliable flow of information, in an early stage of their conquest the Mongols formed a postal system (*jam*) unprecedented both in size and in organization. In the 13th century their postal network covered almost the whole empire. Although in the last decades many have pointed out the importance of the postal system in the Chinggisid Empire, there are a lot to do on this field. First I give an overview on the macrostructure of the *jam*, based on the information from the narrative

sources. The Turkic sources written in Uygur script excavated from the Tarim Basin from the 13th – 14th centuries enlighten the study of the microstructure of the postal system. I investigated these sources at the Berlin Academy of Sciences. These sources called provision orders have never been used before in the historical reconstruction of the *jam*. This type of sources shed light on the daily life of the postal system of the Chinggisid Empire: ethnical composition of the travelers who used the *jam*; the provisioning organization for the travelers, the quality and quantity of the provisions. The presentation offers new possibilities to reconstruct the microstructure of the Mongol postal system.