

NOTE

KING MANGRAI AND CHIANG RUNG

by

David K. Wyatt and Dian Murray

One of the most serious problems confronting the historian in attempting to utilize the potential riches of the Thai chronicle traditions is the difficulty encountered in checking the reliability of his sources. The northern chronicles in particular often give the impression of having derived from a single, almost circular tradition; and if for example, two different chronicles are both based on a single source, it is no proof of reliability to say that the two check against one another. However, an interesting case has come to light which tends, at least on first impression, to enhance the status of the Chiangmai chronicle and thereby opens the possibility that further research in the same direction might provide the historian with additional materials for the study of the earliest periods in Thai history.

As part of an attempt to gain a broader picture of what was occurring in the "Thai world" during what Kachorn Sukhabanij has called the "Beachhead States" period of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D., we investigated one Chinese source concerning the history of the Tai Lü principality of Chiang Rung (Keng Hung; in Chinese, Ch'ê-li), on the Mekong River in extreme southern Yünnan. This source is a curious volume by Li Fu-i (李拂一) entitled *Ch'ê-li*

hsüan-wei shih hsi k'ao ting 卓里宣慰世系考訂 [A Revised Study of the Genealogy of Ch'ê-li Pacification Chieftaincy] published apparently in Ch'ê-li (but perhaps in Shanghai) in 1947. The work consists of two parts, the first of which is a scholarly attempt to establish the succession of rulers in Chiang Rung from the first, Pa Chên, who ruled from 1180 to 1192, to the last, Chao Mhom Lhong Khong Gham (in the romanization given in the text), who ruled from 1927 to 1943. The second portion of the volume consists of what appears to be a similar "king-list" written in Tai Lü script, with a Chinese translation on facing pages. We have not yet had the opportunity to get beyond the reign

of the eighth ruler (and any further work on the subject may be long delayed); but one striking passage connects so directly to the chronicle traditions of north Thailand that it seems worth immediate attention.

The passage in question (pages 6-7) is that treating the reign of the fourth ruler of Chiang Rung. In Dian Murray's translation following, the first form of a name given is in Wade-Giles romanization. Where Li Fu-i has provided another romanization, this is included in parentheses; and where possible suggested modern Thai forms are given in square brackets. The portions in italics are "interior" footnotes inserted into the original text by Li Fu-i, and in this case are based solely on references to the *Lê-shih*, a source not otherwise identified which may be Vietnamese.

4. T'ao-lung-chien-tzū (Dao Rung Kian Jhai), A.D. 1234-1257

T'ao-lung-chien-tzū inherited his father's position in Tsu-la [Čhunlasakkarāt] 595.

Sung Dynasty, Emperor Li Tsung's Tuan-p'ing reign, first year; A.D. 1234.

He had one son named T'ao-Liang-t'ung; one daughter named Niang-wo- [or O-] min-k'ai-fa (Nang O-Ming Khai Fa).

The Lê-shih writes O-Ming Jom Meeng.

When she was a little older, her name was changed to Niang Wo- [or O-] -yen (Nang Ok Yan).

The Lê-shih writes "Nang Ok Bian."

It also happened at that time that Shih Ching-hai ch'iu [or ts'iu] (Chao Jing Rai) [Čhao Chiangrāi]

The Lê-shih writes Shih Lan-na.

also changed her name to Niang K'eng-chieh [?].

Nang Gham Kai. The Lê-shih writes Nang Gham-khai.

When T'ao-lung-chien inherited his father's position he was thirty-nine years old. He was on the throne for twenty-three years and died at the age of sixty-two. That was in... Tsu-la 619.

Sung Dynasty, Emperor Li Tsung's Pao-yu reign (1253-1258); A.D. 1257.