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particularité, c'est-à-dire, extrémité recourbée vers le haut. La pirogue était cassée en deux si bien que nous n'avons pu connaître la forme de l'autre extrémité. Mais, heureusement une découverte récente dans la préfecture Chiba, aux environs de Tako, au nord de la cité Yôkaichiba, a fourni un autre spécimen de ce type, et, par bonheur, intact. Les deux extrémités en sont recourbées vers le haut. Dans les alentours sur les plateaux se trouvent plusieurs entassements de coquillages, traces d'habitation humaine de l'âge Jômon inférieure. Ce fait nous a conduit à supposer l'antiquité de ce bateau. Nous pouvons actuellement présumer que ce type fut l'une des formes primitives des bateaux creusés.

Vers l'époque proto-historique, les japonais ont commencé à servir du bateau de planche dont la forme était longue et les extrémités étaient recourbées vers le haut. On peut retrouver aussi ce type aux pays méridionaux et dans la côte maritime du continent asiatique. D'après l'opinion de l'auteur, le Japon a subi une certaine influence étrangère, probablement venu du sud à cette époque.

The Battle of Talas—Preliminary Chapter

Shinji MAEJIMA

The battle at Talas in Central Asia, fought between the Chinese army of T'any dynasty and the Arab and Iranian troupes of Abbassid Caliphate in 751 A.D., was not only significant from political and military standpoints, but it produced various interesting effects on the history of cultural intercourse between the West and the East. But the Chinese sources concerning this event are comparatively poor and the Arabic sources astonishingly scarce.

The researches into the history of Heart of Asia in this period are admirably executed by E. Chavannes, W. Barthold, H.A.R. Gibl and other scholars. However, we cannot find any monograph which treats particularly this serious encounter. In my opinion, there still remain considerable

parts to complement the studies of the predecessors. In this preliminary chapter, I wish to re-examine the relations and contacts between T'any dynasty and the Caliphate from the beginning to the day of Talas. As to the direct causes of the incident and the relating circumstances, I intend to publish my opinion shortly in the SHIGAKU, historical quarterly of Keio University.

Introduction of Fire-arms to China by the Ottoman Empire

Hironori WADA

The 神器譜 or the Record of the Sacred Machines written by Chao Shih-chen 趙士禎 of the Ming period, tells various matters about fire-arms. He stated in his work that the *Lu-mi* gun was the best weapon among the fire-arms of those days. The word "*Lu-mi*" 魯密 is no doubt the *Lu-mi* that was introduced as 魯迷 (*Lu-mi*) in the 明史 (The History of Ming Dynasty) and means the Ottoman Empire as presumed by Bretschneider in his article "Mediaeval Researches from Eastern Asiatic Sources."

However, the question is that how the fire-arms were introduced to China by the Othmans. According to the Ming shih lu (the Authentic Record of Ming Dynasty), the *Lu-mi* 魯迷 paid tribute to the Chinese Court in the 16th century. At that time, the Ottoman Empire was at its zenith under Suleiman the Magnificent, and the might of his Empire even reached as far as Europe. It is possible, therefore, that the Othmans could introduce their fire-arms such a distance as —China. It must be a mentionable fact that the Othman—Turks introduced firearms to the eastern country by land through the highway—the Silk Road—competing with the Portuguese who came to the Far East by sea from the south with their fire-arms.