

## **From the system of annual laws calibrated in Ch'in Dynasty to discuss the meaning of the “second year” within “The second year laws” in early Han Dynasty**

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### **Abstract**

The early studied about “The second year laws” focused on the “second year” means the Han Emperor, the Hue Emperor or the Empress Lu? Although most scholars considered the “second year” refers to the Empress Lu, but why put the year before the law? The answer is in the Calendar List. The subtitle of “The second year laws” include two forms of laws. Most important of all are the words the “second year”, which means the time. Why they used the time lined in front of the law? The theses try to give a reasonable explanation.

This article argues that “The second year laws” as a title related to the law calibrated which applied in the beginning of Han. There was a situation that the local officials must go to the central government to calibrate the laws every year to make sure the correctness and completeness of the laws. “The second year laws” in the Tomb N.o.274, could be the family scripture or asked someone to script. But the script was not picking by random, it was basically on the laws which implement on Empress Lu era. The tomb owner could be the official of the Jialing County, so the copyist found the laws of the certain year before the family buried the tomb owner. For the provision that the laws must be calibrated back to the central government, the Supervisor, though it had excerpts while in the script, but we can give highly expectation the correctness of

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the laws.

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