

The Discovery of *Tiansheng Statutes* and its Historical Significance

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Abstract

The last ten volumes of *Tian-Sheng Rules* of the Northern Song Dynasty, published in 2006, are very valuable historical materials for the historical research of the *Tang-Song* period. As far as the Legal historical materials are concerned, it could be used as the source of the development of China's legal institution. The origin of the *Tian-Sheng Rules* could be traced back to those Rules and Legal Codes of the early *Tang* times and also *Taihouryou* (*Taihou Rules*) and *Yourouryou* (*Yourou Rules*) issued in Japan during the Eighth Century. As for the significance of the legal history, the *Tian-Sheng Rules* indicated the legal institutionization of the political activities and also performed the educational function of rules and codes of the time. It also provides us a very clear-cut lower time limit of the so called "*Tang-Song Transformation*" Hypothesis.

Keywords: *Tiansheng Statutes*, *Yourou Rules*, *Yong-hui Rules*, "*Tang-Song Transformation*", the Study of *Tiansheng Statutes*