Shoku Nihongi – The Year *Tenpyō Shōhō 1*
A translation with introduction and annotations

Dedicated to Donald Keene on his 90th Birthday

Ross Bender, Ph.D.
rosslynnbender@gmail.com

Published by *PMJS Papers*
Premodern Japanese Studies (pmjs.org)
Matthew Stavros, editor

Copyright © Ross Bender 2012

Bender, Ross. "*Shoku Nihongi* – The Year *Tenpyō Shōhō 1*." *PMJS Papers* (pmjs.org), June 2012.

Stable URL: http://www.pmjs.org/pmjs-papers/papers-index/bender-tenpyo_shoho1

PMJS Papers is an open-source platform for the publication of scholarly material and resources related to premodern Japan. Please direct inquiries to the editor (editor@pmjs.org).

End users of this work may copy, print, download and display content in part or in whole for personal or educational use only, provided the integrity of the text is maintained and full bibliographic citations are provided. All users should be end users. Secondary distribution or hosting of the digital text is prohibited, as is commercial copying, hiring, lending and other forms of monetized distribution without the express permission of the copyright holder.

Shoku Nihongi – The Year *Tenpyō Shōhō 1*
A translation with introduction and annotations

Ross Bender, Ph.D.

for Donald Keene on his 90th birthday

The year *Tenpyō Shōhō 1* as narrated in the court chronicle *Shoku Nihongi* was one of the most momentous years in the eighth century, an era teeming with dramatic political intrigue, rebellions and succession disputes. Corresponding roughly to the year 749 in the Julian calendar, it saw the abdication of the Emperor Shōmu and the accession of his daughter Abe no Naishinnō, the first female Crown Princess, as the Empress Kōken. Shōmu declared himself the slave of the Three Treasures at *Tōdaiji*, and the mysterious and mighty *kami Hachiman* entered the Nara capital. The year was the occasion for two changes of *nengō*, or era name, first from *Tenpyō* 21 to *Tenpyō Kanpō* 1, then to *Tenpyō Shōhō* 1. The following complete translation, the first into English or any other Western language, provides a direct window into the mid-eighth century and highlights crucial events of the Nara period in a way which has not been provided before.

Shōmu Tennō ascended the throne in the year 724, upon which the *nengō* was changed from *Yōrō* to *Jinki*, due to the presentation of an auspicious white tortoise to the court. In 729 the *nengō* was changed again, to *Tenpyō* (Heavenly Peace). The occasion was another auspicious tortoise omen, this time a large white tortoise with the characters *Tenō kihei chihakunen* (天王貴平知百年) miraculously inscribed into its carapace. In 754 Shōmu was ordained by Ganjin as a Buddhist monk, the first Japanese sovereign to take holy orders. His massive project of constructing the *Tōdaiji* with its immense statue of *Rushana* Buddha was a central political and religious event of the Nara period; the *Tōdaiji* served as the national cathedral in a system of provincial temples and nunneries, symbolizing the centralization of imperial power in the capital of Nara, with subordinate branches in political subdivisions throughout the nation.

The discovery of gold in the far northeastern province of Michinooku (Mutsu) was taken as another auspicious omen. It allowed the *Rushana* statue to be gilded, and in the fourth month Shōmu, his Empress Kōmyō, and the Crown Princess Abe no Naishinnō made an imperial progress to the *Tōdaiji*, where Shōmu declared himself the "slave of the Three Treasures." That month the *nengō* was changed to *Tenpyō Kanpō 1* – The '*hō*' symbolized not only the earthly treasure of gold, but the treasure of the Buddhist dharma. Then in the seventh month Shōmu abdicated in favor of his daughter, who took the throne as Kōken Tennō. Upon her accession the *nengō* changed once again, to *Tenpyō Shōhō 1*.

Yet Kōken was as Empress by no means the supreme power in the land. Her father the *Daijōtennō* was still a formidable force, and in fact he continued to proclaim imperial edicts. Her mother, the Dowager Empress Kōmyō also continued as a weighty political player, since simultaneously her household office was transformed into a new entity, the *Shibi Chūdai*, headed by her nephew Fujiwara Nakamaro, and staffed by bureaucrats given extracodal titles, extracodal in that they were not prescribed in the *Ritsuryō* law codes.

Kōken's formal accession was marked in the eleventh month by the ancient rite of *Ōname*, or *Daijōsai*. The *Yuki* and *Suki* provinces were designated, apparently by divination, although this is not described in the annals. The occasion was marked by a series of formal banquets, first for the upper nobility, and then for the officialdom, and by the awarding of promotions in rank. Almost simultaneously the mysterious great *kami Hachiman* (*Yawata*) of Usa, in distant Buzen province, announced by an oracle that he would be coming to the capital, and high-level envoys were despatched to greet him and purify the roads through which he would pass. The climax of the year, on the 27th day of the 12th month, was another impressive ceremony at the *Tōdaiji*, attended by Kōken, her father the Retired Emperor Shōmu, and her mother the Dowager Empress. At this ceremony, celebrated by 5000 Buddhist priests chanting the sutras and performance of music and dance both exotic and native, the Retired Emperor issued an imperial edict acknowledging the *kami*'s oracle in aid of the *Daibutsu* project. The native *kami* was awarded the highest imperial court rank, and his female consort the second, in the presence of the Great Buddha himself. In sum,

it was a year of heightened religious fervor, and of striking syncretistic spiritual expression, involving a pious Buddhist emperor abasing himself before the cosmic Buddhist deity *Rushana*, and the worship of an oracular native deity who had lent his aid to the great imperial Buddhist project.

Although the modern standard editions date this year as *Tenpyō Shōhō 1*, it actually began as *Tenpyō 21.* In addition to the unprecedented calendrical shifts – three *nengō* in one calendar year – the year was unusual in several other ways. First, the novel four-character nengō, inspired by the calendar of the Chinese Empress Wu Zetian, were introduced. Then, in order to accommodate the lunar calendar to the solar calendar, an intercalary month was inserted after the fifth month. The lunar calendar provided for months of either 29 or 30 days, and thus intercalary months were necessary periodically to adjust to the solar calendar of roughly 365 days. The Chinese calendar in use at the time made provision for these adjustments. However, it has proved inconvenient for modern historians, Japanese and Western, who designate the year *Tenpyō 21 – Tenpyō Kanpō 1 – Tenpyō Shōhō 1* as the year 749. In fact, when dates are transposed into the Julian calendar in use at that time in the West, we find that the year actually began on January 23, 749 and ended on February 10, 750. The first day of *Tenpyō Shōhō* 2 is February 11, 750 and the last day is January 30, 751 in the Julian calendar. For the sake of convenience this slight misalignment may be ignored in general when writing about events in ancient Japan, but nevertheless it should be taken into account when the historian is striving for accuracy. In dating the entries in *Shoku Nihongi* I have relied on Paul Yachita Tsuchihashi's *Japanese Chronological Tables.* Finally, it should be noted that the year begins midway through the *Shoku Nihongi Maki* 17, which begins on *Tenpyō* 19.1, and completes the volume.

The *Shoku Nihongi* is not a rousing piece of literature, but rather a dry and tedious court chronicle in imitation of Chinese historical writing. The language of the chronicle is Middle Chinese, more or less the contemporary language at the court of Changan. It is distinguished by long lists of appointments to bureaucratic rank and promotions within the court hierarchy. However, this narrative of routine court affairs is ruptured by the insertion of three *senmyō*, imperial edicts inscribed in Old Japanese in what is known approximately as the *Man'yōgana* orthography.

In addition, the document is sprinkled with other imperial edicts inscribed in Chinese, known as the *choku* and *shō*.

This translation, intended for a scholarly audience, keeps footnotes at a minimum. Kanji for some of the most famous persons, Buddhist sutras, bureaucratic offices, weights and measures, and other details such as types of fabric, are given on first appearance. A reference list is appended for those who wish to consult more detailed texts. The *Shin Nihon Koten Bungaku Taikei* edition published by Iwanami Shoten and edited by Aoki Kazuo et al. is the authority for the text. Other translations of *Shoku Nihongi* into modern Japanese, as well as detailed studies particularly on the *senmyō*, are given in a reference list at the end.

My thanks to Alexander Mesheryakov, Bryan Lowe, and Matthew Stavros for comments and assistance.

Ross Bender, June, 2012

SHOKU NIHONGI

TENPYŌ SHŌHŌ 1

[The year begins as Tenpyō 21]

Tenpyō Shōhō 1, Spring, 1.1 [January 23, 749] 天平勝宝元年　一月　　朔日（丙寅朔）

The New Year's audience [*chōga* 朝賀] was cancelled. From the first of the month, for seven days *Keka* 悔過 rituals were ordered in the temples of all the realm, and the *Konkōmyōkyō* 金光明經 was read. Also, the killing of living beings was prohibited throughout the realm.

Tenpyō Shōhō 1.1.1 [January 26, 749] 己巳

In recent years there has been drought, and the five grains have failed to ripen. This has caused hunger and want for the officials, their wives, and children. Therefore to each of the civil and military officials and also to the administrators of the princely houses an allowance of six *to* 斗 per month is granted.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.1.10 [February 1, 749] 乙亥

Famine in Kazusa Province. Relief supplies granted.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.2 [February 23, 749] 丁酉

The esteemed monk (*Wajō* 和尚)*Gyōki* 行基, the *Daisōjō* 大僧正 , passed away.[1] He was a priest of *Yakushiji* 藥師寺, with the lay surname *Koshi* 高志 originally from Izumi Province. His temperament was pure and genuine, and he was naturally endowed with superior intelligence. The nobility of his exemplary character manifested itself early. When he first took holy orders, he read the *Yugayuishikiron* 瑜伽唯識論[1] and immediately realized its meaning. Then he traveled widely in the capital and countryside and proselytized among the

[1] For another translation of this biography see Augustine 2005 pp. 125-6. Augustine, J. M. *Buddhist Hagiography in Early Japan: Images of compassion in the Gyōki tradition*. RoutledgeCurzon.

masses. The priests and laypeople who revered him deeply and followed in his path numbered in the thousands.

Whenever people heard of his coming, they left their work and crowded together, struggling to get sight of him and worship him. *Gyōki* directed the people according to their capabilities and turned them to good works. He himself led his disciples and they built bridges at important places and constructed dikes. All who heard of what he had accomplished flocked to help with the work, and it was completed in a very short time. The people have received the benefit of his labor up to this day. Emperor Shōmu 聖武 (*Toyosakurahiko no Sumera Mikoto* 豊櫻彦天皇) greatly revered *Gyōki*. In an edict he appointed him *Daisōjō*, and had 400 people take holy orders to support his work. *Gyōki* manifested many wondrous marvels and miracles and thus the people of that time called him "*Gyōki Bodhisattva* 行基菩薩. Wherever he stayed he constructed *dōjō* 道場; forty-nine remain in the Kinai alone, and others along the provincial routes. His disciples in turn have preserved the Buddhist law that he left and maintain it to this day. When he died he was 80 years old.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.5 [February 26, 49] 庚子

Damage from drought and locusts in Shimōsa Province. Relief supplies granted.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.11 [March 4, 749] 丙午

Epidemic in Iwami Province. Relief supplies granted.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.21 [March 14, 749] 丙辰

Anonymous writings (*tokumei* 匿名) criticizing the government were distributed on the roads near the court. An edict (*shō* 詔[2]) was issued ordering the hundred officials and students at the academy to cease this activity.

[2] On types of edicts – *senmyō*, *choku* and *shō* – see Bender 2007 – http://rossbender.org/perfloci.pdf

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.22 [March 14, 749] 丁巳

Gold was presented for the first time from Michinooku Province. *Mitegura* 幣 were dispatched to the shrines of the Kinai and the Seven Circuits announcing this.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.2.27 [March 19, 749] 壬戌

The emperor (Shōmu) issued an edict (*choku* 勅):

"In recent years, when appointing the district officials (*gunryō* 郡領), the provincial governors (*kokushi* 國司) have investigated the lineage and ability of candidates, checked their position within the family in terms of age, then made their selection and forwarded it to the *Shikibushō* 式部省. The *Shikibushō* has then conducted an oral interview, considered the qualifications, and made an appointment. In some cases the family status has been low, but the candidate hardworking, and so was recommended. In other cases the candidate's family status was high, but the applicant untalented and so was rejected. In this way the district official posts have been divided among various families. But because the descendants of the families are many, there are not enough positions for all of them and there have been many selfish complaints and a lack of civility, and a complete breakdown in the filial and moral order.

"We (*chin* 朕) have considered this carefully and decided it is not right. From now on these precedents should be changed. As it had been when the districts were established, the important lineages should be appointed district officials. The direct lines should be given these positions and the collateral lines should not. Thus strife will be eliminated, and hence forward those of inappropriate status shall not aspire to be district officials. If the legitimate heir has died of illness or been convicted of a crime and no appropriate person is available for the duty, then the civil code (*ryō* 令) shall be followed in making an appointment."

Jr 5 Lower Rank Yamato no Sukune Oazumahito appointed Vice-Governor (*suke* 亮) of Settsu Province. Jr 4 Lower Rank Ki no Ason Iimaro appointed Governor (*kami* 守) of Yamato Province.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.3.1 [March 23, 749] 乙丑

Solar eclipse.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.3.3 [March 25, 749] 丁卯

The Left *Ōtoneri no Kami* 左大舎人頭 Jr 4 Lower Rank Takaoka no Ōkimi died.

Tempyō Shōhō 1, Summer, 4.1 [April 21, 749] 甲午

The Emperor Shōmu proceeded to the *Tōdaiji* 東大寺, to the hall before the *Rushana* Buddha 盧舎那佛 statue, and faced north toward the image. The Empress 皇后 (*Kōmyō* 光明) and the Crown Princess 太子 (*Abe no Naishinnō* 阿倍内親王) accompanied him. The courtiers, hundred officials, and commoners stood arrayed in ranks behind them facing the hall. The emperor gave an edict (*choku* 勅) and dispatched the *Sadaijin* Tachibana Sukune Moroe 左大臣橘宿祢諸兄 to read it. [*Senmyō* 宣命 #12[3]]:

"I look up to the image of *Rushana* Buddha and speak these words of the Emperor, who serves as the slave of the Three Treasures. In the land of Yamato from the beginning of heaven and earth, gold, although it has been presented from other countries, was not thought to exist. But now in the east of the land We rule, the governor of Michinooku Province, Jr 5 Upper Rank Kudara Konikishi Kyōfuku has reported that gold has been found in Oda District of his province. When We heard this We were astonished and overjoyed, and consider that this is a blessing and good fortune vouchsafed by *Rushana* Buddha. So, fearfully leading the hundred officials and worshipping before the image whose name is awesome to be spoken, We reverently give thanks in the presence of the Three Treasures."

Jr 3rd Rank *Nakatsukasa Kyō* 中務卿 Isonokami Ason Otomaro read the following *Senmyō* [*Senmyō* 13]:

"Let the imperial princes, various princes, various courtiers, hundred officials, and all of the aristocracy in the realm hear the words which are proclaimed as an edict (*shō* 詔) by the Sovereign, Beloved Child of Yamato

[3] I have followed Sansom 1924 in translating some of the key terms in the *Senmyō*. Also see Zachert's translations 1950.

(*Yamato Neko Sumera ga Mikoto* 倭根子天皇[4])who rules all under heaven as a manifest god (*akitsumikami* 現神). Let all hearken to the words of the Emperor as a god, the Emperor whose task it is to rule the realm, who seated on the high throne rules all under heaven and cherishes the people, seated on the Heavenly Throne of Sun Succession which has been passed down through generations and generations of Emperors from the time of that Emperor who first descended from the High Plain of Heaven.

"We consider it an awesome thing of which We are unworthy, and a great matter of heaven and earth, that during Our own reign, ruling and conducting the affairs of the Heavenly Throne of Sun Succession and cherishing the people, gold has been found and presented to us from Oda District in Michinooku Province in the east of the land which We rule. When pondering these things we heard that among all laws the words of the Buddha are superior in protecting nations, we placed the *Saishōōkyō* 最勝王經 in all the provinces under Heaven which we govern, and said that we would construct an image of *Rushana* Buddha. Thereupon we prayed to the *kami* which are in heaven and the *kami* which are on earth, and to the divine Tennō who founded the Reign in the distant ages past, whose names are awesome to voice. By inviting and leading the people, a disaster was averted and turned to good fortune, peril was transformed and all has become peace. But many people were doubtful of success, and We ourselves were anxious that there would not be enough gold. Then We received the omen (*shirushi* 験) of the divine word of the Three Treasures, and the *kami* which are in heaven and the *kami* which are on earth together vouchsafed particularly good fortune, and also the *mitama* 御霊 of the ancestral Emperors granted their blessing, and they cherished us with particular affection, and made the gold appear. Thus We were overjoyed and greatly esteemed this miraculous thing. How unworthy and ashamed We are, having worried greatly night and day, not knowing whether to proceed, and not having relied on the divine favor which We have received and which has been made manifest in Our reign! Shall we

[4] Zachert 1950 p.95 translates "Yamato Neko" as "Das Liebe Kind von Yamato." Sansom does not translate the phrase. See Bender 2010 p. 229 for a brief discussion: "Changing the Calendar: Royal Political Theology and the Suppression of the Tachibana Naramaro Conspiracy of 757." *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*. 223-45.

alone receive this miraculous great omen? We consider as a god that we should share Our joy with the people by having them too receive it, and to govern by sharing this blessing. Thus let all receive the Emperor's command that the *nengō* 年号 shall be changed, by adding to the name.

"On another matter, let sustenance lands be given to all the *kami* beginning with the *Ōmikaminomiya* 大御神宮 (*Ise Daijingū*), and let the Shinto priests (*hafuribe* 祝部) administer it. Let land for new development be granted to the various temples, and to honor the priests and nuns let them under the direction of the *Sōgō* 僧綱 administer it. Let those temples which have recently been founded become official temples. Let several additional persons be added to guard the imperial tombs (*Ōmisasagi* 大御陵). And let all hear the command that markers be placed on the burial places of all the ministers who have served in government and guarded the state through the reigns, that neither heaven nor earth nor people will scorn or pollute these places.

"Also, as a matter of the Throne of the Heavenly Sun Succession, let my mother (Fujiwara Miyako 藤原宮子) receive the name of Maternal Ancestor among the Tennō whose names are fearfully spoken, and be recognized as a *kami* who cherishes us with compassion and rules the land. Thus let all the princes and great ministers and their children serve not only Our court but also serve my mother. Furthermore, We revere the great command that has come down to Us from age upon age, from the Sovereign who ruled at the Ōtsu capital in Ōmi (Tenji Tennō 天智), namely 'Preserve and do not forget the words that it is by the great ministers serving brightly and purely that the Succession has been preserved in peace and harmony down through the generations.' Let all hear and revere the great command and may you fearfully receive these words, and be ruled and blessed by them.

"Further, We select Mikuni no Mahito, Ishikawa Ason, Kamo Ason, and Ise Ōka no Obito as those who should in particular be rewarded. Further, as for Agata Inukai no Tachibana no Ōtoji 縣犬養橘夫人 (Michiyo 三千世[5]), she has served generations of Emperors with a bright and pure heart, and has aided untiringly and without neglect in My own reign. Not only that, but when we consider with

[5] The mother of Tachibana Moroe.

gratitude that she has served guarding the house of Our grandfather the great minister (Fujiwara Fuhito 藤原不比等) from violence and pollution, We raise the rank of several of her grandchildren in order that they not be neglected.

"Considering the children of Our ministers, taking into consideration the service of the men, we raise the men's rank but not the women's. While taking into account that it is the men who bear the name of their fathers, but not the women, We consider that it is right that they serve together side by side. We award these promotions in rank that you may serve the Emperor's court, maintaining your houses in harmony, neither neglecting nor mistaking the teachings set forth by your fathers.

"Now the Ōtomo Sukune and Saeki Sukune have always said that they will protect and serve the Emperor's court, no turning their backs, just as your ancestors said, 'If we go on the sea, Our dead are sodden in water; If we go on the mountains, Our dead are grown over with grass. We shall die by the side of our lord, We shall not die in peace.'[6] Thus we employ you as Our bodyguard, serving Our court just as you have served from the beginning down through the reigns of the distant ancestral Emperors. So may you serve as children of your ancestors, having the same hearts. So I reward some of you, male and female alike, that you may serve with pure and bright hearts.

"The rank of children of courtiers of the Fifth Rank, Senior Grade, should be raised. The rank of courtiers of Sixth Rank and lower should be raised one step. Two steps should be added to the rank of those persons who are constructing the *Tōdaiji*. The rank of children of courtiers of Senior Sixth Rank and up should be raised. We award gifts to those Princes and Fifth Rank courtiers aged thirteen and up, and to those serving without rank as *Toneri* and as officials in the various Ministries. We bestow awards and favors to the aged and the poor, and grant exemptions and rice lands to those who are filial and faithful. We pardon criminals and reward scholars and scribes. We reward those who discovered gold, from the provincial and district officials of Michinooku down to its people, and we treasure and cherish all the people of the realm.

[6] Tr. by Cranston 1993, p. 155: *A Waka Anthology, Volume One: The Gem-Glistening Cup. Translated, with a Commentary and Notes, by Edwin A. Cranston*. Stanford University Press. MYS XVIII:4094.

“Let all hear the words of the Emperor who speaks them.”

Sr 3 Kose Ason Nademaro awarded Sr Second Rank.

Jr 3 Ōtomo Sukune Ushikai awarded Sr Third Rank.

Jr 5 Upper Kudara no Konikishi Kyōfuku awarded Jr Third Rank.

Jr 4 Upper Saeki Sukune Kiyomaro and Jr 4 Upper Saeki Sukune Tsunehito both awarded Sr Fourth Lower Rank

.Jr 4 Lower Abe Ason Samimaro, Jr 4 Lower Tachibana Sukune Naramaro, and Jr 4

Lower Tajihi no Mahito Urabe all awarded Jr Fourth Upper Rank.

Jr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Nagate awarded Jr Fourth Lower Rank.

Jr 5 Upper Ōtomo Sukune Inakimi awarded Sr Fifth Lower Rank.

Jr 5 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Yakamochi and Jr 5 Lower Saeki Sukune Emishi both awarded Jr Fifth Upper Rank.

Sr 6 Upper Fujiwara Ason Chihiro, Sr 6 Upper Fujiwara Ason Nawamaro, Sr 6Upper

Saeki Sukune Makatsu, and Sr 6 Lower Fujiwara Ason Mayori all awarded Jr Fifth Lower Rank.

To those *chishiki* 知識 groups [see Augustine 90-92] who presented donations:

Outer Jr 8 Lower Osada no Toneribe no Tokoyo and Outer Jr 8 Upper Oda no Omi Nenori both awarded Outer Jr Fifth Lower Rank.

[awards to women:]

Sr 3 Tachibana Bunin (Tachibana Sukune Konakachi) awarded Jr Second Rank.

Jr 4 Upper Fujiwara Ason Yoshihi awarded Jr Third Rank.

Jr 5 Upper Fujiwara Ason Ohirame and Jr 5 Upper Fujiwara Ason Surugako both awarded Sr Fifth Lower Rank.

The previously unranked Tajihi Mahito Obame, Tajihi Mahito Wakahime, Isonokami Ason Kunimori, Fujiwara Ason Momono, Fujiwara Ason Otoeko, Fujiwara Ason Yakako, Ōtomo Sukune Mihara, Saeki Sukune Minumame, Kume Ason Hirame all awarded Jr Fifth Lower Rank.

Jr Second Kose Ason Nademaro appointed Dainagon.

Sr Third Ōtomo Sukune Ushikai appointed Chūnagon.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.2 [April 22, 749] 乙未

There was a great amnesty throughout the realm. All punishments for crimes, from those warranting the death penalty on down, from before dawn on Tempyō 21.4.1 (TPSH 1.4.1) were pardoned.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.5 [April 25, 749] 戊戌

The Emperor gave a *shō*:

Jr 5 Lower Nakatomi Ason Masuhito awarded Jr Fifth Upper Rank.

Sr 6 Upper Imbe Sukune Torimaro awarded Jr Fifth Lower Rank.

Ise Daijingū no Negi Jr 7 Lower Kannushi Obitona awarded Outer Jr Fifth Lower Rank.

In connection with this, the Minbukyō 民部卿 Sr 4 Upper Ki Ason Maro, Jingi Taifuku Jr 5 Upper Nakatomi Ason Masuhito, and Jingi Shofuku Jr 5 Lower Imbe Sukune Torimaro were dispatched to present *mitegura* to Ise Daijingū.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.14 [May 4, 749] 丁未

The Emperor proceeded to *Tōdaiji* and went to the hall before the *Rushana* Buddha. The great ministers, hundred officials, and lower bureaucrats ranged themselves in order of rank. The Emperor gave a *sho*:

Sadaijin Jr First Tachibana Sukune Moroe awarded Sr First Rank.

Dainagon 大納言 Sr Second Fujiwara Ason Toyonari appointed *Udaijin* 右大臣.

Jr Fifth Lower Ichihara Ō awarded Jr 5 Upper Rank.

The following unranked princes all awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank:

Mitsukai Ō, Kishino Ō, Mikata Ō, Yamato Ō, Nukatabe Ō, Tajihi Ō, Atsumi Ō, Kazuraki Ō, Ōsaka Ō, Izumo Ō, Mikawa Ō, Nagashima Ō, Takashima Ō.

Jr 5 Lower Kuni no Kimimaro awarded Jr 5 Upper Rank.

Unranked Wakekimi Hiromaro awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Outer Jr 5 Lower Takechi Muraji Ōkuni awarded Outer Jr 5 Upper Rank.

Sr 6 Upper Kasa no Takamaro, and Sr 6 Upper Kitsuta no Muraji Ehito both awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Also Second Princely Rank Taki Himemiko awarded First Princely Rank.

Jr 3 Takano Ō awarded Sr 3 Rank.

Unranked Tachibana Sukune Tsukano awarded Sr 4 Upper Rank.
Tempyō 21 changed to Tempyō Kanpō 1 天平感寶元.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.15 [May 5, 749] 戊申

Those working in government offices lower than *Daijin* 大臣 were given stipends in accordance with status. Monks and nuns in the capital and Kinai were given gifts in accordance with status.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.18 [May 8, 749] 辛亥

Sr 6 Upper Niwa Ōmi Makui awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.4.22 [May 12, 749] 乙卯

The governor of Michinokuni, Jr 3 Kudara Konikishi Kyōfuku presented 900 *ryō* of gold.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.5.5 [May 25, 749] 戊辰

Unranked Miura Ō awarded Jr 4 Lower Rank.
Sr 6 Upper Nakatomi Ise Muraji Ōtsu awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.
Jr 7 Upper Yako no Fuhito Ryōchin, Sr 8 Lower Yako no Fuhito Ryōkai, Jr 8 Upper Yako no Fuhito Ryōgu, Jr 8 Lower Yako no Fuhito Hitomaro all awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank. These four are the sons of Yako no Fuhito Mami, and each presented tribute of 1000 coins to be granted these ranks.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.5.15 [June 4, 749] 戊寅

Three persons: Usui district, Kōzuke Province, Outer Jr 7 Upper Isonokamibe Kimi Moroto; Yamada district, Owari Province Outer Jr 7 Lower Ikue Omi Akuta; Uwa district of Iyo Province Outer Taisho Rank, Lower Ōshi no Atae Kamatari -- each made a contribution of *chishiki* goods to their respective *Kokubunji* 国分寺. They were each awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.5.27 [June 16, 749] 庚寅

Widowers, widows, orphans, the aged living alone, and those disabled by disease were granted 5 *ryō* of grain. The names of filial sons and grandsons, and virtuous women and wives were to be inscribed on the gates of their houses and on the gates and the entry to their villages, and they were to be exempted from corvée for life. Conscientious farmers with no rank were awarded one step of rank. Those in Michinooku Province were exempted from *chō* 調 and *yō* 庸 for three years, and those in Oda District for a long period -- the duration to be announced in a later *choku*. In other provinces, *chō* and *yō* to be remitted in two districts for one year, and every year the two districts changed until all districts have been excused. Throughout the whole realm rice field tax (*denso* 田租) is exempted for the rest of this year.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.1 [June 20, 749] 甲午

Jr 4 Upper Tachibana Sukune Naramaro and Jr 5 Upper Abe Ason Shimamaro both appointed J*iju* 侍従.

Sr 5 Lower Tajihi Mahito Yakanushi appointed Left *Ōtoneri no Kami*.

Jr 5 Lower Ki Ason Okaji appointed *Hyōbushōfu* 兵部少輔.

Jr 5 Lower Kakinomoto Ason Ichimori appointed Governor of Tango Province.

Jr 5 Lower Ono Ason Tamori appointed *Dazai no Shōni* 大宰少貳.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.9 [June 28, 749] 壬寅

In the palace 1000 people were appointed Buddhist monks.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.10 [June 29, 749] 癸卯

The emperor gave the following *shō*:

"While our virtue is weak, We have respectfully accepted the imperial rank. Although We hold the imperial rank, sheltered by heaven and supported by earth, We always fear that we lack the virtue to be revered by the common people. Beset by worries We have wondered whether we can maintain the government in good order, and we feel reproached by the *kami*. Recently we have entered an extremely hot season and daily life has become disordered. The government

offices have become so sweltering they seem to be afire, and the officials of right and left labor in suffering. We now wish to act in accordance with the will of heaven and avert disaster. We wish to apologize for error by changing past ways and seeking a new path, and thus We hand down a compassionate edict, seeking to carry out proper government and expunge the sins of the past by declaring a great amnesty in the realm. There is amnesty for all crimes, from those warranting the death penalty on down, from dawn of *Tempyō Kanpō* 1. INT 5.10. However, those who have killed father or mother, or desecrated sacred Buddhist images are not included."

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.11 [June 30, 749] 甲辰

Assistant Governor of Michinooku Jr 5 Lower Saeki Sukune Matanari and *Chinju no Hankan* 鎭守判官 Jr 5 Lower Ōno Ason Tachi both awarded Jr 5 Upper Rank.

Daijō 大掾 Sr 6 Upper Yo no Taruhito and the person who acquired gold from Kōzuke Province - Hasetsukaibe Ōmaro - both awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.

An unranked person from the left capital, Shu no Musume, awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

A privately ordained monk 私度沙弥 of Oda District, Maruko Muraji Miyamaro, given the Buddhist name Ōhō and appointed the rank of *Shi* 師.

A person of the left capital who refined the gold, He no Jōsen, awarded Daisho 大初 rank Upper.

The *kannushi* of the mountain where the gold was found Kusakabe Fukafuchi of Oda District awarded Outer *Shōso* 少初 rank Lower.

On this day the Ise *Saiō* 伊勢齋王 *(Itsuki no Ōkimi)* left the *Itsukinomiya* 齋宮 due to mourning for her mother and father.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.20 [July 9, 749] 癸丑

The emperor gave a *shō* providing gifts to each of the five temples – *Daianji* 大安寺, *Yakushiji* 藥師寺, *Gangōji* 元興寺, *Kōfukuji* 興福寺 and *Tōdaiji* 東大寺 -- 500 *hiki* 疋of *ashiginu* 絁, 1000 *ton* 屯 of *wata* 綿 , 800 *tan* 端 of *nuno* 布, 10,000 *soku* 束 of rice, and 100 *chō* 町of *konden* 墾田.

Hōryūji 法隆寺 was given 500 *hiki* of *ashiginu*, 1000 *ton* of *wata*, 800 *tan* of *nuno*, 10,000 *soku* of rice, and 100 *chō* of *konden*.

Gufukuji 弘福寺 and Shitennōji 四天王寺 were each given 300 *hiki* of *ashiginu*, 1000 *ton* of *wata*, 600 *tan* of *nuno*, 10,000 *soku* of rice, and 100 *chō* of *konden*.

Sūfukuji 崇福寺, Kōsenji Yakushiji 香山藥師寺, Konkōji 建興寺, and Hokkeji 法花寺were each given 200 *hiki* of *ashiginu*, 400 *tan* of *nuno*, 1000 *ton/chun* of *wata*, 10,000 *soku* of rice, 100 *chō* of *konden*.

In connection with this the Emperor made the following prayer:

"Beginning with the *Kegonkyō* 花嚴經, let the *Issaikyō* 一切經 Greater and Lesser Vehicles, the sutras, *vinaya*, commentaries, with their quotations, explanations and principles all be expounded and read. We wish this to continue to the end of days and months and to the limits of the future. Therefore We reverently present the above goods to the various temples. What We pray is that We, *Dajōtennō Shami Shōman* 太上天皇沙弥勝滿[7] be protected by the various Buddhas, that the fragrance of rare medicines fill my body, that the myriad diseases be eliminated and life be lengthened, that all prayers be fulfilled, that the Buddhist law be eternally effective and that it aids all people, there be great peace in the realm, that all its people live in comfort, and that all beings in the cosmos enter into the Buddhist path."

The *Dairyō* 大領 of Ōno District in Hida Province Outer Sr 7 Lower Hida no Kuni no Miyatsuko Takechimaro, and the *Shoryō* 小領 of Seta District in Kōzuke Province Outer Jr 7 Lower Kamitsukeno Ason Taruhito have each contributed *chishiki* goods to the *Kokubunji* in their province. They are each awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.23 [July 12, 749] 丙辰

The Emperor went to the palace at the *Yakushiji* and resided there.

[7] Although Shōmu styles himself "*Daijōtennō*" he did not actually abdicate until the seventh month. He was given the Buddhist name "*Shōman*" in 754 at his ordination by the priest Ganjin.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.INT5.29 [July 18, 749] 壬戌

The *Chūnagon* Sr 3 Ōtomo Sukune Ushikai died. He was the grandson of *Daitoku* 大徳Kuiko Muraji and the son of the priest *Daikinchū* 大錦中Ofukei.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.7.2 [August 19, 749] 甲午

The Crown Princess received the abdication of Shōmu and was enthroned in the *Daigokuden* 大極殿. Emperor Shōmu gave the following *shō* (***Senmyō 14***):

"Let all hear the words which are the command proclaimed by the Emperor, Beloved Child of Yamato, who rules all under heaven as a manifest god. Let all hear the command of the Emperor, which he decrees and pronounces as a god carrying out the duties of the High Throne of Heavenly Sun Succession, ruling the country in the divine lineage, age after age of Emperors, beginning with the reign of the distant divine ancestor, according to the decree that “Our Grandchildren shall have the rule of all under heaven,” given by the Divine Male Ancestor and the Divine Female Ancestor, seated as gods in the High Plain of Heaven.

"Hearken to the words spoken by the Empress who ruled the realm from the capital at Nara (Genshō Tennō), ‘In pursuance of the law set forth by the Emperor who ruled from the capital of Ōtsu in Ōmi (Tenji), whose name is fearful to speak, according to the law of imperial succession which shall not be altered, it is Our command that you (Shōmu) shall succeed and perform the duties of the High Throne of Heavenly Sun Succession’. Thus We (Shōmu) have with great fearfulness received these duties, and overseen the realm with compassion. While we have done this, the great number of myriad duties have mounted and our body has become unable to sustain this burden. So now let all the Imperial Princes, the Princes, the Ministers, the Hundred Officials and all the people of the realm hear the Emperor's great command that we have appointed Our child the Princess to the High Throne of the Heavenly Sun Succession, according to the law."

(The Empress Kōken’s *senmyō*):

"Let all hear the great command which the Empress proclaims. Let all hear the proclamation of the Empress, who is greatly to be feared, that she has received this position with reverence and trembling, and not without hesitation,

and will carry out the duties of the High Throne of Heavenly Sun Succession to which the revered Emperor (Shōmu), whose name is greatly to be feared, has appointed her.

"We thus command, though We may be unskillful and foolish, that all the Imperial Princes, Princes and Ministers receive the task of ruling this country which the Court has established, and reverently serve with bright and clear hearts, and without fail aid in ruling the land in peace and harmony. We reflect as a god, that thus shall We be able to rule with compassion. Let all hear the great command of the Emperor which We hand down", so it is decreed.

Sr 4 Upper Ki Ason Maro awarded Jr 3 Rank.

Jr 5 Lower Kuze Ō and Jr 5 Lower Ikago Ō both awarded Jr 5 Upper Rank.

Sr 4 Lower Tajihi Mahito Hirotari awarded Sr 4 Upper Rank.

Jr 4 Lower Ishikawa Ason Toshitari, Jr 4 Lower Ki Ason Iimaro, Jr 4 Lower Kibi Ason Makibi all awarded Jr 4 Upper Rank.

Sr 5 Upper Kose Ason Sakaimaro, and Sr 5 Upper Shona Ō Fukushin both awarded Jr 4 Lower Rank.

Sr 5 Lower Tajihi Mahito Kunihito awarded Sr 5 Upper Rank.

Jr 5 Upper Saeki Sukune Emishi and Jr 5 Upper Kamo Ason Tsunotari both awarded Sr 5 Lower Rank.

Jr 5 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Inukai and Jr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Chihiro both awarded Jr 5 Upper Rank.

Sr 6 Upper Mikata no Ōno and Sr 6 Upper Kamo Ason Mushimaro both awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Sr 3 Fujiwara Ason Nakamaro appointed *Dainagon*.

Jr 3 Isonokami Ason Otomaro, Jr 3 Ki Ason Maro, and Sr 4 Upper Tajihi Mahito Hirotari all appointed *Chūnagon*.

Sr 4 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Emaro, Jr 4 Upper Tachibana Sukune Naramaro, and Jr 4 Lower Fujiwara Ason Kiyokawa all appointed *Sangi*.

On this day the reign name was changed from Tempyō Kanpō 1 to Tempyō Shōhō 1.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.7.3 [August 20, 749] 乙未

Jr 6 Upper Abe Ason Iwai, Sr 6 Upper Yamada Fuhito Himeshima, and Sr 6 Lower Take no Obito Otome all awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank. These were all wet nurses of the Empress.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.7.13[August 30, 749] 乙巳

The amounts and boundaries for the *konden* for various temples were determined. *Daianji*, *Yakushiji*, *Kōfukuji*, Yamato Province *Hokkeji,* and the various provincial *Kokubun-Konkōmyōji* were each granted 1000 *chō*. Yamato Province *Kokubun-Konkōmyōji* (*Tōdaiji*) granted 4000 *chō*. *Gangōji* granted 2000 *chō*. *Kufukuji*, *Hōryūji*, *Shitennōji*, *Sūfukuji*, *Shinyakushiji*, *Konkōji*, Shimotsuke no *Yakushiji*, Tsukushi no *Kanzeonji* 觀世音寺 each granted 500 chō. The *Hokkeji* of the various provinces granted 400. Other *jōgakuji* 定額寺 (temples established and supported by provinces) each granted 100 *chō*.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.8.2 [September 17, 749] 癸亥

Sr 6 Upper Abe Ason Tsunamaro awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.
Outer Sr 5 Lower Otsukiyama no Kimi Hiromushi awarded Sr 5 Lower Rank.
Outer Jr 5 Lower Izumo no Ōmi Maro awarded Outer Jr 5 Upper Rank.
Jr 6 Upper Tanabe Fuhito Hirohama awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.8.10 [September 25, 749] 辛未

Jr 5 Lower Ōhara Mahito Maro and Ishikawa Ason Toyohito both appointed *Shōnagon* 少納言.

Jr 5 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Komaro appointed *Sashōben* 左少弁.

Dainagon Sr 3 Fujiwara Ason Nakamaro given dual appointment as *Shibiryō* 紫微令[8].

Sangi Sr 4 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Emaro and *Jibu no Kyō* 治部卿 Jr 4 Upper Ishikawa Ason Toshitari both given dual appointment as *Daihitsu* 大弼.

[8] *Shibiryō* is the head of the *Shibi Chūdai* 紫微中台, the household office of Dowager Empress *Kōmyō*. *Daihitsu*, *Shōhitsu*, *Daichū,* and *Shōchū* are positions in the *Shibi Chūdai* bureaucracy.

Jr 4 Lower Kudara Konikishi Kōchū, *Shikibu Daifu* 式部大輔 Jr 4 Lower Kose Ason Sakaimaro and *Chūe Shōshō* 中衛少將 Jr 4 Lower Shona Ō Fukushin each given dual appointment as *Shōhitsu* 少弼.

(Harima Governor) Sr 5 Upper Abe Ason Mushimaro, Iyo Governor Sr 5 Upper Saeki Sukune Emishi, *Sahyōe no Kami* 左兵衛率 Sr 5 Lower Kamo Ason Tsunatari, and (*Minbu Shōfu* 民部少輔) Jr 5 Lower Tajihi Mahito Hanitsukuri each given dual appointment as *Daichu* 大忠.

Outer Jr 5 Upper Izumo Ōmi Yamaro, *Emon Ingaisuke* 衛門員外佐 Outer Jr 5 Lower.

Nakatominowani Muraji Hariyumi, Outer Jr 5 Lower Kitsuta Muraji Ehito, and Outer Jr 5 Lower Kazuragi Muraji Henushi, each given dual appointment as *Shōchū* 少忠.

Jr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Nawamaro appointed *Jiju*.

Jr 5 Lower Mikata Ōnō appointed *Zusho no Kami* 図書頭.

Jr 5 Lower Wake Kimi Hiromaro appointed *Onmyō no Kami* 陰陽頭.

Jr 3 Mihara Ō appointed *Chūgū no Kyō* 中宮卿 [9]. Jr 4 Upper Asukabe Ō apptd *Daifu*. Sr 5 Upper Fujii Muraji Hironari and Jr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Mayori both appointed *Shōfu*.

Chūnagon Jr 3 Ki Ason Maro given dual appointment as *Shikibu no Kyō* 式部卿.

Jr 5 Lower Tajihi Mahito Koushikai appointed *Shikibu no Shōfu*.

Jingi Taifuku Jr 5 Upper Nakatomi Ason Masuhito given dual appointed as *Minbu Taifu* 民部大輔.

Jr 5 Lower Abe Ason Takakai appointed *Shukei no Kami* 主計頭.

Jr 5 Lower Ki Ason Hirona appointed *Shusai no Kami* 主税頭.

Sr 5 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Inakimi appointed *Hyōbu no Taifu* 兵部大輔.

Jr 5 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Inukai appointed Governor of Yamashiro.

Jr 5 Upper Ishikawa Ason Nahito appointed Governor of Kazusa.

Outer Jr 5 Lower Mamuta Sukune Hiromaro appointed Governor of Mimasaka.

[9] Some texts have *Nakatsukasa no Kyō* 中務卿. SN3 484-85, note 73, discusses this possibility. The *Daifu* and *Shōfu* were positions in the *Chūgū* bureaucracy.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.8.14 [September 29, 749] 乙亥

Jr 4 Lower Oware Sukune died.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.8.21 [October 6, 749] 壬午

The *Hayato* 隼人 of Ōsumi and Satsuma presented tribute and performed songs and dances of the region.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.8.22 [October 7, 749] 癸未

The Empress gave a *shō*: (awarding ranks to *Hayato*)
Outer Sr 5 Upper So Kimi Tarishisa awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.
Outer Jr 5 Lower Saki Kimi Osa awarded Outer Jr 5 Upper Rank.
Outer Sr 6 Upper So Agatanushi Shiiushi and Outer Sr 6 Upper So Agatanushi Kanehosa both awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.9.7 [October 22, 749] 戊戌

The bureaucratic ranks corresponding to appointments in the *Shibi Chūdai* were determined. There was to be one *Ryō* of Sr 3 Rank; two *Daihitsu* of Sr 4 Lower Rank; three *Shōhitsu* of Jr 4 Lower Rank; four *Daichū* of Sr 5 Lower; four *Shōchū* of Jr 5 Lower Rank; four *Daisho* 大疏 of Jr 6 Upper Rank; four *Shōsho* 少疏 of Sr 7 Upper Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.9.13 [October 28, 749] 甲辰

Sr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Ohirame (wife of Fujiwara Nakamaro) awarded Jr 4 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.10.9 [November 23, 749] 庚午

Imperial procession to *Chishikiji* 智識寺 in Kawachi Province. The residence of Outer Jr 5 Lower Mamuta Sukune Yutsukame was made the temporary palace (*karimiya* 行宮).

Tempyō Shōhō 1.10.14 [November 28, 749] 乙亥

The Empress proceeded to the vicinity of Ishikawa. She bestowed *wata* on the people, from infants to the aged, in the districts of Shiki, Ōgata and Asukabe, according to their status. Also she forgave the principal and interest on grain taxes from the farmers in these districts. In the other districts of Kawachi only the interest was forgiven, but the principal was to be collected. She gave gifts of *wata* to officials of the various local offices who were in attendance according to status.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.10.15 [November 29, 749] 丙子

She bestowed gifts of *ashiginu* and *mawata* to the monks, nuns and male and female *shami* 僧尼及沙弥沙弥尼 residing in the 66 temples and other Buddhist residences of Kawachi. Outer Jr 5 Lower Mamuta Sukune Yutsukame was awarded Sr 5 Upper Rank. On this day the imperial procession returned to Ōgōri no Miya.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.10.25 [December 9, 749] 丙戌

Unranked Iwatsu Ō awarded Jr 5 Lower. Sr 7 Upper Kura Obito Osumi awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.1 [December 14, 749] 辛卯

The *Negi* 祢宜 Outer Jr 5 Lower Ōmiwa Morime and *Kanzukasa* (*Shujinshi*) 主神司 Jr 8 Lower Ōmiwa Tamaro of *Yawata Ōkami* (*Hachiman*) both awarded the kabane of Ōmiwa Ason.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.25 [January 7, 750] 乙卯

The *Ōname* (*Daijōsai* 大嘗祭*)* was carried out at the South Yakuen Shingū. Inaba was designated the *Yuki* 由機 Province and Mino the *Suki* 須岐 Province.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.26 [January 8, 750] 丙辰

A banquet was prepared for courtiers fifth rank and up.
Jr 3 Mihara Ō awarded Sr 3 Rank.

Jr 5 Upper Fujiwara Ason Otomaro awarded Sr 5 Upper Rank.
Sr 6 Upper Takahashi Ason Okawa, and Sr 6 Upper Takahashi Ason Mitsuna both awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.
Jr 5 Upper Nakatomi Ason Masuhito awarded Sr 5 Lower Rank.
Unranked Akishino Ō and Jr 7 Lower Tagima Mahito Kooyu awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.27 [January 9, 750] 丁巳
A banquet was prepared for courtiers fifth rank and up. They were given stipends according to rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.28 [January 10, 750] 戊午
The secretaries (*sakan* 主典) on up of the various ministries were feted. They were given stipends according to rank. The officials of the guard (*ban* 番) were also given stipends as usual.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.29 [January 11, 750] 己未
The governor of the *Yuki* Province Jr 5 Upper Oda Ō was awarded Sr 5 Lower Rank. The governor of the *Suki* Province Sr 4 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Emaro was awarded Sr 4 Upper Rank.
The vice-governors Jr 4 Lower Ōtomo Sukune Koshibi and Jr 4 Lower Shona Ō Fukushin were both awarded Jr 4 Upper Rank.
Sr 6 Upper Tsushima Ason Onoko was awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.
The higher military officers were promoted one degree of rank. The officials, military and other personnel of the provincial offices were feted and given stipends.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.30 [January 12, 750] 庚申
Sr 5 Lower Oda Ō to Sr 5 Upper Rank. On this day the Empress moved to Ōgōri no Miya.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.19 [January 1, 750] 己酉 **[date is out of order]**

Yawata Ōkami (Hachiman) gave an oracle that he was proceeding to the capital.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.11.24 [January 6, 750] 甲寅

The *Sangi* Jr 4 Upper Ishikawa Ason Toshitari and the *Jijū* Jr 5 Lower Fujiwara Ason Uona were despatched as messengers to welcome the *kami*. Over one hundred soldiers were sent to escort the *kami* along the roads of the provinces through which it passed, riding before and after, and in those provinces the killing of living beings was prohibited. Those accompanying the *kami* were to abstain from wine and meat, and were to sweep the roadways and purify them from excrement.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.12.27 [February 8, 750] 丁亥

Outer Jr 5 Upper Takechi Muraji Ōkuni and Sr 6 Upper Kura Imiki Kurohito and Saeki Sukune Emaimishi all awarded Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Sr 6 Upper Kakinomoto Otama and Jr 6 Upper Takechi Muraji Mamaro each awarded Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.12.18 [January 30, 750] 戊寅 **[date is out of order]**

Ten officials of the fifth rank, twenty of scattered rank, and twenty *toneri* of the *Rokuefu* 六衛府 were despatched to welcome *Yawata Kami* to Heguri district. On this day *Yawata Kami* entered the capital. A new building was constructed in the Nashihara no miya south of the palace and made a shrine *(jingū*). Forty Buddhist priests were summoned to conduct a *keka* ceremony for seven days.

Tempyō Shōhō 1.12.27 [February 8, 750] 丁亥

The Negi and nun of Hachiman Ōkami, Ōmiwa Ason Morime proceeded to Tōdaiji to worship. Her palanquin was of a purple color, like that of the imperial palanquin. The Empress (Kōken), Retired Emperor (Shōmu) and Dowager Empress (Kōmyō) went also. On this day the hundred officials and people of the various *uji* all gathered to worship at Tōdaiji. Five thousand Buddhist priests were summoned and made to read sutras in praise of the Buddha. Music of Great Tang, Parhae

and Wu, and the dances *Gosechi Tamae* and *Kume Mai* were performed. The *Ōkami* was awarded a cap of the First Rank and *Himegami* a cap of the Second Rank.

The Sadaijin Tachibana Sukune Moroe received an edict (*shō – Senmyō 15*-- of the Retired Emperor Shōmu) and read it before the god.

The Sovereign Emperor Shōmu proclaims, saying:

"In a recent year (Tempyō 12) we worshipped at the Chishikiji in the Ōgata district of Kawachi. Because we desired to construct such an image and yet were unable to do so, we appealed to the Great God Hachiman of the Broad Ways who dwells in the Usa district of Buzen Province.

The god said [gave an edict – *choku*]:

'We, as a kami, leading and inviting
The kami of heaven and earth
Shall certainly accomplish this thing.
We will turn water into steam for the casting of copper,
We will merge our body with the grass, trees and earth.
It shall be done without hindrance.'

Because of the proclamation of the god We were overjoyed, and We have been able to accomplish this work. And now, though it is with awe and trepidation, we reverently confer a cap [of the first rank]."

The nun Morime was awarded the Jr 4 Lower Rank. The Kanzukasa Ason Omiwa Tamaro was awarded the Outer Jr 5 Lower Rank. Four thousand sustenance households, one hundred male servants and one hundred female servants were bestowed on Tōdaiji. Also, those involved in building the temple were given rank according to their labor.[10]

[10] Cf translation and discussion in Bender 1979: The Hachiman Cult and the Dōkyō Incident. *Monumenta Nipponica* **34** (2): 125-153.

SHOKU NIHONGI REFERENCE LIST

Aoki Kazuo 青木和夫, Inaoka Kōji 稲岡耕二, Sasayama Haruo 笹山晴生, and Shirafuji Noriyuki 白藤禮幸 eds. 1989-1998. *Shoku Nihongi Vols 1-5*. Iwanami Shoten. [*Shin Nihon Koten Bungaku Taikei* 12-16, second printing 2000-2005]

SNKBT *Shin Nihon koten bungaku taikei* 新日本古典文学大系, 100 vols. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1989-.

Translations into modern Japanese:

HAYASHI Rokurō 林陸郎, ed. and trans. 1985-1989 *Kan'yaku-chūshaku Shoku Nihongi* 完訳注釈続日本紀. 7 vols. Tokyo: Gendai Shichōsha.

NAOKI Kōjirō, ed. and trans. 直木孝次郎. 1986-1992. *Shoku Nihongi* 続日本紀. 4 vols. Tokyo: Heibonsha.

UJITANI Tsutomu 宇治谷孟, ed and trans. 1992-1995. *Shoku Nihongi* 続日本紀. 3 vols. Tokyo: Kōdansha.

Reference:

Bender, Ross. 2007. Middle Chinese, Old Japanese and the *Senmyō*. http://rossbender.org/MCOJ.pdf

Linn, John Kenneth. 1950. *The Imperial Edicts of the Shoku-nihongi: An Annotated Translation of Edicts #30-62*. Dissertation, Yale University.

Kaneko Takeo 金子武雄. 1989. *Shoku Nihongi Senmyōkō* 続日本紀宣命講. Takashina Shoten. [Originally published Tokyo: Hakuteisha, 1941]

Kitagawa Kazuhide 北川和秀. 1982. *Shoku Nihongi Senmyō* 続日本紀宣命. Yoshikawa Kobunkan.

Kurano Kenji 倉野憲司. 1936. *Shoku Nihongi Senmyō Senmyō* 続日本紀宣命. Iwanami Shoten. [fifth printing, 2002]

Motoori Norinaga 本居宣長. 1971. *Motoori Norinaga Zenshū 7* 本居宣長全集. Ed Ōno Susumu 大野晋. Chikuma Shobō, 1968-1993.

Rikkokushi Sakuin Henshūbu 六国史編集部. 1967. *Shoku Nihongi Sakuin* 続日本紀索引. Yoshikawa Kobunkan.

Sansom, George B. 1924. The Imperial Edicts in the Shoku Nihongi. *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan (2nd Series)* , no. 1 : 5-40.

Sasayama Haruo 笹山晴生. 2000. *Shoku Nihongi Sakuin Nenpyo* 続日本紀索年表. Iwanami Shoten. [Shin Nihon Koten Bungaku Taikei bekkan]

Snellen, J. B. 1937. Shoku Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan, continued, from 697-791 A.D.: Translated and annotated by J. B. Snellen. *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Second Series* 11: 151-239; 14: 209-28.

Tsuchihashi, Paul Yachita. 1952. *Japanese Chronological Tables: from 601 to 1872 A.D*. Sophia University Press.

Zachert, Herbert. 1950. *Semmyô : die kaiserlichen Erlasse des Shoku-Nihongi*. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag.