acters 𗼻 'rice porridge' and 𗼼 'rice broth' were produced. The use of logographic principles and characters of phonetic value made it possible to create chains of characters such as 𗴲 'head', 𗴲𗹦 'initial', 𗴲𗹦 'first, previous', 𗴲𗹭 'hair and head, hair style', and 𗴲𗹯 'forehead'. Such chains of logograms are in part reflected in *The Sea of Characters*, and in part reconstructable by scholars.

The Tangut script remained in use after the fall of the Tangut state, since the Tangut language was still the language of Buddhist texts. But with completion of this process of Chinese assimilation, probably in the second part of the sixteenth century, the script went out of use.

Kitan and Jurchin

GYÖRGY KARA

The Kitan Scripts

The Kitan (Khitan) dynasty flourished in the area of Manchuria from 916 to 1125 C.E.; it was known to the Chinese as Liao. In 920, a Siniform writing system was established for the Altaic (probably Mongolic) Kitan language. Chinese sources mention it as the "large script." Another system, called "small script," was created by the Kitan scholar Diela following his acquaintance with "the Uyghur language and script" during the visit of an Uyghur embassy in the Kitan court (924 or 925). This is why some thought the small script was a variety of the Uyghur alphabet (SECTION 49); but in fact, the not too numerous epigraphic monuments preserve two distinct scripts, both resembling Chinese writing (similar graphic elements, in vertical lines from right to left). The relatively simple characters of one of them (now equated with the large script) are written one below the other, leaving equal spaces between them. In the other system (now identified as the small script), the characters forming a word in the text are assembled in blocks. These blocks contain two to seven characters, usually arranged pairs below pairs. An odd-numbered final character is centered below the last pair; the first element of a pair is on the left side. In the headings of some epitaphs, the same symbols appear in the "linear" style of the large script. Up to now no character common to the two scripts has been identified with certainty.

The "large script" consists of logograms; see TABLE 18.2. Some of them are taken from Chinese, modified or unchanged ('month', 'day', 'emperor', 'horse', 'south', etc.), but many of them cannot be identified with any Chinese sign. Some were later borrowed into the Jurchin scripts (e.g., the Kitan large script character for 'year' received an additional dot in the Jurchin small script). It is possible that the large script also had ideograms for grammatical functions, perhaps syllabograms, but more monuments would be necessary for the fuller decipherment of this system.

TABLE 18.2: *Kitan "Large Script"*

Kitan	*Gloss*	*Chinese*	*Kitan*	*Gloss*	*Chinese*
丞	heaven	天	馬	horse	馬
日	day	日	高	high	高
月	month	月	西	west	西
非	year	–[a]	方	direction	方
一	one	一	攴	dragon?	
二	two	二	十	ten	十
五	five	五	廿	twenty	廿

a. Cf. Jurchin.

The "assembled" or "small script" (see TABLE 18.3) is a complex of logograms, syllabograms, and perhaps other phonograms (marking single sounds). Not only suffixes are written in syllabograms, but also some stems. Syllables may be rendered by a set of syllabograms, with one character for the initial, one for the medial, and one for the final sound(s)—as in some deciphered Kitan transcriptions of Chinese names and terms (cf. the Chinese *fǎnqiè* method). External similarity of a small script character to a Chinese character does not help reading; thus the Kitan logogram for 'gold' has the shape of the Chinese character for 'mountain'. However, if the meaning of a Kitan character is known, it is sometimes possible to find its Chinese source (cf. 'heaven'). Some 370 characters (and variants) of this small script are known from large imperial and other epitaphs as well as minor inscriptions. A third of them have been partially deciphered by the Mongolian scholar Chinggeltei and his team (Qingge'rtai et al. 1985) with the aid of the more or less parallel Chinese text of some monuments (logograms of numerals, names of animals of the Twelve-year Cycle and other calendar terms, 'year', 'month', 'day', 'time', 'heaven', 'emperor', 'great', etc.). Logograms were also used as syllabograms; thus the character for 'year' also occurs as a final phonogram marking *ai,* while the character for *tau* 'five' is the first syllabogram in the block meaning *taula* 'hare'). There is no graphic difference between logograms and phonograms. The small script is attested in calligraphic and cursive styles. The two Kitan scripts seem to have been used concurrently, and survived the fall of the Liao Empire. The Jurchins wrote in the Kitan script until 1191, when it was suppressed by imperial order.

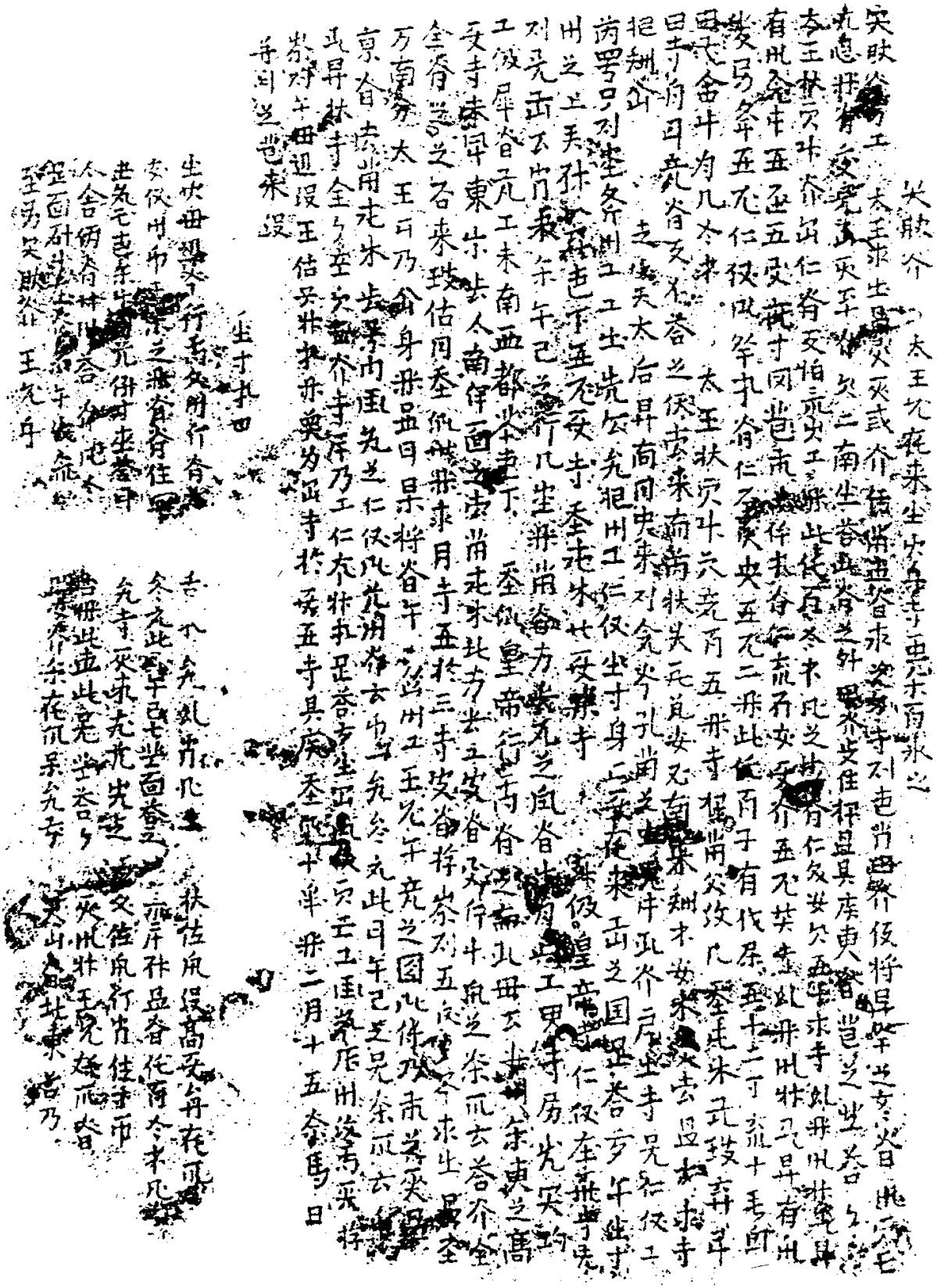


FIGURE 25. An inscription of 1041 in Kitan Large Script (Chén Shù 1982).

TABLE 18.3: *Kitan "Small Script"*



1	2	3	4	5	
				tau	
7	8	9	10	20	30
		ši?			
100	heaven	day	month	year	time
ǰau		*nair*	*sair*	*ai*	*po*
order	rat	ox	hare	dragon	snake
s.l.b.	*...ya?*		*tau.l.a*		*m.γ.o*
horse	goat	hen	dog	crow	gold
m.r.	*im.a*	*t.q.a*	*n.q.*	*γa.γ.*	*ǰürgü*
silver	great	big	holy	emperor	
m.ng.		*m.o*	*m.n.*	*xwang di*[a] + n. (GEN)	
lady	general		name	empress	
pu.ši.n[a]	*s.iang g.iun*[a]		*i.r.*	*xwang tai xeu*[a]	

a. Chinese element.

SAMPLE OF KITAN SMALL SCRIPT

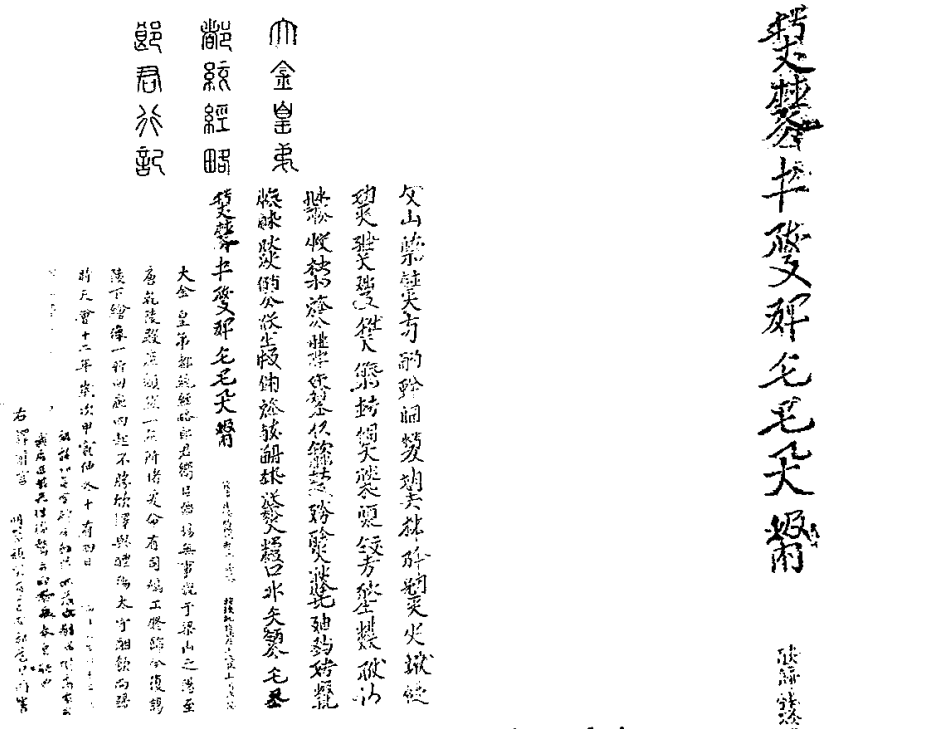
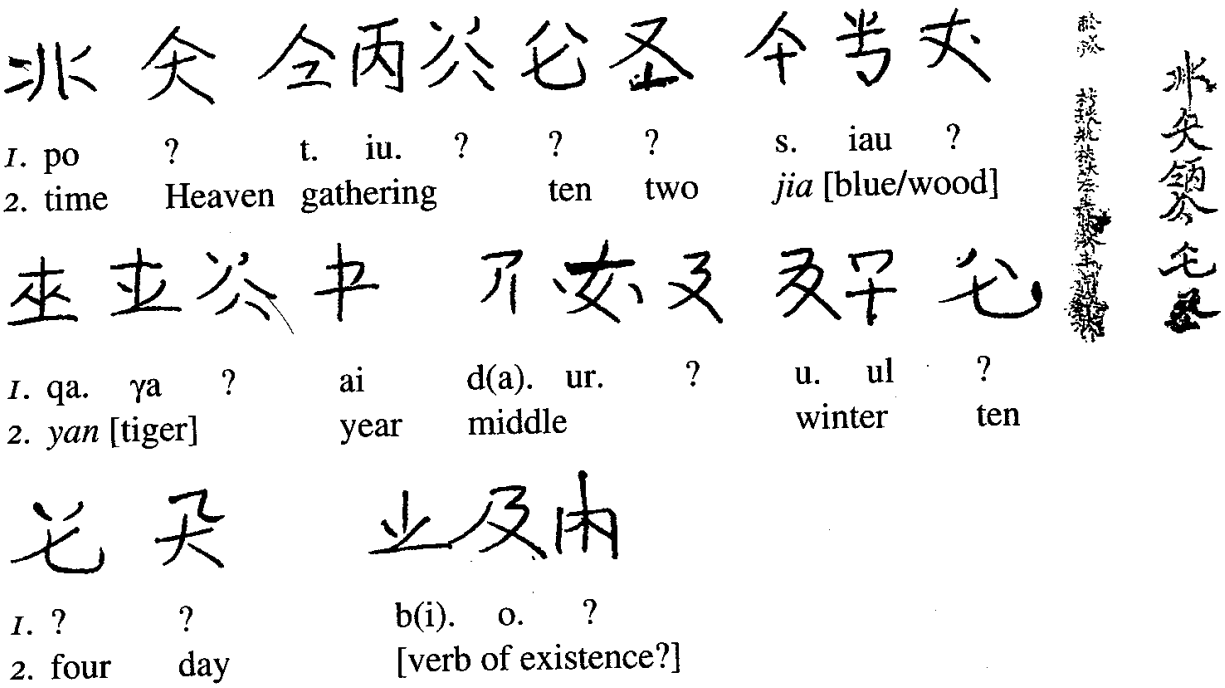


FIGURE 26. Inscription of 1134. With Chinese heading and translation *(text on the left side)* (cf. Qingge'rtai et al. 1985, Kane 1989).



1. po ? t. iu. ? ? ? s. iau ?
2. time Heaven gathering ten two *jia* [blue/wood]

1. qa. γa ? ai d(a). ur. ? u. ul ?
2. *yan* [tiger] year middle winter ten

1. ? ? b(i). o. ?
2. four day [verb of existence?]

'The time [of his return] is [the same?] jia yan twelfth year [of the period of] Gathering by Heaven [= Chinese Tianhui], the fourteenth day of the midwinter [month.]'

–Qingge'rtai et al. 1985.



FIGURE 27. Kitan Small Script. Seal Script Style, 1101.

Jurchin Script

The Jurchin language (also called Jurchi or Jurchen, Southern Tungusic) of the Golden Empire (Jin, 1115–1234) received its first writing system in 1120 when Wanyan Xiyin established the Jurchin "large script" following the Kitan model. With Emperor Xizong's "small characters" added, the new script was officially introduced in 1145; see TABLE 18.4. Like the large script of the Kitans, this system borrowed numerous Chinese characters, sometimes adding a "diacritical" dot (see, e.g., 'month' and 'day'), sometimes distorting the original (e.g., 'capital city', 'summer', etc.). The same happened with characters adapted from the Kitan large script. This system is known from manuscript fragments and epigraphic monuments of the Jurchin Empire, from the Sino–Jurchin glossary and documents of the Ming Bureau of Translators, and from a Ming stone inscription of 1413; it contains logograms, syllabograms, and perhaps other phonetic symbols (e.g. for rendering final consonants). The Jurchin script is "linear" like the Kitan large script. Jin Qizong (1984) lists 1,384 characters and variants from all available sources. The Ming Sino–Jurchin glossary with Jurchin script contains some 720 characters (see Kiyose 1977; Dorji/Dao'rji and Heshig/Hexige 1983).

TABLE 18.4: *Jurchin Script*



abka	*na*	*edu*	*towo*	*mu*	*moo*
heaven	earth	wind	fire	water	tree
inenggi	*ania*	*jua*	*bolo*	*tuwe*	*nienie*
day	year	summer	autumn	winter	spring
bia	*eri*	*nialma*	*weile*	*guru=un*	*nienie=eri*
month	season	man	deed	empire	springtime
mudu=r	*inda=xun*	*muri=in*	*gin*	*guru=un=ni*	*amba=an*
dragon	dog	horse	capital city[a]	empire (GEN)	great
emu	*duyin*	*nadan*	*ǰuwa*	*tobuxon*	*tanggu*
one	four	seven	ten	fifteen	hundred
ǰuwe	*sunǰa*	*ǰakun*	*omšo*	*orin*	*minggan*
two	five	eight	eleven	twenty	thousand
ilan	*ninggu*	*uyewun*	*ǰirxon*	*gušin*	*tumen*
three	six	nine	twelve	thirty	ten thousand

a. *Cf. Chinese 京.

SAMPLE OF JURCHIN

1. Jurchin	*2. Transliteration*	*3. Gloss*
	*amba*	'great'
	=an	
	el	'place'
	-xe	
	ǰuwe	'two'
	ania	'year'
	nadan	'seven'
	bia	'month'
	gušin	'thirty'
	inenggi	'day'

'The (period of) Great Peace, second year, seventh moon, thirtieth day.'
—*Jurchin inscription of Aotun, 1210 (Jīn and Jīn 1980).*

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