

Translations and the Original Texts

in the paper “Climatic and Societal Impacts of Volcanic Eruptions in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BCE- 8 CE): A Comparative Study”

1) Historical sources:

Shiji 史記
Hanshu 漢書
Zizhi Tongjian 資治通鑑
Wenxian Tongkao 文獻通考

2) Names:

Xinyuan Ping 新垣平
Jia Juanzhi 賈捐之
Feng Fengshi 馮奉世
Dong Zhongshu 董仲舒
Yu Dingguo 于定國
Shi Gao 史高
Xue Guangde 薛廣德
Shi Xian 石顯
Hong Gong 弘恭
Zhou Kan 周堪
Zhang Meng 張猛
Jia Yi 賈誼
Chao Cuo 晁錯
Gong Yu 貢禹

3) Other terms:

Gu 穀
Mi 米
Su 粟
vagrant 流民
suanfu 算賦
kouqian 口錢
Ever-normal granary 常平倉

4) Translations and original texts:

a) “Parting and Going off, East Gate”
He went out East Gate,
no hope to return;
he came in the gate,
he was shaken with grief.
No food in the kettle;
no clothes on the rack.
He drew his sword,
he went out the gate,
his children wept and wife pulled at his clothes.
"Other wives want wealth and honour,
I gladly share gruel with you,
share gruel with you:
By broad Heaven above,
by our babies here below,
this is wrong!"

"Get out of my way! I go!
I've waited far too long!
Already my hair hangs white,
I cannot stay here forever!"

(Reference for the translation: Owen, S.: An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911 W. W. Norton & Company, New York 1996.)

《東門行》

出東門，不顧歸。來入門，悵欲悲。盎中無斗米儲，還視架上無懸衣。拔劍東門去，舍中兒母牽衣啼：「他家但願富貴，賤妾與君共餬糜。上用倉浪天故，下當用此黃口兒。今非！」「咄！行！吾去為遲！白髮時下難久居。」

b) "Recently for many years there have continually been no good harvests. Moreover, there have been visitations of floods, droughts, sickness, and epidemics..." (*Hanshu, Annals of Emperor Wen*; Dubs, 1938).
詔曰：「問者數年比不登，又有水旱疾疫之災……」《漢書·文帝紀》

c) "In the 4th month (May 7-June 5), the sun was pale blue (blue-white) in colour and cast no shadows. Right in the middle (of the Sun) frequently there were shadows and no brightness. That summer was cold until the 9th month, the Sun then regained its brightness..." (*Hanshu, Treatise on the Five Elements*; Yau and Stephenson, 1988)

元帝永光元年四月，日色青白，亡景，正中時有景亡光。是夏寒，至九月，日乃有光。《漢書·五行志》

d)... an imperial edict said, "Recently, for successive years there have not been good harvests, so that many people are lacking food; early death is cutting short their natural [span of] years..." (*Hanshu, Annals of Emperor Jing*; Dubs, 1938)

詔曰：「問者歲比不登，民多乏食，夭絕天年……」《漢書·景帝紀》

e) "At the time, bad harvests had lasted for years. Each Shi (a measurement unit, approximately 30 kg today) of grains cost more than 200 cash in the capital, but about 400 per shi around the remote areas, and about 500 per shi in Guandong. There were famines everywhere, and the imperial court was very concerned about the situation, and it also encountered mutinies of the Qiang people (an ethnic group)."

Hanshu, the Biography of Feng Fengshi

是時，歲比不登，京師谷石二百餘，邊郡四百，關東五百，四方饑饉，朝廷方以為憂，而遭羌變。《漢書·馮奉世傳》

f) "...the whole state is suffering from famine. The soldiers and horses are emaciated, and they have been greatly consumed. The equipment for defence and combat has been disused for a long time. The barbarians all show contempt for our officials at the border. That is why the Qiang people revolt ..." (*Hanshu, Biography of Feng Fengshi*)

天下被饑饉，士馬羸耗，守戰之備久廢不簡，夷狄皆有輕邊吏之心，而羌首難。《漢書·馮奉世傳》

g) "...But the Yin and Yang [a Chinese philosophical concept regarding balance and harmony between opposites] have not yet accorded [with each other], the three luminaries have been veiled and indistinct, the great multitude have suffered greatly, have wandered, and have been scattered on the highways and paths. Robbers and brigands have arisen simultaneously..." (*Hanshu, Annals of Emperor Yuan*; Dubs 1938)
.....然而陰陽未調，三光晦昧。元元大困，流散道路，盜賊並興。《漢書·元帝紀》

h) [The emperor] ordered that the nobles should not pay tribute. He opened [to the common people] the mountains and marshes, reduced the [imperial] robes and the imperial officers, diminished the [regular] number of Gentlemen and officials, and opened the granaries in order to succour the people. The people were allowed to sell [aristocratic] ranks. (*Hanshu, Annals of Emperor Wen*; Dubs, 1938)

令諸侯無人貢，弛山澤，減諸服御，損郎吏員，發倉庾以振民，民得賣爵。《漢書·文帝紀》

i) "...having paid a [regular] tax in kind of grain, and also having paid the hay tax, the private demands solicited by authorities of the district and the village become too heavy a burden to bear" (*Hanshu vol. 72*; Hsu, 1980)
已奉谷租，又出稿稅，鄉部私求，不可勝供。《漢書·貢禹傳》

j) “...increases the stores of grains in order to fill government granaries and roofed depots, in preparedness against floods and droughts...” (Hanshu vol.24; Ban and Swann, 2013)

“.....廣畜積，以實倉廩，備水旱.....” 《漢書・食貨志》