

## **Research on the Mechanism in Which Emissary Systems and the Late Tang Government Run their Judiciary Affairs**

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### **Abstract**

During the later period of Tang Dynasty, the administrative affairs of the government were basically operated by a number of emissaries who were specially appointed by the emperor, instead of those officials who served in the traditional organizations such as Xingbu-Si (刑部司) of Shangshu-Sheng (尚書省) and Dali-Si (大理寺) etc.. The change means that a new administrative system including the new operation mechanism of judiciary affairs was established. It was called emissary system. Since the Tang dynasty, this system was criticized in many ways, for example causing confusion in the judicial system in Late Tang and Five Dynasties. At the same time, however, emissary system also provided a new approach to solving the problem which was created all by itself. In order to solve the confusion of the judicial system, a new emissary called Shenxing-Yuan (審刑院) had been established in early Northern Song Dynasty, which was in charge of judiciary affairs that were run by emissary system and the traditional organizations. And then, the transformation of the judicial system during the late Tang Dynasty and Northern Song Dynasty was realized, which was an important link in the evolution of political systems during imperial China.

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Keywords: the late Tang Dynasty, emissary system, “San Si” (three emissaries) in financial management, judiciary affairs, institutional change