

## **Issue on Household Registers and Property of Families in Tang Dynasty**

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### **Abstract**

Household registers and property were two important issues that surrounded families. The private “family” and the political “household” often became one. However, it was unavoidable that phenomena such as “possession of common property regardless of different households” or “possession of separate property with the same household” appeared. No matter whether members of a family were in the same household register, taxes and materials could be rendered from the common property of a family when the government levied taxes on the basis of households. The person with the most authority in each household was the householder of a cohabitation family. Therefore, whether family members belonged to the same or different households, it did not influence the life of a family and its relation with the authorities. The family was a life community with common property being its feature. Common property, in fact, implied two meanings: common possession and sharing. Family members living together who had the right of inheritance were people with common possession, while those who did not have the right of inheritance could still enjoy family property. In the civil society, the impression of family property belonging exclusively to fathers was vivid, and fathers executed the management right of family property on the basis of the traditional concept of “family affairs being governed by elders.” In other words, common property presented aspect of ownership or aspect of usage right of family property, and property belonging to fathers demonstrated its

management aspect. The former did not conflict with the latter, and both held family ethics and order and property operation together.

Keywords: Tang Dynasty, Family, Household register, Co-residence and Common property, Family members living together and possessing or sharing common property, Property belonging to fathers.