Glossary

anda. M. Sworn brother.

ata dudu 阿大都督. “Elder Statesman.”

ba’atur. Mongolian chieftain.

bāyātud. Mongol braves, soldiers.

benjī 本紀. Basic Annals; usually a section of a Chinese dynastic history.

bianxiū 編修. Compiler of the third class in the Hanlin Academy, rank 8.

bishechi 必閣赤; M. bichigechi. Scribe of the second class, or secretary.

boshi 博士. Erudite, rank 7, in the National University.

canzhī zhengshì 參知政事. Second privy councillor, or assistant administrator, in a secretariat, rank 2.

Chang [zhang] 丈. Unit of length; one zhang equals ten chi [ch‘īh].

Chaoqing Dafu 朝請大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Twentieth Class.”

Chengwu lang 承務郎. Honorary title “Gentleman of the Fourth Class.”
Glossary

chengxi 承襲. Recruitment by inheritance of a specific office.

Ch’ih [chi] 尺. Unit of length, commonly translated as a “foot.”

Congshi lang 從事郎. Honorary title “Gentleman of the Eighth Class.”

dachen 大臣. Grand minister in the Chinese imperial court.

da chengxiang 大承相. Grand, or senior, councillor-in-chief, rank 1.

da duanshiguan 大監事官. Grand judge.

da dudu 大都督. Chief military commissioner in charge of the military commission for Mongolian troops stationed in Shandong and Hebei provinces, rank 2.

daizhi 待制. Compiler of the first class in the Hanlin Academy, rank 5.

dajun 大郡. “Superior prefecture” in Yuan China.

dao 道. “Circuit” in Yuan China; ranked above the prefecture, or route see (see lu and fu).

darqan (C. dalahan 答剌罕). “Free noble”; honorary title originally conferred for military merit, but extended during the Yuan period to people with administrative skill.
Glossary

darughachi 達魯花赤. An agent or overseer in Mongol China.

da zongzhengfu 大宗正府. High court of justice for Mongols in China; functional during period 1311-1336.

duanshiguan 斷事官. A judge in the Mongol Chinese civil administration.

dudu 都督 (T. tutuq). Commander-in-chief, or supervisor-in-chief.

duhufu 都護府. Court of justice for Uyghurs in Mongol China; begun 1281.

dutong 都統. Commander; sometimes also used for civilian regional governor.

duzhuan yunyanshi 都轉運鹽使. Superintendent of regional salt tax office.

du zongguan fu 都總管府. A headquarters for control of military forces at the Yuan capital Dadu, or the title of the supervisor of a nonmilitary or semimilitary agency in various places in Yuan China.

Fanyang junhou 范陽郡侯. “Marquis of Fanyang Prefecture”; a typical posthumous honorific title awarded to a man of distinction in Mongol China.

Fengyi Dafu 奉議大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Twenty-fourth Class.”
Glossary

fu 府. “Prefecture,” or “superior prefecture”; only used in special cases to denote a Yuan prefecture. See also lu.

fudu yuanshuai 副都元帥. Assistant regional military commissioner.

gaimu 改墓. To transfer or move a tomb, usually an ancestral tomb, to a new place in order to establish one’s presence in that new community.

ger. A round felt tent.

gongbu 工部. Ministry of Works in the Yuan court, in charge of all sorts of governmental works, including imperial artisans and workshops.

Guanglu Dafu 光祿大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Third Class.”

guiji 桂籍. The imperial register of jinshi degree holders.

guizi 桂子. Lit. “branch of the cassia”; a term that denoted a jinshi degree holder.

guoshiyuan bianxiu 國史院編修. Compiler of the third class in the Imperial History Bureau, rank 8.

Guoxiang 國相. High state minister.

gürkhan. “Universal qan”; title claimed by Qara Khitai ruler.

gu-shi 古詩. Old style shi poetry.
Glossary

Hanlin daizhi 翰林待制. Compiler of the first class in the Hanlin Academy, rank 5 in the Yuan administration.

Hanlin chengzhi 翰林承旨. Chancellor, or recipient of edicts, in Hanlin Academy, rank 1 in the Yuan administration.

Hanlin Guoshiyuan chengzhi 翰林國史院承旨. Chancellor, or recipient of edicts in the Yuan Hanlin and Historiography Academy, rank 1 in the Yuan administration (usually shortened as Hanlin chengzhi).

Hanlin xueshi chengzhi 翰林學士承旨. Chancellor and academician in the Hanlin Academy.

Hanlin zhi xueshi 翰林直學士. Auxiliary academician in the Yuan era Hanlin Academy, rank 3.

Hanren 漢人. Chinese person/people.

hao 號. A literary name, often adopted as an alternative name in China.

Hebei Hanmin 河北漢民. People from north China in Yuan social order.

Hubu shangshu 戶部尚書. Minister of revenue in the Yuan court, rank 3.

Huihui 回回. A Muslim; in Yuan era, usually refers to a person from Central Asia.
Glossary

Hui Min 惠敏. “Kind and Intelligent.” A typical posthumous style name of a person of high social standing in Mongol China.

idiqu; C. iduhu 亦都護. “Sacred Majesty.” Title of Gaochang Uyghur rulers after 840.

jian 監. Director, in directorates, institutes and courts.

jiancheng 監承. A deputy director in the National University, rank 7.


Jiayi dafu 嘉議大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Thirteenth Class.”

jinchyi 金螭椅. Gold dragon chair; sign of Mongol imperial authority.

jingli 經歷. Registrar; a low level service official in charge of the registry, through which all official documents passed, in a bureau headquarters, rank 5 to 9 in Yuan era.

Jingshi dadian 經世大典. “Great Institutions of Statecraft,” also known as “Compendium for administering the empire,” 1330-31.

jingyan 經筵. Emperor’s classics colloquium.

jinhufu 金虎符. The golden tiger tablet, a sign of Mongol imperial authority.

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Glossary

jinshi 進士. “Presented scholar”; highest of the three civil service exam degrees.

jinzhisun 金直孫. Robe of gold-embroidered cloth; sign of Mongol imperial authority.

junmindu darughachi 軍民都達魯花赤. Agent overseeing civil and military affairs.

kebtegül. Mongol qan’s nightguards.

keshig. Mongolian term for system of imperial bodyguards (see also suwei).

Kuizhang ge 奎章閣. Academy of the Kuizhang Pavillion, responsible for collecting scholarship on the Classics and Histories for the Yuan emperor’s use.

Kuizhang ge shishu xueshi 奎章閣侍書學士. A writer-academician in the Kuizhang Pavillion, rank 2.

langzhong 郎中. A senior supervisor or director in a provincial bureau, rank 5.

Li 里. Unit of land area or distance measure.

lianfang shi 廉訪使. Surveillance or investigation commissioner, rank 3 in Yuan bureaucracy.

liang 錢. Unit of weight, equivalent to an ounce.

Libu shilang 吏部侍郎. Vice Minister in Ministry of Personnel in the Yuan court.

Lienü zhuan 列女傳. Biographies of Virtuous Women.

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Glossary

lingwangfu 領王傅. Tutor to Mongol imperial prince.

Liugui 六桂. “Six cassia”; reference to six people who hold the jinshi degree.

Liugui shi 六桂氏. The family or clan who had six jinshi degree holders.

liwen 理問. A judicial secretary or proceedings officer, rank 4, in provincial Judicial Proceedings Office, liwen suo.

liwen suo 理問所. Judicial Proceedings Office, in provincial, or branch, secretariat.

lu 路. “Route”; also used to denote a prefecture in Yuan China.

Lun Yu 論語. The Analects of Confucius.

lushi si 錄事司. Municipal Affairs Office, found in major cities of 100 Yuan circuits (dao), in charge of registering a city’s population and carrying out various police duties.

maikhan. A low woolen tent.

Mengguren 蒙古人. Mongol person/peoples.

Menggumin 蒙古民. Mongol people in Yuan China.

ming 名. One’s personal name, rarely used outside the family.
**Glossary**

ming 銘. An inscription text, usually a eulogy.

minzu; J. minzoku 民族. Ethnic or nationality group.

mishujian cheng 秘書監承. Official in the Imperial Library bureau.

Mishujian zhuzuo zuolang 秘書監著作佐郎. An assistant staff writer in the Imperial Library, rank 7.

muzhiming 墓志銘. Tomb inscription, enclosed in the tomb of the deceased.

Naiman 乃蠻. Turko-Mongol steppe tribe, rivals of Mongol tribes in 12th century.

Nanren 南人. Person or people from southern China, area of Southern Song Dynasty.

Nantai 南臺. “Southern pavilion”; reference to the Censorate bureau or Censor-in-Chief.

Nantai zhishu yushi 南臺治書御史. A secretarial censor in the “southen pavilion” branch of the Yuan central censorate bureau.

nöker; pl. nököd. Close companion(s) of the qan.

Nü Xiaojing 女孝經. The Classic of Filial Women.

ong-qan. Prince-qan.

ortogh (T. ortaq, C. wotuo 韓脫). Merchant corporations funded by Mongol court.
Glossary

pingzhang zhengshi zhongshusheng 平章政事中書省.
Manager or privy councillor in the Yuan central secretariat, rank 1.

Qara Khitai. C. Xiliao 西遼. Western Khitan Liao
kingdom.Qara “black” is a geographical referent.

qianshi 僚事. An assistant official, second or third level, in
range of agencies.

quriltai. Meeting of Mongol tribes for election of qan.

quti 忽底. “His Highness,” an honorary title appended to a
person’s name.

Ruye 儒業. “Confucian studies”; denotes a person who is
thoroughly knowledgeable about the Confucian
classics and philosophy.

Sanjie Liugui 三節 六桂. Lit. “three virtues, or three
virtuous ones, and six jinshi.” A moniker for the
Xie family in Yuan China.

Semuguan 色目官. A Semuren official, or an office
reserved for Semuren personnel.

Semuren 色目人. People of various categories; personnel
from Central and Western Asia.

shang qingche duwei 上輕車都尉. “Supreme Master of
Light Chariots”; one of ten special titles granted to
members of the aristocracy who had helped to
found the Yuan dynasty or their descendants.
Glossary

shangshu 尚書. Grand Minister, in Yuan State Affairs bureau (shangshu sheng); three ministers were appointed to each ministry within the bureau of State Affairs during Mongol period.

shangshu sheng 尚書省. Ministry of State Affairs in Mongol Yuan central government.

shi 詩. A poem; also a particular style of Chinese poetry popularized during the Tang era.

shidafu 士大夫. Chinese literatus or elite.

shiniu yinyin 獅紐銀印. Silver seal with embossed lion; a seal of Mongol imperial authority.

shizu 氏族. Clans and people groups, or ethnic groups.

shouzhang, 守長. A magistrate.

shumi yuan dushi 樞密院都事. A secretary in Yuan military affairs bureau, rank 7.


suigong ruli 歲貢儒吏. Annual recommendation of people for appointment to civil office who were learned in intellectual (Confucian) and administrative or clerical areas or skills.

suwei 宿衛. System of imperial bodyguards in Mongol China.
Glossary

suzheng lianfangsi 肅政廉訪司. Regional Investigation Bureau, associated with the censorate in eight regions of Yuan China.

taishi 太師. “Grand preceptor,” rank 1, largely ceremonial title in the Yuan court.

Tängri. Mongolian Sky god.

tangming 堂名. Name of an ancestral hall.

Tanguts 唐兀. Inhabitants of Xixia empire, rivals of early Mongol empire.

Tongyi dafu 通議大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Twelfth Class.”

tongzhi 同知. A vice prefect, or associate prefect, usually assigned at the prefectural level, rank 6 to 7.

touxia 投下 (M. ayimagh). System of estates granted to members of the Mongol imperial clan. known as appanages.

tu 圖. A drawing.

tuntian 屯田. Agricultural colony, or a state farm, staffed by either civilian or military personnel.

turγay. Mongol qan’s dayguards.

uluγ ayγuchi (C. wulu aiwuchi 吾魯愛兀赤). A grand minister in the Uyghur court at Gaochang; equivalent to C. dachen.
Glossary

ulus. A Mongol tribe.

Umay. Mongolian mother goddess.

wang 王-qan. See ong-qan.

Weiwu 畏兀 or 畏吾; Weiwuer(ren) 維吾爾 (人). Variant renderings of Uyghur person or ethnic group.

Wengjila shi 魏吉剌氏. Mongol Onggirat clan.

wenren 文人. Literati; a person educated in the literature of China.

wugui fang 五桂坊. Pillar or arch commemorating those families of a community who had produced five jinshi degree holders.

xian 縣. “County,” or “district” in Yuan China, below the prefecture.

xianjia 仙家. An immortal, or a fairy.

xiao 孝. “Filial piety,” or one who observes or maintains filial piety.

Xiaojing 孝經. Classic of Filial Piety.

xingdu caoyun shi 行都漕運使. Superintendant in provincial grain transport bureau.

Xiliao 西遼. Western Khitan Liao kingdom. See also Qara Khitai, above.
Glossary

Xitai yushi 西臺御史. “Western pavilion” branch of the Yuan Censorate Bureau.

Xiyu 西域. Western Regions, area traditionally west of China.

Xiyuren 西域人. Person or people from the Western Regions.

xuanfu 宣撫. Pacification or control bureau; one of the earliest local government office in the Mongol administration in China.

xuanfu shi 宣撫使. Pacification or control commissioner, rank 3, oversaw a regional control office (xuanfu si).

xuanfu si 宣撫司. Regional control office.

xuanwei fushi 宣慰副使. Assistant pacification commissioner, rank 4.

xuanwei shi 宣慰使. Pacification commissioner, rank 2, in Yuan Pacification Bureau.

xuanwei shi du yuanshuai 宣慰使都元帥. Concurrent assignment as a pacification commissioner and general regional military commander, rank 2.

Xuanzheng yuanshi 宣政院使. Commissioner in the bureau of Tibetan and Buddhist affairs.

yaomin 廬民. Forced laborers.
Glossary

yin 薨. “Protection” privilege; recruitment to office by virtue of prior service of one’s close family member.

yingfeng 應奉. A writer in the Hanlin Academy, rank 7.

yir-sub. Mongolian elements of earth and water.

Yunzhong junhou 雲中郡侯. Posthumous honorary title “Marquis of Yunzhong Prefecture.”

Zhaowen guan daxueshi 昭文館大學士. Grand academician in the Institute for the Glorification of Literature, rank 2 in the Yuan central administration.

zhen 真. “Uprightness”; “truthfulness.”

Zhengyi Dafu 正議大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Eleventh Class.”

zhenlie 真烈. “Chaste and staunch”; “upright and steadfast”; category used to classify certain widowed women in imperial China.

Zhida yinchao 至大銀鈔. “Silver-based note of the Zhida era [1308-1311],” a paper currency that circulated in Yuan China.


Zhizheng chao 至正鈔. “Paper note of the Zhizheng era [1341-68]; alternate name for Zhongtong jiaochao paper currency.
Glossary

zhong 忠. “Loyalty”; also a title for one who is loyal.

zhong 种. Type or group of people (sometimes used to mean ethnic group).

zhonglie 忠烈. “Loyal and Meritorious.” An honorific title or moniker given to a person or a family.

Zhongshu canzhi zhengshi 中書參知政事. Second privy councillor in the central secretariat, rank 2.

Zhongshu pingzhang [zhengshi] 中書平章[政事]. Short form for pingzhang zhengshi zhongshusheng.

Zhongtong jiaochao 中統交鈔. “Exchange note of the Zhongtong era”; also known as Zhizheng chao; paper currency circulated in Yuan China.

Zhongtong yuanbao jiaochao 中統元寶交鈔. “Primary treasury exchange note of the Zhongtong era [1260-63],” paper currency circulated in Yuan China.

Zhongxiang 忠襄. Posthumous honorary name “Loyal and Assisting.”

Zhongxun Dafu 中順大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Nineteenth Class.”

zhujiao 助教. Preceptor in the National University, rank 8; subordinate to the erudites, see boshi.

zi 字. Chinese courtesy name, given to people of social standing at coming of age in traditional China.
**Glossary**

Zide Dafu 資德大夫. Honorary title “Grandee of the Fifth Class.”

zongguan neiwei zangshi 總管內外藏事. Official in charge of royal storehouses in the capital region.

zongli caibi 總理財帛. Superintendent of monetary affairs.

zu; J. zoku 族. Lineage or descent group.
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