The Second Dartmouth Workshop on the Tsinghua Bamboo Slip Manuscripts: Yin gao and Yin zhi was held on 26th March, 2011 at Dartmouth College. The workshop was organized by Sarah Allan, XING Wen (邢文) and Foong Janice Kam (甘风). Other participating scholars included: ZHAO Ping’an (赵平安 Tsinghua University), Rudolf Wagner (Heidelberg University), Patrick Draine (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Dirk Meyer (Oxford University), Margaret Pearson (Skidmore College), Michael Lüdke (Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), Attilio Andreini (Università ca’ Foscari, Venice), Sandor P. Szabo (Corvinus University, Budapest), Adam Smith (Columbia University), Alice Cheang (郑文君 University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Crispin Williams (University of Kansas), Susan Weld (Georgetown University), Andrew Meyer (Brooklyn College), SHEN Yadan (沈亚丹 Dongnan University), LIN Fan (林凡 McGill University), DU Heng (杜衡 Harvard University), Clint Qian (虔官昌 Harvard University), Christopher Foster (Harvard University), William French III (Harvard University), WANG Yunfei (王云飞 Peking University).

The first volume of Qinghua Daxue cang Zhanguo zhujian was published in December of 2010. It included 9 manuscripts, including the two discussed in this workshop, Yin gao and Yin zhi. These two manuscripts are similar in form to Shang shu documents. They both concern Yi Yin Cheng Tang 成湯 and the founding of the Shang Dynasty. Qinghua Daxue cang Zhanguo zhujian takes Yin zhi as a version of the lost Shang shu chapter, Xian you yi de 咸有一德.

Zhao Ping’an, a member of the Tsinghua University team of paleographers charged with processing the bamboo slip manuscripts for publication (zheng li 整理) introduced the manuscripts and explained the procedure used by the team in preparing them for publication, as well as current progress in processing the slips. He noted that the Tsinghua team had made use of ultra-red, as well as high-quality photography, and that these had been very useful in revealing some characters that were not otherwise clear. He also pointed that many of the Tsinghua slips have numbers which indicate the sequence of the slips. Some also have marks, such as an angled cut on the obverse side of the slips, which probably served a method to preserve the order of the slips should they become unbound, and this had been very useful in determining the sequence of the slips. Other previously published manuscripts may also have numbers or marks on the obverse side of the slips that have not been noticed or published. In this regard, we should note that scholars normally work from photographs in sequencing slips and writing the transcriptions, so if they did not have photographs of the obverse of the slips, or ones of sufficient quality, they would have been unaware
of any markings. Because of the importance of seeing the obverse sides of the slips, *Qinghua Daxue cang Zhanguo zhujian* includes good photographs of the obverse side of all of the slips.

Zhao was questioned about the allegation that the slips are fake. Here, he said that the complexity of the material is such that he did not believe that it was possible and remarked that the knowledge of the entire team of specialist put together would have been insufficient to produce this material. He also noted that many people, including eminent scholars of the time, also believed that oracle bones were all fake when they were first discovered.

Zhao then led the reading, line by line. He explained the paleographic considerations that led the Tsinghua team to their final decisions in their published transcriptions and reviewed some of the suggestions made by other scholars since the publication of the first volume. The workshop participants also offered their own suggested readings, differing translations, and discussed the implications of the texts as a whole.

Wang Yunfei
25 July 2011 at Dartmouth College