Nature and function of Kraskino walled town in Primorye region through the historical viewpoint

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Identification of the town

- "Xin tang shu" • "Bohai zhuan":

  "In old lands of weimo [Bohai] established East Capital, its name is Longyuanfu, also named Zhachengfu; it governs four circuits (zhou): Qing, Yan, Mu, He".

  "Longyuan in the south-east adjoins sea; it’s a road to Japan".
Hints for search of position of East Capital of Bohai

1 - “新唐书●渤海传”：贞元时，东南徙东京。
“Xin tang shu”, “Bohai zhuan”: “In Zhen-yuan years (785 – 805) [Da Qinmao] moved south-east [from Supreme Capital] to East Capital”

2 - “三国史记”：渤海国南海、鸭渌、扶余、栅城四府，并是高句丽旧地也。自新罗井泉郡至栅城府，凡三十九驿。”
“Samguk sagi”: “Four Administrations – Nanhai, Yalu, Fuyu, Zhacheng – also are old lands of Koguryo. There are 39 stations from Yiquanjun of Shilla to Zhachengfu”. 
For the first time Kraskino ancient town was identified with Yanzhou by E.V. Shavkunov in the beginning of 1960-s [Shavkunov, 1968, p. 94]. To prove this identification Ernst Shavkunov used the data of “Xin Tang shu”, Pallady Kafarov’s opinion about probability of presence of navy harbor in area of Posyet and similarity of names of Yanchihe river and Yanzhou circuit.
Probably, Pallady Kafarov’s opinion about ancient navy harbour near Posyet was based on Chinese maps of Qing Dynasty, where a walled town “Furdan” was drawn on the left bank of Yancihe River, approximately in position of Kraskino walled town.
Obviously the data of these maps made J.B.D’Anville to put Fourdan Kotun on the sea shore to the north from Toumen river on his map in 1734.
“Treatise on Geography” of “Liao shi” (辽史 • 地理志) in the section of Kaizhou circuit informs that Yanzhou which was subdued to it originally was Bohai prefecture Longhejun (龙河郡) formerly it had four counties (xian 县): Haiyang (海阳), Jiehai (接海), Gechuan (格川), Longhe (龙河), all of them were abolished. Actually, according to “Liao shi” all four circuits of Bohai Longyuanfu Administration became subordinate to Kaizhou. “Liao shi” gives names of all counties subordinated to those circuits. Only two counties of Yanzhou have character “hai” 海 – “sea” in their names. Most possibly, it indicates that exactly Yanzhou situated at the sea shore.
Names of Haiyang (海阳) and Jiehai (接海) counties can be translated as “Located on the north shore of the sea” and “Adjoining the sea” respectively. And Kraskino walled town situates exactly on the north shore of Expeditsiyi Bay. In other places of this part of the Peter the Great Gulf the shore is mainly west. Haiyang county is the first in the list of Yanzhou counties, it should indicate that this county was in Yanzhou town, i.e. in Kraskino walled town.
The road from Hunchun to Kraskino – Posyet has preserved till nowadays: now it is the motor road. Its’ route coinsides with the road described by H.E.M. James, who participated British expedition to Manchuria and visited Novo-Kievka (Kraskino) from Hunchun in 1885 [James, 1888, p. 347 – 355].
Function of the town

- Archaeological data gives evidence that inhabitants of this walled town were engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting and sea gathering. However, judging by geographic location and historical records’ data that “Road to Japan” passed through this place, main function of this town was to maintain this sea road.
## Quantities of gifts brought by Bohai missions to Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of mission</th>
<th>year</th>
<th>Fur skins (pieces)</th>
<th>qinseng</th>
<th>honey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sable</td>
<td>tiger</td>
<td>bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to “Standards of Engi years”, where standards of gifts to Bohai King and all members of Bohai missions from Great Envoy to shouling were fixed, the mission of 105 men should receive as official gifts only: 40 pieces of tissue, 475 pieces of coarse silk cloth, 420 clews of silk thread, 4020 tun (about 465 kg) of silk floss [Wang Chengli, 2000, p. 258].
The time of functioning of the Kraskino walled town

- The first Bohai mission to Japan was in 727. Obviously, the harbor and a settlement controlled it already existed in that time.

- The last mission visited Japan, already not from Bohai but from Dongdan state, arrived in Japan in 930. Most possibly soon after that Yanzhou was transferred to Liaodong and its’ former town (Kraskino walled town) was abolished.
Conclusion

- Kraskino walled town was Yanzhou circuit of Bohai East capital Longyuanfu;
- Main function of this town was to maintain the sea “Road to Japan” as it was the terminal point on the land part of that road.
- The town was built not later than in the second decade of VIII century and was abolished not later than in 930-s – 940-s.
Thank you very much for your attention!
Inscription on ceramic vessel.

An inscription made on the inner surface of the bottom part of the vessel. Kraskinskoye ancient town.

弘知 - Hirotomo
道隆 - Michitaka

It is most possible to interpret this inscription as Japanese names. It can be related to Japanese missions to Bohai, passed through the area of Posyet.