The majority of the nineteen slips and one title-slip reconstructed as the “Statutes on Arrest” in Bamboo Slips (2001) and (2006) were found in archaeological group C, in the fourth and fifth slip strata of the text, in roughly clockwise order. Based on our analysis of the ordering of sections in the original scroll, it probably formed the seventh section of the Statutes and Ordinances of the Second Year text. Some serious problems remain in the reconstruction of some of the individual items in this section. For example, no. 3 in this section was pieced together from slip nos. 140, 141, 142, and 143, which were found too far away from one another to justify their placement together, unless one assumes the original scroll was already disordered when deposited in the tomb.

The items in the early-Han “Statutes on Arrest” govern the process for the arrest of criminals and supplement those already seen in the “Statutes on Assault.”¹ They discuss the rewards to be handed out to nonofficials for apprehending criminals and the punishments to be meted out to officials who fail to arrest criminals and absconders whom they were charged with apprehending. The rewards given in gold to commoners are quite large, and increases in rank are also bestowed for capturing spies from the domains of the Regional Lords.² An individual who provides information to officials leading to the arrest of criminals receives half the full reward.³ Such generous rewards must

¹ See, for example, “Statutes on Assault” (sec. 3.1) nos. 1, 3 (slip nos. 1[recto]–2, 4–5). The unprovenanced collection of Qin documents held by the Yuelu Academy apparently also includes the title “Ordinances for the Arrest of Robbers and Assailants” (Bu daozei ling 捕盗 贼令). See Chen Songchang 2009c, 87.
² See no. 7 (slip nos. 150–51) in this section.
³ See no. 2 (slip no. 139) in this section.
have encouraged private bounty hunters to hunt down potentially dangerous criminals, despite the physical dangers. Bounty hunters appear to have been protected from prosecution if they injured or killed a violent criminal who resisted.Officials were not eligible to receive monetary rewards for arrests, except for apprehending gang robbers or criminals from beyond the frontiers, since arresting criminals was part of their job. This situation apparently led to corruption. The final item translated here states that deceptively applying for such rewards will be treated as robbery. The surviving portions of the corresponding statutes from the Qin period also highlight the potential for corruption in this system, such as when an official could arrest a person, then transfer him to a private individual who would turn the prisoner in for the reward, with the two parties splitting the proceeds.

A “Legal Principles on Arrest” (Bu fa 捕法) was supposedly one section of the apocryphal Canon of Legal Principles of Li Kui, which was said to form the foundation of the Qin laws formulated by Lord Shang. The extracts from Qin laws found in Shuihudi tomb no. 11 quote a “Statutes on the Arrest of Robbers” (Budao lü 捕盜律), which probably represents the full title of the Qin statute collection. All Han-period quotations mention the shorter title, “Statutes on Arrest,” also seen in the legal texts from Zhangjiashan tomb no. 247. In a surprising clause from this statute, quoted in a document from the Juyan site, officials are prohibited from entering the residences of people at night in search of suspects to arrest. The residents are not to be charged with a crime even if they beat and injure the official!

4 See no. 8 (slip no. 152) in this section.
5 See no. 6 (slip nos. 147–49) in this section.
6 See Shuihudi (1990), 89 “Qin lü zachao,” slip nos. 38–39, 125 “Falü dawen,” slip no. 139; Hulsewé 1985b, 118 C24, 159 D17. For a case of arrested criminals transferred illegally in order to seek a reward, see case no. 1 among the submitted doubtful cases in the looted slips housed in the Yuelu Academy (Yuelu shuyuan cang Qin jian [2013], 95–112).
7 According to the preface to the Tang Code, the “Legal Principles on Arrest” was the fourth section of Li Kui’s Canon of Legal Principles.
9 See Dunhuang Han jian, 2:256–57; Dunhuang Han jian shiwen, 101 slip no. 983.
10 See Juyan Han jian, 2:551 slip no. 395; translated in Hulsewé 1955, 34. See also Gao Heng 2008, 153–54. The Juyan slip refers to “statutes on entering other people’s huts without reason,” the text of which just happens to survive in a commentary on the Zhou li text. That article is quoted from the “Statutes on Assault” and states that “when somebody without reason enters other people’s house or hut, or steps on their carriage or boat, or drags people along, wishing to infringe the laws, no crime will have been committed if [such a person] is struck dead at that moment.” The key point in the Juyan slip is that