

# China Local Records

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## **Unity and Standardization: A Scrutiny of Local Records Reviewing System**

..... *Li Qihong* (4)

A local records reviewing system regulates and guarantees the quality of local records. The reviewing system of modern local records has different categories with their unique characteristics, all playing an indispensable role in ensuring the quality and the healthy development of local records. Meanwhile, the reviewing system is not devoid of defects, which call for improvement and standardization. It is essential to establish a nationally unified and normative reviewing system of local records.

## **Mistakes and Omissions in Local Records Recordings: Examinations of Historical Facts**

**Concerning the Stationing of the Flying Tigers in Guilin** ..... *Guo Junqiao* (11)

Guilin new local records represented by *Guilin City Records*, *Lingui County Records*, and *Guilin City Brief Records* are important historical literature successively compiled through the organization of Guilin city local government since the 1980s. The above-mentioned local records contain different recordings of the date when the Flying Tigers were first stationed in Guilin. There are two problems in these recordings: one is their noticeable discrepancies with historical facts, the other the omissions during the compilation process where the records focus mainly on fragmentary historical details. Local records are rather “authoritative”, and should have tried to avoid the above-mentioned problematic tendencies in their compilation process. “The local records are essentially intended as reference books”. Once there occur mistakes and omissions, users, especially researchers from social sciences, will be puzzled and their research process and accuracy impaired.

## **Analysis of the Compilation Patterns and the Author Group of Local Records in Song and Yuan Dynasties** ..... *Liang Xiaowen* (22)

The Song and Yuan dynasties witnessed important development in the history of China local records. By that time, a variety of patterns had been developed in the compilation of local records. Besides the “top-down” pattern in which compilation was done under the central government order and the pattern of private authorship, a combination of local government official leadership and active participation of locals

from various social strata grew into the mainstream practice of local records compilation during Southern Song Dynasty. The compilers in Song and Yuan dynasties both shared common features and assumed marked differences due to the political and cultural influences of their times. This article surveys the features of the three compilation patterns, and pools the compilers of the two dynasties for a comparison. It is found that the compilers of the Song and Yuan periods stressed local records' functions of governance reference, history preservation and education, whose new understanding and requirements strongly boosted the development of local records.

**Exploring Jiaqing *Feicheng County Records* ..... Jiang Funing (38)**

The compilation of Jiaqing *Feicheng County Records* started in the 19th year of the Jiaqing Emperor (1814), and completed in the 20th year of the Reign of Jiaqing. Consisting of 19 volumes, it was the second county records of Feicheng during the Qing Dynasty. The compiler Zeng Guanying was the serving magistrate of Feicheng county, who was also a learned scholar in epigraphy, calligraphy, and textology. As both a local government official and a scholar, he worked diligently on local records. Building on the styles of local records of former generations, Jiaqing *Feicheng County Records* expanded entries and performed fine classification. It supplemented contents missing from Kangxi *Feicheng County Records* and included various rural literature. Meanwhile, under the influences of textology of the Qianlong and Jiaqing periods, Jiaqing *Feicheng County Records* meticulously examined issues related to local history, providing a unique characteristic case in regional cultural studies.

**A Brief Review of the Qing Dynasty Handwritten Copy of *Gansu Geography Research* in the Collection of the British Library ..... Lv Guannan (48)**

The Qing Dynasty handwritten copy of *Gansu Geography Research* in the collection of the British Library, never found in preservation or circulation within China, is the only existing copy with important literature value. From the English information attached to the book, we learn that it was successively collected by the Luzre company, the British Museum, and the British Library. As indicated by its name, the book is a special investigation into the geography of Gansu in Qing Dynasty. With coherent, distinct and elegant manner of writing, it expatiates the establishment and development history of Gansu province, information of its mountains, rivers, plains, and wetlands, and specific information of routes into the province. Currently, *Gansu Geography Research* is the only work to specially focused on Gansu

geographical information as the research subject. The author did field survey and made brand new and reliable records of Gansu geography, some of which can correct mistakes and omissions of previous scholars. The book is a remarkable work of regional geography that has important literature value.

**An Exploration and Analysis of the Literature Value of Liaocheng Local Records in Shandong Concerning the Grand Canal as Intangible Cultural Heritage—A Case Study of the Local Records of Dongchangfu, Linqingzhou and other Districts along the Grand Canal Since Ming Dynasty ..... *Zhou Guangqian* (54)**

Liaocheng City of Shandong Province is an important prefecture-level city where the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal flows past, and where a considerable number of various local records compiled since Ming Dynasty exist. These local records include a great amount of literature concerning the Grand Canal as intangible cultural heritage, covering various areas such as unique crafts and techniques, folk beliefs, and popular customs and fashions. The literature illustrates such conditions as population concentration, prosperity of trade and commerce in regions along the Grand Canal, features of the Liaocheng section of the Grand Canal, and natural disasters and political factors, and demonstrates their direct influences on the compilation of local records.

The literature in Liaocheng local records concerning the Grand Canal as intangible cultural heritage is rich, immediate, comprehensive, and informative. Its unique value and effects in better protecting, inheriting, and utilizing the Grand Canal culture, and facilitating the construction of the Grand Canal cultural belt cannot be underestimated.

**An Examination of Song-dynasty Upgrade of Yuezhou into a Prefecture Invoking the “Xingyuan Tales” ..... *Zhu Guobing* (68)**

In the first year of Shaoxing, Emperor Gaozong of Song Dynasty upgraded Yuezhou into Shaoxing Prefecture when preparing to leave Yuezhou for Lin'an Prefecture. The *Jiatai Kuaiji Local Records* recorded that the upgrade was an imitation of the “Xingyuan tales” of Emperor Dezong of Tang Dynasty. This view was handed down and shared by contemporary scholars. However, a comparative examination of different historical materials, a survey of Song Court's true attitude towards Emperor Dezong of Tang Dynasty, and a review of the historical origin of the so-called “Xingyuan tales” evidence that the upgrade of Yuezhou was not modeled upon the “Xingyuan tales”.

**A Poem and an Article by Yang Jia of Song Dynasty to Be Collected**

..... *Zhao Huizhi* (72)

**Social Transformation Towards the End of Qing Dynasty Indicated by Supplemented Inscriptions of Two *Jinshi*'s Names Who Studied Abroad on the Flagpole Stones in Chen Family Ancestral Hall** ..... *Xie Ying* (74)

On the flagpole stones in Chen Family Ancestral Hall were inscribed two names ,Chen Zhenxian and Chen Qihui, both of whom were honorable *jinshi* 进士 who studied abroad after the abolition of the Imperial Examination. After the abolition, the Qing government took a series of measures concerning examination and appointment to address the new situation. The inscriptions of Chen Zhenxian and Chen Qihui's names on the flagpole stones were a factual evidence of this social transformation. A survey of their identities, the time of the inscription and the order of their names on the stones etc. , offers clues to people's lingering obsession with the Imperial Examination after its abolishment, and reveals the change in people's social identity in the transformation of the late Qing Dynasty.

**The Application of Scientific Terminologies During the Republican Period: A Case Study of Hebei Local Records** ..... *Li Yunlong* (82)

During the Republican Period, scientific terminologies were introduced in 61 Hebei local records, but the troduction was done fairly randomly. When these local records were compiled, the scientific terminologies were intended to take on many functions, such as innovating the discourse system, creating new categories of local records, and popularizing scientific knowledge. The introduction of scientific terminologies during a period of social transformation was performed by the top-down administrative push. Individual differences over the understanding of scientific issues, divergence of ideas held by the new and old intelligentsia, and insufficient academic learning also hindered the application of the scientific terms. The practical features in the use of the scientific terminologies during the Republican Period are significant for the localization of scientific knowledge and the popularization of the terminologies.

**A Masterpiece Recording the Knowledge of Chinese Canals: A Review of *The Gazetteer of the Canals of China*** ..... *Duan Bingren* (98)

**A Masterpiece on Tang Dynasty Prefectural and County-Level Official Ranks: A Review of *A Survey of Tang Dynasty Zhejiang Region Prefectural and County-Level Official Ranks: with Additions and Corrections to Tang Dynasty Official Ranks from Local Records over the Generations* ..... Fang Jianxin (103)**

**Retrospect and Prospects for Research on the Maps in Old Local Records ..... He Peidong (109)**

The maps in old local records are an important part of China's ancient old maps. Along with the deepening of research into Chinese cartography history, studies on the maps in old local records have made remarkable achievements. These studies mainly concentrate in areas such as overviews of the maps' development history and their general features, the authors of the maps and their drawing techniques, the maps contents and their authors' thoughts conveyed, maps in regional local records and categorization of the maps, and the sorting of maps in local records. Future directions of related research should include the sorting and research of maps in old local records by regions, historical readership and usage research of such maps, comparative studies of the maps, and how to strengthen the use of such maps in academic studies.