

China Local Records

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Sparing No Efforts in Pushing Forward the Legalization and High-quality Transformation and Upgrade of the Local Records Cause-Speech at the 2021 National Conference of Directors from Provincial Local Records Institutions and the Seventh Congress of China Local Records Society

..... *Xie Fuzhan* (4)

The Name, Style, and Application of the Short Preface in Local Records

..... *Qian Yongxing* (7)

The literary form of the short preface in local records occurred during Qin and Han dynasties, and matured during Song Dynasty. In Song Dynasty, such short prefaces were deeply affected by “*lunzan*” (论赞 commentary) and “*xuli*” (序例 notes on style) in history books of the Han and Jin period, and conformed to the orthodoxy of explaining the background of the books, stating their aims, summarizing their contents, and elucidating their styles. This tradition was inherited in the Ming and Qing dynasties, and was reinvented during the Republican Period to formulate general descriptions and to highlight causes and effects. After the founding of the People’s Republic of China, especially during the first and second rounds of local records compilation, short prefaces were mostly used to focus on stating and commenting the general situations and trends, expounding the tracks and traces of development, and demonstrating the contemporary local features. At present and in the future, we should make more innovations on the basis of inheriting the traditional short preface in local records. The updated short preface aims to not only transmit the features of “*lunzan*” and “*xuli*” of the traditional form, but also integrate traditional scholarship, modern subjects and consciousness of contemporary local information, stressing the overall design of the style, summary and functions of the short preface. In brief, the updated short preface should embody a combination of grand vision and profound insights, a sense of space and a sense of history, reveal the features of the recorded items, and explicate their cultural connotations.

Drawing from Other Disciplines: Integrating Two Models of Ethnography in Local Records Compilation *Duan Yuan* (18)

Anthropological ethnology and local records studies ethnology are textual forms of completely different nature. Their names overlap and their definitions are contradictory, giving rise to disputes over the exclusive legitimacy and discourse power of their respective “ethnography” in Chinese circles of

anthropology and local records studies. Actually each ethnography has its own strengths and features, and has imperceptibly influenced each other in the development of the two academic disciplines. The over-2000-year tradition of local records compilation subtly shaped the local characteristics of China's anthropological ethnography, while the field study paradigm of anthropological ethnography has also begun to influence local records. As the ancient Chinese saying goes, "Stones from other mountains can be used to sculpt and polish jade". Drawing from the data collection and processing methodology of anthropological ethnography, this article conducts a tentative study and explores the practical potentials of the field, ethics and methods of anthropological ethnography to be applied to local records acquisition and compilation.

A Brief Survey of the 94-Volume *Songjiangfu Records* of the Chongzhen Period

..... *Xie Hui* (29)

The 94-volume *Songjiangfu Records* was one of the two local records of Songjiang Prefecture compiled during the reign of Emperor Chongzhen (1628—1644). Its extant fragment in the collection of Shanghai Library is the only known existing copy. In comparison with the 58-volume version of *Songjiangfu Records*, which was also produced during the Chongzhen period and is more familiar to the academic circle, the 94-volume version compiled by Chen Jiru was published earlier. The later 58-volume version was revised by Yu Ting'e. The generally accepted belief that the 58-volume version was published earlier is proved to be incorrect. Though the 94-volume version has problems such as long-winded entries, inappropriate ordering, and textual errors, its content is much richer than the 58-volume version. Moreover, the 94-volume version displays the original state of Chen Jiru's compilation, and thus is worthy of further research.

On the Compilation and Publication of Jin Dexuan's *Xin'an Selected Writings* and Its Typical Significance: A Case Study of the Formation and Evolution of the Ecological Chain of Local Literature *Gu Weijia* (35)

The 15-volume *Selected Writings of Xin'an Literati*, carved and published in the winter of the fourth year of Tianshun (1460) of Ming Dynasty, was based on Jin Dexuan's originally 40-volume *A Collection of Writings of Xin'an Literati*. Jin's nephew Su Da abbreviated and revised it and published it under the different title. The existing Su Da's revised version in the fourth year of Tianshun is now collected by National Library of China. It has two prefaces and three afterwords. The authors of these prefaces and afterwords vary and were obviously aware of their respective identities, as is observed in the articles. The special nature of the book being the product of two rounds of "selection" made the authors of the prefaces and afterwords profoundly realize the "selector's trouble". The book was followed by the publication of

Cheng Minzheng's *Records of Xin'an Literature*, much influenced by the former in terms of the causes of the compilation. Cheng harbored both dissatisfaction with Su's undue deletions and an intention to improve and epitomize such compilation work. Jin's *A Collection of Writings of Xin'an Literati*, Su's *Selected Writings of Xin'an Literati* and Cheng's *Records of Xin'an Literature* naturally constitute a progressive local literature ecological chain of local documents compilation, on which Su's *Selected Writings of Xin'an Literati* served as a link connecting the other two, demonstrating multiple layers of significance in the process of selection, compilation, carving and publication. What is worth mentioning is that some errors and gaps of details occurred in the *Siku Zongmu Tiyao* (四库总目提要 *Synopsis of the General Catalogues of the Complete Library in Four Treasuries*) on its description of Su's *Selected Writings of Xin'an Literati*, so some detailed analyses are necessary.

Disputes Between the New and Old Schools on Hubei Local Records Compilation in Late Qing Dynasty: A Case Study of the Differences Between Two Versions of Macheng County Records in Guangxu Period Zhang Yu (43)

Zhang Xuecheng's theories on local records studies and his practice of compiling *Hubei General Records* have had profound influences on Hubei local records compilation since mid-Qing Dynasty. Along with the introduction of new thoughts, various changes occurred in local records compilation in late Qing Dynasty, which are generally seen as the prelude to the transformation of modern period local records. Against this background, disputes over the compilation of *Hubei General Records* emerged between the new and old schools at the end of the Qing Dynasty. Since general records compilation was generally based on county records compilation, such disputes over general records compilation were often closely reflected in county records compilation. The differences between two versions of *Macheng County Records* compiled in the second year of Guangxu (1876) and the eighth year of Guangxu (1882) respectively in idea, style and content, can be regarded as the embodiment of the changes, disputes and divergences during this period. A survey of the compilation differences between these two versions of county records is rather helpful to our understanding of how late Qing Dynasty local records compilers reconciled the theories of the new and old schools, and will provide us with cases and clues for the issue of the transformation of local records studies in late Qing Dynasty.

Differences in Printed Copies and the Sorting of Old Local Records: A Case Study of Dayi County Records in Tongzhi Period Wang Bin (52)

Printed copies of old local records not only refer to the first printed copies and clearly marked supplementary carved copies and subsequent supplementary reprinted copies, but also reprinted revised

copies without notable marks. This type of reprinted revised copies mostly alters the original copy in four ways, i. e. adding, deleting, omitting and replacing, and supplementing or refuting notes. Such printed copies are either excluded in catalogues, or mistaken as duplicates of other printed copies, and in turn often neglected by the academic circle. When sorting old local records, we must pay special attention to the investigation of such printed copies. We should select and sort master copies according to the actual conditions, and formulate scientific guides to the sorting. We must also attach great importance to this kind of printed copies during catalogue compilation and old local records photocopying.

Local Response to the 1935 Flood Disaster in Northern Jiangsu: From the Perspectives of *Huang Tirun Diary* *Xiang Haonan* (59)

On the 10th of July, 1935, the Yellow River burst its bank at Dong Town, Juancheng of Shandong Province, leading to a severe flood disaster and heavy losses in several counties in southern Shandong and northern Jiangsu. Feng County in the northwestern tip of Jiangsu Province was close to the southern four lakes. It was situated in the bordering zone between the Yellow River and the Huai River flood areas, under the threat of the flood disaster. Both the flood from the Yellow River and spillover lake water from the southern four lakes pose great danger to Feng County. The then Feng County government and officials from the county's branch of the Nationalist Party did not pay sufficient attention to the breach in the Yellow River dam. They did not take action until after the flood entered the county. In fighting the flood, Huang Tirun and his colleagues gradually rose from passivity to become active. They combined emergency rescue with disaster prevention, and mobilized people from all districts of the county to repair old dams and construct new ones. They constantly adapted tactics and made flexible responses to the changing situation. After the flood, they engaged in timely disaster relief following deployment from higher levels of government. Feng County's experiences in this flood disaster provide a case study on the micro level, conducive to our research into the process of a county's response to a flood disaster. At the same time, Feng County's experiences may also serve as an inspiration for us to reflect on the relationship between humankind and nature and on the grassroots level of the Nationalist government's administrative system.

Qing Central Government's Policies and Practices of Disaster Relief to Taiwan: A Study Centered Around the *Qing Dynasty Volume in Literature of Central Governments' Disaster Relief to Taiwan* *Li Li* (72)

Qing Dynasty central government's disaster relief to Taiwan were placed under a unified disaster relief system, led and managed comprehensively by the central government, organized and carried out by local officials, and complied with the procedures stipulated by Qing Dynasty laws and regulations. Qing central

government's disaster relief measures to Taiwan were similar to those took on the mainland territory, with the major sources of funds such as the central government's treasury reserve, soldiers' pay and provisions, customs duties, and local reserve of its fiscal revenue. These facts reflect Qing central government's disaster relief policies to Taiwan that not only provided disaster relief similar to that to the mainland regions but also specially favored the island. This demonstrates that Qing Dynasty central government had effective jurisdiction and governance over Taiwan, highlighting the inseparable legitimate and emotional relationship between Taiwan island and the mainland, and indisputably evidences the historical fact that Taiwan and the mainland were under the sovereignty of the central government in Qing Dynasty.

Pu Ji Tang Relief Institutes in Qing Dynasty Henan Province: A Study Based on Local Records *Lu Kuanqing* (85)

Pu Ji Tang (普济堂) relief institutes were the largest government-run elderly care institution network in Qing Dynasty Henan Province. During the reign of Qianlong, Pu Ji Tang relief institutes were established in every prefecture and county of Henan, providing shelter to large numbers of poor people. The assets of these institutes came from government allocations and donations from civil organizations, consisting mostly of houses, land, and cash. The surplus assets were massively used for renting for considerable income interests, to provide a firm material foundation for the development of the relief institutes. Though the Qing Dynasty Henan Pu Ji Tang network were run and led by the government, its management was mainly left to personnel such as the local gentry, with noticeable flexibility. Such deep cooperation between the government and the nongovernment sector made the Henan Pu Ji Tang relief network rather complicated in nature. Thanks to its relatively abundant assets, the network's functions were well developed, turning into local charitable foundations that supported various local public services. Meanwhile, local governments constantly demanded that the Pu Ji Tang network shoulder official responsibilities and made them increasingly governmental in function, which to a certain extent curbed the development of the relief institutes' social security cause. Moreover, Henan's Pu Ji Tang network in Qing Dynasty put emphasis only on providing shelter to the poor, ignored the necessity of bringing education to them for them to become self-reliant. Therefore, its operation mode lags far behind in comparison with the modern charity mode that stresses assisting the poor with both education and relief.

Place Names and Navigation Routes of Guangxi Beibu Gulf Recorded in the Genlubu Manuals: A Study Based on Two Genlubu Manuals *Liu Shengping, Xia Daiyun* (100)

The contents of the majority of existing genlubu manuals mostly cover the genglu or navigation routes

among the Hainan Island, the Xisha Islands, the Nansha Islands, and the South Seas. Zheng Youqin-Zheng Youyi's genglubu manuals and Zhuang Yunqing's genglubu manuals record in detail the navigation routes and place names in coastal waters of the Beibu Gulf, Guangxi. They serve not only as proof to the viewpoints of genglubu manuals in the broader sense, but also as typical records of navigational techniques in the coastal waters of the Beibu Gulf in the sailboat age. Further, they are also important carriers of the marine culture of the Beibu Gulf and Lingnan area. Explorations and analyses of the place names and genglubu or navigation routes enrich research into the marine culture of the Beibu Gulf, and are considerably significant to both the inheritance, development, and renovation of Guangxi marine culture and the development of Guangxi into a more prosperous coastal area.

Reexaminations of Bricks with Shu Master Inscriptions Unearthed in Yangzhou, Haiyan and Other Places *Yu Guojiang* (117)

Bricks with Shu Master inscriptions were unearthed in Qing Dynasty in such places as Yangzhou and Haiyan. Textologists like Ruan Yuan and Zhang Tingji had done research on issues such as the bricks' dating, place of production and producers, and exchanged views over these issues. Their story became a much admired one in Qing Dynasty epigraphy history. In recent years, two more batches of bricks with Shu Master inscriptions were unearthed in Haiyan, and once again attracted much attention from and discussion in the academic circle, echoing the local history and epigraphy research in Qing Dynasty. On the basis of existing research findings, we can further examine some related issues. The "Wu Zhong" mentioned by Ruan Yuan in "'Shu Master' ancient bricks have been repeatedly seen in Wu Zhong" actually referred to Haiyan and Linping of Zhejiang province. "Shu Master" refers to the brick makers, artisans whose family name was Shu and who lived in Haiyan area. Bricks with Shu Master inscriptions were initially used for the construction of Haiyan and Guangling city walls, and then removed for other uses after the walls collapsed.

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