

# China Local Records

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## **China Local Records and Fine Traditional Chinese Culture ..... Gao Jingzhai (4)**

This article reviews the development, significance, and roles of China local records, and points out that China local records are a cultural gem crafted by past generations through arduous painstaking efforts. The records were treasured by judicious government officials over the centuries and have been valued by the collective leadership of the Communist Party of China, playing an irreplaceable role in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China local records and fine traditional Chinese culture sprang from the same root, and have been consistently connected, supplementary and supportive to each other in their progress and innovation. The article proposes ways for China local records to inherit and promote fine traditional Chinese culture in a new era. It suggests that local records may serve as mirrors, sources, and carriers for fine traditional Chinese culture to be fresh, lively, and timeless.

## **Strengthen Historical Consciousness and Reinforce the Sense of Mission and Responsibility: Learning the Resolution Passed at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China ..... Liu Xing (11)**

The *Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century*, deliberated and approved at the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, comprehensively sums up the major achievements and historical experiences of the Party's struggle in a century. It fully demonstrates that the Party has a full grasp of the law of historical development and has always taken the historic initiative and fulfilled its mission of advancing the cause of the Party and the nation. The *Resolution* gives full expression to the Party's broad and long-term vision of keeping a foothold in the present, looking towards the future, and emphasizing the summarization and application of historical experience. It is a Marxist programmatic document, and a model for local records workers to follow in summing up history and reflecting the reality, providing reference and assistance to contemporary governance, and leaving accounts worthy of preservation and reflection to future generations. Local records workers should strengthen their historical consciousness, reinforce their sense of mission and responsibility, achieve the Party's purpose and stay true to their original aspirations. They should follow the guidance of Marxism in their compilation work, foster and practice socialist core values on a higher level. They will strengthen the ideals, beliefs, values and morals of the people with their comprehensive recordings of "the governance of China". They will adhere to correct historical outlook and methodology, and more consciously follow the guidance of the Party's innovative theory in local records and yearbooks compilation.

## **Some Humble Opinions on Starting Compiling Records of Well-off Society in an All-Round Way in the New Era ..... Yun Youqiang (18)**

In the new era, it is significant to plan and start the compilation of Records of Well-off Society in an All-Round Way, which both demonstrates how the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people to build a well-off society and passes on the records' role of "preserving history, supporting politics, and educating people". Further, a good foundation for compiling this record has been laid with the successful completion of the nationwide second-round local records compilation and the full coverage task of the three-tier comprehensive yearbook compilation that lasted for about 20 years. The crucial factor to the compilation of Records of Well-off Society in an All-Round Way is the solution of such issues as how to understand and define the meaning and significance of comprehensive these records, what compilation principles and features should be followed, how to strike a balance between "third-round local records" and "poverty relief records" compilation, and how to efficiently utilize the achievements of the second-round local records compilation. These crucial factors will determine whether or not the compilation of the records of well-off society can be implemented.

## **Several Thoughts on the System of Local Records Examination and Acceptance**

### **Inspection ..... Tian Baojia (25)**

Current local records work regulations give statutory authority to local records examination and acceptance inspection, make clear the basic procedures, reviewing body, and key points of examination and acceptance inspection work, and raise the issue of rights that should be enjoyed by reviewing personnel. These regulations have improved the examination and acceptance inspection system. However, the examination and acceptance inspection system still has certain deficiencies in aspects such as procedures, main body, targets, and qualifications of acceptance inspection personnel. We can start with measures such as the unification of examination and inspection procedures and of the reviewing bodies, improvement of evaluation indicators, establishment of qualification and admission mechanism, setting up expert reviewers teams, solidify talents cultivation system, providing payment guarantee, and giving play to the role of local records societies. We can revise current local records work regulations, keep standardizing and improving local records examination and acceptance inspection system, and improve the level of local records management in accordance with the law.

## **The Milage Data and Direction Descriptions in Tang and Song Period Geography**

### **General Records ..... Gu Zheming (33)**

Tang and Song Period geography general records started the style of "four directions and eight reaches" (*sizhi badao* 四至八到). Although the specific forms were different, the basic pattern can be divided into two parts, i. e. milage data and direction descriptions. Research has demonstrated that the milage data and direction descriptions in Tang and Song Period geography general records, represented by *Yuanhe Counties and Prefectures Illustrated Records* (*yuanhe junxian tuzhi* 元和郡县图志 and *Taiping Universal Records* (*taiping huanyu ji* 太平寰宇记), were all decisively influenced by the routes of survey. As the accuracy of milage data were difficult to be evaluated, the methodology of reversely deducing the transportation routes through milage data has serious logical loopholes, and direction descriptions reflect the actual layout of routes of survey, especially the starting stage of the routes, rather than the relative positional relationship of two places understood in the traditional sense.

**“Defence Has to Be Tight, Precautions Have to Be Advanced”: Research on Mapping in *Dianyue Yaozuan* ..... Chen Song (44)**

*Dianyue yaozuan* 殿粤要纂 was compiled by the then Guangxi Governor Yang Fang during the reign of Emperor Wanli of Ming Dynasty to record Guangxi military and defence affairs. It was intended to “record everything about the supporters and opponents, strengths and weaknesses within the border from a single volume at an arm’s length”. *Dianyue yaozuan* adopted the form of illustrations in combination with explanations. Its 129 maps were drawn according to different administrative levels, presenting a distinctive and orderly level system: 1) a master map of the whole province, 2) maps of prefectures (*fu* 府), 3) maps of districts (*zhou* 州), counties, and administrations, and 4) maps of caverns (*dong* 洞) and villages (*zhai* 寨). The drawing of maps in the whole work used a system of unified and standardized symbols, in which different symbols were given specific meanings demonstrating the *hua-yi* (华夷) order, the illustrators’ political outlook on “the civilized and half-civilized peoples”. Illustrations and writings in *Dianyue yaozuan* presented the local officials’ military defence posture of tight control within and weak control without. The officials took stringent precautions against ethnic minorities such as the Yao and Zhuang people, but deliberately ignored the bordering Annam. When interpreting Chinese ancient maps, we cannot make observations using modern concepts or from modern viewpoints.

**Demonstrating the Ancient World with Maps: Interpreting Chinese Ancient Maps in Local Records-A Case Study of Maps in *Pingyang Records* Compiled in Hongwu Period ..... Gao Ruiyan (57)**

The *Pingyang Records* compiled during Hongwu period (1368 – 1398) is the earliest block-printed edition of Shanxi local records currently in existence. It contains 14 maps altogether. These maps are the earliest maps of the southern Shanxi region in local records currently in existence. They have rich geographical elements and accurate records of positions, thus can supplement information missing in other local records and have fairly high value as historical references. Meanwhile, these maps also reflect the illustrators’ spatial conception as well as distinctively present the religious and cultural environment of Pingyang Prefecture during early Ming period, reflecting the illustrators’ value orientation of emphasizing agriculture.

**Poem Borrowing Among Local Records: A Case Study of *Qiyun Mountain Records* Compiled in Wanli Period ..... Wu Jinbang (73)**

Local records are important sources for collecting scattered verses. Those poems can preserve historical facts of a given place, but they are unreliable to a certain extent. Therefore, their origins must be examined when they are put to use. Nearly half of the Song and Yuan Dynasty verses recorded in *Qiyun Mountain Records* compiled in Wanli period (1573 – 1620) include rather reliable poems that dated back to much earlier times. Some poems included in *Qiyun County Records* were borrowed from works dedicated to Wuyi Mountain, and some others tampered with Guo Sihou’s poems recorded in *Zhenghe County Records* compiled during Wanli period. This phenomenon of borrowing or tampering occurred quite often in late Ming Dynasty local records. There are also cases of borrowing poems on Luofu

Mountain in Wanli *Qiyun Mountain Records*. Apart from the borrowed poems in *Qiyun Mountain Records*, more than 20 poems in *Zhenghe County Records* compiled in Yongle period (1403 – 1424) were actually borrowed from Lu Qi's *Guifeng Collection*. This is an ample display of the significance of local records in preserving local historical literature, and their important value for examining and correcting errors in other collections of works.

**An Investigative Review of *A Survey of Ming Dynasty Inner Court Rules and Systems: An Examination and Research Based on Records of Chunming Dream Remnants and the Local Records of Tianfu Extensive Notes* ..... Yang Juntao (80)**

*A Survey of Ming Dynasty Inner Court Rules and Systems* (*Ming neiting guizhi kao* 明内廷规制考) and *Records of Chunming Dream Remnants* (*Chunming mengyu lu* 春明梦余录) are both important historical literature that records Ming Dynasty decrees and regulation system and the transformation of Beijing urban system. Seen from their contents, *A Survey of Ming Dynasty Inner Court Rules and Systems* and *Records of Chunming Dream Remnants* are highly identical from volume 6 to volume 13, showing an actual copying relationship between the two. This research demonstrates that the former book was completed during the period from the sixteenth year of Chongzhen (1643) to the demise of Ming Dynasty. It was earlier than *Records of Chunming Dream Remnants*, and was one of the sources of the latter. Comparing the different parts of the two works with literature such as *Western Wall Notes* (*xiyuan biji* 西垣笔记), and *Northern Tour Records* (*beiyou lu* 北游录), we can prove that the author of *A Survey of Ming Dynasty Inner Court Rules and Systems* was Sun Chengze, and its anonymity was out of the author's intention. Moreover, *Records of Chunming Dream Remnants* shared identical recording method with *Tianfu Extensive Notes* (*Tianfu guangji* 天府广记), a set of local records written by Sun Chengze. And the contents of *A Survey of Ming Dynasty Inner Court Rules and Systems* and *Tianfu Extensive Notes* were exclusive to each other. So we can draw the conclusion that the three books have a sequential copying relationship, and Sun purposefully selected the contents copied.

**Research into Guangdong Local Records Recorded in the *Continued Guide and Descriptive Catalogue to the Siku Quanshu* ..... Liao Yue, Luo Zhihuan (86)**

The Republican Period *Continued Guide and Descriptive Catalogue to the Siku Quanshu* (*Xuxiu siku quanshu zongmu tiyao* 续修四库全书总目提要) was the most important topic-interpreting catalogue after the Qing Dynasty *Guide and Descriptive Catalogue to the Siku Quanshu* (*Siku quanshu zongmu tiyao* 四库全书总目提要). It includes six categories: Confucian classics, historiography, masters, belles-lettres, series, and local records. Among the local records are 180 sets of Guangdong local records, on which no special introductory articles have been produced so far. The distribution features of these local records in terms of dynasties, categories, regional distribution, editions, hometowns of chief compilers, and commentaries of contents, are closely related to the social, economic, and cultural development of Guangdong province. Although inadequate to include the overall situation of Guangdong local records, these local records nonetheless have academic reference values for getting a rough picture of Guangdong local records from the sideline.

## **The Origin and Establishment of Ming Dynasty Gongyuan of Fujian Province**

..... *Zheng Xin, Guo Peigui* (98)

The origin of Gongyuan, the examination compound, of Fujian Province can be traced back to the founding of Fuzhou Gongyuan in the fifth year of Yuanyou (1086 – 1094) of Song Dynasty. The Ming Dynasty Gongyuan did not follow the Song Dynasty Gongyuan establishment, and chose to change to another site in the south of Fuzhou city in the seventeenth year of Hongwu. Then Gongyuan was moved again, for a larger space, to the foot of Pingshan and the side of Yeshan in the northeast of Fuzhou city in the seventh year of Chenghua (1471), and did not change site thenceforth. This building set the basic pattern of Fujian Gongyuan. Its size and structure was constantly improved and refined through multiple refurbishments in the eighth year of Hongzhi (1495), the eleventh, fourteenth, and sixteenth year of Zhengde (1506 – 1521), and the sixth year of Wanli (1578). The establishment of this Gongyuan was the physical presentation of Ming Dynasty provincial examination (xiangshi 乡试) system, under influences of the local social and economic development level. Its construction expenses mainly came from public expenditure. In contrast, during Qing Dynasty the source of construction expenses mainly came from individual donations.

## **Brief Comments on the History of “72 Gu’s” Village Group Formation in Tianjin**

..... *Fu Hongxu, Zhang Renjiang* (107)

Many place names in Tianjin region have something to do with “gu” (沽), which highlights the unique history of “72 gu’s” village group in particular. The formation of this village group was closely related to elements such as nature, history, and social environment. This article systematically surveys the development of “72 gu’s” village group, summarizes its development as a process of four stages, i. e. origin, sprout, growth, and initial establishment, and analyzed in detail the formation and features in each historical period.

**Preface** ..... *Qiu Xinli* (112)

**It Ends Only When the Candle Burns Out: In Deep Memory of Cultural Talent and Local Records Expert Mr. Qi Jialu** ..... *Wang Guangcai* (114)

**Three Essays Mistakenly Attributed to Zhen Dexiu in *Quan Song Wen***  
..... *Zhang Xiaodong* (122)

**A Mistake in the Republican Period *Qiubei County Records*** ..... *Ma Ke* (123)

翻译: 范磊

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