

China Local Records

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Achieving the First Centenary Goal and Starting the New Journey of the Second Centenary Goal of China's Local Records Cause: Work Report at the 2021 National Conference of Directors of Local Records Institutes

..... *Ji Xiangde* (4)

China's Marxist Local Records Studies: A Century of Explorations

..... *Pan Jiejun* (16)

Since the founding of the Chinese Communist Party one hundred years ago, the historian and local records studies circle has made constant research and explorations on how to advance Marxist local records studies. The article reviews the historical process by dividing it into three historical phases. It puts special emphasis on the contemporary phase since the reform and opening up, during which the concept of "Marxist local records studies" was advocated, debated, agreed upon, and led to preliminary results. Meanwhile, the article points out the practical and theoretical significance of applying Comrade Xi Jinping's thought of "guiding local records compilation with Marxist materialistic conception of history" to the development of China's local records studies.

Exploration and Analysis of Compilation of China's Special Records of Poverty Relief

..... *Yun Youqiang* (27)

Since the 1990s, China has been lifting large numbers of its people out of poverty. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, poverty relief has made especially remarkable achievements under the correct leadership of the Party's Central Committee. Accordingly, batches of special records of poverty relief have been compiled and published on provincial, city, and county levels in various places. These records keep good track of the historical development of poverty reduction and plays a fine role in preserving historical facts, assisting the government, and educating the public. The compilation of these records, together with the policy background, the motivating forces, and the contents, is valuable and innovative.

Fu Zhenlun and Local Records Criticism *Xue Yanwei* (35)

Fu Zhenlun was a great master in 20th century Chinese local records studies, who dedicated his life to local records compilation and the research of local records studies. Local records criticism was a research orientation he focused on and made remarkable achievements in. Fu specialized in local records criticism in various forms, setting quite a number of criteria for local records criticism. His local records criticism features daring critiques of famous compilers and famous local records, insistence on realistic spirits, advocating humanistic pragmatism, and courageous self-criticisms. As a great master of local records criticism, Fu made important contributions to the establishment and development of China's modern local records criticism studies.

An Examination of the Compilation of *Hanzhong Prefecture Records* during the Reign of Emperor Shunzhi of Qing Dynasty: Local Records Writings at the Change of Ming and Qing Dynasties *Wang Haoyuan* (47)

In the 13th year (1656) of the reign of Emperor Shunzhi of Qing Dynasty, Feng Dadao, the Magistrate of Hanzhong Prefecture, sponsored the compilation of the first Qing Dynasty *Hanzhong Prefecture Records*. Feng printed and published the new local records by directly using some of the engraved woodblocks of the old *Hanzhong Prefecture Records* compiled during the reign of Emperor Wanli (1573 – 1620) of Ming Dynasty, by systematically preserving literature from the old Wanli version in the Shunzhi *Hanzhong Prefecture Records*, and by integrating historical facts from the end of Ming Dynasty to the start of Qing Dynasty into the new local records using such methods as replacing and supplementing. Feng, from the angle of a spectator, analyzed and commented on Hanzhong's social transformation at the change of Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as the gains and losses in the compilation of the old local records. A comprehensive survey of the compilation process of Shunzhi *Hanzhong Prefecture Records* and its value as historical literature will have important significance for future generations' understanding of the compilation methods and writing principles of local records during this period.

A Review of the Compilation of Guangxi Local Records in Qing Dynasty and Their Features: With a Focus on Prefecture Records *Xie Hongwei, Qin Haoxiang* (57)

Qing Dynasty saw great prosperity and maturity of local records compilation in Guangxi Province. The propositions on compilation were profoundly conceived with definite aims. The spatio-temporal distribution was uneven, records compiled in eastern Guangxi outnumbering those in its western part. The

editorial staff, including officials and local gentry, was well organized and charged with specific responsibilities. The style of compilation was well established and kept up with the times. The content of the records were comprehensive and rich, stressing the local ethnic groups and the borders. Qing Dynasty Guangxi local records have great values as administrative references, public educational materials, and historical documents.

The Evolving Style of County-Level Old Local Records: Three Local Records of Yongtai County as an Example Zhang Ling (74)

County-level local records were the most basic government-sponsored local information literature. It started in Sui and Tang Dynasties, boomed in Song and Yuan Dynasties, and reached its peak in Ming and Qing Dynasties. During the Republican Period, along with the strengthening of statehood consciousness, local records compilation became an important component of citizen education. Most counties in China have one or more sets of county records. In more than 1000 years of county-level local records compilation, various aspects such as local economy, government, society, culture, and customs have had great changes. Since late Qing Dynasty and the Republican Period, the advance of modernization, the refinement of social management, and the introduction of science and technology have left profound marks on China's economic and social life. In such changing circumstances, local records compilation styles also changed. This article takes three sets of local records in the history of Yongtai County as an example to analyze the evolution of county-level local records compilation style from Ming and Qing Dynasties to the Republican Period. It discusses the transformation of thought on local records compilation and of the compilation methods during this period, so as to provide reference for future compilation efforts. The article also serves as a window on local development, from which the reader may perceive the traces of local history in the change of local records compilation style.

The Existence of Ancient Versions of Zhang County Records as Seen in Historical Documents Han Chunping (85)

Zhang County did have its own records in ancient time, but was scattered and lost later. This article looks through three local records of higher-level administrative regions above Zhang County, i. e. *Shaanxi General Records* compiled during the reign of Emperor Jiajing (1507—1567) of Ming Dynasty, *Gongchang Prefecture Records* compiled during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1654—1722) of Qing Dynasty, and *Gansu General Records* compiled during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1711—1799) of

Qing Dynasty, for references to the ancient local records of Zhang County. The article also examines other related documents and concludes that at least two ancient versions of *Zhang County Records* existed, one occurring during the Jiajing period and the other being newly compiled during the years from the reign of Emperor Shunzhi (1638—1661) to the reign of Emperor Yongzheng (1678—1735) of Qing Dynasty. Besides, there possibly were other ancient versions of *Zhang County Records*.

A Preliminary Study of the Bureau of Zhejiang General Records in the Republican Period Zhao Pengtuan (91)

In the first few years of the Republican Period, due to the rise of “the view of people’s history”, new local records attracted social attention from the general public. Yuan Shikai and the Beiyang government actively recruited personnel from the Qing Imperial Court in the name of cultural development and established *guoshi guan* (the National History Institute) and *qingshi guan* (the Qing History Institute), both of which played a leading and guiding role in local general records compilation. The compilation of *Zhejiang General Records Continued* was started under the dual guidance of central government policy and academic studies. The compilers worked together as either teachers and students, friends, relatives, classmates passing the Imperial Examinations in the same year, or town fellows. They were all adherents to the Qing Imperial Court led by Shen Zengzhi, sharing the beliefs held by the members of the two history institutes under the central government and by their colleagues from other provinces. These groups became a stronghold that accommodated old acquaintances and resisted the Republican political system. Policies favoring warlords and loyalty to the Qing Court made the manuscripts of *Zhejiang General Records Continued* a specimen of old style local records continuing into the Republican period. The compilers betrayed their initial aspirations in the local records boom of the early years of the Republican period. Meanwhile, there were rather serious impediments such as sluggish working style, overstaffing and heavy dependency in the Bureau of Zhejiang General Records that resulted in serious setbacks for the compilation of the *Zhejiang General Records Continued*.

A Brief Study of the Disaster Records in Qing Dynasty Northwestern Local Records Yang Jiye (98)

Local records are a major historical document recording disasters. This article examines the basic situation of disaster records in Qing Dynasty northwestern local records, and finds that, (1) official local records were restricted by administrative structures and authorities when recording disasters; (2) the

sources of the disaster records were diversified, the categorization poorly made, the compilation style varied, and the language concise; (3) ideas lauding education and the core value of accepting one's position in life and respecting the social system. In summary, from outer forms to inner intentions, disaster records reflected disaster culture in local records. And this kind of records is substantially a politicized method of social governance.

An Examination of the Popular Reverence for Papers with Words in Qing Dynasty Huzhou: with the *Reverence for Words Tablet Inscriptions* and Local Records as a Major Example *Shi Minfeng* (112)

The *Tablet Inscriptions of Reverence for Words* records the popular reverence for papers with words tradition in Qing Dynasty Huzhou. This tablet literature reflects the subjects of the traditional reverence for papers with words, the spirits embodied by architectures, and the ceremonial “waterside activities” in Huzhou during the reign of Emperor Jiajing (1507—1567) of Ming Dynasty. A reading into the *Tablet Inscriptions of Reverence for Words*, together with the related entries in local records, paints an overall picture of the popular tradition of reverence for papers with words in Qing Dynasty. It also helps the reader reflect over and understand the social atmosphere that held the tradition in high esteem and the tradition's value in cultivating talents, restraining evil doctrines, and maintaining social morality.

An Examination of the Location of King Xiang of Zhou Dynasty Staying at Fan *Yao Haobing* (119)

During the Spring and Autumn Period, King Xiang of Zhou Dynasty once escaped from Shudai's rebellion and went to stay at Fan, a place in Zheng State, according to “the 24th Year of Duke Xi” in *Zuo Zhuan (The Commentary of Zuo)*. The location of Fan has been in question, with three different views within the academic circle, i. e. it is Xiangcheng of Henan Province, it is the Jingxiangcheng of Xingyang, and it is the Zhougusi of Xingyang theory. An analysis of the geographical situations of Fan as reflected in records such as *Zuo Zhuan* and *Guoyu* demonstrates that Fan where King Xiang stayed should be in the vicinity of today's Zhougusi of Xingyang City.

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