

China Local Records

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Several Issues in History and Local Records Studies Zhang Shimin (4)

Different social practices shaped two foundations for theoretical development: one for history, and the other for local records studies. The academic system of local records studies comprises a variety of factors, ranging from regional social practices to local records compilation, from local records philosophical renovation to its style reformation. Factors such as local records compilation, its examination and approval, local records and yearbooks management, history and local records literature, the compilation and application of local records and yearbooks, as well as the research of local records and yearbooks development history, are all included in this academic system. History and local records writings cannot span wide and long, nor maintain lasting vigor and vitality, unless they break the barrier between political discourse and moral discourse. Although the essence of moral discourse system actually undergoes irreversible historical changes in line with the ever-changing moral connotations over time, it definitely has much deeper insights and stronger expressiveness than political discourse system. In contrast to the reality-oriented judgement and the utilitarian nature of political discourse system, moral discourse system demonstrates tradition-oriented judgement and an aesthetic trait that transcends the immediate restraints of the here and now. The demarcation between the two academic systems, the distinction between the two academic discourses, and the switch between such discourses, frequently symbolize important shifts that result in the transformation of social customs or social concepts.

A Few Thoughts on the Compilation of Individual Personage Records: A Case Study of *Records of Madame Xian* Chen Zehong (13)

This article raised the concept of “individual personage records” as opposed to “collective personage records”, and analyzed the origin, evolution, and style features of individual personage records. Individual personage records originated in the Ming Dynasty, became established in the Republican period along with *Records of Han Yu* as the earliest example, and rose to prominence in the compilation of new local records. Using the compilation of *Madame Xian Records* as a case in point, this article discusses several theoretical issues concerning the compilation of individual personage records, including

the differences between history and local records, the design of chapters and sections, the selection of reference materials, and the examination and research of historical references.

Worshiping Elegance and Upholding Faithfulness: Compilation Styles and Concepts of Local Records Studies as Reflected in Two Sets of Ming Dynasty *Chaoyi County Records* Guan Yongli (27)

Chaoyi County Records produced during the Zhongde period of Ming Dynasty won favorable comments from later generations. Yet *The Continued Chaoyi County Records* emerged more than 60 years later enjoyed much lesser fame. The academic circle has held rather contradictory views on the two records. In fact, both are good examples of county records with distinct features. Their differences in compilation styles, preferences for material selection, and linguistic characteristics were closely connected with the purports of compilation and the academic thought at that time.

A Review of the Compilation and Sorting of Qing Dynasty Local Records of Southern Henan Cai Fei (38)

Statistics show that 73 kinds of Qing Dynasty local records of southern Henan are extant, and that 24 kinds of verifiable local records are scattered and lost. These data and traces of compilation history demonstrate that each prefecture, district and county in Qing Dynasty southern Henan had its own local records. The extant local records have been kept in fairly good condition and are fairly complete in terms of categories, fully displaying the continuity of local records, providing a thorough and historic panorama of the local changes and folk customs. A particularly distinctive feature of these local records is that talents of local records compilation came out in succession, who harbored fairly pioneering ideas of local records theory. This feature paved a rather broad way for the systematic development of local records theory during and after the mid-Qing period, and boosted the flourishing of local records compilation in the Qing Dynasty southern Henan region.

Editing Scattering Old Chaozhou Local Records Not Included in the “Chaozhou Prefecture” of The Yongle Encyclopedia Wu Rongqing (50)

There have been three fruits of collecting and editing scattering local records from *The Yongle Encyclopedia; A Collection of the Scattering Local Records from the Yongle Encyclopedia* punctuated and revised by Ma Rong et al., *The Fourth Edition of Collected Works of Zhang Guogan; A Collection of Local*

Records from the Yongle Encyclopedia edited by Zhang Guogan and sorted by Du Chunhe, and *A Collection of Local Records from Song, Liao, Jin, and Yuan Dynasties* edited by Liu Weiyi et al. However, the above-mentioned three works are such massive projects covering local records all over the country that they lack accurate or necessary and comprehensive emendation when it comes to a particular place. Mistakes, omissions, style flaws, ignorance, and wrong punctuation of various degrees are discovered in all three works. This article attempts to finely edit the old Chaozhou local records not included yet in the “Chaozhou Prefecture” of *The Yongle Encyclopedia*, in the hope of providing an example for editing other local records from the encyclopedia.

An Examination of the Bibliographic Descriptions of Geographic Works in *The Special Guide and Descriptive Catalogue to The Complete Books of the Four Storehouses* (Siku quanshu zongmu) Ju Xiaofei (62)

The concept “Studies on The Complete Books of the Four Storehouses” (*siku xue*) was put forward in the 1980s. Since then, related studies have developed into a “prestigious subject”. *The Special Guide and Descriptive Catalogue to The Complete Books of the Four Storehouses* (*The Catalogue*), as the most important bibliographical work produced during the compilation process of *The Complete Books of the Four Storehouses* (*The Complete Books*), cast profound influences on the intellectuals’ academic activities in the Qing Dynasty. Although previous scholars did examine *The Catalogue* extensively, there remain items that call for further attention. This article reviews 25 such items in the geographic works from *The Complete Books*, with references from different historical sources.

Features and Origins of the Academies in the Zoucheng-Qufu Region During Ming and Qing Dynasties: A Survey Based on Local Records Materials Guo Yunpeng (74)

Local records show that the academies in the Zoucheng-Qufu region bore distinctive features in their development during the Ming and Qing Dynasties: their sage-relics-worshipping distribution pattern, their sacrifice-oriented function, their quasi-official organization, and their conservative concepts on education. These features result from the socio-cultural environment of the region as the home to Confucius and Mencius, where the ritual-obeying social norms were established and cherished for long. The flourishing of cultural and educational facilities such as the schools of the Four Families (Kong, Yan, Meng and Zeng), and Kuiwen Library also constricted the academies’ educational function. Research on these

academies as in the Zoucheng-Qufu region during the Ming and Qing period is significant from the perspectives of both history and reality.

The Group of Huizhou Scholars as Aides and Staff to Local Officials or Officers in Qing Dynasty: A Survey Based on Huizhou Local Records …… *Zhu Huimin* (84)

Intense competition in imperial examinations blocked multitudes of Huizhou scholars' way to an official career or a higher official position. To make a living or gain an opportunity to hold government office, some scholars from Huizhou served as aides and staff in local governments. Although aides and staff were not officials appointed by the imperial court, they had easy access to government offices, giving suggestions to local officials or officers, helping them handle administrative or military affairs. Such facts make the scholars' occupations apparently quasi-bureaucratic. As an important group among the Qing Dynasty aides and staff to local government officials and officers, Huizhou scholars mirrored the common codes of conduct and values of their colleagues in their service. A survey of the motives, family backgrounds, and scholarly honors of Huizhou scholars serving as aides and staff to local officials deepens people's understanding of the group and reveals the intrinsic connections between their imperial examination circumstances and career development as aides and staff to local officials or officers in the Qing Dynasty.

The Merging Dispute and Regional Interaction Between Xingze County and Heyin County from the Qing Dynasty to the Republican Period ……… *Zhang Lefeng* (97)

During the Reign of Qianlong, Xingze County and Heyin County in the transition region of the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River were merged due to their limited areas and small population. The people of Heyin County hold the view that "Xingze County has heavy duties" and resisted the merge. Though in vain, their efforts provided memory resources for later attempts to restore their own county status. At the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of the Republican period, Heyin elites took advantage of public opinions, constructed their own version of the merging event, and restored Heyin County. In this process, relations between the two counties deteriorated further because of the funds and food allocation problem. When the Nanjing Republican government tried to sort out administrative region issues, the crucial issue over the site of county seat triggered further disputes barring a second merge of the two counties. Such disputes reflected the multiple interactions between local societies in the course of redistricting grass-root administrative regions against the background of regional differences in geographical environments.

The Marquis of Fuyang and “the Site of Fuyang Fief” : A Survey

..... *Chang Zeyu* (106)

Fuyang Township (*xiang* or *ting*) was the fief granted to Liu Xian, prince of King of Jinan in the Eastern Han Dynasty, so it should be within the borders of the Kingdom of Jinan. It only sounds similar to the site of Fuyang City mentioned in Ming and Qing Dynasty local records, and does not necessarily refer to the same place in different historical periods. The so-called “the Site of Fuyang Fief” on Linqun Hill is actually a modern notion gradually conceived by local scholars since the Daoguang period in the Qing Dynasty, and cannot be hastily concluded as the ancient city of Liu Xian’s Fuyang Township. Geographical description, archaeological discoveries, and other sources point to the reality that “the Site of Fuyang Fief” on Linqun Hill is the Dixiang City recorded in the “Ying River Notes” of *The Waterways Classic*.

The Linfen Palace 20 Kilometers to the North of Sui Dynasty Fenzhou Prefecture

..... *Liu Zhengang* (112)

The topographical features of mountains and rivers demonstrate that the Sui Dynasty Xicheng County (i. e. Xihe County in the Northern Song Dynasty) was located in the middle reaches of the Fen River, and can hardly be identified with the “Guancen Mountain, the origin of the Fen River” located in the upper reaches of the river. The Sui Dynasty Linfen Palace of Xihe County recorded in the *Universal Geography of the Taiping Era* (Taiping huanyu ji) corresponds to the circumstances of the palace in Sui Dynasty Jingle County. However, *Universal Geography of the Taiping Era* mistook it as located in Xihe County on the basis of an assumption that the Fenzhou Prefecture in the Northern Song Dynasty was exactly the Fenzhou Prefecture in the Sui Dynasty, and erroneously draw the conclusion from an old record that “the Fenyang Palace is built by the Fen River, 20 Kilometers to the north of Fenzhou”. However, since *Universal Geography of the Taiping Era* has widely been regarded as authoritative in historical records, local records generally follow suit, spreading the huge mistake.

My Scholarly Mentor and Helpful Friend: A Salute to Professor Liang Binjiu

..... *Zhang Jingkong* (119)

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