

# China Local Records

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**Summarize the Achievements of Local Records Development over the Past Hundred Years and Create New Chapters of History for a New Era: Speech at the National Commendation Conference for Outstanding Workers in China's Local Records System and 2022 National Conference of Directors of Provincial-level Local Records Institutions** ..... *Gao Xiang* (4)

**Grasp and Implement the Spirit of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, and Comprehensively Improve the Service of Local Records for a New Era: Report at the National Commendation Conference for Outstanding Workers in China's Local Records System and 2022 National Conference of Directors of Provincial-level Local Records Institutions** ..... *Gao Jingzhai* (9)

**Qualities of Tradition and Landscapes of the Times: Also on the Inheritance and Transformation of Local Records Compilation: A Case Study of the Compilation of Local Records in Xiaoshan, Zhejiang Province** ..... *Xu Peng* (12)

It is an excellent tradition for local records compilation to look back, summarize, and reflect on work in former times. As the second-round local records compilation is coming to an end, this article takes eight sets of local records of Xiaoshan, Zhejiang province, as an example, to examine local records compilation from three dimensions: styles and forms, references, and qualities and functions. It aims to discover how local records compilation evolves in inheriting the traditional "local" qualities and depicting the landscapes of different times. It also attempts to probe into the long tradition of local records compilation and elucidate the inner principles, so as to provide beneficial experience for the third-round local records compilation to be started soon.

**The Practices of Highlighting Local Characteristics in the First and Second Rounds of Compiling *Hainan Provincial Records*** ..... *Chen Jiachuan* (20)

This article takes the first and second rounds of local records compilation in Hainan province as an example, to comprehensively reveal the explorative practices of highlighting local characteristics and regional features, and provide useful experience for the third-round local records compilation.

## **Problems in Local Records References and Possible Solutions: A Brief Case Study of Song Dynasty Poems ..... Zhang Jian (33)**

There are three problems in the references to Song Dynasty poems contained in local records, i. e. wrong inclusion, repetitive inclusion, and fabrication. Some remnant lines of a poem by Shao Yong in *Jizuan Yuanhai Houji* (Profound Ocean of Records and Compilations Continued) were assigned to Su Shi, Huang Tingjian, Shi Ruhui, and Xie E respectively in later local records. This phenomenon shows the complexity of local records references. The screening of local records references must firstly follow the methods of historical sources studies, and secondly grade such references according to their degrees of credibility. Defining and upholding these two measures not only means to review and activate traditional experiences of historical literature studies, but also meets the requirements of new research paradigms in the new era.

## **Exploring the Theory of Local Records' Functions in Ming Dynasty**

..... Liu Yongqiang (44)

Ming Dynasty local records compilers took it as an important job of local officials to compile local records. Some local officials consciously took local records compilation as their own duty, seeing local records compilation as, for example, “a great ceremony of an administrative region as well as duty of the governing official”, the “first priority of strengthening the imperial governance”, and “a priority political affair of an administrative region”. In this way, the conception of compiling local records as “official duty” and “official responsibility” took shape. The issue of the local records' functions became important and caught fairly great attention of Ming Dynasty local records compilers. This article reviews different opinions of local records' functions held by those compilers, and particularly analyzes relevant the historical connotations of local records' three basic functions, viz. mirroring governance, educating and cultivating local people, and preserving history. It hopes to offer some insights into the position and influences of Ming Dynasty local records compilation in the history of local records development.

## **The Tradition of Establishing “Miscellaneous Notes” in Ancient Local Records and Their Categories, Functions and Values ..... Zeng Fanjing (54)**

Since the style of local records fell into a pattern in Song Dynasty, the establishment of categories such as “Miscellaneous Notes” and “Collected Talks” has become a popular practice. In ancient local records, “miscellaneous notes” were generally seen as “leftovers of collected reference materials”. In fact, these notes are useful for local records compilation studies, maintaining local records style, preserving fragmentary reference materials, and demonstrating the value judgements of local records compilers on various local documents. The contents preserved in “miscellaneous notes” such as town talks and anecdotal

and strange stories are valuable in terms of history, literature, and regional culture. Many local records compilers over the past generations discussed such issues as the nature, functions, and values of the “miscellaneous notes” in prefaces and afterwords to various works, providing us with rich theoretical materials that have certain reference significances in constructing theories of contemporary local records studies.

**“The Spiritual Lifeline of a Region” : The Compilation, Features, and Values of *Qingping County Records* ..... Li Bin (62)**

The earliest known *Qingping County Records* was produced in the 18th year of the reign of Daoguang of Qing Dynasty. In the seventh year of the reign of Guangxu, it was supplemented and pruned into the *Republished Qingping County Records*. These two sets of county records are important historical materials for research into the history and culture of the ethnic minorities in the upper reaches of Qingshui River, the Kaili district in particular. So far no research has touched on this topic in the academic circle. This article conducts a comprehensive and detailed analysis and examination of the county records’ compilation process, versions and styles, features and values, and errors and slips, to reveal their values and deficiencies to make them better available to the academic circle.

**Shuixi Village of the Zha Family and the Compilation of *Tianjin Prefecture and County Records* during the Reign of Qianlong ..... Li Jinhua (72)**

During the reign of Qing Emperor Qianlong, Tianjin’s position was quickly upgraded when it was established as a prefecture (fu), with Tianjin County as its subordinate. So the compilation of Tianjin local records was put on the agenda. In the second year of the reign of Qianlong (1737), compilation of *Tianjin Fu Records* and *Tianjin County Records*, both being the first of their kind, started successively. The compiling office was fine, the team of compilers worked hard with concerted efforts. At the request of the office, the famous scholars Wu Tinghua and Wang Hang, both living in Shuixi Village of the Zha Family in Tianjin, worked as Chief Compiler and Associate Compiler respectively. These conditions guaranteed the quality of the compilation work, setting a successful example and forming valuable experience for Tianjin’s later-day local records compilation activities. The Zha Family offered munificent conditions for Wu and Wang, set up a platform for cultural exchange, built beneficial academic atmosphere to historical and classical studies, and provided important safeguard for the final success.

**Pluralism and Layering: The Spectrum of Worship in Ming and Qing Siming Prefecture of Guangxi Province: An Investigation Centered on *Siming Prefecture Records* ..... Fu Guanghua (77)**

During Ming and Qing dynasties, China’s southern borderlands experienced further nationalization,

which in turn triggered the transformation of the local worship spectrum. This article takes Siming Prefecture of Guangxi province as a case study, and reveals the pluralism in the worship spectrum of this borderland in Southern China, by employing textual references such as *Siming Prefecture Records* that went through multiple compilations from Ming Dynasty to Qing Dynasty, and referring to archeological discoveries and field investigation materials. As a spiritual landscape collectively built by the imperial court, local elite, and ordinary people, the worship spectrum of the borderlands in Southern China was composed of the official ceremonial sacrifice system, institutional religions, and rural folk beliefs, displaying pluralism and complexity of the local faith culture, and representing the social layering and various dynamics in those regions.

**The Establishment of “Yili General’s Office” in the Reign of Qianlong and the Decline of Suzhou’s Economy: A Review and Analysis of Rarely Seen Local Records of the Northwest** ..... *Lü Qiang* (90)

After the 24th year of the Qianlong reign (1759), along with the unification of Xinjiang, Qing dynasty established “Yili General’s Office” to govern the military and political affairs both to the north and south of the Tianshan Mountain. Against this background, Suzhou City, known as “a great business hub” of northwest China in early Qing dynasty, showed obvious decline in its economic development resulted from the downgrade of its military defense function, the reduction of goods and materials as military supplies, and the sharp drop in border economy. This article takes Suzhou as a case study to analyze the changing process of Suzhou City as a commercial and economic powerbase in the northwestern frontier, and its economic development after the establishment of “Yili General’s Office”. It argues that this process also reflected the Qing dynasty trend of cities and towns in the northwestern frontier regions becoming inland, i. e. the historical development of their position change from borderland towns to inland cities.

**From Family and Clan Memory to Historical Writing: New Explorations of Zhuji Alley in Nanxiong** ..... *Sun Tinglin* (98)

As a token of family and clan memories, the name Zhuji Alley appeared in certain genealogical documents in the Pearl River Delta during as late as the reign of Ming Emperor Yongle (1403 – 1424). However, in terms of historical literature, it did not enter into historical writing until *Nanxiong Prefecture Records* was produced during the reign of Emperor Jiajing (1522 – 1551). The location of Zhuji Alley was known to be in such places as Shashui Village, Shashui Station, and Shajiao Town during the Song and Yuan dynasties. From then to early Ming dynasty, even if a Zhuji Alley did exist in Nanxiong, it did not catch people’s attention. From the Zhengde period to the early years of the Jiajing period, Liang Chao

of Nanhai “looked for and visited the place”, “talked with the prefect about it and set up a memorial archway to mark it”, becoming a symbolic event. Since then, the Zhuji Alley migration theory widely influenced genealogical writings in the Pearl River Delta after the middle of Ming dynasty. Zhuji Alley of Nanxiong eventually became a landmark bearing history and culture and ethnic group identity, and a symbol of the cohesive force and centripetal force connecting the Pearl River Delta ethnic groups, the ethnic groups in areas to the south of the Five Ridges, and overseas Chinese culture.

**Several Issues Related to the German Team’s Investigative Tours to Xinjiang of China in the Beginning of the 20th Century: A Study Based on German Archival Documents** ..... *Ju Zhengji, Xu Jianying* (107)

Based on original German diplomatic archives, this article clarifies the details of the German team’s investigative tours to Xinjiang in the beginning of the 20th century. It also explains Britain and Russia’s support and assistance to the German investigation team to Xinjiang, and reveals the historical facts of the German team’s plan for a fifth investigation tour to Turpan, which they failed to carry out. Besides, the article provides significant historical references that facilitate further research into the Zeller Village incident.

**Tang Shaoyi’s Old Residence in North Shanghai and His Relatives by Affinity: A Study Based on the Newly Seen Chinese Archives of Tang Shaoyi in the Collection of Shanghai Library** ..... *Wang Qiyuan* (116)

After his resignation as the Premier of the Beiyang government, Tang Shaoyi once resided in his mansion in the foreign settlement in north Shanghai, where he married his third wife. But the mansion became obscure to the public due to lack of historical records. The recently published *Chinese Archives of Tang Shaoyi in the Collection of Shanghai Library* helps locate the exact position of the mansion, whose main structure remained intact upon discovery. The records in these archives demonstrate that this mansion belonged to his third wife’s father, a member from the Wu family of Shunde. The research method of combining archival documents with local historical records is productive in restoring historical figures’ activities and surroundings in a deeper and more comprehensive way. Archives reveal the rich meanings of historical places, and establish important links between local historical records and current urban cultural space.

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