

China Local Records

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Reflections about Supervision and Accountability in Accordance with Law during the Whole Process of Local Records and Yearbooks Compilation

..... *Yan Xiaozhong* (4)

Supervision and accountability in accordance with law are important safeguards of quality improvement for local records and yearbooks compilation. During the period of transformation and upgrading of the local records cause, we must push forward the progress of local records legislation and strengthen management of local records in accordance with law. During the organizing phase of local records and yearbooks compilation, local records work institutions at higher level must supervise the local records compilation work by lower level local records work institutions and the local records legislation work in accordance with law. During drafting local records and yearbooks and in the phase of editing, we must supervise in accordance with law and make sure the collected reference materials are authentic, precise, and reliable, and the long draft edition of reference materials is properly written. We must also supervise the training of local records and yearbooks workers, the setting of chapters and sections, and styles in accordance with law, and make sure the review and revision of local records and yearbooks are efficient. In the phase of local records and yearbooks publication, we need to supervise the bidding process of publication, and correct illegal cases of unauthorized publication of local records and yearbooks of third grade administrative regions without review and approval prescribed by law. After the publication of local records and yearbooks, we must establish proper processes of spot checks and reviews, periodical commendations of outstanding achievements, and recalling and accountability of defective local records and yearbooks.

On Three Turnarounds of Local Records Legislation *Zhang Qi* (9)

At present, when we strive to build a comprehensive well-off society, the local records cause is entering a “spring” of burgeoning development. “Strengthening history and local records compilation” has been clearly stated in the “13th Five-year Plan”. Yet in terms of legislation, only the *Local Records Work Regulations*, a set of administrative regulations promulgated in 2006, is leading the development of the local records cause. Problems with it include low in legal superiority, weak mandatory power, and lack of practicability. Completeness of the legal system is an important basis for the formation of law and order, and therefore, local records legislation work needs to be further carried on. Against problems mentioned above, we must pay attention to three turnarounds in local records legislation, i. e. turnaround from regulations to law in terms of superiority, turnaround from soft law to hard law in terms of mandatory power, and turnaround from law in paper to law in practice in terms of practicability. We call for the timely drafting and promulgation of *Historical and Local Records Law of the People’s Republic of China*, in

order to strengthen and perfect obligation clauses and the execution of legal clauses, to establish enforcement procedures and affiliated rules and ensure the implementation, and to realize the objective of regulating local records in accordance with law.

Existing Problems in Township and Village Records Compilation and Solutions

..... *Wang Hui* (15)

Contemporary township and village records have three types: the small and comprehensive type that covers everything, the famous and special records, and the brief records. There are many successful experiences, but also many problems, such as copying county and district records to set chapters and sections, inappropriate recordings in clan and family genealogies, lack of standards for including people and arts and literature into records; absence of major events such as transformation of production relations, “the great leap-forward”, “In agriculture, learn from Dazhai”, and villagers self-governance; no sources for important historical facts, lack of academic standards, mixed writing styles, and mostly part-time compilers. The professional team of supervising departments must strengthen operational guidance, provide human resources and skill support, perform the reviewing duties cautiously, and make concerted efforts to produce high-quality local records.

Shenzhen Village and Township Records Compilation in the Process of Urbanization

..... *Zhou Hua* (21)

During the process of rapidly accelerated urbanization, the compilation of village and township records has important historical value and contemporary significance of preserving the cultural roots and recording the social transformation. Village and township records should not only emphasize recordings of economic and social transformation at the grass root level during the urbanization process, but also record the history, culture, and folk customs of villages and towns. The style and structure must “not be restricted to one particular pattern” in order to highlight the characteristics of the village and town. In practical work, village and township records compilation must be included in the sphere of official work, so as to get strengthened management, coordination, and operational guidance and to consolidate social forces better, expand more sources of reference materials, and improve local records quality.

Narrative Comments on Lu Xian’s *Shanzuo Sericulture Survey* *Gao Guojin* (28)

Shanzuo Sericulture Survey is the only existing work of Lu Xian. The book covers 12 fu and zhou in Shanzuo, collects and records local records contents such as Shandong government officials’ activities in promoting agriculture and sericulture in past generations, and sericulture customs and local produces, and serves both as a sericulture work and a set of local records. The book flaunts governance thoughts by good government officials. The various prefaces and postscripts at the end of the book display a relations network of officials who took part in promotional activities centered around Lu Xian. Three parts of the contents collected in the book, i. e. *Sericulture Questions and Answers*, *Sericulture Affairs*, *Sericulture Miscellaneous Notes*, have extremely high research value. *Shanzuo Sericulture Survey* is a collection and summary of scattered sericulture promotional works during the Reign of Qianlong, Jiaqing, and

Daoguang. It reveals the true pictures and value pursuits of government officials in their attempts of applying knowledge to practice and promoting agriculture and sericulture.

The Plain Confucianism Features of Daoguang *Zunyifu Records*

..... *Kong Weizeng* (35)

Zunyifu Records compiled by Zheng Zhen and Mo Youzhi during the Reign of Daoguang, demonstrates stress on the principle of textual research and solid evidence not only in its style and contents, but also in its narration methods, all reflecting obvious Plain Confucianism orientation of the work. Its stress on geographical transformation in contents, its textual research and criticism of historical facts and texts of classics in narrations, and its truthful recordings of the process of textual research reflect its inheritance of textual research methods. The borrowing of textual research methods of Plain Confucianism and its features in narration methods of *Zunyifu Records* are undoubtedly the foundations of its Plain Confucianism orientation.

Local Records Compilation and Local Society in Transition from the Ming Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty—A Case Study of Hunyuanzhou *Zeng Wei* (44)

Through interpreting Hunyuanzhou local records and tablets inscriptions at the end of the Ming Dynasty and the start of the Qing Dynasty, this article discusses the interaction between local records compilation and local society during that period. The Qing government, through recognition of the Northern Great Mountain worship in Hunyuanzhou, accommodated the people’s aspirations, and strengthened the sense of belonging to the new government and the identity on the part of the local gentry. Local government officials and the local gentry, through compilation of the zhou records and mountain records, and constructions of worshiping facilities such as the Royal Fragrance Arbour, expressed national identity in rebuilding local order and reconstructing the Qing Dynasty. The expression of national identity in Qing Dynasty by the local society, garnered favorable policies from the imperial court and snatched practical local interests.

Drawing on History Experiences in Local Records Compilation: A Brief Survey of Northeastern Local Records Compilation (1911 – 1945) *Zhao Taihe* (56)

Since the late Qing Dynasty, the spreading of Western learning in the East became more and more intensive. Along with the spreading of Western historical theories in China, traditional history studies began to transform towards new history studies. Local records compilation was influenced by the trend of new history studies, which was reflected in the borrowing and application of new history theories in local records compilation, leading to a series of new changes in local records compilation purposes, style, theories, and methods on the basis of traditional local records studies, and far reaching influences on future generations. Discussions about Northeastern local records compilation during 1911 – 1945 are conducive to local records research in the Northeast, and provide experiences and inspiration for local records compilation in the future.

Supplemented Evidences of Yu Zhongyong’s Life Story and Examinations and Amendments of Several of His Geographical Notes Zhang Fanfan (65)

Yu Zhongyong was a fairly prolific writer of geographical notes during the Six Dynasties period, with works such as *Xiangzhou Notes*, *Jingzhou Notes*, *River Notes*, *Han River Notes*, and *Searching River Source Notes* under his name. Most people previously considered Yu Zhongyong as a person who lived at the turn of Liu Song to Jin Song. This essay, after investigation, believes that he was the son of Yu Bing, the Sikong (Engineering Minister) of East Jin, who was born in Yingchuan Yanling (now Xuchang of Henan Province). His given name was Muzhi, and his other name was Zhongyong. It is supposed that he wrote several of his geographical notes after the second year of the Reign Taiyuan (377) of East Jin, and probably did not live till Song. Many people made the obvious mistake of mixing him up with Yu Zhongrong of Liang. There are no compiled editions of Yu Zhongyong’s *River Notes*, and *Han River Notes* in later generations. Although his *Xiangzhou Notes*, *Jingzhou Notes*, and *Searching River Source Notes* have various compiled editions, there are quite a number of mistakes and omissions. The latter part of this article examines and investigates items in question among several of his works, provides amendments to some of the scattered items, and aims to be helpful for sorting and research of Six Dynasties geographical notes.

The Compilation and Value of Jiajing Dinghai County Records Li Xianqiang, Ouyang Linhao (74)

Jiajing *Dinghai County Records* was compiled by Zhang Shiche, the retired Defence Minister of Nanjing, after quelling invasions of Japanese pirates in Zhejiang, and therefore bears distinctive features of the time. Zhang Shiche’s personal experiences and personal relations have great influence on the compilation aims and materials selection of *Dinghai County Records*. Apart from this, Jiajing *Ningbofu Records* previously compiled by Zhang Shiche also became a model for Jiajing *Dinghai County Records*. Although Jiajing *Dinghai County Records* followed many recordings in *Ningbofu Records*, Zhang Shiche also made quite a number of changes that perfected the county records. Jiajing *Dinghai County Records* not only preserved many previously lost works of people at that time, but also kept down recordings that renewed understandings about some historical figures, bearing very important value as literature and historical references. Generally speaking, it is a set of local records with fairly high quality.

A Mistaken Recording in Jiajing Hui County Records of Ming Dynasty Zhang Jianhui (81)

Gaming and Compromises Under the Background of County Preservation and Abolishment—A Case Study of the Administrative Relations between the Three Counties of Wei, Daming, and Yuancheng Since Qing Dynasty Li Cheng (82)

In the 22nd year of the Reign of Qianlong (1757), Zhang River flooded the county seats of Wei County and Daming County in the southern part of Hebei Plain. After investigation by Zhili Viceroy Fang Guancheng, the Qing court decided to merge Wei County with Daming County and Yuancheng County.

The division of Wei County, the largest among the three counties in terms of territory, left a hint foreshadowing the two county restoration movements in the third year (1914) and 20th year (1931) of the Republic of China period. Yet both the results of the two county restoration movements were given up halfway. Through analysis of the reasons for the abolishment of Wei County and Yuancheng County and appeals to have them restored, we can learn about the gaming and compromises surrounding the administrative relations of the three counties under different political backgrounds by different classes of interests, which were also the specific reflections of national decision-making on local administration.

Research of Guanzhong City Walls and Moats Construction Tablets Inscriptions of Ming and Qing Dynasty Wei Xinbao (90)

During the Ming and Qing period, stone tablets were often made to commemorate the completion of city walls and moats construction. These tablets inscriptions are generally composed of three parts, i. e. introductions about city walls and moats transformation and location, specific contents of constructions, and emotional remarks from the local gentry after completion. The tablets inscriptions were mostly written by local officials and local gentry. There are minor differences between those written in the Ming Dynasty and those written in the Qing Dynasty. The writers are varied with different sources of construction expenses. The number of words of tablets inscriptions are also varied. Generally speaking, tablets inscriptions of the Ming Dynasty are longer than those of the Qing Dynasty. As tablets inscriptions were intended to be credible, the style of writing required recordings of the antecedents and consequences, the origins and developments of the project, and special emphasis on the contributions made by officials and the people. The above-mentioned contents should be coherent and would be inherited and praised by later generations. Historical facts recorded in tablets inscriptions are rather rich and detailed, depicting vivid pictures of city construction in nearly 600 years of the Ming and Qing Dynasty. These inscriptions are useful for the restoration of historical picture of regional or singular city walls and moats construction, reveal the origins and developments and engineering details of regional city construction, and provide a great number of concrete cases for research on city walls and moats construction in the Ming and Qing Dynasty.

Historical Memories, Cultural Identity and Meaning Selection—The “Loyalism and Chastity” Tendency of Recordings about Origins of the Xinghui Festival in Yunnan Local Records Zhang Ruolan (103)

Yunnan local records, both ancient and modern, have recordings about the origin of Xinghui Festival. The recordings are varied in length, but generally speaking, legends about figures such as A Nan, Madame Charity, and Zhuge Liang attached with Confucianist loyalty and chastity views take prominent position, whereas other origins theories such as augury for harvest, lightening of fields, and fighting against nature and eliminating pests became more and more weakened and less and less influential. The “loyalism and chastity” tendency became the absolute mainstream origin theory of Xinghui Festival in Yunnan local records recordings. This tendency reflected the selective reformation of historical memories and legends of festivals and customs and the quotations with collective unconsciousness on the

part of the local records compilers on the basis of their Confucianist positions. The roots of such selections and quotations are exactly the identity of the representative Confucianism culture as the mainstream culture brought by the spreading and development of Confucianism thoughts in Yunnan, which reflects the multiple ways and leveraging element in the spreading of Confucianism thoughts.

**Examinations of the Geographical Location of “Jijin”- Speaking of a Note of
Historical Records Wang Shaoshuai (111)**

The place name “Jijin” often appears in classic works, but causes considerable controversies. The notes of Jijin in the *Collected Biographies of Roving Knights of Historical Records* are different in *Collected Annotations* and *Proper Definitions*, though bearing the same place name. Xu Guang’s “Jijin of Guangchuan” is not the same as Zhang Shoujie’s “the Jijin also called Shijijin or Nanjin”, and the notes are rather strained and far fetched. Examinations of the location of Jijin and its relations with other geographical locations also affect understandings of other classic works such as *Zuo Zhuan*. Recently, new explanations of that place name gradually emerged, but there is still room for discussion. Combining oracle inscriptions recordings with inherited textual recordings, we still see room for further investigation. Therefore, Jijin the ferry-place also called “Shijijin” and “Nanjin” is not the same as “Jijin city”, and “Jijin” is not where “Mengjin” is.

**A Classic Second-round City Records—Comments on High Quality Project of China
Local Records Production *Changzhou City Records (1986 –2010)* Mei Sen (116)**

In June 2017, Changzhou City Records (1986 –2010) was chosen as high quality production by the Office of China Local Records Guidance Group and Local Records Publishing House. It is due to the close attention from local CPC and government leaders, the fame of Changzhou, the historical tradition of quality local records compilation, a conscientious team dedicated to the local records cause and an editor-in-chief excellent in both knowledge and insights, and the all-embracing attitude with an open mind during the records compilation. The strengths of this high quality production include: equal emphasis on the overall picture and focal points, on economy and culture, on features of the time and local characteristics, and prominent urban and metropolitan features; following the principle of time limits for continued records, while at the same time connecting history in the culture-related volumes and chapters, excavating and spreading historical wisdom; applying brief history methods to link historical facts and remedy the shortcomings of time limits for continued records; breaking the absolute plain writing style of local records with recordings about scenery spots, arts and literature, tourism resources, and with the traditional local records feature of emphasizing writing styles in some parts of the volumes and chapters.