

China Local Records

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Dong Yibo's Contributions to the Construction of New Local Records Studies

..... *Wang Fuxing* (4)

Dong Yibo went to the frontlines of local records compilation in more than ten provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities under the central government direct administration to investigate, promote, and give directions to local records compilation works, and wrote more than 1.6 million words of articles and speech scripts on local records. He made important contributions to the construction of local records studies, which are mainly reflected in the following areas: the scientific nature of local records, the functions and roles of local records, the construction of local records studies theoretical system, complete change of ways of thinking and methods of thinking, the relations between history and local records, the guiding thoughts of local records compilation, the sustainable development of local records, the style and contents of local records, the overview, the local records reference materials work, local records commentaries, and the sorting of old local records. We cherish the memory of Dong Yibo, and will learn from not only his local records theories, but also his love of the local records cause and total devotion to the local records cause.

Fu Zhenlun and Local Records Prefaces and Postscripts *Xue Yanwei* (26)

Fu Zhenlun was a famous Chinese scholar of local records studies in the 20th century. *A General Survey of Chinese Local Records Studies* written in his early years was a masterpiece of modern Chinese local records studies. During the first-round local records compilation activities in the 1980s, Fu Zhenlun was fond of writing prefaces and postscripts for new local records compiled by various places in the country. During his lifetime, Fu Zhenlun wrote more than 100 local records prefaces and postscripts, which are not only rich in contents, but also distinctive in characters. Local records prefaces and postscripts are important forms for Fu Zhenlun to express his local records thoughts. Discussions and research of these local records prefaces and postscripts will help us with more comprehensive and deeper understandings of Fu Zhenlun's local records thoughts.

Explorations and Analysis of the Functions of Village History and Records in the "Three-in-One" Rural Governance System *Dou Chunfang* (40)

Village history and records can play an important role in pushing forward the modernization of rural

governance capacity through perfected rural governance system. Village history and records with functions of preserving history, providing references for governance, and education are cultural resources for rural governance. The compilation of village history and records can nurture the villagers' self-consciousness, and stimulate their consciousness of self-governance. Appropriate use of village history and records and village rules and regulations can fortify the foundation of rule of law in rural areas. Excavating the multicultural resources in village history and records can facilitate rural harmony through rule of virtues. We must spare no efforts in compiling village history and records, make good use of village history and records, respect the soul of rural culture, facilitate the perfection of the "three-in-one" rural governance system of self-governance in combination with rule of law and rule of virtues, making the rural governance system truly rooted in rural areas and become the solid foundation of national governance.

My Humble Opinions on the Officialese Tendency of Certain Second-round Local Records First Drafts Zhai Hui (48)

During second-round local records compilation, due to reasons such as compilation mechanism, compilation personnel, and sources of reference materials, certain second-round local records first drafts are problematic in having too many empty words and cliches, too many descriptions of future states, and too many commentaries, with fairly strong officialese tendency. In compilation practice, it is only by strictly following the requirements of local records compilation rules, strengthening training, communication, and coordination, expanding the horizon of reference materials collection, improving and utilizing reference materials from different sources in different methods, and paying attention to the qualitative change from comprehensive collection of reference materials to first drafts that the officialese tendency can be gradually turned around to ensure the quality of local records final drafts.

On Compilation Issues of Population Records: A Case Study of Guangdong Province- Also On Compilation Traditions of Local Records Hu Liejian (53)

Currently, local records compilation work is going through a situation in which compilation traditions are becoming more and more obscure. It has become extremely necessary to reconstruct local records compilation traditions. Taking *Population Records of Guangdong Provincial Records* as an example, it is a complicated academic issue to point out the quantitative change of population during a historical period, and therefore local records compilers must pay attention to stating the sources of materials quoted in the process of compilation. On issues difficult to be clear about, the compilers on basis of truthfully including local archival documents, can raise the questions to be explored by people in the future. Along with the

accumulation of historical population research achievements, we can turn population records into a digitalized population geographical information system.

Research and Comments on Gao You’s Annotations to *Huai Nan Zi*, *Geography Teachings* Li Jianhua (60)

The currently existing copy of *Huai Nan Zi* was published in the Song Dynasty. It is a pity that it is not a good copy, and Gao You’s annotations are full of omissions and mistakes. Gao You’s annotations to the *Geography Teachings* of *Huan Nan Zi* is the only set of annotations from ancient times currently in existence. In Ming Dynasty scholar Liu Ji made many amendments to these annotations according to *The Book of Han*, *Geography Records*. In Qing Dynasty scholars like Zhuang Kuiji and Wang Niansun, and contemporary scholars such as Liu Wendian, Wu Chengshi, Ma Zonghuo, He Ning, Yu Dacheng, and Zhang Shuangdi made great efforts in this areas and raised many innovative observations. However there were still something that had been neglected. Whether Gao You’s annotations to *Huai Nan Zi*, *Geography Teachings* were mixed with Xu Shen’s annotations and were tampered in later generations has been a mooted point in academic circles since the Qing Dynasty. Many contradictions can be found between the annotations to *Huai Nan Zi*, *Geography Teachings* and to *Lu Shi Chun Qiu*, *You Shi Lan*, both of which came from Gao You. These instances of repeated annotations from the same volume, contradictions between earlier and later annotations, and rudimentary mistakes make it clear that the current copy of Gao You’s annotations were wantonly tampered in later generations. As one of the symbols of the achievements of Han Dynasty geography, there are obvious deficiencies in Gao You’s annotations-too much conformity to old sayings and lack of precision in examinations, lack of field investigations and shackles of Confucian classics thoughts restricted his achievements in the filed of geography, being faraway from cultural centers and the chaotic situation led to shortage of references, and delay of information about changes of administrative regions further added mistakes to his annotations. Yet as the only set of old annotations to *Geography Teachings* currently in existence, Gao You’s annotations are valuable not only for preservation of literature, but also for reflecting the geographical understandings of Han Dynasty scholars, and serving as important handle in research about Han Dynasty geography.

Philological Works on Lu Cheng’s *Geography Book* of the Southern Dynasties Qi Period and Research on Related Issues Diao Meilin (68)

Geography Book and *Geography Book Notes* (both were lost already) written by Lu Cheng of the Southern Dynasties Qi Period were compiled on the basis of 160 geographical works such as *The*

Mountains and Waters Classics, and were extremely valuable for preserving many of our country’s shorter and scattered geographical works from ancient times. However, there were conflicting historical records on the author of *Geography Book*, and even cases in which Lu Cheng was confused with the Southern Dynasties Song Period scholar Liu Chengzhi. Southern Dynasties Liang Period scholar Ren Fang, Qing Dynasty scholars Xu Qianxue, Yu Yue, Wang Mo, Zhang Zongyuan, and Yao Zhenzong, and modern period scholar Liu Weiyi have all respectively done philological and research works on Lu Cheng’s *Geography Book*. They made some achievements but left certain problems behind to various extents. Therefore, it is very necessary to differentiate and examine these academic issues, and explain and solve the disputed points on basis of new historical reference materials.

“Recording Across Borders” in Local Records Nautical Charts-Discussions Centered Around Qing Dynasty *Bordering Seas and Islands Chart*, *Zhenhai County Records* *He Peidong* (78)

No recordings across borders is a general principle followed by local records compilers in ancient times and nowadays. It is also an important reflection of the regional nature of local records. Maps and charts can clearly showcase geographical items and borders of administrative regions. Local records maps and charts have become an important way to distinguish territories in local records. Yet nautical charts in old local records often have recordings across the sea. Coastal defence needs could be the main cause of this phenomenon. Factors such as following and copying old local records contents before change of administrative regions might also have an influence.

The Founding of Xikang Province General Records Bureau and Brief Accounts of Its Local Records Compilation Activities *Wu Huirong* (88)

Xikang Province General Record Bureau was a local records compilation institution founded by Xikang Province to compile *Xikang General Records Manuscripts* in the 1940s. Its founding was closely related to the emphasis of the local records compilation cause by the Republican government of Nanjing, the pushing forward of the establishment of Xikang Province, and the geographical location of Xikang during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Xikang General Records Bureau started preparation in 1940, was founded in Ya’an in 1943, and was dismissed in 1948. During the nine years of its existence, people did a lot of works concerning the compilation of *Xikang General Records Manuscripts*. The founding of Xikang General Records Bureau and its local records compilation activities greatly pushed forward research of Xikang local history.

Research on Extant South China Sea Geng Lu Bo Transcript System

..... *Lin Xieyu* (97)

Along with the constant deepening of field studies and research, the total number of South China Sea Geng Lu Bo and Geng Lu Tu currently known has amounted to about 40. However, the focus of the academic circle is mostly centered around their textual contents, and their nature and significance. Virtually no systematic research from the angle of historical philology has been conducted. This article attempts to examine extant Geng Lu Bo literature, analyze field studies materials, compare the contents structures and sea routes recordings in various transcripts, reconstruct the origins of Geng Lu Bo related literature and the inheritance relations of various transcripts, and discuss the concept of Geng Lu Bo.

Narrative Comments on Ganqing Region Place Names Research Since Reform and Opening up

Xu Ruobing (107)

Since China’s reform and opening up, Ganqing region place names research had made excellent achievements, presenting distinctive features of stages and shift of academic direction. Ganqing scholars inherited the ancient research tradition of attaching great importance to ancient place names examination, took place names from ethnic minorities’ languages such as Mongolian and Tibetan as research subjects, and paid attention to excavating the regional cultural contents and enriching place names research. However, there are still problems with current research in areas such as monotonous theory and method, limited academic vision, and lack of discussions on relations between place names transformation and regional society. Future Ganqing place names research must firstly establish a “Ganqing place names information system” to serve the academic circle and society. Meanwhile, place names must be positioned in the veins of Ganqing region overall history to be investigated, and the relations between place names and regional social groups reflected by place names transformation must be excavated to further push forward the breadth and depth of Ganqing place names research.

Examinations of Zhu Xi’s Preface Recorded in *Jiang Village Hong Family Genealogy*

..... *Li Akang* (117)

In *Jiang Village Hong Family Genealogy* compiled during the Reign of Yongzheng in Qing Dynasty recorded a preface written by Zhu Xi. This preface, both in terms of contents and signature, is highly questionable and looks to be a forged product of later generations assuming the name of Zhu Xi. This kind of “Zhu Xi’s preface” phenomenon can demonstrate the unique traditional Chinese genealogy culture in a different angle.