

China Local Records

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Biographic Personages in Local Records and the Practice of Quzhou City Records

..... *Qiu Xinli* (4)

When local records record personages, some take the form of a specially dedicated writing, some include personages into a subsidiary category. Newly compiled local records, not only have special articles recording personages, but also use the method of recording personages in events they experienced. In terms of biographic personages in local records, the mainstream writing method is recording biographies of groups of people. In the last two rounds of local records compilation, there were problems of flat dimensions, with the personage writings more like resumes. To deepen local records personage recordings, and solve problems to avoid vague and general contents, we must encourage innovation in aspects like new presenting forms, and recording methods.

Preliminary Thoughts on Recording Name Lists and Deeds of Ex-servicemen in Local Records and Related Issues *Li Tao, Kang Quan* (18)

Recording name lists and deeds of ex-servicemen in local records is innovative work, in which quite a lot of new situations and new problems need to be explored and solved in practice. In terms of clarifying the definition of ex-servicemen, the identity of participants in war operations and nuclear tests, the requirement when distinguished and awarded ex-servicemen are included in local records, and appropriate confidential checks, this article conducts preliminary research on recording name lists and deeds of ex-servicemen in local records and related issues, and makes available our reflections and outlooks on problems exposed through practical works.

Tusi Residency Records Compilation and Research in Ming and Qing Dynasty

..... *Huang Wei, Ba Zhaoxiang* (24)

Tusi (appointed hereditary local chieftains in some ethnic minorities) residency records are important literature of tusi's administrative region, which were widely distributed during Ming and Qing Dynasties in the southwest, and central south of our country and the northern regions of the Indo-China Peninsula. The three driving forces behind compilations of such records include upper-level requiring

local records compilation, responsibility of defending the territory, and commending ancestors' achievements. The composition of compilers almost invariably include members of the tusi's clan. The compilation style has no difference with fu, zhou, ting, and county records, except that tusi residency records include featured chapters such as "Family Lineage", "Local Soldiery", and "The Tusi Family's Documentary Records". In comparison with traditional fu, zhou, ting, county records, tusi's residency records have featured contents in family and clan, in ethnicity and of pluralism, which have important value as historical materials for research in southwest history and geography, border areas, and local records.

The Evolution of Regional Knowledge: On the Rediscovery of Hongwu Suzhou Fu Records Wei Luoning (37)

The Hongwu Suzhou Fu Records currently in existence was the product with changed style and title in carving publishing Wu County Extensive Notes of the original author Lu Xiong. It is more befitting to be called as Hongwu Records. Although it was one of the earliest Suzhou local records, the influences of Hongwu Records on local records compilation of later generation were somewhat limited. Along with its application by scholars such as Qian Daxin of mid-period of Qing Dynasty on historical and geographical research, Hongwu Records as a carrier of local knowledge became connected with more broader academic research and rediscovered. Since start of the modern period, scholars such as Fu Zengxiang paid close attention to the editorial value of Hongwu Records. Given historical references on personages and events surrounding it in modern period, Hongwu Records won a new discovery.

Yu Yue's Local Records Compilation Achievements and His Views on Local Records Xia Huifeng (46)

Yu Yue was a renowned man of letters, scholar of Confucian classics, calligrapher, novelist, and dramatist in the late Qing Dynasty, with extensive publications and prolific works to his credit. These are also what the previous research mostly concentrated on. In fact, Yu Yue made substantial achievements in the area of local records as well. He participated in the compilation of four local records and had his own opinion on local records literature. The author of this article attempts to elaborate on Yu Yue's views about local records on the basis of four sets of local records Yu Yue participated in compiling, with references to his correspondence with friends, and chronological records. These views include emphasizing styles, widely collecting various materials, following non-stereotype compilation traditions as well as staying true and objective in local records compilation.

Early Qing Dynasty Local Official Jin Zhen’s Local Records Compilation and Literary World *Sun Xufeng* (54)

Jin Zhen successively held the office of Fu Prefect in Runing of Henan and Yangzhou of Jiangnan during the early Qing Dynasty, and took charge of the compilation of Runing Fu Records of the first year of the Reign of Kangxi, and Yangzhou Fu Records of the 14th year of the Reign of Kangxi. Local records compilation sponsored by local officials during the early Qing Dynasty mostly followed the requirement of regulations or orders from the Imperial Court. Yet as an order-abiding official, under the influences of factors such as his personal experiences, literary connections, regional imaginations, and self-image formulation, Jin Zhen took different local records compilation strategies in the compilation of these two sets of local records. Moreover, he revealed obvious “features of non-utilitarian” in self-written prefaces to the local records, i. e. personal interests in public official conducts. The individual case of Jin Zhen also provided a profile with rich connotations for the integration of the literary circle after the change of dynasties. There were many local officials like him who took pride in themselves for their writing capabilities, yet their literary trace were almost worn out by waning memories in history. Investigations of local records compilation which were deeply involved by local officials are probably helpful to reconstruct the literary world of these neglected official writers.

My Humble Opinions on the Relations Between Yangming Studies and Local Records *Zhang Hongmin* (65)

Multiple connections existed between Yangming Studies and local records. Wang Yangming took the view that local records “written for the world and all future generations” not only included “referencing graphical records for shapes and situations of mountains and rivers”, but also could help improve the “capability of observing politics”. Under the influences of Wang Yangming, scholars of Yangming Studies in later generations had the outlook of observing politics through local records, encouraged pragmatic uses of them, and took part in the specific compilation of many provincial, fu, zhou, and county records during the middle and late period of Ming Dynasty, some in the places of their offices, and some in their hometowns. Massive local records literature passed down over the generations to the contemporary, provides first-hand documents for understanding in all aspects and deeper levels about how Wang Yangming responded at “places covered by Yangming journey” to various regional cultures, and to systematically sort and research “regional Yangming studies”.

Ming and Qing Dynasty Shanghai Regional Epidemic Research in the Vision of Local Records *Xu Mancheng, Duan Yishan* (72)

Through references on epidemic developments during Ming and Qing Dynasty in Shanghai local records, especially in the old local records, and analysis of the features of these epidemics, we discovered that Shanghai region during Ming and Qing Dynasty experienced one epidemic every seven years on average, mostly between the turn of summer to autumn. The center of epidemic in this region moved from the Huating County-Shanghai County region to Shanghai County-Jiading County region. The intensity of these epidemics was fairly high in general, most of which were “Big Epidemics”. There were less records on types of diseases. Those that did get recorded were mainly cholera and red fever. Epidemics in the Shanghai region often happened along with other disasters. Seeing from the Jiangnan region or nationwide, we can discover that the features of epidemics in Shanghai region corresponded with those in Jiangnan region and nationwide. But during the late Qing Dynasty, since the center of population and economy moved from the fu capital Huating County (including Lou County) to Shanghai County, the epidemic center also moved to Shanghai County.

Disasters Records and Their Values in Jiangxi Local Records of Ming and Qing Dynasty *Zhao Dan* (94)

There were many types of Ming and Qing Dynasty Jiangxi local records that recorded disasters, including general records, fu or zhou records, and county records. In terms of number, there were more Qing Dynasty local records than those of Ming Dynasty. The chapter or section arrangements of these records grew stable, mostly attached to related categories or in separate categories. The ranges of recording time were not unified, but mostly concentrated in the Ming or Qing Dynasty. Entries on disasters are increasing, containing abundant disaster elements. The types of disasters include meteorological disasters, geological disasters, biological disasters, and subsequent secondary disasters. There were mainly six types of recording formats. In addition, Ming and Qing Dynasty Jiangxi local records also recorded disasters-related information under categories such as “Water Conservancy” “Relieving Affairs” “Tax Exemption” “Warehousing and Storage” “Taxes” “Household Registration” “Official Achievements” “Famous Officials” “Righteous People” “Filial Piety and Friendship” “Skills and Techniques” or “Arts and Literature”. Ming and Qing Dynasty Jiangxi local records disasters records have fairly high values.

Tang and Song Period Guazhou Sandbars Transformations and Responses from Administrative Regions Along the Yangtze River *Huang Binqi, Wang Xu* (107)

Since the middle of Tang Dynasty, the sizes of sandbars in mainstream of the Yangtze River in Yangzhou and Runzhou gradually expanded, and finally connected with Yangzhou north of the Yangtze River. The expansion of riverside land and narrowing of the Yangtze River watercourse caused frequent changes in the administrative regions of that area. During the mid-stream sandbars period, Guazhou partly belonged to Yangzhou, and partly belonged to Runzhou. After the riverbank connection, Guazhou with the river as its border wholly belonged to Yangzhou. Since late Tang Dynasty, Yangzhou's riverside area gradually developed. During early period of Northern Song Dynasty, Yangzhou was divided into two parts by upgrading the county to the zhou. A regional structure of two facing the other two was formed, i. e. Shengzhou and Runzhou on one side of the Yangtze River facing Yangzhou and Zhenzhou on the opposite side. During Southern Song Dynasty, Guazhou during certain periods distantly belonged to Zhenjiang. Taking the river as the borderline, and distantly controlling or subordinated across the river, are two different regional structures of the riverside area, the latter put the emphasis on controlling the water areas of the Yangtze River, and therefore stood out during the process when the Song Court constructed river defence system and the Yuan army's siege of Yangzhou.

Narrative Comments on the Academic History of Man Shu Research of More Than 70 Years *Gao Yingchong* (118)

Fan Chuo's Man Shu was the only specially written book now in existence by people from the Tang Dynasty to record historical events in the Yunnan region, and important sources of historical references for Nanzhao history research. Since 1949, the academic circle on basis of works by previous researchers, conducted comprehensive explorations and researches on Man Shu, which can be roughly divided into three types, i. e. collation and annotation, contents study and comparison, and academic values exploration and analysis, demonstrating a research trend in multiple-angles. Every type of these three branches of researches has its own characteristics, which not only promotes careful interpretations of the texts of Man Shu by the academic circle, but also exerts positive influences on deeper understandings of Nanzhao history.

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