

# China Local Records

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## **China's Local Records Informationization Research: Quantitative Analysis, Main Contents, and Evaluation—A Report Based on Related Literature from CNKI Academic Journals Database ..... Zheng Jinyue (4)**

Based on CNKI Academic Journals Database, this article makes a quantitative analysis of related literature on local records informatization research and expounds on the main contents and current status of China's local records informatization construction research from such aspects as the definition of local records informatization, the necessity of informatization, the contents of informatization, the development of digital resources and application systems, the development of informatization standards, and the process of informatization. The article holds that China's local records informatization research has made certain achievements, featuring pluralism, progress, and pragmatism. However, there are also fairly obvious shortcomings and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to further both theoretical and practical application research in local records informatization, and to make the research more systematic and scientific, facilitating more comprehensive and healthy studies, technology, and practice in this area.

## **The Dilemma of Recording the Nature Category in Second-round Local Records Compilation and the Features of Zhejiang's Innovation: with Reflections on the Guideline of Zhejiang's Second-round Compilation of City and County Local Records ..... Zhou Zhuwei (16)**

The structure design and content of the nature category in the nationwide first-round local records compilation during China's Socialist period were successful because it was premised on meeting the requirements of economic development at the start of the reform and opening-up. This successful model was quite widely adopted in the early phase of Zhejiang's second-round local records compilation. However, the guidelines of green development, economic transformation, and people's rising living standards have been remolding the relationship between human beings and nature, which change from one-sided exploitation to friendly reciprocity, posing dilemmas to local records compilation. In the later stages of the second-round compilation, compilers all over Zhejiang Province did not shrink from such practical challenges in recording the local natural world. They adjusted their perspectives on material selection and their focus of documentation, enlarging the value of the records through innovation.

## **The Design of Chapters and Sections in the Public Security Category of Provincial Records ..... Yi Shuangli (25)**

This article examines the provincial-level public security records compiled in the past two rounds. It conducts an analytical comparison, summarizes the experience, and identifies current problems. Apart from finding out the reasons behind these problems, this article puts forward some tentative solutions to optimize the design of the records' contents. There are relatively few theoretical research findings on the compilation of new local public security records. This results from their strong political nature, involving

rather sensitive content. They are generally penned by staff members of public security organizations, so the content design is greatly affected by the compilers' own job duties. Besides, the compilation of these records calls for urgent systematic theoretic reflection.

**The Ming Dynasty *Illustrated Handbook of Jiangxi Geography*: A History of Compilation** ..... *Sun Yunxiao* (35)

The *Illustrated Handbook of Jiangxi Geography* (Jiangxi yudi tushuo 江西輿地图说) records the geographic conditions of Jiangxi province in the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644). An existent edition of this book is kept in the *Collection of Records* (Jilu huibian 纪录汇编), printed during the Wanli period (1573 – 1620). This edition has on the first page simply the author's name "Zhao Bingzhong" (赵秉忠), without his courtesy name or his literary name or his native place. Local records compilers of Shandong province in the late Qing Dynasty (1840 – 1912) and contemporary authors of related literature believed that it was Zhao Bingzhong from Qingzhou (in what is now Shandong province) who made the *Illustrated Handbook of Jiangxi Geography*. But in reality, it was Zhao Bingzhong from Fujian province, who once served as the magistrate of Leping County, Jiangxi province. Initially, the compilation of the handbook was presided over by Zhao Yao (赵耀), the Jiangxi Governor, with contributions from the senior officials of prefectures and counties across the province, submitted to Wang Shimao (王世懋) for revision and finalization. Before the compilation was finished, however, Zhao and Wang were successively transferred to other posts, leaving the task to Zhao Bingzhong, who finalized the handbook, and Shao Bi (邵陛), who printed it. The existing edition of the *Illustrated Handbook of Jiangxi Geography* has no maps, and contents on the three prefectures of Raozhou, Nankang, and Jiujiang are missing. Luckily, Wang Shimao's *The Illustrated Handbook of Raozhou Nankang and Jiujiang Prefectures* (Rao nan jiu sanfu tushuo 饶南九三府图说) provides the missing information, which means that it was actually the missing parts of the provincial handbook. The one-volume colored Ming Dynasty *Illustrated Handbook of Entire Jiangxi Province* (Jiangxi quansheng tushuo 江西全省图说) currently in the collection of the National Library of China has basically the same textual contents as the printed edition of *Illustrated Handbook of Jiangxi Geography*. Therefore, the colored handbook was very likely drawn between the periods of Wang Shimao's work and Zhao Bingzhong's work.

**Some Flaws in Zheng Qiqian's Short Biography in the *Records of the Unity of the Great Ming*** ..... *Wang Bin* (41)

Zheng Qiqian (郑起潜) was the author of *Keys to Sounds and Rhythms* (Shenglü guanjian 声律关键) in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 – 1279). His biographical data were mainly found in local records, and quite some data need to be corrected or discussed. Zheng's short biography in the *Records of the Unity of the Great Ming* (Daming yitong zhi 大明一统志) claimed that "there were slanders then that he was a follower of Shi Songzhi". Yet the fact was Zheng was indeed a follower of Shi Songzhi (史嵩之), and he was not slandered at all. The biographical data of Zheng in the *Records of the Unity of the Great Ming* were not accurate, and some clarification is necessary.

**Guangxi's Star Field Affiliation in Ming and Qing Dynasties Guangxi Local Records** ..... *He Junyu* (45)

Guangxi's corresponding star field affiliation went from belonging solely to the Yangzhou Star Field in

the Qin (221 BC – 207 BC) and Han (202 BC – 220) dynasties to belonging separately to both the Yangzhou Star Field and the Jingzhou Star Field in later dynasties. This change epitomizes the process of Guangxi's increase into a top-level administrative region, bearing profound historical significance. This process presented a general trend in which the Jingzhou Star Field expanded southwards and the Yangzhou Star Field shrank eastwards, leading to the ultimate status of several counties in the Wuzhou Prefecture belonging to the Yangzhou Field while all the counties and prefectures to their west belonging to the Jingzhou Star Field. This situation demonstrates the correspondence theory of the astronomical division of star fields to the actual administrative division of geographical regions. Scholars such as Cai Kan (蔡戡) of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 – 1279) developed the theory of the Yangzhou and Jingzhou Star Fields, while later-generation compilers of Guangxi local records only followed their theory without innovation. The compilers' different attitudes towards and sizes of knowledge of the astronomical division of star fields are reflected in the records they worked on.

**Continuation and Rupture: the Relationship of Ming and Qing Dynasties *Hezhou Records* ..... Peng Xinglong, Cao Jinfa (52)**

Among different editions of *Hezhou Records* (合州志) compiled in the early period of the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1912), the handwritten copy of *Hezhou Records* from the beginning years of the dynasty in the collection of the National Library of China was very probably not the formal edition of *Hezhou Records* completed in the 11th year (1672) of the Kangxi period. The *Hezhou Records* cited in the *Complete Collection of Pictures and Books of Old and Modern Times* (gujin tushu jicheng 古今图书集成) was indeed the formal edition. Besides, the so-called handwritten copy of *Hezhou Records* compiled by Xu Yuanji (许元基) from the early years of the Qianlong period (1736 – 1796) was a fictitious entity invented cumulatively by later generations. The earliest undisputed Qing Dynasty edition of *Hezhou Records* now in existence is one compiled in 1748, the 13th year of the Qianlong period. This edition is connected in contents with the edition completed in the Wanli period (1573 – 1620), which fact, however, was totally unknown to the group of compilers of the 1748 edition. This showcases the contradictory unity of Ming and Qing dynasties *Hezhou Records*, the contents of which were continued yet the memory of compiling which was ruptured.

**The Textual Features and Historical Values of *Anding County Rural Records*: An Exploration into the New Policies at the End of the Qing Dynasty ..... Wei Shiyu (63)**

China's rural records from the late Qing Dynasty bear both the style of its traditional local records and the features of the times. This resulted from the impact of rural education tides from abroad as well as the Qing court's attempt to control people's thinking in this context. *Anding County Rural Records*, among the few rural records of Gansu province, represents this category of records in preserving such information as preface and user guides that explained the compilers' objectives. It appeared to meet the practical needs of promoting rural education at the time, its primary attribute being educational. Its textual features are salient, such as diversified classification, full and accurate content, and concise and interesting expressions, aiming to execute its educational functions. Besides, the book preserves Anding County's historical data on education, commerce, geography, and military affairs, having great historical significance for research on the county and Gansu province.

## Queries over the *Qianjiang County Records* in the Collection of the Palace Museum

..... Zhang Xuejun (70)

A detailed comparison of the block-printed editions reveals that the *Qianjiang County Records* collected in the Palace Museum is not the original edition printed by Chuanjing Academy (chuanjing shuyuan 传经书院) in the 33rd year (1694) of the Kangxi period, but rather a reproduction. Such details as taboo words being avoided or retained and contents being altered or unaltered indicate that the reproduction was made after the 19th year of the Qianlong period and before the Jiaqing period, i. e. during 1754 and 1795. The time of appearance, the text style, and the content of the Palace Museum edition all point to the fact that its master copy was the original 1694 edition printed by Chuanjing Academy. Due to its reproduction status, the Palace Museum edition was not widely circulated, casting little influence on later generations either in its mode of material election or its compilation style.

## Yuan Dynasty Official Salaries in Regions South of the Yangtze River: A Survey Based on Ming Dynasty Local Records .....

Yang Pengyun (77)

In the middle and late periods of the Yuan Dynasty (1271 – 1368), the official salary system was implemented differently in different parts of the region south of the Yangtze River. The payment methods of the salaries of the Ten-Thousand-Household Brigade (wanhu fu 万户府) officers garrisoned in the region varied in different places. Some officers were paid in cash only, while others were paid in both cash and rice. The salaries of the Seaway Grain Transport Ten-Thousand-Household Brigade (haidao du caoyun wanhu fu 海道都漕运万户府) officers were similar to those of the Ten-Thousand-Household Brigades garrisoned in Wujiang and Jiaying. The officers were paid in both cash and rice. After the national salary reform from cash to Yuan banknotes in the second year (1313) of the Huangqing period, major changes were introduced to the officer's salaries in Suzhou, Wujiang, and Jiaying. The specific measures of implementing the policy of “restricting salary-farmland ownership and paying in rice” (jutian zhimi 拘田支米) also varied greatly in Wujiang and Jiaying in the third year (1310) of the Zhida period.

## Re-exploring the Household Certificate System in the Early Ming Dynasty: A Survey of the Newly Found Household Certificates .....

Ma Zhichao (84)

The household certificates issued during the Hongwu period (1368 – 1398) serve as the original archives of Ming Dynasty household statistics and are essential historical data for the research of the early Ming Dynasty household system and financing system. However, only about 20 such household certificates with original texts were discovered, far from displaying the whole picture of the Ming Dynasty household certificate system. Moreover, there are disputes within the academic circle even about whether or not household certificates played a part in collecting taxes. The newly discovered “Li Xiang household certificate of Xiangtan County, Tanzhou Prefecture, recorded in the fifth year (1372) of the Reign of Emperor Hongwu” further facilitates research into the application of Ming Dynasty household certificates. This newly found certificate, in addition to other literature, demonstrates that the nationwide use of household certificates was a relatively long process rather than an overnight action. It reveals that during the early period of the Ming Dynasty, a unitary taxation system was applied in quite some places, and taxes could be levied on a household's total areas of farmlands. This means that the household certificates did function as a means of tax collection. The newly found Li Xiang household certificate also evidences

that, before the yellow registers (huang ce 黄册) were issued, no nationwide unitary taxation system had been enforced in the Ming Dynasty.

## **Policies of Famine Relief and Attitudes Towards Calamities Reflected in Qing Dynasty Guangxi Local Records: A Study Based on Frontier Governance**

..... *Qin Haoxiang* (91)

Influenced by policies of famine relief and frontier governance, the Qing Dynasty compilers of Guangxi local records put particular emphasis on entries of auspicious or abnormal happenings, water conservancy, warehousing, and sacrificing and worship. “Interaction between heaven and humanity” (tianren ganying 天人感应) was the core idea running through the entries on auspicious and abnormal happenings in Qing Dynasty Guangxi local records. The compilers of these records interpreted calamities as “warnings from heaven” to remind and alert local officials to take actions to tackle the problem. Under the influence of policies of famine relief, the compilers emphasized the importance of building water conservancy projects and constructing more storages and warehouses. They also pointed out the problems in light of the local reality of water sources utilization and warehouse operation, calling for attention from the local officials and residents, who might timely make improvements. Entries on sacrificing and worship in Guangxi local records reflect the active interplay between the local people’s attitudes towards calamities and local records compilation. Qing Dynasty local records compilers took calamities seriously, playing a significant role in spreading policies of famine relief and fostering attitudes towards disasters. In this way, they helped maintain a stable frontier order and facilitated the governance of society in the frontier region.

## **The Establishment of the Shunde General Bureau of Local Militia During the Sino-French War Period**

..... *He Zhenyong* (103)

The Sino-French War (1883 – 1885) during the Guangxu period (1875 – 1908) impelled the emergence of local militia across Guangdong province. The Shunde General Bureau of Local Militia was established as the local defense force. During the war, the bureau not only reinforced Shunde County’s military defense but also contributed to the central and provincial governments’ fundraising for military expenses. More importantly, the bureau helped bring about a holistic system of social control over the local community, which prevented probable turmoil within the county triggered by foreign aggression. The social control network formed through local militia activities organized by the local gentry during the Sino-French War and functioned as assistance to the local authorities rather than usurpation of their power.

## **The Official Position of Lang Tan in the Former Liang Dynasty**

..... *Wei Jungang* (112)

## **Notes on Seeking Knowledge in Shanghai: Mourning My Beloved Teacher Professor**

**Zou Yilin** ..... *Hua Linfu* (115)

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