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NEW SCHOLARSHIP IN CHINA

LI Bozhong. "Complex Identities: Merchants of International Trade in East Asia between the 15th and Early 17th Centuries." Originally published in the *Journal of Nanjing University (Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences)* 南京大学学报(哲学・人文科学・社会科学), no. 1 (2016): 69–86.

The 15th to early 17th centuries saw the early stages of economic globalization. During this period, the East Asian Sphere (which includes what is usually called East Asia, Northeast Asia, and Southeast Asia) experienced unprecedented, vigorous growth in global trade. Merchants of different industries, backgrounds, regions, countries, and ethnic groups became involved in the trade, thus forming a complex yet diverse commercial community. The roles played by such merchants—from different backgrounds and appearing at different times, locations, and situations—were manifold. This study, therefore, examines these merchants and their characteristics in order to better understand international trade in the East Asian Sphere during the early days of economic globalization.

ZHANG Haiying. "How Did State Power Penetrate into Local Society?: A Study of Ming-Qing Era Market Town Administration in the Jiangnan Region." Originally published in the *Journal of Tsinghua University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)* 清华大学学报 (哲学社会科学), no. 1 (2017): 145–59.

The many market towns in the Jiangnan regin (the Yangzi Delta) that flourished during the Ming-Qing era varied in both economic structures and administrative systems. As seen through Ming-Qing administrative practices toward these market towns, the power of the late-imperial state penetrated into local society well below the county (*xian*) level, breaking with the tradition of previous dynasties. The government's management of Jiangnan market towns was characterized by its complex, multilayered approach, thus reflecting the relative flexibility of government administration during this period. This article seeks to analyze the main administrative features and governing practices of various types of Jiangnan market towns. By providing a better understanding of how governmental administrative bodies operated, it illustrates how national administrative systems were integrated into local society and promoted development at the local level.

CHANG Jianhua. "Village Fairs in Sichuan during the Qianlong-Jiaqing Period: A Study Based on Penal Memorials and the Ba County Archives." Originally published in the *Journal of Sichuan University (Social Science Edition)* 四川大学学报 (哲学社会科学版), no. 5 (2016): 62–75.

At village fairs in Sichuan during Qianlong-Jiaqing period, people would buy and sell tools, foodstuff, and other necessities from carpenters, blacksmiths, and other craftsmen. An important part of public life, fairs were often accompanied by interpersonal interaction, dining and entertainment. For instance, the Ba County fairs had facilities such as restaurants, general shops, inns, loan shops (*qianpu* 钱铺), and pharmacies. Such markets were usually located in transportation centers surrounded by residential areas, and the shops met the nearby people's daily needs. These fairs usually met every three days, and businessmen, servants, and farmers comprised the majority of fair-goers. But fairs also hosted a considerable amount of illicit activity, such as illegal cattle-slaughtering, gambling, pickpocketing, and robbery. Guards would patrol fairgrounds, and some fairs had specialized management personnel, such as local market heads. Ba County attached importance to fair management, and required an application by the local community and the approval of the magistrate for a fair's construction to go ahead. Fairs would then be managed by local market and native association heads, and ruled in accordance with community covenant. In Ba County, these various headmen would manage fair affairs and maintain local security. Local authorities would also dispatch officers to the fair, and some fairgrounds even had holding cells for criminals being escorted. To prevent thefts, railings, tiger-headed tablets, tiger sticks, and gongs would be set up, and watchmen would be recruited; these were also used to implement local militia, which, in turn, helped to reshape the organization and management of fairs.

ZHANG Rongqiang. "From 'Counting from the End of the Year' to 'Counting from the Beginning of the Year': The Evolution of Official Age Counting in Imperial China." Originally published in *Historical Research* 历史研究, no. 2 (2015): 51–67.

In ancient China, particularly during middle antiquity, the biggest difference between the official and the popular way of counting age lay in when one became a year older. From at least the time of Emperor Wu of the Han dynasty, popular custom regarded the first day of the year, the lunar Spring Festival, as the point at which a person became a year older. The government, on the other hand, in accordance with the design of the household registration system, used the standard time of household registration (the time when government officials registered the household) as the point at which a given person concerned became a year older.

In *The Biography of Cang Gong* (Chunyu Yi) in the *Shi ji* (Records of the grand historian), Chunyu Yi states that he was 39 years old at the end of the 3rd Year of Emperor Wen of Han, and Qin bamboo slip No. 0552 at the Yuelu Academy records that Shuang was 23 years old by the end of the 26th Year of the First Emperor of Qin. These are examples of ages calculated by the official method. Because the standard registration time varied, the point of time officially used to add age increments also varied. During the Qin and Han dynasties, household registrations were compiled in August, so one officially became a year older in August. Under the Tang, the populace had to submit their "household information for the coming year" in advance, at the end of the year prior to the year in which the government would carry out household registration, so the standard registration time was the first month of the lunar year. From the Tang dynasty, however, the official way of counting age began with the start of the lunar year, finally bringing together government institutions and folk custom.

FENG Xianliang. "Living Spaces and Change among Local Gentry in the Early Qing Dynasty: The Case of Dong Han of the Sangang Dong Clan." Originally published in *Academic Monthly* 学术月刊, no. 5 (2016): 143–61.

Dong Han was born into the patriarchal Dong clan that had thrived for more than two hundred years in the Songjiang Prefecture. After being demoted due to the "Zouxiao" case, he led a reclusive and bleak life in Sangang and other remote, deserted places. However, this did not prevent him from having leisure time, social interactions, and concerns about current affairs. Although the Dong family did not suffer from the political purges during the period of dynastic transition, the family's post-Ming, long-term decline and the failure of Han's generation at officialdom were never reversed. The politics of the times wiped out all they had—their talents in literary composition, their active participation in regional events, their poetry-and-wine parties, and even their occasional interest in maintaining order in their locality. Seen through fragments of the Dong family's decline, such was the reality—the existential difficulty and the political paralysis—of early-Qing local gentry after the dynastic transition.

Wand FANG, YAN Hongzhong and GAO Yu. "A Study of the Development of Late Qing Regional Currency Markets: The Case of *Guolu Yin* in Yingkou." Originally published in *Historical Research* 历史研究, no. 3 (2016): 97–112.

Guolu yin, or furnace silver, was a distinctive regional currency that developed in the Yingkou area during the late Qing period. It was one of the main forms through which China's monetary system was transformed from a silver weight-based currency to one based on accounting and credit. The system emerged around the 1860s and 1870s, and remained in regular use as a stable currency between the 1880s and the 1900s. Thereafter, under the impact of foreign incursions and governmental interventions, it was repeatedly challenged and adjusted. *Guolu yin* was first established and managed by the *Gongyi Hui*, a local merchant organization in Yingkou, and was designed to improve upon the exchange mechanism model of the Shanxi *piaohao*. By providing large trade payments, short-term loans, and bank drafts, as well as cushioning transaction risks, the *guolu yin* served as a medium of exchange and a credit instrument for trade in Yingkou and the wider area covered by its market. The operating mechanism of *guolu yin* reflects the main elements and the basic characteristics of the late Qing currency market.

LI Nan and WEI Xin. "The Influence of Schistosomiasis Control Campaigns on Population Growth in Socialist China (1953–1990)." Originally published in *Researches in Chinese Economic History* 中国经济史研究, no. 1 (2017): 84–95.

Utilizing panel data from 164 prefecture-level cities in twelve southern Chinese provinces, and building a difference-in-differences (DID) model, this paper performs an empirical analysis on the effects of schistosomiasis control campaigns on population growth after the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It also examines the internal mechanism of such campaigns. Results suggest that schistosomiasis control campaigns had a significant positive impact on population growth: DID estimates show that between 1964 and 1982, population growth in infected regions was about 0.8‰ (0. 4‰–1.4‰) higher than that in uninfected regions for every 1% increase in the schistosomiasis control rate. Regarding the mechanism, we have found that the impact of schistosomiasis control campaigns on population is only achieved through a reduction in mortality, having no effect on birth rate. This study is not only the first rigorous performance evaluation on PRC epidemic prevention policy, but also contributes to the wider understanding of population growth and demographic changes in China since the founding of the

PRC, and enriches the literature on epidemiology and economic development.

CHEN Zhiping. "Land Transactions between Han and Aboriginal Peoples in Qing Taiwan: Evidence from Contract Documents Reveals Four Distinct Characteristics. " Originally published in *Researches in Chinese Economic History* 中国经济史研究, no. 1 (2015): 6–15.

Through analyzing previously ignored Qing dynasty era folk contract documents originating from central Taiwan, this paper proposes four characteristics of land transactions between Han and aboriginal peoples (i.e. the Pingpu tribe). Firstly, the leasing and renting of land (for agricultural purposes or otherwise) in the Han-aboriginal land transactions in Qing Taiwan differed from similar transactions in the mainland; the aboriginal lessors, though nominally landlords, were often in a weak bargaining position. Secondly, rent (paid in grain) calculations took into account costs of production, because most of the leased land was previously uncultivated or early cultivated. This also differed greatly from the practices of such transactions in Fujian and other areas of the mainland. Thirdly, Han lessees, due to their financial and technological advantages, were often able to supplant their aboriginal lessors to become the effective owners of the land, after many years of transactions and renewals. Fourthly, aboriginal contract signatories were likely to be women, in contrast to Fujian and mainland customs.

SHI Jinbo. "A Study of Tangut-Language, Western Xia Employment Contracts Unearthed in Khara Khoto." Originally published in *Researches in Chinese Economic History* 中国经济史研究, no. 4 (2016): 5–13.

The employment contract, written in Tangut script, that was unearthed in Khara-Khoto is, the only known employment contract from the 11th to 13th centuries discovered so far. Its discovery is thus invaluable for academic research. This article converts the contract's cursive script into regular script and translate the text into Chinese. It also includes explanatory notes with preliminary research on the contract's content. The contract employees were of the Tangut people, the majority ethnic group of the Western Xia, and were transformed from nomads into farmers. The employment contract in Tangut script inherited the tradition of the Chinese contract, both in form and content. It reflects the circumstances of employment and relevant economic details about the Western Xia, even shedding light on the characteristics of the Western Xia's agricultural economy, and thus paints a rudimentary picture of agriculture during this period. The contract's form and content are rather basic, depicting an obvious master-slave relationship between employer and employee as well as stipulating lower salaries and greater labor intensity for employees, perhaps due to late Western Xia social instability.

NIE Xiaohong, and DING Juntao. "The Rise and Fall of Sericulture and the Silk Industry on the Ancient Silk Road: A New Approach Using Documents Unearthed in Turpan." Originally published in *Researches in Chinese Economic History* 中国经济史研究, no. 4 (2016): 14–30.

A great many of the documents unearthed in Turpan discuss sericulture and the silk industry. This paper provides an integrative analysis of these documents, seeking to explore why sericulture and the silk industry thrived in Gaochang County and in the early Gaochang Kingdom. The western demand for silk, combined with silk shortages in the Central Plains during the late Jin dynasty, brought sericulture and the silk industry to Gaochang. In an effort to collect and export silk, the Gaochang government encouraged mulberry-planting and sericulture while also managing a large number of silk-farming households. When the Qu clan established the Gaochang Kingdom (a tribute state of the Northern Wei dynasty), the Silk Road reopened. Large quantities of silk produced in the Central Plains soon flooded the Gaochang silk market, and silver replaced silk and became a major tool of market circulation. Thus began the Gaochang silk industry's decline. Under Tang rule, the silk market of Gaochang (known, by then, as Xizhou) shrank due to the large inflow of silk from the Central Plains, which was produced with advanced technology. A local cotton industry then replaced Gaochang's silk industry.

SHI Zhihong. "An Estimate on Agricultural Production Indicators in Qing China." Originally published in *Researches in Chinese Economic History* 中国经济史研究, no. 5 (2015): 5–30.

This paper provides quantitative estimates of arable land area, grain yield per *mu* and total grain yield, the value of grain produced, and the gross value of the agricultural industry (i.e. that of the entire crop-farming industry, including cash crops, and those of forestry, husbandry, and fishery) in China during the Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Referring to these data, the paper also discusses Qing dynasty agriculture in the context of the history of traditional Chinese agriculture and the effects of Qing dynasty agriculture on social changes in modern China, among other issues.

XIE Jiegang. "The Emergence of Geoscience in China and the Founding of the Geoscience Society (1909–1911)." Originally published in the *Journal of Sun Yat-sen University (Social Science Edition)* 中山大学学报 (社会科学版), no. 4 (2016): 73–82.

Between 1909 and 1911, with introduction of geoscience to China, the Geoscience Society of China proclaimed its ambition to bring Chinese geographical science to the frontier of the field. This effort required members of the Geoscience Society to conduct investigations in order to build a solid foundation for further academic activities. Many people believed that Chinese scholars had to borrow theories and discoveries from foreign countries and to apply them to answer Chinese questions. However, members of the Society, influenced by traditional Chinese learning, attempted to combine Western theories with Chinese ones in constructing the new knowledge of Chinese geoscience. Because of various difficulties in the field and other factors, geoscience development in China did not achieve the results the Society expected.

ZHANG Wei. "*Water Margin* Was Written during the Early Ming: A Conclusion Based on the Descriptions of Clothing Colors in the Novel." Originally published in the *Journal of Chinese Humanities* 文史哲, no. 6 (2016): 156–61.

The exact time of *Water Margin*'s completion is uncertain. But answering this question is crucial to the study of the history of Chinese literature. In recent years, many scholars have discussed this issue but have yet to resolve the disagreement. However, the novel's author left some marks in his writing, which could become keys to answering this question. In the novel, the colors of characters' clothing are meticulously described. According to these details, as well as those of ancient Chinese societal customs, the novel was most likely completed during the period of Hongwu or Yongle reigns in the early Ming.