

CHINESE HISTORY V: LOCAL HISTORY

Introduction

There are a variety of sources for research in local history: epigraphic sources, genealogies, traveler journals, route books, and so forth. But the largest source and in many ways richest sources for local historical studies are gazetteers. "Gazetteers" is the awkward term that the field has chosen to give *ti-fang chih* 地方志: local histories. *Ti-fang chih* refers to a variety of works that record, often in form very similar to standard histories, historical, geographical, and cultural information about a limited portion of China: a district, city, county, province, or region. This genre of history writing reached a peak during the Ch'ing, at which time the sponsorship of large local histories, frequently edited by semi-celebrity scholars from outside the region, was an act of civic pride on the part of groups of local gentry (who could count on their families being prominently celebrated in the ultimate work). *Ti-fang chih*, while reflecting a wide range of problems concerning cultural stereotyping, the bias of boosterism, and the sometimes perfunctory research of editors, are a very large and important corpus for the study of Late Imperial history. Gazetteers always provide a wealth of local information that could not be crowded into Imperially sponsored histories, and often bring us a level or two closer to the lives of common people, or at least those towards the bottom of the elite class.

This brief coursepack section includes the following sections:

- I. Some monographs reflecting the influence of *ti-fang chih*
- II. Finding gazetteers
- III. Indexes of people appearing in gazetteers
- IV. Annotated Bibliographies of Gazetteers
- V. A gazetteer dictionary
- VI. Sample table of contents for a traditional gazetteer
- Addendum: Collections and recent reference works on "border" regions and peoples

Wilkinson 2000 includes a very good introduction to the topic of gazetteers, and a significantly wider bibliography than this section, including works not available at IU (pp. 154-162).

This section does not include a bibliography of gazetteers available in the IU collection; many *ti-fang chih* held here were published in large *ts'ung-shu* reprint runs. On the Stacks shelves, *ti-fang chih* are generally located within the call number range of DS 793-796, sorted according to geographical localities, with other types of volumes related to local history interspersed. Within this range, two large *ts'ung-shu* sets of several hundred volumes each represent the greater part of IU's holdings of *ti-fang chih*. They are:

Hsin-hsiu fang-chih ts'ung-shu 新修方志叢刊 (Taipei: Hsueh-sheng shu-chü, various dates)

Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih chi-ch'eng 中國地方志集成 (Shanghai: Chiang-hsi ku-chi ch'u-pan-she & Shang-hai shu-tien; Ch'eng-tu: Pa-Shu shu-she, various dates)

The former are identifiable by their pink and black binding; the latter are large-format collections with bindings color coded for different regions. An extensive collection of Ming Dynasty gazetteers is located elsewhere:

T'ien-yi-ko ts'ang Ming-tai fang-chih hsuan-k'an 天一閣藏明代方志選刊 20 vols. (Shanghai: Shang-hai shu-tien, 1984) [O.C. DS 737 .T556 1984]; ~ *hsu-pien* 續編 72 vols. [~ .T557 1990]; ~ *jen-wu tzu-liao jen-ming so-yin* 人物資料人名索引 2 vols. (1997) [O.R. DS 737 .T54 1981]

Smaller sets and individual gazetteers may be found both within and occasionally outside of this local history call number range. For example:

Ming-tai ku-pen fang-chih hsuan 明代孤本方志選, 12 vols. (Beijing: Hsien-chuang shu-chü, 2001) [O.C. DS 737 .M43 2000]

Ch'ing-tai ku-pen fang-chih hsuan 清代孤本方志選; Series 1, 30 vols.; Series 2, 30 vols. (Beijing: Hsien-chuang shu-chü, 2001) [O.C. DS 737 .Q564 2001]

I. Some monographs reflecting the influence of *ti-fang chih*

Many works on Ming and Ch'ing history make extensive use of *ti-fang chih*; research in gazetteers is routine and indispensable for historians of these eras. But gazetteers also have great potential for those in cultural and literary studies, where they have been less generally employed. Several English language studies, interesting and accessible to non-historians, are helpful in understanding the utility of gazetteers. None of the works in the following list is actually a study of gazetteers, but all are very readable and each in its own way may stimulate an interest in the gazetteer sources on which it is partially based. For

David S. Nivison, *The Life and Thought of Chang Hsueh-ch'eng* (Stanford: 1966)

Chang Hsueh-ch'eng was a brilliant and eccentric historian who became known for his celebration of the genre of the *ti-fang chih*; he himself was the editor of several. Nivison's study is helpful in understanding the role of local history during Late Imperial times.

Jacques Gernet, *Daily Life in China On the Eve of the Mongol Invasion*, H.M. Wright, tr. (Stanford: 1962)

The research for Gernet's well known book about late Sung society is substantially derived from what may be called proto-*ti-fang chih*: Sung compilations concerning major urban areas such as Kai-feng and Hang-chou. Reading Gernet's book with attention to the sources, as reflected in the notes (starting with the general source note on p. 51), can alert you to the possibilities for interesting research that gazetteers present.

Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang* (New York: 1978; Penguin ed., 1979)

If you have read Spence's sinological best-seller before, return to it and note, by reading the Preface, how Spence pursued his research. As you will see, a local gazetteer was one of his three main sources in composing this book about a virtually forgotten county of Shantung.

Kung-chuan Hsiao, *Rural China: Imperial Control in the Nineteenth Century* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1960)

This wonderfully detailed study of village and town society in the late Ch'ing draws heavily on *ti-fang chih*, and illustrates their research potential in a variety of ways.

For a brief scholarly introduction to gazetteers, see D. D. Leslie, "Local Gazetteers," in Leslie, Colin Mackerras, Wang Gungwu, eds., *Essays on the Sources for Chinese History*, 71-74.

II. Finding gazetteers

The IU Library O.C. collection has a substantial number of gazetteers, principally in the format of large reprint *ts'ung-shu*. However, gazetteers were never published in large runs and many have not survived, or survive in only one or two as yet unreprinted copies. There are hundreds of significant gazetteers not available at IU. Many of these can be found only in libraries in China. Thus those undertaking research in gazetteers are particularly dependent on bibliographies, indexes, and union lists that can steer them to extant copies of hard-to-find *ti-fang chih*.

Catalogues and Union Lists

A. For collections in the PRC

Chu Shih-chia 朱士嘉 *Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih tsung-lu* 中國地方志綜錄
[O.R. Z 3107 .A2 C45 1935; *Tseng-ting* ed. (1958) O.C. Z 3107 .A2 C5] (TB 53)

[What follows is a description of the 1935 edition, which is housed, in a poorly Xeroxed version, on the Reference Shelves. The superior 1958 edition was not available.] This is a union list noting the location of 5832 works (7413 in enlarged 1958 ed.) in major collections in China, Japan, and the U.S. The major portion of the work is composed of a running table, organized by geography, that lists for each work its title, *chüan* total, editor name, date, and editions. There follows a grid indicating its availability in 23 collections. There is also a section for additional comments. Among the many tables in the back of the text are lists showing the number of gazetteers from various areas dynasty by dynasty (a slash mark divides totals for number of works and total *chüan*). There is a four-corner index at the back.

Tan Ch'i-hsiang 譚其驥, *Kuo-li Pei-p'ing t'u-shu-kuan fang-chih mu-lu* 國立北平圖書館方志目錄 [O.R. Z 3107 .A2 P28 1968] (TB 54)

This is a four volume catalogue, produced in 1933-36, of the holdings of the Peiping

National Library at that time. A supplementary volume five (the Erh-pien) lists gazetteers acquired during the period of compilation. Our edition is the fuzzy Hong Kong reprint. Stroke order indexes appear at the backs of volumes 4 and 5.

Chu Shih-chia 朱士嘉, *Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih lien-ho mu-lu* 中國地方志聯合目錄 (Beijing: Chung-hua, 1985) [O.R. Z 3106 .C5927 1985]

This appears to be the most complete union list for gazetteers in the PRC. It also indexes component source materials for gazetteers, such as household registers, etc. Each entry lists the title, followed by *chüan* totals, editors, editions, and then a list of PRC collections holding the work. 190 collections are surveyed (noted by two-character abbreviations; a conversion table appears in the front matter); asterisks indicate works that are on loan to Taiwan. There is a four-corner index in back, and a stroke order sub-index.

B. For collections in Japan

Chūgoku chihōshi sōgō mokuroku 中國地方志總合目錄 (Tokyo: 1969) [O.R. Z 3107 .A2 K7] (TB 55)

This is a union catalogue of about 2900 gazetteers in fourteen major Japanese collections. There is a *kana* index, and a sub-index to characters by Wade-Giles.

C. For collections in Taiwan

Tai-wan kung-ts'ang fang-chih lien-ho mu-lu 臺灣公藏方志聯合目錄 (Taipei: 1960, 1981) [O.R. Z 3106 .T34 1981] (TB 55)

An indexed union catalogue for about 1800 gazetteers housed in 11 libraries in Taiwan.

D. For collections in the U.S.

Chu Shih-chia 朱士嘉, *Kuo-hui t'u-shu-kuan ts'ang Chung-kuo fang-chih mu-lu* 國會圖書館中國方志目錄 [O.R. Z 3107 .A2 U57] (TB 55)

This is a list of the nearly 3000 gazetteers held by the U.S. Library of Congress (as of 1942).

-- There are also a number of catalogues to local histories in individual collections in Japan and the U.S. housed on the O.R. shelves, under Z 3107.

III. Annotated Bibliographies of Gazetteers

Chang Kuo-kan 張國淦, *Chung-kuo ku fang-chih k'ao* 中國古方志考 [O.R./O.C. Z 3107 .A2 C4 1962] (T&B 53)

An annotated bibliography covering local histories from the Chin through the Yuan (pre-Sung gazetteers are not extant). Fully punctuated, detailed annotations, including annotations from lost works concerning which titles and other information is recorded. Arranged by geographical divisions. Stroke index to titles at back of book gives author name and gazetteer type for each work.

Chin En-hui 金恩輝 and Hu Shu-chao 胡述兆, *Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih tsung-mu t'i-yao* 中國地方志總目提要, 3 vols. (Taipei: Sino-American Publishing Co., 1996) [O.R. DS 705 .C537 1996]

A total of 8,557 titles are indexed, all predating 1949. For a sequel covering the following fifty years, see below.

For Sung gazetteers:

Most extant Sung gazetteers are accorded detailed entries in Yves Hervouet, ed., *A Sung Bibliography*, Section H (Geography), especially, pp. 131-149.

For Ming gazetteers:

See Section 8 of Wolfgang Franke, *An Introduction to the Sources of Ming History* (pp. 233-309). Franke includes detailed entries for provincial level histories, and a complete list of extant Ming local gazetteers.

For Modern gazetteers:

Chin En-hui 金恩輝 and Hu Shu-chao 胡述兆, *Chung-kuo ti-fang-chih tsung-mu t'i-yao* 中國地方志總目提要 1949-1999 (New York, Taipei, and Los Angeles: Sino-American Publishing Co., 2002) [O.R. DS 737 .Z556 2002]

A detailed annotated bibliography of 3402 items, restricted gazetteers for provincial, city, county, and centrally administered districts. These are arranged by twenty-eight geographic region with a stroke-order index to approximately 34,000 editions. Simplified characters are used only for place names.

IV. Indexes of people appearing in gazetteers

Chu Shih-chia 朱士嘉, *Sung-Yuan fang-chih chuan-chi so-yin* 宋元方志傳記索引 [O.C. DS 754 .C515; DS 751.5 .C475 1986]

This is an index of personal names mentioned in major gazetteers from the Sung and Ming periods. [I am unclear why there seem to be two editions of this index shelved separately; only the 1986 edition was available for review here.]

Yamane Yukio 根幸夫, *Nihon genzon Mindai chi hōshi denki sakuin kō* 日本現存明代地方志傳記索引稿 (Tokyo: 1964) [O.J. Z 3106 .Y19]

-- Note that this index covers only those Ming works extant in Japanese collections.

V. A gazetteer dictionary

Chung-kuo fang-chih ta tz'u-tien 中國方志大辭典
[O.R. Z 3106 .C568 1988]

This unusual dictionary arranges detailed glosses for materials related to gazetteers in the following sections:

- General Terminology (gazetteer types; administrative units; section titles; critical terminology)
- Gazetteer Titles (by province; includes an appended annotated bibliography of modern catalogues, monographic studies, etc.)
- Individual Names (arranged by dynastic period)
- Compilation Bureaus & Modern Research Units
- Other

There is a stroke index at the back of the book.

VI. Sample table of contents for a traditional gazetteer

(Taken from: [Fukien] *P'u-t'ien-hsien chih* [福建] 莆田縣志, ed., Liao Pi-ch'i 廖必琦 et al. 1879 ed.)

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|----------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. <i>Fan-li</i> | 凡例 | (Principles of compilation) |
| 2. <i>Yü-ti chih</i> | 輿地志 | (Territorial divisions; maps) |
| 3. <i>Chien-chih chih</i> | 建置志 | (Public construction) |
| 4. <i>Fu-yi chih</i> | 賦役志 | (Fiscal matters; revenue and labor service) |
| 5. <i>Hsueh-hsiao chih</i> | 學校志 | (Schools; education) |
| 6. <i>Chih-kuan chih</i> | 職官志 | (Register of officials) |
| 7. <i>Chih-li chih</i> | 秩禮志 | (Rites and ceremonies) |
| 8. <i>Jung-pei chih</i> | 戎備志 | (Military establishment) |
| 9. <i>Hsuan-chü chih</i> | 選舉志 | (Successful examinees) |
| 10. <i>Jen-wu chih</i> | 人物志 | (Biographies of notables) |
| 11. <i>Yi-wen chih</i> | 藝文志 | (Local literature; bibliographies, excerpts) |
| 12. <i>Hsiang-yi chih</i> | 祥異志 | (Auspicious and exotic events; disasters) |
| 13. <i>Tsa-shih chih</i> | 雜事志 | (Miscellaneous matters) |

Addendum: Collections and recent reference works on “border” regions and peoples

Ssu-ch'ou chih lu ta tz'u-dien 絲綢之路大辭典 (Hsi-an: Shan-hsi jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 2006)
[O.C. DS 327.5 .S552 2006]

Meng-ku-hsueh pai-k'o ch'üan-shu: Wen-wu k'ao-ku 蒙古學百科全書: 文物考古
(Hu-ho-hao-t'e-shih: Nei-Meng-ku jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 2004) [O.C. DS 19 .M457 2004]

Manchu Studies: An International Bibliography, 4 vols. (Wiesbaden: Kommissionsverlag Otto Harrassowitz, 1990-2003) [O.R. Z 3108 .E74 S72 1990]

Catalogue of Chinese Publications in Tibetan Studies (1949-91) (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1994) [O.R. Z 3107 .T5 C48 1994]

Wu Yen-shao 吳燕紹, ed., *Ch'ing-tai Meng, Tsang, Hui pu-tien hui* 清代蒙藏回部典彙, 75 vols.
(Beijing: Chung-hua shu-chü, 2005)

This collection of photocopied memorials, etc., is organized chronologically through the T'ung-chih 統治 period (1862-74), but with coverage falling off dramatically after the Chia-ch'ing 家慶 era (1737-96).

Chung-kuo pien-chiang ts'ung-shu 中國邊疆叢書, 58 vols. (Taipei: Wen-hai ch'u-pan-she, 1965)
[O.C. DS 737 .C72]