

THE TOYO GAKUHO

Vol.97, No.2 - September 2015

(THE JOURNAL OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
OF THE TOYO BUNKO)

The Origins of Urban Districting in Qing China:
The Case of Bushu 捕屬 and Bushuren 捕屬人 in Guangzhou

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By taking up the case of Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong, this article examines the formation of urban administrative districts out of the jurisdictions administered by county (*xian* 縣) level officials stationed in urban areas, in order to clarify one aspect of urban administration during the Qing period.

It was the dramatic population explosion and high social mobility that occurred during the mid-Qing period that forced the government to begin administering its cities separately from its rural areas. In order to deal with varying local situations, the government had to make adjustments to particular administrative systems. For example, in Guangzhou, *xian*-level officials, such as police chief (*dianshi* 典史) and assistant magistrate (*xiancheng* 縣丞), were extensively involved in urban administrative affairs, but were primarily responsible for the districts under their jurisdiction. Beginning in the 19th century, the district under the jurisdiction of *dianshi* was clearly delineated as Bushu 捕屬, causing urban Guangzhou to be gradually governed in a separate manner from its surrounding rural areas.

As a spatial division, the Bushu was first created out of the government's concerns about law and order. With increasing in-migration to the city, the Bushu was put in charge of collecting land taxes and registering the households of new arrivals. During the late Qing period, it was even turned into an administrative unit and became involved in public works projects.

This kind of process was also closely related to delineation of jurisdictional divisions in rural areas peripheral to Guangzhou, such as the *xian*-level police

departments (*xunjiansi* 巡檢司) and occurred against the backdrop of interaction between a large number of bureaucratic appointees and lineage organization on the Pearl River Delta.

That is to say, in the Delta region where lineage organization was in one way or another organized under the *tujia* 圖甲 household taxation system, the perception that it was the *xunjiansi* that were determining household districting in the *xian* both fostered and expanded the continuation of lineage organization.

Corresponding to such developments in the *xunjiansi* districts was the similar development of Bushu districts in the cities.

Salt Administration Reforms in Yunnan during the Early Years of the Republic of China

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This article highlights the significance of salt administration reforms during modern China's Beiyang government era, taking up the case of Yunnan province.

From the last years of the Qing dynasty on, foreign salt imports began to infiltrate Chinese ports, and the Western Powers demanded that a tax be imposed on salt to fund the debt owed from the reconstruction loans (*shanhou jiekuan* 善後借款) they had provided. The salt administration reforms faction led by Zhang Jian 張謇 called for an open market for salt and uniform taxation of all salt extraction facilities, upon the premise that the formerly decentralized salt industry (extractors and refiners) be restructured and concentrated. As a matter of fact, the members of this faction were in the process of setting up a state-funded salt refining enterprise.

In Yunnan, the uniform taxation of salt extraction and free markets had already been implemented under the Qing dynasty, although the latter had to be curtailed in the wake of Muslim insurrections of the mid-19th century. Moreover, salt manufacturers dominated the industry due to poor transportation infrastructure impeding salt merchants.

The fact that extraction involved mining via salt wells made it easier to control salt smuggling; however, since the refining infrastructure was funded