

Foreword

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As part of our research endeavors on Inter-Asia, in 2003 we at Toyo Bunko established the Contemporary China Research Team. To date, the team has carried out a wide range of activities which probe the movements that underlie China's transformation to a global power from political, economic, international and cultural perspectives amongst others. It is our hope that this symposium will serve as a platform to demonstrate to our colleagues from around the globe the fruits of the team's efforts thus far, and also constitute the first in many steps in achieving our ultimate aim of attaining new heights in scholarship on contemporary China.

Whilst varying in scale, in recent years we have seen a rapid increase in the availability of archival materials relating to contemporary China. This phenomenon is happening on a global scale and is by no means limited to China. In light of this, we have invited a number of individuals who work on the cutting-edge of scholarship on contemporary China from both Japan and abroad to help us survey the current and future state of research on contemporary China. In addition to our keynote presentations and special lecture, our guests will deliver presentations and engage in debate across three sessions: "International Relations and Archives in Postwar East Asia"; "The General Public, Groups and the State"; and "The Inside and Outside of China as Viewed from Archival Materials". Their presentations will shed light on a variety of archival materials, including information on their present condition, the way in which they have been organized, and to what extent have been made available to the public. We will also hear about their employment in cutting-edge research.

A number of reasons lie behind the choice of the title "Inside and Outside the Archives" for this symposium. Firstly, we wanted to draw attention to the various contrasts that exist between the following: archival materials and non-archival materials; Chinese and non-Chinese language materials; research on China proper and research on China's "outside" and "periphery"; written materials and non-written materials; and documental research and field-based research. Secondly, we wanted to question the relationship between tangible historical materials (such as archival materials and official documents) and non-tangible historical materials (such as memories and images). Finally, through a careful examination of archival materials that have accumulated across different countries and regions, we wanted to attempt a regional comparison to help us uncover new sets of contemporaneous issues in the field of Contemporary Chinese Studies.

Keynote Presentations: *Archives, Records and Recollections*

Non-Governmental Historical Records and the Turn towards the Humanities in Contemporary Chinese Studies, as Seen from the Collection at the Center for Documents and Historical Materials on Contemporary China, East China Normal University

ZHANG Jishun (East China Normal University)

In the rapidly expanding field of Contemporary Chinese Studies, the value and potential of non-governmental historical records is becoming increasingly clear. There is already a large contingent of universities, research organizations and scholars who are investing energy into collating, developing and organizing non-governmental records. East China Normal University's *Center for Documents and Historical Materials on Contemporary*

China, in particular, is representative of this new trend.

The Center was established in October 2014. Rather than being built from scratch, the Center's collection builds upon the collections of the university's Contemporary Chinese History Center and Cold War International History Center, whose collections were many years in the making. The scale and extent of non-governmental records and international Cold War-era documents housed by these respective collections were already noteworthy in themselves.

In its present state, the Center houses approximately 5,400 volumes of non-governmental records which span more than 1.5 million pages. Of these, approximately 100,000 have been catalogued and databased.

Under the title of *The Non-Governmental Historical Record Collection of Contemporary China*, eleven sets of records have been published across seventeen volumes since 2009, and two new sets are about to go on sale. All collections have been compiled by staff at the Center, and are published by the Orient Publishing Center.

Excluding those specialist compilations of historical documents which have already been published, the Center's large and extensive collection also contains a large number of distinctive, relatively systematized specialist documents which have already been organized and are gradually being made available for use. These specialist materials have been classified into the following five categories: grassroots units and rural archives; archives relating to political movements during Mao Zedong's period of leadership; public security system materials; internal materials; and personal documents.

The development, organization and utilization of non-governmental materials has led to an increase in the number of studies on contemporary Chinese history which fall under the umbrella of the humanities.

According to the definition of 'archives' in the *People's Republic of China Archives Law*, non-governmental records are also worthy of inclusion within archival collections. However, the defining factor that makes non-governmental records different from governmental records in the usual sense is that they offer us a panoramic view into the lower echelons of Chinese society. Be it actual content, or methods of expression, these materials offer us insight into areas that governmental materials cannot.

One characteristic of non-governmental records is that they offer us insight into both the 'internal' and the 'external'. This is particularly conspicuous in those archival materials which concern grassroots units. From these archival materials, which offer insight into the lives of the 'nobodies', we can decipher the workings of the political system at the lowest levels of society.

Amongst the non-governmental records stored at the Center, private collections of work memoirs, journals and letters have particularly caught people's attention. The owners of these 'one-person histories', who have preserved them with the utmost care, come from a variety of backgrounds. Owners range from senior cadres in the Chinese Communist Party to low-ranking officials and average citizens.

The Center's rich collection of privately-owned historical materials has provided us with another route for deciphering contemporary Chinese history: homing in on historical 'truths' from the big, through to the small that concern either micro-society or specific individuals, including those 'truths' which are personal and those which give us a sense of what it was like to be in a certain place at a certain time. Only when history's tectonic shifts



are interpreted in terms of the life stories of individuals, and new insight into the tumultuous and diverse aspects of people's lives within micro-society is achieved, can this form of macro-history, which is by no means limited to being an interpretive framework for contemporary Chinese history, flourish and demonstrate its novel value and significance.

Journals and the History of Modern China: A Case Study of Chiang Kai-Shek Diaries

LU Fang-shang (Academia Sinica/Former Director, Academia Historica)

In recent years, the publication and utilization of private diaries as source material for the purposes of historical research has become common practice within the field of modern Chinese history. One of the most notable instances of this is Chiang Kai-shek Diaries (1917–1972), which has also served as a catalyst for new trends in research on the history of republican China.

There are several points which are worth bearing in mind when utilizing Chiang Kai-shek Diaries as a source for conducting research on modern history.

Firstly, while it goes without saying, journals are of particular use in helping us to understand and clarify certain historical details. For example, from the journals of Chen Cheng and Chen Kai-wen, one is able to notice that the conduct of K'ung Hsiang-hsi's family during World War II was far from faultless. Similar criticisms also feature in Chiang Kai-shek Diaries. Another concrete example is when the Chens attribute the R.O.C. soldiers' involvement in commercial activities as one reason for their poor discipline. Chiang Kai-shek, too, warned that soldiers must not get involved in commercial activities, time and time again, for this precise reason.

When discussing the critical situation faced by the Nationalist Government during 1948 and 1949, by conducting a comparison of Hu Tsung-nan's journal with that of Chiang's, one is able to uncover certain discrepancies between opinions about the issue of safeguarding Chongqing, Chengdu and Xichang. Chiang took a stance which was both dignified and very particular to him, and very few individuals were able to remonstrate with him directly. However, Yang Yung-t'ai, Chang Chih-chung and Hsiung Shih-hui were three individuals who were able to do this. In Hsiung Shih-hui's *Haisangji*, which uses his personal journal as its primary source, he points out that Chiang's downfall was his propensity to "allow two people to wield the authority of one", "use people to pin down the enemy" and "to command whilst overstepping one's authority". If we look at Chiang's journal, we can infer that, taken together, these shortcomings could well have been one of the key reasons which led to Chiang's defeat in and around 1949 when he was beleaguered by threats from both inside and outside.

Secondly, when examined closely over an extended period of time, journals can aid our understanding of certain phenomena. Chiang Kai-shek Diaries spans a period of fifty-five years, and by reading it, you discover that his determined and uncompromising personality emerges clearly in his writing. If you compare his journal with the journals of Shen Qi and Lei Chen, his stubborn personality becomes ever more evident. For example, one can observe that in the Wu Kuo-chen Incident, Wang Shi-chieh Incident, Sun Li-jen Incident and Lei Chen Incident, Chiang "took on important roles by himself", detested "relying on others to insult one's superiors", refused to accept American interference and detested being tarred with the same brush as liberals such as Hu Shih. If one

