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The Rise of the Hakka in Hsinchu:  
A New Phase of Taiwan Tea Industry in the 1920s

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The present article focuses on the process by which in Japanese colonial Taiwan, locally grown tea was transformed into a commodity traded worldwide, examining the role played by Taiwanese tea growers in that process beginning in the 1920s and the important turning point marked by the transition of the center of the tea industry from the Minnan 閩南 people of Taipei 臺北 to the Hakka 客家 people of Hsinchu 新竹.

From the beginning of the colonial administration of the Government-General of Taiwan, policy had been directed at promoting and expanding the export of Taiwanese tea, emphasizing the necessity of mass-producing high grade, standard quality leaves, in particular, giving priority to the clarification of varieties in tea plants. At the time, Taiwanese tea manufacture was a completely specialized process with local tea growers constantly and exclusively in contact with their tea plantations on a daily basis from the beginning of tea making in Taiwan. Such intimacy led the growers to recognize same looking but differences in plant type and the particular characteristics of each type, a discovery that would be closely linked to improvements in the quality of Taiwanese tea.

That being said, Taiwan's tea growers were of two separate ethnic groups, the Minnan people who migrated from the mainland's Fujian Province and the Hakka people who came from Guangdong Province, each of which pursued its own methods of growing and manufacture. While the Minnan people, who settled in Taipei, were the leading force in the development of the industry by virtue of the large scale tea market in the flourishing port of Twa-

tutia 大稻埕, the Hakka of Hsinchu were less influential, unable to speak the Minnan dialect and content to produce unrefined tea on their own up in the mountains.

It was such isolation and intimacy from which the Hakka growers discovered the Qinxin Dapan 青心大有 strain, which they continued to grow contrary to colonial policy. Thanks to this strain, their industry expanded to the extent of comprising two-thirds of Taiwanese unrefined tea production, and giving birth to the highest quality Oolong tea 凸風茶. It was in this way that during the 1920s the Hakka growers of Hsinchu surpassed their Minnan counterparts in terms of both tea production quantity and quality to become the center of the Taiwanese tea industry.

#### Late Ming Period Commercial Corvee Reform and the Actual Conditions of Beijing's *Yahang* Brokers

QIAN Sheng

From the beginning of the Ming Period, both Beijing and its surrounding regions continued to experience a mass influx of population, resulting by the end of the Period in the formation of a consumption sector demanding huge amounts of commodities, together with a significant increase in the number of brokers (*yahang* 牙行) linking outside suppliers with local retailers, to the extent of rivaling their counterparts in the prosperous regions of Jiangnan in terms of the amount of business taxes they paid. At the same time, due to the heavy corvee (*maiban* 買辦) levied for the provision of materiel to the government, the merchant class represented by the commercial guilds (*puhu* 鋪戶) fell into decline, bringing about a drastic transformation in Beijing's overall commercial structure, as the research to date has already pointed out.

Such a state of affairs therefore demands a reconsideration of the conventional image of the *yahang* of Beijing (and northern China in general), in terms of their quantitative expansion, business organization and growing commercial function; that is to say, transcending the perception of them as mere middlemen active in only the marketplaces designated by local authorities. Accordingly, the present article attempts to clarify in concrete terms the ex-

pansion of the commercial activities of the *yahang* in keeping pace with the transformation of the commercial structure occurring during the last years of the Ming Dynasty.

From his examination, the author concludes that in the *qianshang* (僉商; compulsory business for merchants) form of the *maiban* corvee, the commercial guilds in charge of remittance merely paid the cost of the corvee, while the *yahang* were responsible for collecting the actual materiel and determining its value. Through the reforms implemented during the Chongzhen 崇禎 Era (1628–44), in addition to becoming nominally responsible for *maiban*, the *yahang* also took over the provision of funds for the corvee in place of the guilds. The background to such a development probably lay in the fact that as the expansion of *maiban* operations stimulated commerce in general, the involvement of the *yahang* in those operations helped them further develop commercial organization and gain more economic power and influence. The assumption of responsibility for *maiban* and operations for collecting the necessary materiel by the *yahang* of Beijing indicates their institutional and economic development compared to their counterparts in other regions of northern China, who remained mere middlemen in designated marketplaces.

Literary Activities in Shanghai under Japanese Occupation: An Analysis of the “Zhonghua Fukan” Feature in *Zhonghua Ribao*, 1942–1945

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This article examines a literary column (“Zhonghua Fukan” 中華副刊), featured in the Wang Jingwei regime’s official newspaper, *Zhonghua Ribao* 中華日報, in an attempt to discover the kinds of literary activity conducted by intellectuals involved with that regime, as well as to provide an overall picture of the Shanghai literary scene under Japanese occupation.

Although a great deal of research already exists on the subject utilizing the literary periodicals of the time, special features in newspapers dealing with topics of literature and everyday life, which also provided a stage for the development of versatile literary activities, have been left virtually unstudied. In an attempt to fill this gap, the author of the present article focuses on how lit-

erary activities were covered in newspaper columns, particularly “Zhonghua Fukan,” heretofore not taken up in the literary research, but rather generally viewed merely as a platform for the promotion of Wang’s Peace Movement.

Moreover, the fact that the column appeared in the Wang regime’s official newspaper is another reason why it has not received the attention it deserves from scholars of modern Chinese history, a choice stemming from a superficial understanding of the feature’s character. To the contrary, by looking at “Zhonghua Fukan’s” more distinctive pieces and analyzing their literary direction and character, the author attempts to show how intellectuals close to Wang’s regime carved a niche for themselves within the Shanghai literary scene, as well as to depict the overall nature of the newspaper, which those same intellectuals edited and published, and its literary column, in particular.