

Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies

Final Report

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中國古代的宴會：從文獻、法律與考古學

For five-months grant period, I was able to conduct research for two chapters of my ongoing book project, entitled “Feasting of Early China through Texts, Law, and Archaeology” using library resources including digital archives and museums to complete the drafts. In order for a chapter on “Law for Macro Feasts: Food Bestowals for All”, I have examined two different types of ancient feasts, the yan 宴 feast and the pu 酺 feast by analyzing Han legal codes on food bestowals. Using library books and the databases for dissertations, articles, and images, I have analyzed the “Statutes on Bestowals (*ci lü*)” from the Zhangjia shan *Ernian lüling*, and the “Statutes on Granaries (*cang lü*)” from Shuihudi. The easy accessibility to library resources and abundant materials relating to my research helped me to finally complete this chapter that I have worked for many years. In this chapter, I argue that the pu feasts, or puyan 酺宴, had already been established as a form of imperial policy during the Han period, as it is written that a pu was “bestowed” (*cipu* 賜酺) by the emperor when he celebrated an imperial event like the beginning of a new era, enthronements, weddings, the emperors’ or heirs’ coming-of-age, births, the completion of palaces, and so on. Also, I suggest that the practice of imperial food distribution as celebration be included into the definition of feasting under the concept of the “macro-feast”, and will discuss how macro-feasting was implemented for both symbolic and practical purposes in early Imperial China. Part of this research was introduced and explained during my presentation at the Center for Chinese Studies (漢學中心寰宇漢學講座) on August 31, 2022. (See the abstract of the presentation below.)

中國古代的宴會：透過文獻、法律與文物的考察

對於宴會的社會政治功能，跨文化理論從三個範疇解釋了宴會的作用：競爭、等級制和再分配。這些理論模型也可以藉由考察古代文獻、法律和文物，應用於解釋中國古代宴會。本研究以張家山 247 號漢墓的《賜律》，睡虎地秦簡的《倉律》以及里耶秦簡行政文書為例，分析宴會的三種主要作用和“macro-feast”的概念。這些法律和行政文書件證明，作為食糧政策一環的宴會受到法律的嚴格控制和管理，不僅象徵性地展示了社會等級，而且還提高了一般平民至刑徒階層的經濟和飲食條件。在這場簡報中我還會將簡要介紹我正在進行的關於正確測量容器容量方法的研究，以呼籲建立標準化測量方法和數據庫對於未來中國古代宴會和飲食文化研究的重要性。

I also have completed a paper: “The Capacity of Ancient Vessels: Inscriptions on the Objects and the Records in the Catalogues.” This paper examines the antique catalogues of the Song period, such as *The Kao gu tu* 考古圖 (*Illustrated Catalogue of Examined Antiquity*), the earliest illustrated catalogues published by Lü Dalin 呂大臨 (1044–1093) in 1092, and *Chongxiu Xuanhe Bogu tulu* 重修宣和博古圖錄 (*Revised Xuanhe Illustrated Catalogue of Profoundly Learned Antiquity*, also known as *Bo gu tu* 博古圖), the catalogue of more than 800 bronzes of the collection of the Emperor Huizong (1082–1135). In order to trace changes in the ancient Chinese recognition of the function of vessels, and how the vessels for feasting have lost their functions and use-context over time, the Song catalogues are compared to the 18th-century catalogs of the Qing imperial treasures, such as *Xiqing Gujian* (西清古鑑 *Illustrated catalogue of the Xiqing Antiquities*), *Xiqing Xujian Jiabian* (西清續鑑甲編 *First supplement to illustrated catalogue of the Xiqing Antiquities*), and *Xiqing Xujian Yibian* (西清續鑑乙編 *Second Supplement to Illustrated Catalogue of the Xiqing Antiquities*). This research reveals that modern museum systems have ignored the capacity of bronze vessels since the original functions of containers have been lost and the new functions with aesthetic value have been emphasized. In addition, the inscriptions on a Han bronze ladle and lacquerware from Mawangdui sites are examined in order to discuss ancient volume measuring method and the recognition of vessels’ capacities during the Han period. For this research, I used many references and digital images of rare books not only from the National Central Library, but also from the Institute of History and Philology of Academia Sinica. I was able to fully utilize all the resources that I can access through the Central Library and IHP. Also, I initiate collaborations with scholars and researchers in IHP to discuss my research progress, and get suggestions to develop and revise this paper as well as my future project. This paper manuscript is submitted to *Ars Orientalis* for the peer review expecting to be published in 2023.