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From the Editor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The editor is delighted to announce that in the fall of 1992 the *Gest Library Journal* will issue a special, enlarged issue entitled "Women in East Asia: Materials and Research Problems." This issue (volume five, number two) will concentrate on the problems scholars encounter in locating materials and dealing with their evaluation and interpretation when conducting research on women in East Asian societies. We expect to include a variety of articles, ranging from brief research notes to fuller studies written by specialists on as many of the East Asian civilizations as we are able to recruit.

The focus of these articles will be on the problems encountered in doing library research. But they will all in some measure reflect the place of women in East Asian societies and the nature of such social problems as marriage, relations between men and women, chastity and female celibacy, women's place in the family, and career patterns. We also anticipate articles on women writers and their published or unpublished writings, with assessments of the value of such works for research; the "women's voice" in poetry and other kinds of writings, whether written by women or by men in conventionalized "female voice" modes; female roles in traditional or modern drama; extraordinary women; and the like.

The editor is looking forward to the publication of this special issue.

NEWS OF THE FIELD

The editor received from a group of five scholars at the Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Peking, an announcement of the publication of the Hui-chou documents. The following short article, written by these scholars (for their names, see below), has been translated and edited by the staff of the *Gest Journal*.

The Hui-chou Documents and "Hui Learning"

In southern Anhwei Province, China, stands a beautiful mountain range, the Huang-shan Mountains. Located at the foot of these

mountains, extending from the northeast to the southwest in the shape of a fan, are six counties: Chi-hsi, She-hsien, Hsiu-ning, I-hsien, Ch'i-men, and Wu-yüan. The first five are within the jurisdiction of the modern Anhwei Province and the last, of Kiangsi Province. During Ming and Ch'ing times, these six counties all belonged to the Hui-chou Prefecture of Anhwei. People used to refer to them as the "six counties in the same prefecture," an administrative entity that existed for more than five centuries.

A place of green mountains and clear rivers, Hui-chou Prefecture was also the home of many famed Chinese literary figures. People often described it as "the home for Confucius and Mencius in the southeast," comparing it to the ancient states of Tsou and Lu in Shantung, where Confucian learning then flourished. Today Hui-chou is known for its rich historical and cultural relics. Hui-chou has preserved more contractual papers from earlier dynasties than found anywhere else in China. A large amount of collected works of local writers, local gazetteers, clan records, and other cultural treasures and historical writings have also survived here. Hui-chou is well known for the production of ink, ink-stones, woodblock printed books, and gourmet food. It is also the cradle of the Hsin-an school of medical science, the Hsin-an school of painting, the Hui-chou opera, the art of seal cutting, printing, potted miniature landscapes, and bamboo and stone carvings. Moreover, many Hui-chou literary figures played important roles in the development of Chinese culture. Among them were Chu Hsi (1130-1200), the founder of Neo-Confucianism, and Dr. Hu Shih (1891-1962), a renowned modern scholar who also happened to be curator of the Gest Oriental Library in the early fifties.

Hui-chou has attracted new attention from scholars all over the world in recent years for the discovery of local documents, which cover a span of almost one thousand years, from the Sung dynasty (960-1279) to the Republican period (1911-1949). Some scholars have attached as much importance to this discovery as they have to the discoveries of oracle inscriptions, inscribed wooden slips of the Han dynasty, Tun-huang documents, and archives preserved in the Forbidden City. These local documents are huge in quantity and rich in content. They are original and can be used by scholars

working on a wide range of topics in Chinese history. And they have already exerted far-reaching influence on the development of modern scholarship on Chinese history. The discovery of the Hui-chou documents, along with the other four discoveries mentioned above, are therefore mentioned by some scholars in one breath: "the five great cultural discoveries in China, or *wu-ta fa-hsien*." The discovery of these documents has ushered in a new subject for scholarly research: the study of the history and culture of Hui-chou, or "Hui Learning," which is gradually taking a distinctive shape and attracting more and more attention from scholars in China and overseas.

The Hui-chou documents consist of a variety of government documents and private contracts, such as agreements on the sale and purchase of land, tenant contracts, records of land-rent income, account books of ancestral temples, pawn tickets, indentures for selling oneself or a member of one's family into indentured servitude, tax payment receipts, notices of the amount of land tax to be paid, drafts of household registers, land survey records, registers of numbered land-boundary markers, brochures of household rights to hills and mounds, records of community festivals and ceremonies, receipts for loans, certificates of official assignment, questions for civil service examinations, examination books, records of sworn or adoptive kinship, personal letters, diplomas, certificates of official citations and awards, and official dispatches. An incomplete reckoning indicates that the Hui-chou documents amount to more than one hundred thousand items; they are valuable and irreplaceable to research on political, economic, and cultural developments in late imperial China.

The study of the Hui-chou documents has already shown a major characteristic different from other branches of Chinese studies: it employs written historical records, but its emphasis is on the use of official documents and contractual papers, and quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of these documents, so as to arrive at scientific conclusions based on quantitative data. This type of study is perhaps the first step toward overcoming a common defect in research methods, in which primary sources are tailored and pieced together at the author's will, leading to superficial and

shallow essays. The discovery of the Hui-chou documents opens up a real possibility for scholars to base their research on specific and sound historical evidence and to narrow the gap between their conclusions and the reality of history. For instance, the study of the Hui-chou documents may shed new light on the political and economic policies adopted by the Ming and the Ch'ing courts and their implementation in Hui-chou, since the Hui-chou local officials carried out these policies rather faithfully. This was so because Hui-chou had been under the direct jurisdiction of Nanking, the capital of the Ming dynasty during its early years. After the capital was moved to Peking during the Yung-lo reign period (1403-1424), Hui-chou was under the administrative control of the "Southern Metropolitan Area," directly supervised by the central government and not by an intermediary provincial government. As late as the beginning of the Ch'ing dynasty, Hui-chou still belonged to Chiang-nan Province, the provincial capital of which was located in the modern city of Nanking until Emperor K'ang-hsi adjusted some of the provincial boundaries, making Hui-chou part of a newly separate Anhwei Province. The close relations between Hui-chou and the successive central governments during the Ming and early Ch'ing dynasties make Hui-chou documents a faithful reflection of the political and economic policies of the central court. These documents include official certificates issued by the central government to the purchasing party in the trading of lands from Yüan to Ming times, land survey registers used in the Sung-Yüan period, household registers, receipts for tax payment used under the consolidated "Single Whip" taxation system from the Wan-li reign period (1573-1620) onward, and the house number plates issued by the Ch'ing government under its ten-household registration system. These documents either provide totally new primary materials or add new details to records already available, providing modern scholars with a vivid picture of the actual implementation of court policies.

The Hui-chou documents also contain many records about Hui-chou merchants, who played an important national role in the trade guilds during the Ming-Ch'ing times. Their trading activities linked Hui-chou with many places in Chekiang, Kiangsi,

Hu-kuang, Kansu, Shensi, Shansi, Kiangsu, and Peking, and even in remote areas such as Kweichow, Szechwan, and Yunnan. Therefore, Hui-chou documents are valuable source materials for the research not just of Hui-chou Prefecture, but of many other areas in China as well, during the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties.

The Hui-chou documents are a rich mine of information for research into Chinese clans. Although clan organizations were well developed throughout the Chiang-nan region, Hui-chou Prefecture in particular exemplifies that social development, in that its local clan records were compiled with unusual thoroughness. As early as the Yüan dynasty (1271–1368), a compilation entitled *A Treatise on the Great Clans in Hsin-an* was completed; a similar work, *A Treatise on the Famous Clans in Hsin-an* (Hsin-an is an old name for Hui-chou), was compiled during the Ming dynasty. Influential clans in other counties of the Hui-chou Prefecture, such as those in Hsiu-ning County, also produced special compilations of their clan history. Many other documents related to local clan affairs, such as clan genealogical tables, records of family history, records of land purchases, account books of ancestral temples, certificates for dividing up family property among family members, clan regulations, and family rules, have survived into our day.

The Hui-chou documents can be used for a wide range of scholarly research. Figures in the clan genealogical tables can be employed in a variety of demographic analyses; records of land purchases reflect the accumulation of wealth within the landlord class; business partnership agreements tell the development of cooperation in commerce; account books of the Hui-chou merchants reveal the scope of their trading activity; and records of local festivals and ceremonies are useful for the study of ethnology.

To make these valuable source materials available to scholars in China and abroad, a group of researchers in the Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Peking, in 1983 began to arrange, catalogue, and publish the Hui-chou documents. The first result of their efforts is the publication of *A Collection of Records concerning the Society and Economy in Hui-chou during Ming-Ch'ing Times* (*Ming-Ch'ing Hui-chou she-hui ching-chi tzu-liao*

ts'ung-pien), vol. 2 (Peking: Chung-kuo she-hui k'o-hsüeh ch'u-pan-she, 1990). Included in this work are agreements on the purchase and sale of lands in Hui-chou during Sung, Yüan, and Ming times. These documents were selected from a collection of contractual papers held by the institute. They include the most important agreements, some of which have unique forms.

In an effort to give scholars a fuller picture of the Hui-chou documents, two other books have also been compiled, *A Thousand Years of the Hui-chou Contractual Papers* (*Hui-chou ch'ien-nien ch'i-yüeh wen-shu*) and *Annotations to the Family Rules of Tou-shan kung* (*Tou-shan kung chia-i chiao-chu*). The first work, published in August 1991 in twenty volumes of one thousand pages each, is a reproduction in facsimile of the original documents. Red color has been added to some documents to reproduce their original look. The second work, published later in 1991, contains a collection of the records of a single family, the Ch'eng family of Shan-ho in Ch'i-men County, Hui-chou Prefecture. In addition to the family's clan regulations and family rules, the volume includes the Ch'eng family's genealogical tables and copies of contractual papers so as to provide scholars with more systematic primary sources for their study of Hui-chou clans.

Participating in the project were the following scholars from the Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Peking: Zhou Shao-quan, Li Ji-xian, and Luan Cheng-xian, senior researchers in Ming history; Zhang Xue-hui, senior researcher in Ming socioeconomic history; and Chen Ke-yun, assistant researcher in Ming-Ch'ing economic history.

Inquiries about these books should be addressed to the Library of the Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Peking, China.

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

In 1991, the Gest Oriental Library welcomed several distinguished visitors. Among them there were Professor Glen Dudbridge of Oxford University, Professor Lai Xinxia of Nankai University, and Professor Zhang Kaiyuan of Normal University of Central China. We were particularly glad to wel-

come a devoted supporter of the journal: Professor Wang Zengyu of the Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Peking, who paid his second visit to Princeton to participate in the compilation of the *Cambridge History of China*. Other distinguished visitors included Lou Ming, president of the China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, and Dr. Hui Huang, senior advisor of the Taiwan Power Company.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Hosea Hirata is assistant professor of modern Japanese literature in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University. A Canadian citizen, Professor Hirata received a B.A. from McGill University in 1979, and an M.F.A. in creative writing and a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of British Columbia. He taught at Pomona College for three years before coming to Princeton in 1990. His research interests lie in modern and postmodern Japanese poetry and fiction, and western literary theory, especially Derrida's grammatology. Currently, Professor Hirata is revising his doctoral dissertation on the Japanese modernist poet Nishiwaki Junzaburō and writing a book on contemporary Japanese fiction, in which he argues that the text is a site of seduction. His publications include poetry written in English as well as translations of modern Japanese poems.

Stephen F. Teiser completed his doctoral studies in the Department of Religion at Princeton in 1986, and after briefly teaching elsewhere, returned to Princeton. An assistant professor in the Department of Religion, he is the D. T. Suzuki Preceptor of East Asian Religions. He has published a book entitled *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China* (Princeton University Press, 1988), as well as several important articles. He is now working on a book-length study of the Ten Kings of Hell sutras and their place in the formation of Chinese Buddhist teachings. His article in this issue of the journal, on the early forms of the Chinese Buddhist book, draws on that research.

Uematsu Tadashi, who earned his doctorate from Kyoto University, is professor of Chinese history in the Faculty of Education, Kagawa Univer-

sity, Japan. Professor Uematsu has worked extensively on the social and economic history of the Yüan period, and his article in this issue draws on his most recent research. The author of numerous publications, Professor Uematsu is known to the scholarly world particularly for his work in Yüan-period law and its operation. No stranger to Princeton, Professor Uematsu visited the university in the fall of 1988.

Martin Heijdra, who writes in this issue about his recent discovery among the not-fully-catalogued oddities in the Gest Collection of two extremely rare Tangut-script Buddhist sutras, is the Gest's bibliographer for Chinese materials. He did graduate studies in sinology at the University of Leiden and studied in both China and Japan before coming to Princeton to study for his doctorate in Chinese history. A specialist in the social history of the Ming dynasty, he is completing his dissertation and writing an important chapter for the eighth volume of the *Cambridge History of China*. His duties in the Gest Library include supervision of the rare books collections.

Cao Shuwen is a cataloguer at the central editorial office for the International Union Catalogue of Chinese Rare Books at Princeton University. After receiving a master's degree in library science from Peking University in 1984, Mrs. Cao worked for the cataloguing section of Peking University Library until April 1989, when she and two other Chinese specialists were invited by the Research Libraries Group to serve as visiting scholars at Princeton, where they worked for a Chinese rare books project at the Gest Library. For two years she was a visiting scholar in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton. The author of many articles on the classification and cataloguing of Chinese rare books, Mrs. Cao is co-author of *Bibliographical Description for Chinese Rare Books (Chung-kuo ku-chi chu-lu kwei-tse)* (Peking: Piao-chun ch'u-pan-she, 1987), which has been adopted as the national standard for cataloguing traditional Chinese books in the People's Republic of China.

John Winthrop Haeger graduated from Princeton University in the 1960s, having majored in East Asian Studies, and went on to earn a doctorate in Chinese history at the University of California, Berkeley. He has to his credit a number of important publications on Chinese history, but for well over a decade he has turned his skills to the problems of East Asian libraries.

FROM THE EDITOR

He is vice president for programs and planning of the Research Libraries Group, Mountain View, California, a not-for-profit corporation owned by its member libraries, of which Princeton is one. Dr. Haeger now directs his impressive energies to raising the level of technological innovation in library work, in the service of humanistic research. He is the author of several important international cooperative programs, one of which he describes in his brief report in this issue of the journal.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editor wishes to extend his heartfelt gratitude to Professor F. W. Mote for his valuable guidance and for his assistance in the editorial work for this issue. Work on this issue started at almost the same time as the editor's first teaching position in the Department of History at the University of Toronto, and a busy teaching schedule and preparation for lectures took up most of the editor's time. Without Professor Mote's help, it would have been impossible for this issue of the journal to reach its readers on time. The editor also received generous help from Dr. De-min Tao, research fellow in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University. Although occupied with his own research and writing projects, Dr. Tao found the time to translate from Japanese the article contributed by Professor Uematsu Tadashi that appears in this issue. Professor Wang Zengyu encouraged his colleagues in Peking to write the short piece about the publication of the Hui-chou documents and personally brought it, along with other articles for the journal, to Princeton. Last but not least, my indebtedness is to my beloved wife, Fannie. She is not only a devoted reader, but also a volunteer worker for the journal. She generously offered her time, typing up manuscripts and proofreading them. Moreover, as a general reader, her opinions on the articles helped the editor revise them and make them readable for a wider audience.