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Colonial Policies on Remittances from Malaya and Singapore to China
Just Before and After the Second World War

LEE Kam Hing, CHEONG Kee Cheok, LEE Poh Ping
University of Malaya

Abstract

This paper provides an account of British policies regarding qiaopi in the period immediately before and after the Second World War. These policies reflected conflicting interests among different parts of the British colonial government. These interests centered broadly around protecting British interests and supporting ally China (before the war) and returning to normality (after the war). Remittances were at the heart of British policies. Channeling these within the Sterling area served the first objective while permitting the continuation of remittance flows to China even as war loomed served the second. After the war efforts to restore normality to the situation were hampered by wartime legislation, made worse by lack of preparedness for the possibility that Singapore might fall to the Japanese. Nevertheless, normality did return and remittances were flowing again with the onset of the Korean War in 1951. This proved to be the last hurrah for qiaopi as the era drew to a close.

About the Authors

LEE Kam Hing is a Senior Research Fellow at the Social and Behavioural Sciences Research Cluster, University of Malaya. He holds a B.A. (Hons) and an M.A. in History from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. After he obtained his Ph.D. in History from Monash University, Australia, Lee became lecturer of the University of Malaya in 1973 and was Professor of History from 1993 until 1997. He later joined The Star as Research Editor before returning to rejoin the University of Malaya. Lee's published works include The Sultanate of Aceh: Relations with the British 1760-1824 (Oxford University Press) and Education and Politics in Indonesia (University of Malaya Press); A Matter of Risk: Insurance in Malaysia, 1826-1990 (NUS Press). He has jointly edited The Chinese in Malaysia (Oxford University Press), Christianity in Malaysia (Pelanduk Publications), The 1978 General Elections and Malaysian Politics (Oxford University Press) and The Biographical Dictionary of the Chinese in Malaysia (Pelanduk Publications).

CHEONG Kee Cheok is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya (FEA, UM). A graduate of the University of Malaya, he obtained his PhD at the London School of Economics. Upon his return from studies, he joined the FEA, UM, and was Deputy Dean, then Dean of Faculty. After a decade at UM, he spent 16 years at the World Bank in the capacity of Economist and subsequently Senior Economist. At the Bank, he was Coordinator for China and Vietnam in the Economic Development Institute, now the World Bank Institute. After returning to Malaysia in 2000, he continued as consultant for the Bank and UN agencies. His work has taken him to China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia and North Korea among Asian countries. His research interests include, and he has published in, the areas of: economic development with special reference to human capital, transition economies particularly China and Vietnam, international economic relations and economic history, specifically relating to the Chinese overseas.
Lee Poh Ping graduated with a bachelors degree in history from the University of Malaya in 1967, following which he obtained a PhD in government from Cornell University, U.S.A. in 1974. He began his career as an academic in the University of Malaya as a lecturer in 1974 and attained the professorship in 1992. Retiring in 1997, he subsequently worked for about ten years as Professor and Principal Fellow in the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, after which he returned to the University of Malaya in 2009 as a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of China Studies. His research interests include socioeconomic history of Chinese society in Malaysia and Singapore to the international relations of ASEAN, and China and Japan in Southeast Asia. He has published extensively on these topics. He had visiting fellowships in many reputable institutions, the Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, Australian National University (1984) and Harvard University (1990). He was decorated by the Japanese Emperor with the Order of the Rising Sun (Third Class) in 2010 for his service as president of the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) service and his Japanese studies.
The Operating Modes of Overseas Chinese’s Remittance & Mail Adopted by Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation and the Impact on Overseas Chinese Postal Agencies

LIU Bozi
Museum of Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History, Fujian, China

Abstract

A study of 320 overseas Chinese’s remittances & mails (Qiaopi) letters reveals that Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd. (OCBC) had conducted the management of Qiaopi since 1930s, whose business covered financial transfers for Overseas Chinese postal agencies, and had formed its own business concept during the operation practice.

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd. had provided services, similar to that of Overseas Chinese postal agencies, for overseas Chinese and their relatives at hometown, which had adjusted to their sending habits and models. By adopting the operating modes of Overseas Chinese postal agencies, OCBC had also conducted cooperation with the latter.

During the first half of the 20th century, Overseas Chinese postal agencies had set up a thorough operating network covering the Southeast Asia, Fujian and Guangdong provinces. And OCBC had established branches in Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Amoy and Shantou to form an operating network.

The business network of overseas Chinese postal agencies and OCBC were closely related to each other but they also advanced their own specialized professional work. Along with the expansion of the volume of business, OCBC had set up organizations, overlapping with the business of Overseas Chinese postal agencies, to conduct the management of Qiaopi so as to improve the corresponding circulating efficiency in major commercial ports in Southeast Asia. The vision and market sense of OCBC, as a cross border bank, had made it easy for OCBC to expand business scope and advance the development of overseas Chinese postal agencies into a modern enterprise as well as promoting the cash flow between Southeast Asia and China and the transferring process of financial resources in overseas Chinese postal agencies.

About the Author

Liu Bozi is currently Research associate at the Museum of Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History and Deputy Secretary-general of Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History Study Society. His research focuses on the culture transition, the Qiaopi Industry and its network. His publications and academic presentations in the last five years include “Span from international experience to nationalism: Take Qiaopi letters of Huang Kaiwu as an example,” “Assimilation and Alienation: the South Fujian cultural factors in Cultural Activities of Chinese Filipinos,” “The study on Chinese Filipinos and Qiaopi Industry at the early 20th century,” “A study on the management system of South Fujian Qiappi Industry” and “A study on the management system of South Fujian Qiappi Industry.”
Letters from Southeast Asia:
Links between Chinese Overseas and Left-behind Family Members across the South China Sea in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

SHEN Huifen
Research School for Southeast Asian Studies/
Faculty of International Relations Xiamen University, Xiamen, China

Abstract

In around one hundred years between the mid-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century, thousands of Chinese men migrated and worked in countries in the Nanyang (which refers roughly to the region today known as Southeast Asia), leaving family members behind in their hometowns in southern China. In the migration process, migrants often remitted money with letters (qiaopi) to their home family members. Basing on remittance letters from two migrants who worked in Singapore and Manila, the Philippines, and letters to the emigrants from their relatives or friends in the late Qing period and the Republican era, as well as the author’s fieldwork in Fujian, this article shows that connection through remittance letters was a significant channel for individual migrants and home relatives to maintain family, material, emotional and cultural links between each other. Meanwhile, qiaopi often revealed a migrant’s love, longing, expectation, or worries towards family members. Some letters directly transferred emigrants’ values and attitudes on topics relate to personal life of themselves and their left-behinds, concerning family, gender roles, and aspiration for a better life. Thus, the rich contents of remittance letters show the movement of feelings and individual ideas across the South China Sea, demonstrating life history of individual migrants and their inner world, which were largely ignored in the study of Chinese overseas. In short, qiaopi reflect the complex experiences, happiness, sadness, or struggling of the migrant families whose members were separated by long-term and long-distance migration, and provide new source for the studies of Chinese overseas and transnational migration studies.

About the Author

Huifen Shen is an Associate Professor with Research School for Southeast Asian Studies/Faculty of International Relations of Xiamen University. Her field of study is on gender and transnational migration and qiaoxiang studies. She has a monograph on China's Left-Behind Wives: Families of Migrants from Fujian to Southeast Asia, 1930s-1950s (original press: Singapore: NUS Press, co-published by Honolulu: The University of Hawaii Press and Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2012). E-mail: shenhf@xmu.edu.cn; shenhfxm@163.com.
Enterprising Chinese Australians and Rethinking the Qiaopi Industry: 
The Case of the Wing Sang and Co. in the First Half of 20th Century

KUO Mei-Fen
School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland

Abstract

The network approach has been employed in Qiaopi and Yinxin project to explain how economic behaviours had constructed and reconstructed locally and internationally with social associations. This paper advances the same issue of Chinese remittance network but asks how the world economy functionally influenced the Chinese approach for organizing remittance business? By analysing newspapers, personal letters, company records and national archives this paper focuses on the Chinese Australian firm, Wing Sang Co. to show how we could research the Chinese Australian remittance industry when no actual remittance documents survived. The development of Wing Sang and Co. from 1890 to 1916 was important to show the remittance industry in the history of enterprising Chinese Australia. This paper examines how Chinese Australian merchants adapted the ‘rules of game’ of Pacific trade to meet the needs of their business. It is argued that Chinese Australian remittance network had devolved to the innovation of enterprises as well as new model of networking for Chinese Australian merchants.

About the Author

Mei-fen Kuo is currently an ARC Discovery Early Career Research Fellow in The School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at University of Queensland, Australia, where she is working on a historical project on Enterprising Chinese Australians and the diaspora networks, 1890-1949. She left her native Taiwan in 2003 to undertake a PhD thesis in Australia. In 2008, she was awarded a PhD degree by La Trobe University, and in 2009 she won an internationally competitive Australian Endeavour Award. From late 2010 to September 2013 she was an Australian Post-doctoral Fellow in the School of Social Science at La Trobe University. From 2013 to 2015 she worked with Professor John Fitzgerald on a project of Asia-Pacific Philanthropies and Chinese diaspora network, 1850-1949 at Swinburne University of Technology. She published several articles in Chinese and English. In 2013 she published two books. Making Chinese Australia: Urban Elites, Newspapers and the Formation of Chinese-Australian Identity, 1892–1912 published by Monash University Publishing, 2013) was shortlisted for the W K Hancock Prize of Australian Historical Association in 2014. Another book is Unlocking the History of the Australasian Kuo Min Tang 1911-2013 (co-authored with Professor Judith Brett) published by Australian Scholarly Publishing.
Serving the National Interest:
The Qiaopi Industry, the Chinese Post Office, and the Transnationalization of the State, 1937-1945

HARRIS, Lane Jeremy
History Department, Furman University

Abstract

The exigencies of war transformed the nature of the relationship between the Chinese Post Office and the Qiaopi industry. After more than a decade of conflict in which the Qiaopiju and their trade associations had successfully resisted Post Office attempts to close down their industry for violating the state postal monopoly, the wartime years saw the Post Office shift to a new, more complicated strategy to try to capture the overseas Chinese remittance business.

In the initial months after the outbreak of the war, the government actively encouraged the Qiaopiju industry to continue importing much needed foreign currency through remittances. The Japanese invasion of Southeast Asia, followed by the occupation of the southeastern ports in China in 1938 and 1939, however, temporarily crippled the industry and provided the National Government and Chinese Post Office with their opportunity. While the overseas Chinese remittance firms fought to sustain their businesses by moving inland, developing overland smuggling routes from Southeast Asia, and cooperating with provincial banks, the Post Office began a multifront strategy of its own. In public comments and government reports, the Post Office derided the Qiaopiju firms for exploiting their fellow countrymen by making capitalist profits on remittances during a time of national emergency while suggesting the state-run Post Office wanted the profits to financially strengthen the state. At the same time, the Post Office began to copy many of the features of the Qiaopi industry by developing its own network of domestic distribution centers (分發局) across the southeast, hired and trained a special staff of remittance workers (僑匯業務員), and signed agency contracts with international banks around the world to collect the remittances. Although international law, Chinese Post Office regulations, and conventions of the Universal Postal Union all prohibited the existence of a state-run transnational remittance network, the Chinese Post Office carefully skirted these legal issues and began operating outside its national borders in the late 1930s. In attempting to serve the national interest, the Post Office had done something quite original, it had partially transnationalized the Chinese state in its efforts to attract overseas remittances.

Although the Chinese Post Office’s transnational remittance network saw modest success in the early years of the war, my presentation will conclude by tracing its gradual decline and final demise as wartime and postwar inflation undermined its profitability, government restrictions on outward remittances in Southeast Asia depleted its source of remittances, and the Qiaopi industry’s shift to the black market destroyed what few remaining advantages the Post Office enjoyed.

About the Author

Lane J. Harris, Ph.D. (2012), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. His articles have appeared in the Journal of Early Modern History, Frontiers of History in China, and Twentieth-Century China. His most recent publication is: “Overseas Chinese Remittance Firms, the Limits of State Sovereignty, and Transnational Capitalism in East and Southeast Asia, 1850s-1930s,” Journal of Asian Studies 74: 1 (February 2015): 129-151.
The Credit Evolution of Qiaopi Industry
-----Taking Tienit (Tianyi Ju) as a case

JIA Junying
Institute of Modern Chinese History, Central China Normal University

Abstract

Due to the role of overseas Chinese regional culture and immigration networks, the development process of Qiaopi Industry appeared from the traditional credit to the modern credit. Tianyi Ju from the year of 1880 to 1929, is a fairly representative of Qiaopi Industry in China and Southeast Asia, its emergence, development and termination are the epitome of Qiaopi Industry. At the beginning, Tianyi Ju is based on traditional credit, which mainly about individuals and relations, but with the expansion of overseas remittance network, traditional credit have been unable to prop up the larger and wider business, then System credit, Organization credit, national credit gradually produced. Qiaopi Industry based on Chinese traditional culture and regional characteristics. The tradition and modern cannot be completely separated in the process of credit evolution, they jointly work together, in the normal development and crisis management.

Keyword: Qiaopi Industry; Tianyi Ju; credit; tradition; modern

About the Author

Sex Scandals, Golden Mountain Wives and the Female Characters of Siyi Qiaoxiang: 
A Study Focused on Family Letters of the Overseas Chinese in the Republic Era

LIU Jin
Guangdong Qiaoxiang Cultural Research Center, Wu Yi University

Abstract

Siyi（四邑） region, including four counties of Toisan, Xinhui, Kaiping and Enping, has come to become a famous Chinese original hometown of the American overseas Chinese since the modern times of China, especially with Toisan as the typical one for the overseas Chinese in North America. Most the overseas Chinese emigrants were young males and they mainly kept the economic and emotional connection with their family by way of “Qiaopi” (“Yinxin” called in Siyi region). The Qiaopi is very rich in its content, including the attitudes of the males to the females and marriage. Just for the privacy and facticity possessed in these letters, it will be of great academic importance to take a detailed study on the gender relationship revealed from them.

There used to be lots of sex scandals on the newspapers of Siyi region during the Republic era, such as adulteries and secret absconding from marriage, which, however, were seldom found in the family letters from the overseas Chinese. Based on the supporting data of some family letters, this paper, by restoring a real case of sex scandal in 1939 and its impact on both the original hometowns and the host country of the overseas Chinese, is to explore the real life, families and social status of the Siyi women during that period of time.

About the Author

Liu Jin (刘进), Ph.D in history from Sun Yat-Sun University, is presently a professor and the executive deputy director of Guangdong Qiaoxiang Cultural Research Center at Wuyi University. He focuses his study on Qiaoxiang documents, including Qiaopi documents, during the recent years and has published a number of monographs, such as Toisan Yinxin, Wuyi Yinxin and Yinxin and the Society of Wuyi Qiaoxiang.
**Qiaopi and Politics**

Liu Hong  
*Nanyang Technological University*

Gregor BENTON  
*Cardiff University*

Zhang Huimei  
*Nanyang Technological University*

**Abstract**

This paper looks from various angles at the relationship between qiaopi and politics. These include the political impact of qiaopi and the qiaopi trade on local power relations, regional politics, Chinatown politics, and China's national politics. The paper explores the relationship between postal and print culture and the significance of these two concepts for qiaopi studies. It concludes that the political culture associated with the qiaopi phenomenon differed in vital respects from that posited by existing studies on the relationship between post and print on the one hand and politics on the other.

**About the Authors**

Liu Hong is the Tan Kah Kee Endowed Professor, Chair of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Director of Nanyang Centre of Public Administration, Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Prior to joining NTU in 2010, he was the Inaugural Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies and Chair Professor of East Asian Studies at the University of Manchester in the UK, where he also served as the Founding Director of Confucius Institute, Head of the Department of East Asian Studies, and Academic Director of the UK Study China Programme, which was funded by the British government with over two million pounds. He has held a number of visiting professorship/fellowship appointments, including at Harvard, Kyoto, Peking, Stockholm Universities, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He was awarded in 2007 the Eminent Yangtze Scholar Award by the PRC Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Li Kashing Foundation in Hong Kong. Liu has authored/edited more than 12 books (in English, Chinese, and Indonesian), and over 80 academic articles in journals such as *World Politics*, *The China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Indonesia*, *東南アジア研究*, *《历史研究》*, and *《中国社会科学季刊》*. He has contributed regularly to newspapers and magazines on contemporary social and cultural issues, particularly relating to the Chinese-speaking world, and his interviews have appeared on *BBC*, *Radio China International*, *Independent*, *Straits Times*, *Lianhe Zaobao*, and various print media in Greater China. He is the Editor of *Journal of Chinese Overseas* (Boston and Leiden) and co-editor of the *International Journal of Diasporic Chinese Studies* (Singapore), and sits on the editorial board of the *Journal of Contemporary China* (Routledge), *Journal of Technology Management in China* (Emerald, UK), *China Studies* (Beijing), *The Asian Review of World Histories*, *Monograph Series The Chinese World* (London and New York), *Brill Chinese Overseas Monograph Series* (Boston and Leiden), and Zhejiang University Press’s *Series on Economic History* (Hanzhou & Beijing).
Gregor Benton (Oriental Studies, Cambridge) is an Emeritus Professor of Cardiff University. Earlier he was Associate Professor in Anthropology at Amsterdam University (1979-89) and Professor of Chinese Studies at Leeds (1989-99). He has also worked at the University of Malaya and taught China courses at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He has published books on Marxism, political humour, Chinese Communist history, China’s Red guerrillas, the Sino-Japanese War, dissent in China, Chinese Trotskyism, Hong Kong, moral economy theory, and, most recently, several volumes on ethnic and migrant Chinese communities outside China. His *Mountain Fires* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992) and *New Fourth Army* (Berkeley 1999) won various awards, including the Association of Asian Studies’ Best Book on Modern China. His translation (Verso 2013) of Mei Zhi’s prison memoir of her husband Hu Feng (*Hu Feng's Prison Years*) won the English Pen Award. He is soon to bring out a sourcebook (with Brill, the Amsterdam publisher) on Chinese Trotskyism, titled *Prophets Unarmed: Chinese Trotskyists in Revolution, War, Gaol, and the Return From Limbo*. His research interests are Modern Chinese history (esp. the Chinese Communist movement); Chinese politics (esp. dissent); the Chinese overseas; and pidgins and creoles. His current research is focused on identity transformations in young people born to Chinese emigrants, and how they manage their bi-cultural or pluri-cultural identities in their relations with mainstream society and the mainstream economy. He is also researching Chinese emigrants' correspondence in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Before joining the School of Humanities and Social Sciences NTU, Zhang Huimei was a Managing Editor and Research Associate in Singapore Centre for Chinese Language NTU. She graduated from Zhongshan(Sun Yat-sen) university in 2003 and received her Ph. D degree from NUS in 2007. Zhang has published several academic articles in journals and books. She was an associate editor-in-chief or executive editor for several research books and journals. Her research interests are Overseas Chinese history, History of Teochew community, *qiaopi* and *qiaokan.*
Survival of Overseas Chinese Company among Empires and Wars: Eu Yan Sang company and Remittance Business Network during the Wartime Period, 1937~1945

KIM Jong Ho
Department of History, National University of Singapore

Abstract

In the mid-twentieth century, many Chinese entrepreneurs both of mainland China and Southeast Asia had been experiencing harsh circumstances due to the continuous wars such as Anti-Japanese war and Asian Pacific war. As conflicts among empires like Britain, Japan, and China reached at peak, Chinese companies, which had a network between Southeast Asia and South China, had to adapt and survive under those tensions. In the wartime period from 1937 to 1945, especially, because those Chinese companies had faced frequent changes of external environments such as British colonial rule, Japanese threats, and Japanese occupation, they had to react rapidly to those external changes. These reactions, survivals, and adaptations of Chinese company are the main argument of this research.

Eu Yan Sang, which is the famous traditional medicine company in Southeast Asia and South China recently, has covered various kinds of businesses such as tin mining, Chinese traditional medicine retail shops, banking, overseas Chinese remittances and so on from the late nineteenth century. Among them, the most profitable business in the early and the mid twentieth century was overseas Chinese remittance even though the starting business of Eu Yan Sang was tin mining and the current main business is traditional medicine retail shop. After the movement of its main office from Singapore to Hong Kong to improve the remittance business at 1928, Eu Yan Sang constructed its remittance network using branches in Southeast Asia (Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, Perak, Kampar, Gopeng) and Guangdong province (Guangzhou) as well as the main office in Hong Kong.

The overseas Chinese remittance network organized by Eu Yan Sang had not been influenced not so much even during the Anti-Japanese war, 1937-1941. However, the Asian Pacific war and the consequent colonization of Japanese empire to Southern China and Southeast Asia gave them totally different commercial circumstances. Due to the monetary policies of Japanese empire, Eu Yan Sang lost every business opportunities regarding international commercial activities. It meant that they could not conduct the remittance network anymore, which was the most profitable area of whole Eu Yan Sang’s commercial aid. Under this changeable environment during wartime period, how Eu Yan Sang company could survive is another argument of this research as a case study to reveal the reactions, survivals, and adaptations of Chinese entrepreneurs.

As a part of Ph.D. thesis, this paper will investigate the structure of Eu Yan Sang remittance network from 1937 to 1945 using Eu Yan Sang Accounting books and Business Records kept at National Archives of Singapore and Special Collection of Hong Kong University Library. At the same time, the general structure of overseas Chinese remittance network and the characteristics of Japanese colonial monetary policies in this period will be also presented as a background.

About the Author

Migration, Home Remittance, and Emergence of Financial Market between
Southeast Asia And South China in 19th Century

Takeshi HAMASHITA
Sun Yat-sen University

Abstract

Throughout the history of Southeast Asia there have been a large number of Chinese immigrants, particularly from the provinces on the southeast coast including Guangdong, Fujian, and Hainan. Most were men who left families behind in China to work as labourers. Some of them became entrepreneurs through establishing commercial firms and investing in rubber manufacturing, tin mining, and rice processing. The overseas Chinese kept close contact with their families sending letters and money home through remitting houses (信局 xin ju).

Remitting houses dispersed throughout the South Seas area, specialized in money exchange and postal communications between emigrants in the region and their home villages with agents handled business for those from their own home villages. They not only transmitted small amounts of money but also wrote letters for the workers, thus providing a valuable service. Xin ju maintained close ties with money exchangers, the primary financial agents of the large cities in South China, who cashed remittances dispatched by bank transfers. Once the official postal system was established, their numbers decreased somewhat, although their services remained important for the very small-scale transfers of the labourers.

Groups of rich Chinese traders combined the remittance business with their other businesses such as trade of rice, rubber cultivation, and finance. Their inter-regional trading activities made it convenient for the customers to deliver the bills to China. These were the men who would later develop their business into the modern banking business in Singapore. They utilized money for remittance as a fund of investment for their trading activities instead of sending it directly to Hong Kong and South China. They had networks which consisted of themselves, their relatives, and their partners in Singapore, Hong Kong, and South China, all of whom were combined and connected their business either by joint investment (合股 he gu) and/or mutually investing network (联号 lian hao).

This paper will thus focus on industry of remitting houses and its surrounding businesses from institutional and networks' frameworks connecting both sides of Southeast Asia and South China.

About the Author

In 1979, Takeshi Hamashita started his teaching life and has been teaching in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, China, and the U.S. He started to teach in the Department of Economics at Hitotsubashi University as lecturer and associate professor from 1979 to 1981. From 1982 to 1999, he taught in the Institute of Oriental Culture, Tokyo University as associate professor, professor, director, and the head of the Documentation Center for Asian Studies. He was recruited to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University in 2000 and has become the first professor who concurrently teaches in the two best universities in Japan. In 2006, he moved to Faculty of International Communication, Ryukoku University. Since 2007, he has started to work at Sun Yat-sen University and has been appointed Dean of the School of Asia-Pacific Studies.
Remittance and Banking Networks of Chungshan Merchant Groups

LAI Chi Kong
School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland

Abstract

Remittance activities were an important business for overseas Chinese. When the Overseas Chinese remitted their money, the first important remitting port was Hong Kong, from there they would remit the money back to their hometown, such as Shih-chi in Chungsahn County. If the remittance amount was very large they sent a member to deliver the money personally. In China at that time the remitters mainly used correspondence to settle their accounts. Someone would bring a letter from the money exchange shop and the transaction could settled later. If merchants wanted to buy products from Canton he could deposit funds to the money shop in Shih-chi. Then they could bring a letter or a draft from the money shops to their creditors. After the transaction they could settle their account with the money shop.

In the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries, many overseas Chung Shanese from Shih-chi remitted back money to their relatives every year. Shih-chi became one of the major remitting centres in the region. They first remitted their money to Hong Kong's Chin-shan-chuang and then sent it on to the money exchange shops in Shih-chi. Family members would pick up from these money shops to get their money. In 1910, the Wing On remittance firm established a financial branch in the capital of Hsiang Shan for remittances. They appointed Kuo Yin as an administrator to manage the remittance business in Chung Shan. The Sincere Company also established a remittance branch in Chung Shan County and the first manager was Huang Nan. This branch operated mortgages, savings accounts and insurance business and attracted more savings and capital for the purpose of further investment. These firms linked up with Chung shanese networks in San Francisco, Honolulu, Singapore and major cities in Australia. These two companies used their remittance firms to attract capital for their investments in their department stores. They built on their existing transnational networks to solicit investors. This remittance business was very important in the development of commercial enterprises. Most of these firms were in the informal sector. These were flexible, and provided capital for the department stores to expand their business. Most of the Wing On company’s capital came from the remittances of Australian Chinese.

The Chung Shan merchants' financial network case study illustrates the crucial relationships among remitting firms, department stores, banking business networks, with their strategical planning on expansion and capital formation. Using informal financial networks was a common feature of Chung Shanese transnational business strategy and was a principal reason for the business success of these merchant groups.

About the Author

Chi Kong Lai received his PhD in the University of California, Davis. He was awarded the American Economic History Association’s internationally competitive Best Dissertation Award, the Alexander Gerschenkron Prize (1993). He is now Reader in Modern Chinese History in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at the University of Queensland. He was the Director of Research and Director of Asian Business History Centre and Head of History Department. Dr Lai’s specializes on the study of Chinese Social and Business History (1500-2000). He has held Visiting Professor and Visiting Fellow appointments at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Academia Sinica, Centre for Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is also member of the Editorial Board for various international journals, such as Enterprise and Society and Journal of Asian Business. He is also one of the associate editors of Chinese Business History. He has also been appointed a member of the International Advisory Board of the Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora at ANU.
New Thoughts on the Research into Qiaopi

KUA Bak Lim

Abstract

The history of Qiaopi (侨批) in the lives of the overseas Chinese and their hometowns had existed for at least 150 years. Under normal circumstances, the Qiaopi process is divided into two parts. Part I were remittances sent to the family hometowns in China (批款), while Part II were the acknowledgements from families back home （回批）

Due to their uniqueness, Qiaopi were recognized and included in the Memory of the World Register of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 19 June 2013. Qiaopi has now been designated as a world heritage.

This paper highlights the importance of Qiaopi in the study of overseas Chinese history, and at the same time to further explore the need to inject new thoughts on the research into Qiaopi.

About the Author

Kua Bak Lim possesses profound knowledge in China and the Chinese history of Singapore. The above publications representing his long term research in this field. He is frequently invited by clan associations, business associations, press and TV media as speaker in various interviews, seminars, and round table discussions etc. He is also a Real Estates Manager. He was responsible for facilities management/ consultancy services. During his overseas posting to work in China from 1994-2005, he complied and wrote a reference book titled “Property Management in China”. This book serves as a standard operations manual for China real estate counterparts. He was once an Associate Lecturer with Academy of Continued Education, Qinghua University in Beijing. Kua is currently Chairman of Research Committee, Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations; Board Member of Chinese Heritage Centre, NTU; Member, Academic Resource Committee of Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall; Director of Research Centre for National Monuments, and Overseas Advisor of Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History Museum etc.