

On the Compilation of *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women (Qing Volume)*

Clara Wing-chung Ho*

Objectives

The project being reported is part of a large-scale international cooperation initiated by the School of Asian Studies (formerly Department of East Asian Studies) at the University of Sydney. The aim of the entire project is to produce a five-volume *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women* 中國婦女傳記辭典(*BDCW*), which will be published in both Chinese and English editions. The dictionary is designed to bring together biographies of representative women throughout Chinese history from all walks of life. The scope extends from the beginning of recorded history in China to 1990. The Editors-in-chief are Dr. Lily Xiao-Hong

* 香港浸會大學歷史系副教授

Lee 蕭虹 and Dr. Agnes Stefanowska. Subsidized by a Faculty Research Grant from the Hong Kong Baptist University, I am acting as the editor of the Qing Volume (1644-1912).

Style and format of the dictionary will follow the practices of the series of reputed biographical dictionary of eminent Chinese throughout history, such as *Sung Biographies* (edited by Herbert Franke; Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag GmbH, 1976), *Dictionary of Ming Biography (1368-1644)* (edited by L. Carrington Goodrich and Chaoying Fang; New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1976), *Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (1644-1912)* (edited by Arthur W. Hummel; Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1943) [ECCP], and *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China* (edited by Howard L. Boorman and Richard C. Howard; New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1967) [BDRC]. It is expected that the *BDCW* will serve as a solid supplement to existing biographical dictionaries of China as the latter have not paid sufficient attention to women. For example, there are only 9 women entries out of 809 in the *ECCP* and 23 women entries out of some 600 in the *BDRC*.

It is expected that the dictionary will serve as a useful reference tool for historians, other scholars and students of related disciplines. Although there are some existing general dictionaries of Chinese women, most of them were published on the mainland in the late 1980s and early 1990s, all the entries are very short in length and therefore, limited in their scope of coverage. In contrast, the *BDCW* aims to provide more complete biographical data of the Chinese women, and to furnish a list of important references after each entry for further study.

Progress

The project began in December, 1990. In 1991, letters were sent to scholars inviting them to contribute biographical entries of Qing women. A few entries reached me by the end of 1992, but most entries arrived in 1993 and 1994. Since some contributors handed in their works only in one language, translation work was necessary.

By the end of 1995, there were altogether 200 edited biographical entries in both languages. There are 64 contributors and 20 translators. Participants are from Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, the Netherlands, Taiwan, and the United States.

During my visit to the School of Asian Studies at the University of Sydney in December, 1995, I submitted the whole manuscript to the Editors-in-chief and discussed a number of editorial concern and publication matters with them. We arrived at the following conclusion:

(1) Basically only actual female historical characters are included. However, in a few cases semi-fictional characters but with some historical significance like Liu Sanxiu 劉三秀 and He Shuangqing 賀雙卿 are also dealt with.

(2) Entries of the English edition will be arranged in alphabetical order whereas entries of the Chinese edition will be arranged by the number of strokes of each surname. In the English edition, it is not necessary to list the surname of every single entry before its given name. Individual practices of the biographees will be respected. For example, Polly Bemis will be listed instead of Bemis, Polly.

(3) Basically pinyin romanization is used for each biographee. However, official English names of some biographees are used instead, with

pinyin appended. For example, a number of Late Qing women who studied abroad, Chinese American women, and Hong Kong women had their own official English names, such as Mary Stone, Ida Kaln, Y. May King, Derling, Mary Bong, Clara Ho Tung, and Fok Hing Tong. In all those cases their original names are used and the pinyin romanizations are bracketed.

(4) For a few biographees who are better known under names other than their original names, the more popular one will be used, but cross references will be given under the proper name. For example, Dong Bai 董白 is better known as Dong Xiaowan 董小宛, Yang Yunjiao 楊雲嬌 is better known as Hong Xuanjiao 洪宣嬌, Fu Chaiyun 傅彩雲 is better known as Sai Jinhua 賽金花, and Xilin Chun 西林春 is better known as Gu Taiqing 顧太清.

(5) The references listed after each entry will be arranged in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames in the English edition and by the number of strokes of the authors' surnames in the Chinese edition respectively.

(6) Effort has been made to avoid duplication of biographees who were active during dynastic transitions. Therefore, entries of the Qing Volume will not overlap with the entries of the Ming Volume nor the Republican Volume. For instance, women who were active in the 1911 revolution may either appear in the Qing Volume or the Republican Volume according to their active period and life span.

(7) It is envisioned that Indices of names and books will be compiled at a later stage.

List of Entries

- Ah Toy 亞彩
 Bao Yunzhen 包韞珍
 Polly Bemis 波利·比米斯
 Mary Bong 阿拉斯加州錫特卡的中國瑪麗
 Bi Xiugu 畢秀姑
 Cai Han 蔡含
 Cai Wan 蔡琬
 Cao Zhenxiu 曹貞秀
 Chai Jingyi 柴靜儀
 Chen Duansheng 陳端生
 Chen Shu 陳書
 Chen Xiefen 陳擷芬
 Chen Yuanyuan 陳圓圓
 Cheng Huiying 程蕙英
 Da Fei 大妃
 Dai Yunyu 戴韞玉
 Ding Yan 丁晏
 Ding Yu 丁瑜
 Ding Yu 丁瑜
 Dong Xiaowan 董小宛
 Fang Junying 方君瑛
 Fang Wanyi 方婉儀
 Fei Hou 廢后
 Feng Xian 馮嫻
 Fok Hing Tong (Huo Qingtang) 霍慶棠
 Fu Shanxiang 傅善祥
 Gao Fangyun 高芳雲
 Gao Jingfang 高景芳
 Gu erniang 顧二娘
 Gu Mei 顧媚
 Gu Taiqing 顧太清
 Guo Yun 郭筠
 He Shuangqing 賀雙卿
 Clara Ho Tung (Zhang Lianjue) 張蓮覺
 Margaret Ho Tung (Mai Xiuying) 麥秀英
 Hong Xuanjiao 洪宣嬌
 Hou Zhi 侯芝
 Hu Baoyu 胡寶玉
 Hu Jiumei 胡九妹
 Hu Lianxian 胡蓮仙
 Hu King Eng (He Jinying) 何金英
 Huang Jinyu 黃謹嫻
 Huang Lu 黃履
 Huang Yuanjie 黃媛介
 Hui Xian 慧仙
 Hui Xing 惠興
 Ji Fei 繼妃
 Jiang Hui 江蕙
 Jiang Lanling 江蘭陵
 Jin Fei 瑾妃
 Jin Xiaobao 金小寶
 Jin Yi 金逸
 Jin Yue 金玥
 Jing Lian 淨蓮
 Ju Qing 居慶
 Ida Kaln (Kang Cheng) 康成
 Y. May King (Jin Yamei) 金雅妹

- Kong Sizhen 孔四貞
 Kong Tai Heong 江棣香
 Kong Zhaohui 孔昭蕙
 Leng Yujuan 冷玉娟
 Li Changxia 李長霞
 Li Huixian 李蕙仙
 Li Qiaoling 李巧玲
 Li Qinghui 李清輝
 Li Run 李閔
 Li Sai'er 李賽兒
 Li Sansan 李三三
 Li Wanfang 李晚芳
 Li Yin 李因
 Liang Desheng 梁德繩
 Liang Duan 梁端
 Liang Ying 梁瑛
 Lin Daiyu 林黛玉
 (Note: This is a late Qing courtesan, not the fictional character in *Dream of the Red Chamber*.)
 Lin Hei'er 林黑兒
 Lin Puqing 林普晴
 Lin Yining 林以寧
 Liu Qingxia 劉青霞
 Liu Qingyun 劉清韻
 Liu Sanxiu 劉三秀
 Liu Shi 柳是
 Lin Wenru 劉文如
 Lu Lanfen 陸蘭芬
 Lu Yuanshu 盧元素
 Luo Qilan 駱綺蘭
 Ma Quan 馬荃
 Mao Guoji 毛國姬
 Miao Jiahui 繆嘉蕙
 Minhui gonghe yuan fei 敏惠恭和元妃
 Moy Afong 梅亞芳
 Nexunlanbao 那遜蘭保
 Ng Akew (Wu Yaqiao) 吳阿嬌
 Ni Ruixuan 倪瑞璿
 Pan Suxin 潘素心
 Qian Fenglun 錢鳳綸
 Qian Juying 錢聚瀛
 Qian Yi 錢宜
 Qiu Ersao 邱二嫂
 Qiu Jin 秋瑾
 Qiu Xinru 邱心如
 Qiu Yufang 裘毓芳
 Ren Xia 任霞
 Rong Fei 容妃
 Sai Jinhua 賽金花
 Tye Leung Schulze 梁亞娣
 Maria Seise 瑪麗·塞西
 Shan Shili 單士釐
 Shen Jinrui 沈金蕊
 Shen Shanbao 沈善寶
 Shen Shou 沈壽
 Song Mingqiong 宋鳴瓊
 Mary Stone (Shi Meiyu) 石美玉
 Su Sanniang 蘇三娘
 Sumalagu 蘇麻喇姑
 Mary Tape 趙洽夫人
 Tang Su 唐素
 Tao Zhenhuai 陶貞懷
 Ula Nara huanghou 烏喇那拉皇后
 Wanrong 婉容
 Wang Cong'er 王聰兒
 Wang Duan 汪端
 Wang Duanshu 王端淑
 Wang huang taihou 王皇太后
 Wang Lanxiu 王蘭修

- Wang Nangxian 王囊仙
 Wang Qinghan 王青翰
 Wang Xiaoyu 王小玉
 Wang Ying 汪榮
 Wang Zhaoyuan 王照圓
 Wang Yun 王筠
 Wang Zhenyi 王貞儀
 Wu Mulan 吳木蘭
 Wu Qi 吳琪
 Wu Shujuan 吳淑娟
 Wu Zao 吳藻
 Wu Zhiying 吳芝瑛
 Xi Peilan 席佩蘭
 Xia Yilan 夏伊蘭
 Xiao cigao huanghou 孝慈高皇后
 Xiao Daoguan 蕭道管
 Xiao dingjing huanghou 孝定景皇后
 Xiao duanwen huanghou 孝端文皇后
 Xiao gongren huanghou 孝恭仁皇后
 Xiao jingxian huanghou 孝敬憲皇后
 Xiao kangzhang huanghou 孝康章皇后
 Xiao qinxian huanghou 孝欽顯皇后
 Xiao shengxian huanghou 孝聖憲皇后
 Xiao xianchun huanghou 孝賢純皇后
 Xiao xian huanghou 孝獻皇后
 Xiao zhenxian huanghou 李貞顯皇后
 Xiao zhuangwen huanghou 孝莊文皇后
 Xiang Jianzhang 項鏡章
 Xingfen 杏芬
 Xin Si 辛絲
 Xu Can 徐燦
 Xu Fan 徐範
 Xu Zhaohua 徐昭華
 Xu Zhihua 徐自華
 Xue Shaohui 薛紹徽
 Yan Bin 燕斌
 Yao Fenghui 姚鳳翽
 Ye Wanyi 葉婉儀
 Yuan Ji 袁機
 Yuan Jia 袁嘉
 Yuan Shou 袁綬
 Yuan Yunxian 袁雲仙
 Yuan Tang 袁棠
 Yuan Zhu 袁杼
 [Yu] Derling (Yu Deling) 裕德齡
 Yu Ling 余菱
 [Yu] Roonling (Yu Rongling) 裕容齡
 Yun Bing 惲冰
 Yun Huaiying 惲懷英
 Yun Zhu 惲珠
 Zeng Jifen 曾紀芬
 Zeng Yan 曾彥
 Zeng Yi 曾懿
 Zhang Hanying 張漢英
 Zhang Lingyi 張令儀
 Zhang Lunying 張綸英
 Zhang Qieying 張縉英
 Zhang Shanying 張綉英
 Zhang Shuyu 張書玉
 Zhang Wanying 張紈英
 Zhang Wanyu 張宛玉
 Zhang Xiurong 張秀容
 Zhang Yuegui 張月桂
 Zhang Yuqiao 張玉喬
 Zhang Yuzhen 張玉珍
 Zhang Zhujun 張竹君
 Zhao Wopei 趙我佩
 Zhen Fei 珍妃
 Zheng Shuqing 鄭淑卿
 Zheng Yisao 鄭一嫂

Zhou Xiuying 周秀英

Zhu Meiyao 朱美瑤

Zhu Sulan 朱素蘭

Zhuang Panzhu 莊盤珠

Zuo Xijia 左錫嘉

Zuo Xixuan 左錫璇

Current Status

The project has resulted in the manuscript consisting of 200 entries of representative women figures in various fields of Qing China. The Editors-in-chief are in the process of preparing the manuscript for publication.

As editor of the Qing Volume, I must report that there are a number of omissions which prevent the Volume from being as comprehensive as is desirable. Some contributors failed to complete certain biographies because of inadequate sources. Moreover, in my opinion, there are still a number of Qing women worth including in this volume. But I was unable to engage appropriate and/or willing contributors to write their biographies. Examples of this category are: He Zhen 何震, Cui Yunniang 翠雲娘, Liao Jiumei 廖九妹, Li Yuan 李元, Zhang Xiongxi 張雄西, Zheng Suyi 鄭素伊, Wu Jinying 吳金英, Zhuo Guohua 卓國華, Hu Bin 胡彬, Qian Fengbao 錢豐保, etc. Perhaps my experience is quite common in the compilations of biographical dictionaries. For instance, Howard Boorman has noted in the preface of *BDRC* that the final number of completed entries was some two hundred less than the original target. I would, therefore, call for interested colleagues who are willing to contribute new entries to this volume. If sufficient new entries are available, perhaps publishing a continuation (*xubian*續編) to the Volume can be considered.