

Qin na-na

College of history and culture Ji Shou University Hu Nan China

E-mail: nina0905@163.com

Having a restricted view about the different living methods in Gui Zhou implicated by the school-owned land rent in Ming dynasty : basing on the research of Qian Ji ·A Record of schools

Abstract: QIAN JI is a history book writing by Guo Zi-zhang in Ming Dynasty. The Xue Xiao Zhi in the book records the school field in detail which could reflect the conference of living method and environmental background between ethnic groups in Gui Zhou. For example, Wu Sa Wei has buckwheat as rent for the school field, which in fact has deep connection with the local wet and rainy weather and a large number of planting buckwheat in local Yi and Hui People. For another example, Qing Ping Wei and Si Zhou fu has “Shou” and “Bian” in the rent as unit of measure for grain, which reflects the living method of planting glutinous rice in local Dong and Miao people. In all, we could review the history scene of the environmental background only if we study the history material intensively.

Key words: school-owned land, school-owned land rent, Gui Zhou, living method, conference

The recording of school-owned land in Qian Ji

The living methods of ethnic groups are almost indistinct in the traditional historical materials. And which makes it more difficult to discuss about the historical changes in living methods of the ethnic groups. Fortunately, we could find some valuable materials of living methods in local chronicles because of escaping from the control of official style. We're excited to find some reliable information on living methods in Gui Zhou Ming dynasty during the translating of Qian Ji ·A Record of schools.

Guo Zi-zhang finished Qian Ji on 1603, he was the Chief of Gui Zhou when he wrote the book. There are 60 parts in this book and it has a systemic introduce of Gui Zhou on all kinds like History Geography Administrative area Tax Official and so on. A record of schools is the 16th and 17th part in Qian Ji, it introduce not only the location rules of the Confucianism school but also the school-owned land. This article is on the base of these files.

Qian Ji·A Record of schools has a detailed record on the school-owned land, what's more, the record is written by the local language so that it gives the valuable material for the local living method

and ecological background. In general, the book records the quantity of the school-owned land at first, then it records the location and boundary and rental income, and the usage of the rental income at last. Undoubtedly, there are rarely a record which could record the school-owned land so detailed in the large amount of material for Ming dynasty.

A starting point is variety and measurement units of crops. The kinds of crops and animals are different in different ethnic groups in Gui Zhou in Ming dynasty, and these products are what the school-owned land rent. Therefore, we could learn the production circumstance and other cultural truth from the different variety and measurement units. From the above method, the author could confirm that the all ethnic groups like Yi Miao Dong BuYi SHui and GeLao has different living method between each other in Ming Dynasty which is more deeply than today, though, the living method of today has obvious relation with which in Ming Dynasty. Let's has examples as the following two cases:

Yi and Hui with planting buckwheat

These are recorded in Qian Ji-A Record of schools: Wu Sa Wei school-owned land, 25 Mu. 1 located at HeiZHang-zhan, 5 Dan rice for rent each year, or 3 Liang silver; 1 located at Xi Tun, 2 Dan 5 Dou rice for rent each year, or 1 Liang 5 Qian silver...(Guozi-zhang, 1603))

We could ascertain the collation of Wu Sa Wei school-owned land. HeiZHang-zhan is today's HeZHang county GuiZHou province; YeMa-chuan is today's YeMa-chuan town HeZHang county GuiZHou province; XiTun is today's WeiNing county west GuiZHou province; SHangBa and XiaBa is today's WeiNing county east GuiZHou province; HuiHui Ying has a changed name for SaLa-xi today and is today's HeZHang county east GuiZHou province. Totally, all the school-owned land above location along the post-road. This is apparently the ends of convenience of managing and collecting rent. Though, these lands are far from the WuSa-wei School for the tenant farmers to carry rent crops and this are why the land rent should be converted to silver.

WuSa-Wei established on 1382, the historical seat of local government is today's WeiNing county of YI Miao Hui people. The Ming area included today's WeiNing and HeZHang. WuSa-wei confucianism school located at today's WeiNing county. The school established on 1443, it moved to CHenghuang Temple and removed back again. The weather in Wusa Wei is damp and rainy, which could be seen in all kinds of historical materials. The weather are fit for granting buckwheat. Buckwheat, a kind of crop for dry land which like cool and damp weather. It has a very short growth period and could be collected in 60 to 90 days. What's more, it has a good adaptability which means it could be seeded at spring summer and autumn. but buckwheat like damp and cool weather , it needs much water to grown up. The whole grown period for buckwheat need 760-840m3/mu, which is much more than other crops need to grown up. clearly, The weather in Wusa Wei are fit for granting

buckwheat. so, collecting buckwheat as the school-owned land rent is the evitable outcome of the local ecological environment and it's also the reflection of living method of local ethnic groups.

Buckwheat is named for Gu in Yi language. It has two kinds Guchu and Guci that's sweet buckwheat and bitter buckwheat. Buckwheat and oats are milled to paste or cake added with water after fried. Besides, bitter buckwheat could be made for buckwheat rice while sweet buckwheat could be done for buckwheat cake. buckwheat pastries are made with sweet buckwheat mill added by oil and sugar and honey. It was once the article of tribute to the Ming government. Buckwheat is a so important crop of Yi people ,no wonder buckwheat is the school-owned land rent in Ming dynasty.

One highlight of this is that the school-owned land rent is also buckwheat in Hui area. Hui people has a very good local adaption, the living method of Hui people is mostly similar with the neighbor other ethnic groups. When Hui people are sent to garrison Wusa Wei ,they learned to grant and eat buckwheat from the neighbor Yi people. Therefore, Hui people pay buckwheat for school-owned land rent is a reflection of Hui people to suit themselves to the new production environment.

In conclusion, the school-owned land of Wusa Wei in Ming dynasty was established to propagate Han education, but the living custom of local Yi and Hui people were reflected from the school-owned land rent.

Dong and Miao with planting glutinous rice

These are recorded in Qian Ji-A Record of schools: Qingping Wei school-owned land, 1 located at Mixi-zhai, 165 Cheng rice for rent each year, deducting 8 Cheng 40 Jin because of famine, totally 157 Cheng, Suitian-niang 2 Dou... 1 located at ZHongzai, 100 SHou rice for rent each year, the village officer Sunhan buy it on 7th ZHengde; 1 located at SHangwu-bao, 50 SHou rice for rent each year, the village officer ZHukun buy it on ZHengde years...1 located at Pingruo-zai, 50 SHou rice for rent each year...150 Bian grass-rice for rent each year..(Guozi-zhang, 1603)

There are two exceptive measurement units of crops above: Shou and Bian in this two school-owned land, which all the other school-owned lands take the rent with this measurement units of crops like Sheng Dou Dan Cheng and Jin.

Sheng Dou Dan are all usual volume unit in ancient China, Cheng and Jin are also usual ponderance unit. However, Shou and Bian are the unique measurement unit used only in ethnic group area of Guizhou, so we could rarely see them in the traditional historical material.

From investigation we know that SHou and Bian are the usual measurement unit for glutinous rice in Dong and Miao area. So we could draw the conclusion that the lessee must be Miao or Dong people where Shou and Bian is recorded in the book, and we could also make sure that what planted in

the school-owned land is glutinous rice . Since the school-owned land of Qingping-wei and Sizhou-fu use Shou and BIAN for land rent, it means that there must be large amount of Dong and Miao in the two towns. And it reveals that there are much interaction between Dong Miao people and the local confucianism school.

Why Dong and Miao people use BIAN and SHOU as the measurement unit is because of the unique method of cutting and sun-curing rice. Because of the unique geographical conditions they have to choose the unique kind of rice: glutinous rice , and the planting of glutinous rice decides the unique method of cutting and sun-curing rice. glutinous rice which planted by Dong and Miao people is a kind of unique anti-cool anti-frog anti-drown rice. It's just the concentrated expression of Dong and Miao's ability and cleverness to plant such an unique kind of crop. However, it's difficult for glutinous rice to be threshed. In addition, the Dong and Miao area is wetty, so the Dong and Miao people have to cut the glutinous rice with the whole ear of rice and then bind to "ba" to sun-cure on the "Heliang". Therefore, "shou" means the glutinous rice which could be enclasped by one hand, "bian" means a beam of glutinous rice which binded with two or four shou. This two measurement units record the message of local national culture and ecological background from one side.

As for the other unit Dou and Dan which is recorded in the other county as measurement unit, it reflected other information about ecological background. These units use only for rice. Because that rice could be threshed in the field so it's easy to measure by capability or weight.

All in all, from the content of the school-owned land rent of Qingping-wei and Sizhou-fu we could draw a conclusion that zhangu and glutinous rice both are be planted in the school-owned land of these two county. Han soldiers and farmers plant rice so they pay rice as land rent, correspondingly, the measurement unit is Cheng Jin or Dou Dan. Meanwhile, the local Dong and Miao plant glutinous rice so they pay glutinous rice as land rent, correspondingly, the measurement unit is Shou BIAN and Ba. It seems to be a very little difference in unit, but it reflex the difference of living method and ecological background between different ethnic groups in Guizhou Ming dynasty vividly.

Epilogue

There are so many ethnic groups in Guizhou whose living background made them to take their unique living method , and this lead to the difference between each other in the food clothing conception and so on. But culture is a organic whole, we could find positive connection in any two parts. So ,we could find the the difference of living method and ecological background between different ethnic groups in Guizhou Ming dynasty vividly from the tiny difference of land rent which is recorded in Qian Ji-A Record of schools. It remind us that we couldn't ignore the research value of any tiny and simple material. Many people take it for granted that it was difficult to do research well on

ancient ecological truth because of lack of historical material. But from this case we could say that we could do it well if we read historical materials seriously.

(I must say thanks to professor Yang Tingshuo for the great help during the researching of this article.)