

The Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”

Yuechao Wang^{1,a,*}, Jie Yang^{2,b}

¹School of History and Archives, Yunnan University, Kunming, 650000, China

²Library, Shanghai Museum, Shanghai, 200000, China

^a978104090@qq.com, ^b504223575@qq.com

*Corresponding author

Abstract: From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, the discovery of the Oracle Bones from the Yin Ruins, the Ancient Literature from Dunhuang, the Bamboo Slips of the Qin and the Han Dynasty, and the Ming and the Qing history archives of the Qing Palace Cabinet in China shocked the Chinese academic circle at that time, and with the development of the research on them, the disciplines of Studies of Oracle Bone Inscriptions, Dunhuang Studies, and the Study of Bamboo Slips were established one after another, and became known to the world's academic circle. However, compared with the first three kinds of cultural heritage, the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties did not form the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” (the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” did not form a famous study, in other words, it's also a potential discipline.), which undoubtedly caused us to think. To this end, we have made a preliminary compendium of the discovery of archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and the work and research done by Chinese academics around it. Through this research, we believe that there is room for the growth of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”. We have tried to illustrate the current state of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” through some evidence and to make a discourse on the direction of its study and its objects of study.

Keywords: Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties; “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”; potential discipline; academic history

1. Foreword

The archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties are the precious records of the Ming and Qing dynasties of ancient China that survive in the course of history. The rich and varied archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties are of great value to the in-depth development of academic research in China and even in East Asia. The discovery of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, opened up the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties of this new field of research, in China's Ming and Qing dynasty archivists as well as scholars, not only the results of the efforts of the Ming and Qing dynasty archives, and the formation of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” as the study of the material of the speciality of the study. In this paper, we have made a preliminary sorting out of the development history of the study of Ming and Qing archival science, and searched and analysed the research results of the study of Ming and Qing archival science by using authoritative data platforms such as the database of the National Social Science Foundation of China, the humanities and social sciences information network of Chinese colleges and universities, and the national Qing history compilation and repair project of China in order to correctly grasp the development of the development of the study of this potential discipline and the object of the study.

2. A Retrospective on the Development of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”

2.1 The fate of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and the formation of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”

Wang Guowei [1] once said, “Since ancient times, the rise of new learning has always come from new discoveries.” There is no doubt that new learning is made possible by the discovery of new materials. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, the country was in decline, and the Qing court mismanaged

the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the palace, and many of the archival documents were destroyed. When the Imperial Cabinet Archives were about to be destroyed, Luo Zhenyu [2] told Zhang Zhidong [3] to “save” the archives, partly in the palace and partly outside. This part of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties shipped out of the palace led to the “Eight thousand sacks” [4] incident. With the collapse of the Qing Dynasty, society was in a period of intense turmoil, stored in the Qing Palace inside and outside of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties through the transfer of the “Eight thousand sacks” incident, caused widespread concern in society at the time.

The Document Library of the National Palace Museum, the Department of National Studies of the Peking University Research Institute, the Institute of Historical and Linguistic Research of the Academia Sinica, the Department of History of Tsinghua University, and the Yu Gong Society [5], a private academic organisation, have all been involved in acquiring and arranging archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties for research purposes. In addition, Luo Zhenyu also made use of the archives left in the 8,000 sacks to carry out some sorting and research. [6] Due to the lack of experience in the collation of historical archives, both Luo Zhenyu and Peking University and other organisations could only accumulate experience in the process of preliminary collation. As a result, different ideas and methods of archival organisation of the Ming and Qing dynasties arose at this stage, and the contributions of the Documentation Library of the Palace Museum and the National Studies Department of Peking University in particular were far-reaching. After receiving some of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties from the Museum of History, the National Studies Department of Peking University initially organised the archives in a formal way, displaying them in shelves by dynasty and by type.

This method of organisation ignored information about the content of the archives, severed the links between different cases, and was time-consuming and labour-intensive. Peking University then adjusted the collation method: First, the full text of the excerpts of the Ming file title line draft. Secondly, the catalogue of the reimbursement book and the catalogue of various archives were compiled, and thirdly, the contents of the question book of the Qing archives were sorted out and extracted by categories. Guided by the new collation method, “Report on the collation of key historical materials of the Ming and Qing dynasties”, “Qijuzhu [7] of Qianlong [8] Emperor, Jiaqing [9] 3rd year, Qing Dynasty” and other works, these have been published by Peking University. [10] In view of the collation practice of Peking University, the Palace Museum will be the Imperial Cabinet Archives after the initial clean-up, the archives of various places for comparative study, clarified the relationship between the archives of different institutions and archival documents reflected in the rules and regulations of the archive system, these practices to facilitate the archival documents themselves for the examination and research. [11] On the basis of the experience gained from organising the Ming and Qing archives over the years. In 1936, the Palace Museum established the Archives Regulations for the Archives. It systematically presents the principles and methods of organising Ming and Qing archives.

This document stipulates that “the archives should be organised in such a way as to preserve their original form”, that “they should not be dismantled or fragmented”, that “the original administrative system should be used as the system for organising them” and that “those who were originally wrapped up or labelled should not be arbitrarily dismantled or discarded”. [12] In the practical process of arranging the archives, combining the Western 10-category classification of books, creating a 10-entry classification of archives numbering, developing a method of cataloguing items by name, named person, era, etc., and attaching importance to the originality and completeness of the archives. It plays an extremely important role in maintaining and preserving the original nature of the archives and maintaining the interconnectedness of the archives. During the Republic of China period, the historiography of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties to make the Ming and Qing archives from disorder to norms, the theory of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties, methodology, and the generation of ideas gave birth to the Ming and Qing archives of this new field of research, promoting the establishment of Chinese archives and the development of the field of Ming and Qing history research.

2.2 The new Development of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Communist Party of China and the new government established the layout of a national network of archives with the First Historical Archives of China as the centralised authority for the management of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and local archives for the management of archives under their respective jurisdictions, and carried out a comprehensive take-over and collection of historical archives, including the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The new-age archivists of the Ming and Qing dynasties have fully drawn

on the experiences and lessons learnt from previous historiographers in the organisation of archives. According to the Fonds Theory [13] to scientifically organise the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties, after years of efforts, the distribution of the existing Chinese archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties is basically clear. Driven by the rapid development of science and technology, the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties work gradually towards modernisation. With the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties work in tandem with related academic research is also fruitful. In the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the People's Republic of China after the establishment of 80 years, The First Historical Archives of China edited and published more than 150 kinds of archives, more than 1,000 volumes, a total of more than 700 million words of archival history, published more than 3,000 articles, in addition to a number of monographs came out. [14] In addition, our statistical analysis based on two databases, the National Social Science Foundation Project Database and the Humanities and Social Sciences Information Network of Chinese Colleges and Universities (HSSN), shows that among the research projects established within the field of studies of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the more than 20-year period from 1998 to 2019, there were 88 Chinese National Social Science Foundation projects and 53 projects from other sources. (The statistics come from our search and statistics of two data centres, the National Social Science Foundation Project Database and the Humanities and Social Sciences Information Network of Chinese Universities. <http://fz.people.com.cn/skygb/sk/>, <https://www.sinoss.net/shujukujku>, <http://pub.sinoss.net/portal/webga-te/CommandNormalList>.)

By analysing the results of research within the field of archival studies of the Ming and Qing dynasties, (We searched, summarised and analysed the research results of Ming and Qing archival studies based on the database of the National Social Science Foundation Project, the information network of humanities and social sciences in Chinese colleges and universities, based on the official website of China's First Historical Archives, the National Qing History Codification and Repair Project, the Wanfang Data Knowledge Service Platform, China Knowledge Network, the VIP Chinese Periodicals Literature Service Platform, as well as the National Libraries Reference and Consultation Alliance.) the research directions of the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" can be summarised as the research on archive management of the Ming and Qing dynasties, The archival literature studies of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and the archival history studies of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

The research on archive management of the Ming and Qing dynasties mainly focuses on the theories, principles and methods arising from the collection, arrangement, appraisal, statistics, storage, protection, editing and processing, utilisation and other practical aspects of the work of the Ming and Qing dynasties archives. For example, Daoshan Ni's "An Introduction to the Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" devotes a chapter to the retrieval of Ming and Qing archives. The author introduces the basic knowledge on retrieval matters such as the classification of archives into volumes, the storage units of archives in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and the various codes, codes and identifiers in the management of archives from the point of view of a Ming and Qing archivist. In addition, he also gave a detailed introduction to the types of archival search tools of the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as the archival search tools of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the three historical phases of the Qing Dynasty, the Republican Period, and after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the process of their emergence, and how to consult the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Again, such as Zhaowu Chen, and BaoRong He, Ying Wei Wang's "foundation of archive management", dedicated to "the management of the Ming and Qing dynasty archives" chapter, they are based on the general law of the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties, clear management of the Ming and Qing dynasty archives should be based on historical materialism as the guiding ideology, to maintain the original appearance of the historical archives, to make full use of the original basis, and the process of management should be combined with the Ming and Qing dynasty archives of the research. Combined with the history of the development of Ming and Qing archival work in the new period, they made a comprehensive compendium of the management and requirements of the Ming and Qing archives, the management and methods of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and the open access to them. [15]

The archival literature studies of the Ming and Qing dynasties can be broadly categorised as a study centred on the discovery of the textual value of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Specifically, such studies include the examination of archival literatures of the Ming and Qing dynasties, the study of the programme of archival literatures of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and the study of the system of archival literatures of the Ming and Qing dynasties. For example, Liang Yanping's Discrimination of Imperial Edicts in Ming Dynasty with the Name of "Chi" ("Chi" is one of the names of the ancient Chinese imperial edict instruments, for the emperor to grant senior officials vouchers.), through in-depth excavation of archival documents, she made a detailed examination and analysis of the nature, programme, content and scope of application of three kinds of imperial edicts,

namely, ChiYu, ChiShu and ChiMing, which has certain academic value for the academia to clarify the concepts of edicts, edicts and edicts, as well as to clarify the relationship among the three of them. [16] Another example is exploring the System of Draft Proposed and Batch Red published by Yanchang Zhao and his postgraduate Lili Xu. This article takes the historical background of Draft Proposed and Batch Red, a clerical system adopted during the Ming and Qing dynasties, as a logical starting point, and describes the system's process, content, and style. They comprehensively cited historical documents compiled from the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties, such as History of the Ming dynasty, Compilations of the Huidian of Qing Dynasty, On the Treatment of in Factual Record of Qing Dynasty, etc., and analysed and evaluated the ticket system. [17]

The archival history studies of the Ming and Qing dynasties is to take the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties as the historical argument, and scientifically use the historical materials of Ming and Qing archives to carry out historical research. This part of the study fully realises the core value of Chinese academia of "studying history through archival materials" and is also one of the main ways to realise the important historical value of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Our understanding of the relationship between the archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties and the study of Ming and Qing history through the compilation and examination of the results of the study of Ming and Qing history after the founding of the People's Republic of China is based on three main points.

First, the use of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties for historical factual examination and supplementation. For instance, The Correction and Supplement to Qing Zhang's Biography in the History of Qing Dynasty--Based on the Archives of Nanbu County Government in Qing Dynasty, completed by Chunlin Lai and Shengyang Jin. The author was in the process of collating the Archives of Nanbu County Government in Sichuan, In the course of organising the Archives of Nanbu County Government in Sichuan, the author conducted an in-depth study of the original archives of Zhang Yiqing, the highest rank official of Jian Zhou (Geographical Names in China). On the basis of comparison with relevant historical documents, the errors in the historical records recorded in The Manuscript of the History of the Qing Dynasty have been corrected, and the "章慶" ("Qing Zhang") recorded in it is in fact "章儀慶" (Yiqing Zhang), thus making up for the loopholes in the textual records of Zhang Yiqing in the draft of the Qing History. At the same time, the article provides a detailed biography of Zhang Yiqing, enriching the personal history of the late Qing historical figures. [18]

Secondly, the use of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties to correct errors in historical documents. Here, for example, is an assertion of the origin of The Memorial System [19] in the Qing Dynasty. The "Xiaoting Miscellany" (A Notebook of the Qing Dynasty in China) records the following passage. "The ruler established the office of transmission after the reign of Yuanzhang Zhu (the first emperor of the Ming dynasty of China). After the reign of Yuanzhang Zhu (the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty of China), the ruler set up the office of transmission, a body that required all documents for correspondence between ministers and the emperor to be checked by the office before they could be delivered to the emperor. Therefore, a powerful official often appointed his close associates as the head of the office. In this way, the powerful minister knew very well the contents of these documents. Emperor Yongzheng of the Qing Dynasty knew very well the shortcomings of this system, so he ordered his ministers to switch to The Memorial for all urgent matters only, and specially appointed some officials to be responsible for the collection of these secret documents. Thereafter, "whenever there were documents urgently submitted by local officials, The Emperor was informed of these important and confidential matters." [20] Based on this text, for a period of time, a section of Chinese academics concluded that The Memorial System began during the reign of the Yongzheng [21] Emperor. After this, however, The First Historical Archives of China published Zhu Pi Memorials Compendium Established by the Kangxi Dynasty and Complete Translation of Manchu Zhu Pi Memorial in Kangxi Dynasty, using the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Dynasty and Complete Translation of Manchu Zhu Pi Memorial in Kangxi Dynasty, releasing more than 10,000 memorials in Manchu and Chinese from the Kangxi Dynasty, confirming that the Memorial System was created in the Qing Dynasty before the Yongzheng period. A group of scholars have used these two archival works to publish a series of scholarly papers, thus strongly refuting the idea that The Memorial System began during the Yongzheng period, and making the erroneous viewpoint readily apparent.

Third, the comprehensive use of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties to address a particular thematic area of Ming and Qing historical research. Compared with other types of historical materials, the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties have the original attributes and characteristics of historical archives, which makes it occupy an extremely important position in the historical materials for the study of Ming and Qing history. Therefore, the inclusion of the archives of the Ming and Qing

Dynasties into the scope of applied historical materials for the study of Ming and Qing history, as well as the combination of other historical materials to carry out the study of a certain topic is also a major feature of the study of Ming and Qing history in contemporary China. Take the article Replacing Tiben ("Tiben" was one of the instruments used by senior officials in China during the Ming and Qing dynasties to report on political affairs to the emperor.) with Zouzhe [22]: A Study of the Development of the Zouzhe System in the Qing dynasty by Zhengyun Liu, a scholar of modern Chinese history in Taiwan, for example. The paper that is more typical of the Qing dynasty historical archives for the historical data based on The Memorial System of the Qing dynasty to carry out thematic research. [23] The Memorial System of the Qing Dynasty began during the Kangxi period and ended with the fall of the Qing Dynasty. It can be said that this system was an important system of documents circulating between the ruler and his ministers during the Qing Dynasty. To figure out The Memorial System, it is necessary to make use of the archives of the Memorial and "Tiben" of the Qing Dynasty, to corroborate each other with the information reflected in the archives to the historical records, to find clues in the archives, and to examine the competition between these two kinds of instruments in a comprehensive manner, so as to maximise the historical process of the parallel development of the Memorial and the "Tiben".

3. Scholarly Discussions on the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" among Chinese Academics

In recent years, with the launch of the National Project for the Recompilation of Qing Dynasty History [24] and the development of research on Ming and Qing history, Scholars continue to refer to the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" of China as a concept of discipline in their papers.

Jihong Liang published *The Establishment and Development of Chinese Historical Archives Study-Comment on Historical Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties* by Qin Guojing. She argues that "for historical reasons, Historical Archives Study narrowly refers to Studies of Historical Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties with the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties as the object of study. Ming and Qing Dynasties." According to the author's viewpoint, she believes that Historical Archives Study has long been established, and divides the historical development stages of the discipline of Historical Archives Study according to the events and practices of historical archives in Chinese academic history, and gives a more specific definition of the concept of the discipline for the first time, i.e. "Chinese Historical Archives Study is a scientific discipline that takes Chinese historical archives as its object of study. Historical Archives Study" (Studies of Historical Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties) was given a more specific definition of the concept of the discipline, that is, "Chinese Historical Archives Study (the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties") is a scientific discipline that takes Chinese historical archives as its object of study, and its fields include: research on the textual form and content, entity and content management of historical archives, and research on recording and collation and publication and collation and publication." [25]

Yanchang Zhao published some thoughts on the textbook construction of *The Archival History of China* in the article. He believes that the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties have lagged far behind compared with the three major studies of oracle bones, simple documents and Dunhuang, and that with the launch of the National Project for the Recompilation of Qing Dynasty History, the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" should be established as soon as possible, and together with the oracle bones, simple documents and Dunhuang, a Historical Archives should be created. With the launch of the National Project for the Recompilation of Qing Dynasty History, the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" should be established as soon as possible, and together with the Oracle Bone Archives and Simplified Documents, Together with Oracle Bone Archives, Simple Document Archives and Dunhuang Document Archives, we should create the Historical Archives Study, integrate this part into the study of the history of archives, and finally add it to the history of Chinese archives. [26] Based on his exposition, it is clear that he believes that the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" as a discipline is not yet established.

Through searches and surveys of several of China's major scientific research databases, the first article to appear with the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" as a disciplinary title is *Discussion on the Creation of the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties"*. The paper was co-authored by Guojing Qin, Xiong Zhao and Guangyue Wang. This paper was first published at the Second Symposium on Archives and Historical Studies of the Ming and Qing Dynasties held in October 1995 and was validated by the experts attending the symposium, and was later collated and

supplemented to be included in the Collection of Papers on Archives and Historical Studies of the Ming and Qing Dynasties of the First Historical Archives of China. The three authors of this thesis are senior archivists of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in The First Historical Archives of China, who, from the perspective of the first-line archivists of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, were the first to put forward the idea of establishing the discipline of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”, and made corresponding discussions on the necessity of establishing the discipline of “Ming and Qing Dynasties”. They are the first to propose the idea of establishing the discipline of "Studies of Historical Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties", and they have discussed the necessity of establishing this discipline, the conditions for its formation, the characteristics of the discipline, the tasks of the discipline, and the system of the discipline, and other specific contents. In addition, the author also gives a preliminary idea of the steps and plans for the establishment of this discipline. [27] Such a concept was affirmed by Baokang Wu (the founder of the discipline of archival science in China), an expert who attended the meeting at that time. [28]

Taken together, although the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” has appeared several times in some academic papers as a proper name of the discipline, does “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” as a discipline really exist already? We think the answer must be negative and our arguments are the following. Firstly, looking at it from the outside, the scoping of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties has yet to reach a unified understanding. We believe that the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties should include all the archives produced during both the Ming and Qing dynasties in China. Looking at these current papers, most of the scholars' discussion of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties is directed at the historical archives in the palace, or at least, as far as we can see, the scholars have not made a clear definition of the scope of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In fact, “At present, there are about 20 million surviving archives of Qing dynasty, of which all but 10 million are housed in The First Historical Archives of China, while the remaining 10 million local archives are housed in hundreds of archives at home and abroad.” [29] This can be summarised as ambiguity in the understanding of the research material. Secondly, research teams and research institutions have not yet formed a unified understanding of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”. In China, research papers on the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties are scattered among different disciplines, such as history and archival science. In historiography, scholars use the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties as an important historical source to test historical facts, as noted in note 30 of this article. In the Archival Science community, however, scholars have focused more on the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties themselves, and on the study of “how to manage it”. This phenomenon is, of course, due to the different perspectives brought by the different disciplinary backgrounds of the researchers. Thirdly, although there have been many papers on the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and some articles expressing views on the Studies of Historical Archives, a scholarly work making an in-depth argument (the theoretical issues of disciplinary construction such as the object of study, research methodology, and scope of study of the discipline.) about the Studies of Historical Archives has not yet been produced.

Based on the above arguments, we believe that the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” is consistent with the “pre-science” [30] feature of Kuhn [31] 's Science Development Model, if a discipline is not even clear about its underlying theories, research methods and other elements, there is no reason to think that it exists.

4. Our Reflections on the Development of Contemporary “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties”

By tracking and analysing papers of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and the Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Chinese academia, we can understand this potential discipline from both macro and micro perspectives. Archives' research objects. At the macro level, the research object of the potential discipline is composed of three parts: the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the archival work of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and the archival career of the Ming and Qing dynasties. At the micro level, the potential discipline can be refined into the nature of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the methods, principles and theories of the management, development and utilisation of Ming and Qing archival resources. Theory. Combined with the properties of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the research object of the “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” is understood as the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and Qing Dynasties phenomenon and its essence and law.

The “Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties” has a diversity of research objects and a

richness of research content that makes it a combination of research methods from different disciplines. For example, the application of the Fonds Theory of archival science in the collation of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Another example is the application of historiographical theories and methods to the thematic study of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties by the historical disciplines adopting an archaeological approach. Sorting out and integrating multidisciplinary theories and research methods should be an academic task of this potential discipline.

5. Conclusion

For the whole world, people are no strangers to famous cultural heritages such as the ancient Egyptian mural, The Code of Hammurabi, Dunhuang documents and so on. But I'm afraid people still don't know much about the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in China. The archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties is a true record of China from the end of the ancient period to the modern era, which not only possesses valuable cultural relics, but it also the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties is a true record of China from the end of the ancient period to the modern era, which not only has precious cultural relics value, but also has valuable and important literature value. As we mentioned above, judging by the criteria of the establishment of the discipline, it is obvious that the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" is not yet a famous school. However, we believe that the creation of a discipline such as this potential discipline is extremely necessary for the in-depth excavation of the value of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and for their better preservation.

To this end, we have been working for a long time on the investigation of the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties and on the creation of the "Study of Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties" in China. Unfortunately, however, due to a number of factors, we are unable to learn more about the archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties that have been dispersed overseas. In our view, this is not conducive to the conduct of this study. In addition, even though we have worked very hard for this research, the work we have done has not been able to attract the attention of Chinese academics.

For these reasons, we hope to have a broader international perspective, to put our views and understanding into a more open platform, we hope to get guidance and help from the world's academic community, and at the same time, we also hope that through the papers we do can let the world understand some of the current situation and dynamics of the Chinese academic community.

References

- [1] Li, J. (2017). 'Guowei Wang' (In Chinese). *www.chinakongzi.org*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <http://www.chinakongzi.org/baike/RENWU/JINXIANDAI/201711/t20171130_148504.htm>
- [2] Wang, Q. (2005). 'Luo Zhenyu, Master of National Education' (In Chinese). *www.guoxue.com*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <<http://www.guoxue.com/master/luozhenyu/sjfy.htm>>
- [3] Cangzhou Chronicles. (2019). '[Cangzhou Character] Zhang Zhidong' (In Chinese). *m.thepaper.cn*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <https://m.thepaper.cn/baijiahao_3849996>
- [4] Xi, H. (2014). 'Behind every great museum is a history of imperial looting Private History-The Paper' (In Chinese). *www.thepaper.cn*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from https://www.thepaper.cn/news/Detail_forward_1260348?commTag=true
- [5] Lu, H., & Yang, F. (2022). 'Symposium on Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of Mr Shi Nianhai's Birth and China's Historical Geography in 2022 Held in Xi'an Hunan Wisdom Net' (In Chinese). *www.hnzk.gov.cn*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <https://www.hnzk.gov.cn/zhikuxinwen/16936.html>
- [6] Zhang, H. (2009). 'SHIQI MINGQING DANGAN ZHENGLI YANJIL', *Archives Science B-ulletin*, 31/04: 66–9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16113/j.cnki.daxtx.2009.04.019>
- [7] Hubei Chinese Encyclopedia Technology Development Co., Ltd. (2023). 'Qijuzhu - Chinese Encyclopedia, Culture Platform' (In Chinese). *Zwbk2009.com*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <http://www.zwbk2009.com/index.php?title=%E8%B5%B7%E5%B1%85%E6%B3%A8>
- [8] Pelissier, R. (2019). 'Qianlong | emperor of Qing dynasty'. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.
- [9] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2024). 'Jiaqing | emperor of Qing dynasty'. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jiaqing>
- [10] Zheng, T. (1957). *Historical Materials of the Peasants' (In Chinese) R-evolt at the end of the Ming Dynasty.*, Vol. 11018.29, pp. 18–21. Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company.
- [11] Jin, S., & You, L. (1997). 'The Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties—Visit Mr. Zhang Deze,

- an Old Man from Lantai*, *Archives Management*, 15/05: 40–1. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2015950/2020j%20.cnki%20.%201005-9458.%201997.%2005.%20030>
- [12] Ni, D. (1992). *An introduction to archives of the Ming and Qing dynasties*. 2nd ed., p. 15. Chengdu: Sichuan University Press.
- [13] Shandong Provincial Archives. (2019). '[Knowledge of archive] Do you know about archives "full file"(In Chinese)? _Former Soviet Union'. www.sohu.com. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from https://www.sohu.com/a/314276522_777579
- [14] Xing, Y. (2006). 'Opening Remarks by Xing Yongfu, Director of the First Historical Archives of China, at the Third Symposium on Ming and Qing Archives and Historical Research', *Historical Archives*, 26/01: 4–6.
- [15] Chen, Z., & Wang, Y. (2005). *Basis for Study of Archives Management*, 3rd ed., pp. 355–86. Beijing: China Renmin University Press.
- [16] Liang, Y. (2020). 'Discrimination of Imperial Edicts in Ming Dynasty with the Name of "Chi"', *Archival Research*, 34/01: 143–8. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16065/j.cnki.issn1002-1620.2020.01.023>
- [17] Zhao, Y., & Xu, L. (2011). 'Exploring the System of Draft Proposed a-and Batch Red', *Archival Research*, 25/03: 92–6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16065/j.cnki.issn1002-1620.2011.03.001>
- [18] Li, C., & Jin, S. (2014). 'The Correction and Supplement to Zhang Qi-ng's Biography in the History of Qing Dynasty--Based on the Archives of Nanbu County Government in Qing Dynasty', *Journal of Southwest Jiaotong University (Social Sciences)*, 15/01: 124–8.
- [19] Qing, R. (1996). 'An Analysis of Palace Memorials during the Early Qing', *Studies in Qing History*, 0/3: 12.
- [20] Aisin-Gioro, Z. (1980). *Xiaoting Miscellany*. (Y. He, Ed.), pp. 327–8. Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company.
- [21] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019a). 'Yongzheng | Emp-eror of Qing Dynasty | Britannica'. Encyclopaedia Britannica.
- [22] Zhu, J., Luo, M., & Zhang, L. (2022). 'Zouzhe - Encyclopaedia of Chi-na, Third Edition, Online Edition' (In Chinese). www.zgbk.com. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <https://www.zgbk.com/ecph/words?SiteID=1&ID=449387&Type=bkzyb&SubID=99949>
- [23] Liu, Z. (2017). 'Replacing Tiben with Zouzhe: a Study of the Development of the Zouzhe System in the Qing Dynasty', *Journal of Sichuan University (Philosophy and Social Science Edition)*, 63/02: 28–45.
- [24] Zhu, H. (2018). 'Chinese Literature and History Network-New China Qing History Compilation and Revision Project' (In Chinese). qinghistory.cn. Retrieved February 28, 2024, from <http://qinghistory.cn/xzqgszxsy/425715.shtml>
- [25] Liang, J. (2017). 'The Establishment and Development of Chinese Historical Archives Study-Comment on Historical Archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties by Qin Guojing', *Archival Science*, 31/3: 12–6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16065/j.cnki.issn1002-1620.2017.03.002>
- [26] Zhao, Y. (2009). 'Some Reflections on the Construction of Teaching Materials for the History of Chinese Archives' (In Chinese), *Archives Science Bulletin*, 31/06: 83–6.
- [27] Qin, G., Zhao, X., & Wang, G. (2000). *Proceedings of the Ming and Qing Archives and Historical Studies* (In Chinese), pp. 1173–84. Beijing: China Friendship Publishing Company.
- [28] Qin, G. (1994). *A Guide to the Ming Qing Archives Treasures of China*, p. 4. Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- [29] Wu, P., & Wan, H. (2015). 'New Progress in Local Archives and Documentation Research - Review of the Second Symposium on Local Archives and Documentation Research' (In Chinese), *Journal of China West Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)*, 37/02: 105–10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16246/j.cnki.51-1674/c.2015.02.018>
- [30] Thwink.org. (2014). 'The Kuhn Cycle - Thomas Kuhn's Brilliant Model of How Scientific Fields Progress'. Thwink.org. Retrieved from <https://www.thwink.org/sustain/glossary/KuhnCycle.htm>
- [31] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019b). 'Thomas S. Kuhn | American philosopher and historian'. Encyclopaedia Britannica.