

The Development of the Memorial and the Oracle in the Early Qing Dynasty

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ABSTRACT. Memorials, as an official document in the Qing Dynasty, began in Shunzhi, became a system in Kangxi, and was not abolished until Qing Dynasty, which has a history of more than 200 years. Because of its classification and various forms, it deals with wide range of aspects. This paper sums up the development and changes of memorial system in the early Ming Dynasty from the perspective of Memorial, Summed up the characteristics of the memorial system in each dynasty.

KEYWORDS: Memorials, Early qing dynasty development

1. Systems of Memorial

1.1 The Formation and Development of Memorials in Qing Dynasty

In the early years of Shunzhi, the type and format of memorials were formally emphasized. The subjects have the memorials of those who are not aware of them. All the legitimate affairs are the subject.”[1] The performance of the title can be distinguished by its capacity. Because the performance of the title is a business, it has to be sealed, which is also different from that of the memorial. In addition, drawing on the characteristics of the Ming Dynasty's prohibition of red tape, Shunzhi had a regulation in the second year: “all internal and external officials write this chapter. No more than three hundred words. Although it names Qian Gu. It's hard to reduce the number of words. It not allows to repeat too long. The main idea of this article will remain. Pinch to stick yellow. For easy reading. No more than 100 words are able to be pasted in yellow. If there is a word overflow. And open more clauses. Or paste yellow and the original uneven similarities and differences. The Yamen must not be held in private. Still correct the reference by being in violation of the rules.” [2] At the beginning of the Qing Dynasty, there was a myriad of common affairs around the country, and the active promotion of sticking yellow was undoubtedly conducive to the rapid and stable rule of the Qing Dynasty over many parts of the country.

Emperor Kangxi also placed great importance on “sticking the Yellow Emperor”. He strictly ordered: “sticking the Yellow Emperor. The title book is pasted with yellow. Use a piece of single paper. The formula has to be in conformity with the book. There are twenty-one words in a row. Top rank. The following questions are for reference. Same as this formula. In the middle, according to the reason. Brief summary. Don't be long. But the number of lines is not controlled. It expects to end when the range is full. Pasted in yellow. It is similar to the Yellow paste of the title book. But it posts with yellow. Each line is twenty-five words long. Later, I would want to give you a recital. ”

But because of the complexity of some affairs, many officials often do not even know which kind of official documents to use. In the Yongzheng period, the emperor was always emphasizing the issue. In the third year of Yongzheng, he ordered: “the event of Tito performance. You should draw one. Order the governors and generals to increase the town. Big and small business. All in question books. Use the printing tool. It's personal. All memorials. Although there are officials of seal. No seal. If you violate the rules. The Ministry of communications.” [3] Here, Emperor Yongzheng refers to the word “painting one”. It can be seen that the performance system of the Qing Dynasty is not perfect. The format of internal and external officials' performance is unified, and sometimes there is confusion of performance. In the seventh year of Yongzheng's

reign (1729), it was also clearly mentioned that “impeachment of subordinates in succession... Should be based on the original. Its celebration is written in the table. Each officer will be designated to receive the seal. Leave office and hand over seal. And the Royal edict. To issue books to the Yamen of each province directly under the central government. “At the same time, he is the one that gives orders to play back. It's all business. Application book. To all officers to be promoted. Escalation record. Leniency, exemption and punishment. Or go to leather and stay in office. Or a special reward. Or on behalf of his commissioner. They all use memorials. No seal.” [4]

By the 13th year of Qianlong reign (1748), the imperial court formally abolished the memorial system, and the memorial, as a mature and more efficient form of document, officially appeared on the stage of history.

Memorials, sometimes called “secret memorials”, appeared in the 32nd year of Kangxi, so they are also called “playing notes”. As for the origin of the memorial, there is no exact time yet, but it can be roughly determined. Ju Deyuan thought: in the middle period of Kangxi Dynasty. The country was unified. In order to know the governance situation of local officials to the jurisdiction in time, Emperor Kangxi granted the close officials the privilege of using secret fold to play things, “so there was a memorial document”, so there was a memorial document.[5] “Feng Erkang once said that” in the thirty second year of Kangxi at the latest, memorials will already exist. In the same year, Li Xu, a weaver from Jiangning, reported to Kangxi about the governance of his area through memorials. In the 56th year of Kangxi, Cao Yuan began to take over in Jiangning weaving. Kangxi reviewed his plea for safety: “I am healthy”. Although you are ignorant of children, what you have to do is not detailed... Although you don't mind the local affairs, you can also hear the big and small things, according to your father's secret. “Emperor Kangxi used memorials to get regional anecdotes. When he asked for peace, he could also observe the actual situation and judge the right and wrong. It could not only prevent the words from blocking, but also prevent officials from cheating. Emperor Kangxi found many advantages of presenting memorials. Therefore, in the late Kangxi Dynasty, the power of performing memorials gradually expanded in the imperial bureaucracy.

In about 50 years of Kangxi's reign, local officials, such as governors and governors, have been granted permission to perform a choreographic task.

Later, in the fifty-one year of Kangxi, the central officials had the power to play the music. It can be seen from Wang Hongxu, an official in the South study, that the Beijing government has the power of the memorial.

Of course, at this time, most of the officials who are entitled to perform are close relatives and favoured officials, among which there are also some officials with low grades. For example, Cao Yin and Yi were from the house of internal affairs. Because his mother was the infant nursing mother of Emperor Kangxi, the Cao family had a close relationship with the royal family, which was unusual for the monarchs and ministers. In the sequel to Yongxian records by Xiao Xi, “Yin, the word Zi Qing... The mother is the protector of the holy ancestor. Both women are princesses.” [6]

With the continuous improvement and development of the memorial system, its format regulation is gradually standardized. Li Linsheng, the governor of Shanxi Province, played the first thing and stamped the official seal, which was the same as the title book. This kind of phenomenon emerges in endlessly. At that time, there were no uniform custom-made memorials. The larger ones were close to the title books, while the small ones were only a few inches.

The author believes that the refinement and perfection of the memorial system is the beginning of the content.

First of all, according to the purpose, it can be divided into several kinds, such as playing the event fold and asking for safety fold. Among them, the story telling the most widely uses.

Secondly, on the basis of this, the two styles are different. For example, we can talk about him if we ask for a compromise as usual, and we also have taboos. “please give a compromise with the story of killing thieves, which are very different.” [7]

Thirdly, in form, white and yellow color can be used for the memorial, and the yellow envelope can be set outside, while the pink and red paper can be used for the celebration. In terms of writing, the ministers of Manchu, Han and Mongol in the Qing Dynasty were miscellaneous. Among the existing historical materials, the most of them write in Chinese. Manchu and Mongol were also covered. In addition, Manchu and Han were written in two languages, generally depending on the author's habits. In the Kangxi Dynasty, the requirement of typeface was not particularly strict. At the beginning of its implementation, the internal and external officials often played according to the form of memorials. Emperor Kangxi once applied for memorials without following the script. There is not any limit to the number of words. Take Zhupai for example: “I'm in an. It's better to fold the calligraphy and painting inside later.” [8]

Of course, there are likewise some minor adjustments, such as the rearrangement of the upgrading of the words of the emperor and the emperor after the throne of Qianlong. As for taboo, it has been in ancient times. For example, to avoid the taboo of Emperor Gaozong, the time history book was renamed as the time constitutional book. For the sake of a province, since Jiaqing, the new emperor changed his name or lacked a stroke to avoid taboo. For instance, Emperor Jiaqing's Diem (formerly Yongyan) and Emperor Daoguang's minning (formerly Mianning) need not be mentioned.

After Emperor Yongzheng ascended the throne, he put forward six measures for the memorial system.

(1) Abolish the System of “Sticking Yellow”.

Or it's not easy to play things in detail, I think there are other reasons. Paste yellow since Song Dynasty to fall, can't be unsatisfied, the situation attached to the full text, how can not be unknown? Thinking of it carefully, Yongzheng was very diligent in his administration. He would only read the stickers on the yellow pages in the case of any major events until the end of the night? To abolish this system is no more than to be diligent in words and sentences and to save labor by means of “pasting yellow”, which is the useless place of “pasting yellow”.

(2) Yongzheng Be Asked to Report the Secret Play to Him Every Day.

“I'm talking to all subjects. Every day, one person gets a secret memorial. Take turns to play. One thing at a memorial. No matter big or small. All are allowed to be genuine and perfunctory. Or nothing to say. It must also declares that there is no reason for it.” [9]

(3) Repeat That the Secret Fold Should Be Written in Person.

“If there is a postscript, it is very good to write by hand.” [10]

(4) The Appearance of “Folding Box”.

In the memorials, there is a detailed record of Qi: “the folding box is eight inches eight minutes long, four inch four minutes wide and one inch five minutes high.” [11]In the older practice, the official tools were folded and handed over, sealed with plywood, and transferred by post horses and soldiers. The folding box was taken in the inner palace. After folding, it fixes and sealed with imperial yellow paper. It puts into the box and locked. The emperor kept another key to open it.

(5) At the Beginning of Yongzheng's Reign, the Memorial Began to Adopt the System of Return Payment.

In the early years of Yongzheng's reign, it issued a decree: “I will approve the secret decree in person later, and I can't copy and keep it” [12].At the beginning of Yongzheng's accession to the throne, he got rid of the accumulated disadvantages and various government affairs. At this time, his memorials were widely used, or he wanted to examine the imperial orders of the preceding generation, often without limit. Therefore, I ordered my subordinates to turn it over for filing and investigation.

(6) The Emergence of the Military Aircraft Department and the System of Copying Posting.

The military aircraft department, a government processing agency, has been put in place. Some urgent documents have to be copied by the Commissioner and kept for investigation. This is the beginning of the appendix. As long as the emperor personally reviewed the corrections, they would be sent back to the performers, and there was no relevant organization for recording and preservation. Therefore, the officials “all have the evidence of my calligraphy in other places, not in my office. [13]The so-called copy is similar to the title of this book, but it is only a preserved file. Yongzheng seven years (1729) to the cabinet of Ministers this chapter. And yamen files. A copy shall be established of the original. To be stored separately. If the origin of this chapter is in red ink wholesale. The copy shall be filed in ink. Copies of other files. Or another seal. [14]In addition to the copies, there are also uncovers, similar to the title book, which is specially copied to the Yamen of the relevant department. Three copies: to be sent to the general administration department to keep the files, and to the Ministry for keeping, and finally to the six departments for inspection. In addition, there is an atlas, single sign and other formats. It is titled this Annex. It differs from matter to matter. To a certain extent, the establishment of the system cut the destruction and loss of memorials, which had a self-evident significance for the collation and preservation of official documents in the Qing Dynasty.

Qianlong Dynasty is the final mature stage of Qing Dynasty memorials. Generally speaking, there are the following aspects:

(7) Continue to Expand the Scope of Play.

In the Yongzheng Dynasty, it can be replicated in the scope of “Beijing official from Hanlin branch doctor or above”. The military officer is above the deputy general. The flag member shall take a leading role by himself or

herself. [15] After Qianlong's accession to the throne, he restored the right to be in the hands of some convicted officials.

(8) The Memorials Began to Be Unified.in the 13th Year of Qianlong's Reign, the Oracle Said: "This Chapter Has Consistently Been Everywhere.

There is different from those between the notebooks and the memorials. Local affairs. Then use the question book. One's own business. Use the memorials. The title book is printed. Memorials do not have to be printed. Its style is taken from the front. At that time, the rules and regulations were broken. The Department of General Administration borrows the name of public and private. So that we can get on with it. The same report. Why name and color. Where the memorials will be utilized. General exercises book. In order to show the meaning of simplicity. [16] Therefore, the system of memorials, which had been used for many years, was formally abolished in Qianlong Dynasty. As the Oracle said, from then on, the memorial book was replaced by the title book to avoid the general administration department.

(9) Standardize the Content of the Form. At First, the Memorials of All Departments in the Capital Were Larger Than Those of Local Officials in Other Provinces.

The contents of memorials are unified one after another, usually one thing is one fold, colleagues are the same fold, the same kind can also have one fold. The script should be good at narrative, and the language should be clear, especially to avoid obscure, disorderly and repeated.

1.2 The Significance and Influence of Memorial System on the Government, the Government and the Imperial Power

The establishment of the memorial system has greatly improved the efficiency of government affairs. The emperor is usually in the capital city. With the memorial, he can widely know the exact situation of the four sides, which is also conducive to the overall control of the Korean Bureau and the prevention of political threats. In addition, through the secret play, we can learn the detailed situation of the subjects and greatly consolidate the imperial power.

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