



Problems with the Graph Data in Hainan Island Chronicles Version 2004

Ge Wu

Hainan Normal University, Haikou, China

E-mail: 1253488748@qq.com

Abstract: Among all of the historical data given in Hainan Island Chronicles, obviously the charts hold the highest value. The data in those charts provide the very basis for the study of Hainan development in the early period of the ROC, and those charts have been frequently cited by the academic community. A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition is also the current version. The reliability and correctness of its graph data directly affect the authenticity of historical data and the correctness of research results. By comparing the charts of the two versions, supplemented by a photocopy of A Collection of Guangdong Local Gazettes and Revised Hainan Island Chronicles by Kiwata Ide, the author has found severe problems with the graph data of A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition.

Keywords: philology, version, collation

1. The cultivated area chart

In Hainan Island Chronicles Chapter III Section 3, “Land Area”, there is a land area chart. The land area is divided into the area of fields, land, ponds and newly-reclaimed fields, of which the area of ponds in Qiongzhou County is recorded as “75 qing and 90.044 mu^[1]” in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition. The data here is wrong.

According to Hainan Island Chronicles 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press, the data is “seventy-five qing, ninety-one mu, four li and four mao^[2]”.

According to “Land and Fields” entry in Daoguang Qiongzhou Subprefecture Gazetteer “Economy and Politics 4”, it is recorded as “The pond area in Qiongzhou County is seventy-five qing, ninety-one mu, four li and four hao^[3]”. And again, according to the “Taxes and Corvée” entry in The Annals of Qiongzhou County “Economy and Politics” in the ROC period, it is recorded as “The ponds total an area of seventy-five qing, ninety-one mu, four li and four hao^[4]”. Therefore, the pond area of Qiongzhou County should be 75 qing and 91.044 mu. In conclusion, the data recorded in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition is wrong.

2. Hainan climate charts

The most severe chart problem with Hainan Island Chronicles lie in Climate Section of Chapter II, which gives a lot of erroneous data. The main reason is some of the characters in the source version are illegible, but they are still recognizable through careful observation and analysis. By referring to Hainan Island Chronicles source version and the latest copy of A Collection of Guangdong Local Gazettes, the author presents comparative results as follows:

2.1 Hainan temperature chart

According to A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition, the “Hainan Temperature Chart” contains the following descriptions:

① In September of the 15th year of the ROC, the maximum temperature appeared on the 4th and 5th days. However, as recorded in Hainan Island Chronicles 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press, the maximum temperature should be on the 4th, 5th and 11th^[5] days. Therefore, the 2004 edition missed one day’s data.

② In A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition, the maximum temperature in October appeared on the 2nd and 3rd days, while in the source version, it is the 2nd, 3rd and 6th days. Also, for the minimum temperature date of October in the 15th year of the ROC, it is recorded as “the 10th, 11th, 19th, 11th and 20th days” in the 2004 edition, the problem of which is obvious, as there is no need to record a date twice, while the record in the source version is “the 10th, 2nd, 19th and 20th days”. We can find a gap in data between the two versions. The order of recorded dates in the source version is reversed, which means the data here should also be taken with a grain of salt. Neither of this record in both versions is wholly reliable. As A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition has not been revised, there are new errors in it.

③ There is a gap in the record of temperature for the 16th year of the ROC, too. For the maximum temperature date in February of the 16th year of the ROC, it is recorded as the 22nd day in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition while it is the 23rd in the source version. The records of the minimum temperature in July are also different, as it is the 21st day in the 2004 version while it is the 22nd^[6] day in the source version. A reference to other versions and a comparison to the handwriting in the source version have proved the records in the source version are correct.

2.2 The northern hainan rainfall chart

According to the “Hainan Rainfall Chart” in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition, the total number of rainy days in October of the 15th year of the ROC was 14 days totaling 72.09 hours, while according to the 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press, the data is 73.09 hours; for the number of rainy days in December of the 16 year of the ROC, it is recorded as 21.20 hours in the 2004 edition while it is 21.30 hours in the source version. With compared to A Collection of Guangdong Local Gazettes and further confirmation of the nearly unrecognizable figures in the source version, it is proved that the record in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition is wrong.

2.3 The northern hainan air pressure chart

This chart has the most errors with data. There are as many as 18 differences in data between A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and the 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press, as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Table of data error with “Northern Hainan Air Pressure” in a collection of local gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition

Version Content	A collection of local gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition	The 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press
The Maximum Air Pressure in February in the 15th year of the ROC	20.384kPa	30.384kPa
The Maximum Air Pressure in December in the 15th year of the ROC	20.460kPa	30.460kPa
The Minimum Air Pressure in August in the 15th year of the ROC	29.654kPa	29.658kPa
The Minimum Air Pressure in September in the 15th year of the ROC	29.436ka	29.416ka
The Minimum Air Pressure in October in the 15th year of the ROC	29.781 ka	29.782kPa
The maximum air pressure date in May in the 15th year of the ROC	The 2nd day	The 1st day
The maximum air pressure date in October in the 15th year of the ROC	The 3rd day	The 31st day
The minimum air pressure date in September in the 15th year of the ROC	The 17th day	The 27th day
The minimum air pressure date in October in the 15th year of the ROC	The 11th day	The 12th day
The minimum air pressure in January in the 16th year of the ROC	29.918kPa	29.928kPa
The maximum air pressure date in March in the 16th year of the ROC	The 28th day	The 26th day
The maximum air pressure date in October in the 16th year of the ROC	The 25th day	The 15th day
The minimum air pressure date in March in the 16th year of the ROC	The 23rd day	The 13th day
The maximum air pressure in January in the 17th year of the ROC	20.302 kPa	30.302 kPa
The maximum air pressure in February in the 17th year of the ROC	30.200kPa	30.300kPa
The minimum air pressure in June in the 17th year of the ROC	29.418kPa	29.428kPa
The maximum air pressure date in July in the 17th year of the ROC	The 21st day	The 11th day
The minimum air pressure date in February in the 17th year of the ROC	The 3rd day	The 5th day

According to the chart above, the change in air pressure is an extremely small value. According to the chart in the source version, the maximum pressure exceeds 30 kPa and the minimum exceeds 29 kPa. Thus, as shown in the chart above, the maximum air pressure in February of the 15th year of the ROC standing at 20.384 kPa, the one in December of the 15th year of the ROC standing at 20.460 kPa and the one in January of the 17th year of the ROC standing at 20.302

kPa are much lower than the minimum pressures. Therefore, the data is obviously wrong. The multiple data inconsistencies are due to entry errors during typesetting of the source version. A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition has too many fallacies, so data collation with the source version is needed before using the 2004 edition.

2.4 Haikou tide chart

According to A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition, the “Hainan Tide Chart” shows data as follows:

① In January of the 16th year of the ROC, the maximum tide was 6.2 degrees. This figure, however, stands at 6.3 degrees in the 1933 edition of Shenzhou Guoguang Press;

② There is no record of the maximum tide date but a record of the maximum tide degree in June of the 16th year of the ROC in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition. Therefore, it is confirmed as a missing print and the maximum tide date in the source version is recorded as the 1st day;

③ In October of the 16th year of the ROC, the maximum tide dates recorded in the 2004 edition are the 16th and 8th days. The data shown in the source version is the 16th and 18th days;

④ In December of the 16th year of the ROC, the maximum tide dates recorded in the 2004 edition are the 1st, 11th and 13th days. The data shown in the source version is the 1st, 12th and 13th days;

⑤ For the number of daily tides and tidal days in July of the 16th year of the ROC, it is recorded as B8 in the 2004 edition and B18 in the source version;

⑥ For the minimum tide in August of the 16th year of the ROC, it is recorded as the 18th day in the 2004 edition and the 28th day in the source version;

By checking the data in the source version and other photocopy versions, it is confirmed that the data in the source version is correct.

3. The fiscal revenue charts

Hainan Island Chronicles has a detailed record of various fiscal revenues of each county, so the data in this part is huge and highly valuable. However, there are also some errors in these Charts of A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition.

3.1 Chart of income of hainan customs in the recent three years

Regarding the record of the annual expenditure of Lianzhou Port, it is 4,922 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 4,932 yuan in the source version. The two versions show no differences in terms of the total sum of expenditure of the other branch ports, so it can be confirmed through calculation that the annual expenditure of Lianzhou Port should be 4,932 yuan and the record of 4,922 yuan in the 2004 edition is wrong.

3.2 The statistical chart of annual tax revenue of the central customs for the 16th year

In this chart, for the “Tax Revenue of Hainan Customs” entry, it is recorded as 1,1994.029 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition while it is 111,029 yuan in the source version. According to the author’s investigation, both versions give wrong data for this entry. According to examination of this chart, “Hainan Customs has an annual revenue of silver dollar 89,595.233 yuan, multiplied by 1.25 when calculated in hao yang.” Therefore, we can get a figure of 111,994.04125 yuan in hao yang, to which the figure in the 2004 edition is closer, but neither of the two versions is accurate in this data.

3.3 Chart of annual miscellaneous levies including the grain tax

① In this chart, for the “Areca Tax” entry of Lingao County, it stands at 29.036 liang according to A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 219.036 liang according to the source version. The data recorded in the 2004 edition is obviously wrong. An examination of references of this chart reveals that, “The areca tax stands at 206.188 yuan in official silver, the miscellaneous fees 37.098 yuan, additional levy 73.101 yuan and the levy receipt 24 yuan.” The figure will be converted into 219.036 liang, when multiplied by 1.389 in silver dollar, which means the data in the source version is correct.

② For the “land-head silver” tax entry in Changjiang County, it is recorded as 7.5 cents in “miscellaneous silver” in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and “7.5 cents in ‘assorted silver’” in the source version. Here, the 2004 edition record is wrong. According to examination of references of the chart, the tax is “the sum of official silver, consumption silver, assorted silver and string receipts”. The string receipt does not apply to land-head silver tax, in which the miscellaneous silver does not count. Therefore, the 2004 edition is wrong in this data.

③ For the “Fishing Levy” entry in Lingshui County, it is “11.03 liang” in silver according to A Collection of Local

Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and “115.03 liang” in silver according to the source version. According to examination of references, for collection of 143 yuan, “2200 wen will be levied for every 1 liang in official silver”. Therefore, the record 115.03 liang in the source version is correct.

④ For the “Fishing Levy” and “Areca Tax” entries in Wannig County, they respectively stand at “153.820 liang” and “950.5 liang” according to A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition while the two figures are “153.822 liang” and “950.522 liang” according to the source version. Although there is not much difference in this data between the two versions, but through calculation, the source version shall prevail.

⑤ For the “University Funding” entry in Qiongdong County, it is recorded as 2,698 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 2,698.2 yuan in the source version. According to examination of references, “The figure should be 8,994 yuan plus 30% of the total sum”. Therefore, the source version prevails and the 2004 edition is incorrect in this data.

3.4 The actual collection of tax deeds sheet for the 17th year of the ROC

① For the “Deed Tax Subtotal” entry in Qiongdong County, it stands at 2,313.848 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 2,323.848 yuan in the source version. According to references for this entry, “The irredeemable deeds stand at 2,268.353 yuan and the mortgage deeds stand at 55.495 yuan”, which subtotal 2,323.848 yuan. Therefore, the data in the source version is correct.

② For the “Irredeemable Deeds for University Funding” entry in Changjiang County, it stands at 83.513 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 83.512 yuan in the source version.

3.5 Chart of miscellaneous donations collected by the regiment, police and schools in various counties and cities

① For the “School Annual Amount” entry in Changjiang County, it stands at 2,227.7 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 2227.72 yuan in the source version.

② For the “Subtotal of Annual Amount” entry in Lehui County, it stands at 13,829.2 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 13,819.2 yuan in the source version. According to references, the annual amount of 8,389 yuan for the regimental bureau, 2787 yuan for the police bureau and 2653.2 yuan for schools add up to 13,829.2 yuan. Thus, the 2004 edition is correct in this data.

3.6 The provincial expenditure chart

① For the “Monthly Amount of Fiscal Expenses” entry in Dingan it stands at 172 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 172.2 yuan in the source version.

② For the aggregate “Monthly Amount” entry in the bottom of the chart, it stands at 1,453.853 yuan in A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 edition and 14,354.853 yuan in the source version. However, according to the other entries in the chart, the collated total sum should be 14,537.691 yuan. Thus, both the 2004 edition and the source version are incorrect in this data.

To sum up, Hainan Island Chronicles shows serious errors in graph data. Despite corrections made to the original data in the source version, A Collection of Local Gazettes of Hainan Province 2004 Edition has even more data errors than the source version. It is recommended to compare the graph data of the two versions and use the data with caution before referring to Hainan Island Chronicles as the historical data support.

References

- [1] Chen Mingshu, Zeng Jian, Zheng Xingshun. *Hainan Island Chronicles*. Hainan Publishing House; 2004.
- [2] Chen Mingshu, Zeng Jian. *Hainan Island Chronicles*. Shenzhou Guoguang Press; 1933.
- [3] Ming Yixiu, Zhang Yuesong. *Daoguang Qiongzhou Subprefecture Gazetteer*. Hainan Publishing House; 2003.
- [4] Zhu Weichao, Xu Gan, Li Xi *et al.* *The Annals of Qiongzhou County during the ROC Period*. Hainan Publishing House; 2004.
- [5] Chen Mingshu, Zeng Jian. *Hainan Island Chronicles in ROC*. Lingnan Art Press, Guangzhou; 2009.
- [6] Zhu Weichao, Xu Gan, Li Xi *et al.* *The Annals of Qiongzhou County during the Republic of China Period*. Hainan Publishing House; 2004.