

Discovery and Research Value of “Diary of Fu Xiqi” : Discussion on Issues of Literature and Culture

Chen-fu Liao

ABSTRACT

The discovery and compilation of diaries of figures in modern Taiwan has made profound contribution to the research of Taiwan literature and history. Led by Professor Hsu Xueji and teams, the Institute of Taiwan History had compiled and published two diaries *The Diary of Mr. Lin Guanuan* by Lin Xiantang and *The Diary of the Host of Shui-Zhu Hut* by Chang Lijun that the authors were both members of the Li Poet Society. Due to years of study on the Li Poet Society and information in 2006 from the descendants of Fu Xiqi the Chair of Society, the author has accessed the Fu’s diary of 35 volumes. With the support of Fu’s family and under the grant from the National Science Council, the compilation and publication of Fu’s diary is underway.

This paper aims at introducing the discovery and compilation of Fu’s diary. Apart from a brief biography of Fu Xiqi and a comparison with diaries of four other members of the Li Poet Society, the paper concentrates mainly on the discourses of culture and literature. To illuminate the value of Fu Xiqi’s diary, two issues of “Formation of poetic societies” and “Experience of modernity” are put under spotlight. To the analysis on “Formation of Li Poet Society”, the discussion explores (1) the meaning of fund raising for Li Poet Society by purchasing lotteries, (2) the newly uncovered stories of Cai Huiru and Lian Heng, (3) the discovery of “Multiple images” of Li Poet Society, and (4) related information of “Chong-Wen Literary Society” and “Zhong-Jiao Event”. In regard to “Experience of modernity”, the analyses are on (1) body transformation: the complex meaning of plait cutting, (2) organization and operation of the literary media: Taiwan Literary Society and the publication of “Taiwan Literature and Art Series”, and (3) import of offshore knowledge: records of Fu’s book purchase from Japan and China. To the abundance of stories and topics in Fu’s diary, the author expects further research and academic cooperation with scholars.

Keywords: Fu Xiqi, Li Poet Society, Diary Research, Modernity, Traditional Literati