

## **Women and Tea in the Taipei Basin: An Essay in Honor of Wang Shih-Ch'ing**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The argument of this paper is intended to draw attention to Wang Shih-ch'ing's many contributions to Taiwanese economic history and particularly to his study of river transportation in the Taipei Basin. Household registers compiled during the Japanese occupation indicate that women living in Ta-tao-ch'eng in the center of the Basin were far less likely to marry than women living in Hai-shan on the edge of the basin, and that women living in Hai-shan were less likely to marry than women living in rural areas outside of the basin. The reason appears to be that the tea industry centered in Ta-tao-ch'eng gave women an alternative to marriage.

**Keywords:** Taipei Basin, Ta-tao-ch'eng, Hai-shan, women, marriage, tea industry

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