

## Historical Overview of the Weng-family Genealogy and Ritual Lineage

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### ABSTRACT

Most of the research on the Lingbao ritual lineages of Zhengyi Daoism focused on the practices prevalent in or related to the Tainan area of Taiwan. There are very few studies on the old lineages dating back to the Qing dynasty—especially those of the Nanlu Fengshan Xian area. My field research has shown that most ritual lineages in the Nanlu area trace their teachings back to, or otherwise are connected to, a Weng-family lineage. (The Weng lineage headquarters, or tan, used to be in the Xiaogang region of Gaoxiong.) Moreover, these lineages have hand-copied manuscripts associated with the Weng ritual lineage dating back to the Yongzheng and Qianlong periods, as identified by colophons, seal impressions, or the tan name. Additional research finally turned up a descendent of the Weng family who provided me with a “Weng-family Genealogy” and 116 manuscripts dated between early Qing and 1945. Fifty of these are possessed by Weng family members, 39 are in other known hands, and 27 are from unidentified copyists. The earliest of these manuscripts was copied in 1724 and is signed by Weng Dingjiang; while the latest was copied by Wang Kuiben (1909-1956) in 1940. This corpus of valuable material documents the origin and spread of Taiwan’s Lingbao lineages of Zhengyi Daoism in the Nanlu area over the last 300 years and cries out for more research and contextualization in the context of Taiwan’s history. I hope, to the extent possible, to reconstruct the 300-year history of the Lingbao lineages of Zhengyi Daoism in Nanlu and to contribute new insights into the history of Daoism in Taiwan.

**Keywords:** Daoism, Fengshan Xian, The Daren Temple, Zhengyi Daoism, School of Zhenyi, Lingbao lineages