

The T'ing System of Taiwan in the Ch'ing Dynasty: An Example of Tan-shui T'ing

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ABSTRACT

In the twenty-second year of the Kang-hsi 康熙 reign (1683), the Ch'ing government took over Taiwan. In the following year, Taiwan Prefecture 臺灣府 was established to govern Taiwan and Penghu 澎湖. Three counties — Taiwan, Fengshan 鳳山 and Chulou 諸羅 were established under the Taiwan Prefecture. In the first year of the Yung-cheng 雍正 reign (1723), owing to the need of national defense and security, the Ch'ing government established another branch office of the Taiwan Prefecture north of the river of Ta-chia-ch'i 大甲溪 in the county of Chulou, which was so-called Tan-shui T'ing 淡水廳. In the fifth year of the Yung-cheng reign, a ting was established in Penghu which was the same level as a county. In the ninth year of the Yung-cheng reign, Tan-shui T'ing was changed to the same level as a county. From this time on until the thirteenth year of the T'ung-chih 同治 reign, Tan-shui T'ing was not withdrawn, and its position was always the same as that of the county.

In this paper, aside from discussing the establishment of the Tan-shui T'ing, I will analyze first Tan-shui T'ing and its subordinate governmental officials, such as itinerary investigator, the deputy county magistrate and the organization, as well as the duty of the Confucian school system. Secondly, I will probe the spending budget distribution of Danshui Ting and salaries of officials and clerks. Thirdly, I will examine the term of the subprefect of Tan-shui T'ing (tung-chih 同知), the manner of his appointment, his lineage background, birthplace and education. We have collected statistical data in the above-mentioned topics in order to provide a more specific impression towards the readers.

Keywords: Taiwan Prefecture, Chou Chung-hsuan, Lan Ting-yuan, Ta-chia ch'i,
Tan-shui T'ing, Tan-shui Tung-chih

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