

## The Value Characteristics and Cultural Influence of Chinese Local Chronicles

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### Abstract

*In the river of world culture, Chinese local chronicles has specific characters and unique fascination. The compilation of local chronicles is an excellent cultural tradition of the Chinese nation. The local chronicles, together with national history and genealogy, have become the cornerstones to support the Chinese outstanding traditional culture building, and jointly inherit the glorious treasure and valuable historical culture of the Chinese nation. Local chronicles have the functions of keeping history down, assisting good governance and educating people. The cultural values of local chronicles is not only favored by Chinese sages in former generations, but also one of the most important ways for scholars at home and abroad to study the history and current situation of China and even the world. At the same time, it is also the most concerned collection for the libraries of all countries in the world. This paper elaborates on the development and evolution, and the unique value of Chinese Local Chronicles, as well as the influence on the world culture. It puts forward that Chinese local chronicle culture will have a greater influence on the cultural exchange in the world under the background of economic globalization, social informationization and cultural diversity.*

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China is one of the earliest ancient civilizations in the world. It has a long cultural tradition and splendid cultural literature. Local chronicles is famous for their unique value and charm, standing in the river of Chinese literature. Local chronicles are not only the treasures of Chinese traditional culture, but also the contributions of the Chinese nation to human civilization. According to incomplete statistics, Almost 8000 kinds, 100 thousand volumes of local chronicles have been kept and passed down since the Song and the Yuan Dynasties, taking up 10% in the amount of all Chinese ancient books<sup>2</sup>. The compilation of Chinese Local Chronicles has a long history, covering vast territory and with rich contents, which is rare in the world. They are precious parts of China's historical and cultural heritage, to promote the prosperity and development of Chinese culture, and an important carrier to inherit and reveal the Chinese civilization and to explore the wisdom of history.

### **The development and evolution of local chronicles in China**

The compilation of local chronicles has a long history in China for more than two thousand years. With the development of society, the compilation of local chronicles shows different characteristics at different times. It can be traced back to the Qin and Han Dynasties. Early in the Zhou Dynasty, there were sayings like "SI FANG ZHI ZHI" and "BANG GUO ZHI ZHI" with the Chinese "ZHI" pointing to what were called as Chinese Local Chronicles later. The state history records, the geography books and the maps in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, can be regarded as the distant ancestor of the local chronicles. After the establishment of the great unification of Qin and Han Dynasties, with the expansion of China's territory, local chronicles reflecting regional differences appeared. However, in the past one thousand years from the Qin and Han Dynasties to the Wei, Jin, and Southern and Northern Dynasties, the local chronicles were still in the stage of development, and the style had not yet been unified. During the Sui and Tang Dynasties, along with the prosperity of economics and culture, the central government urged officials to write local chronicles, which greatly promoted the development of local chronicles. The Song Dynasty is an important period in the history of Chinese Local Chronicles. The compilation of local chronicles was gradually transferred from the narrative mainly containing geography information to the transverse encyclopedia including diverse contents, from what mainly with gazetteers to written books with words and texts. The style of local chronicles was full-fledged in the Yuan Dynasty and was fixed unchanged, which was known in the compilation of *General Unified Chronicles of the Great Yuan*. The local chronicles of Ming Dynasty developed rapidly, and the numbers and types of local chronicles increased significantly. The development of old chronicles in the Qing Dynasty has been pushed to the peak. Each level of government including provinces, prefectures, cities and counties had a local

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<sup>2</sup> 中国地方志指导小组办公室编：《中国方志通鉴（下）》，方志出版社，2010年，第946页。

or special library. The number, the variety and the wide range of the local chronicles are made unprecedented. During the period of the Republic of China, although the political situation in China was turbulent, the compilation work of local chronicles was continued.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the work of local chronicles has entered a new era. The CPC Central Committee, the State Council and the people's governments at all levels attach great importance to the compilation of local chronicles. In the early days after the establishment of People's Republic of China, the State Council has incorporated the local chronicles work into the Drafted Twelve Year Plan of the Academy of Philosophy and Social Sciences, and set up the Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group. Subsequently, more than 530 counties in more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of China carried out the new local chronicles compilation work, in which more than 250 counties wrote the first draft of local chronicles. In early 1980s, the Chinese Local Chronicles Association and the Office of Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group were set up. Province, city and county governments in the whole country set up local chronicles working institutions, and the leaders of governments at all levels serve as the heads of the local chronicles compilation committee in that place. In particular, since the third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in 1978, the development of local chronicles has accelerated. China has produced a large number of local records including the comprehensive yearbooks, and has accumulated rich experience of local records compilation. With the largest number of records, the most extensive, fruitful, and far-reaching influences, the development of local chronicles after PRC was established precedes any other period in Chinese history.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council thought highly of the protection and inheritance of Chinese traditional excellent culture. In February 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping, inspected the capital museum, stressed that "pay high attention to compile history books and chronicles", "to tell people about historical wisdom, to inspire the national pride and self-confidence, to strengthen the confidence and determination of all the people to rejuvenate China and to realize the Chinese dream". In April 2014, when the fifth meeting of national local chronicles work was held, Prime Minister Li Keqiang made an important instruction that "compile local chronicles and inspiring the future with historical intelligence". On August 25 2015, the general office of the State Council issued National Local Chronicles Enterprise Development Plan (NLCEDP) (2015-2020). The CPC Central Committee and the State Council also attach great importance to the construction of local chronicles institutional system. On November 9, 1996, the general office of the State Council issued the notice on Further Strengthening the Work of Local Chronicles, and publicizing the significance of the work of local chronicles. In May 18, 2006, the State Council promulgated Local Chronicles Work Regulations (LCWR), with the form of administrative regulations. In May 18, 2018, the Office of the Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group held a

forum on governing the local chronicles work in accordance with laws, following the national policy of governing the country according to law and the rule of law, the famous experts and scholars in Chinese law research area, attended the forum and discussed the importance and necessity of making Local Chronicles Law of the PRC.

At present, Chinese local chronicles are also changing from "A work of Compiling One Book" to "An Enterprise of Ten Aspects", which are to compile local chronicles, to compile yearbooks, to set up database of local information, to establish museums of local chronicles, to start websites and establish networks, to utilize the local chronicle resources, to develop professional societies, to make periodicals, to continue theoretical and academic study and to incorporate the local history work, and from compiling the local chronicles in accordance with laws to governing the enterprise according to laws with the rule of law<sup>3</sup>. Now, China's first round of compilation has ended, and the second round is rapidly advancing. The country has published more than 8000 provincial, municipal and county local chronicles, more than 20 thousand departmental chronicles, military chronicles, thematic chronicles, townships (street) chronicles, village (community) chronicles, 2400 titles of and more than 20 thousand local comprehensive yearbooks, more than 1000 titles of and more than 7000 professional yearbooks, which are together with more than 8000 titles of and 100 thousand volumes of old chronicles in existence, comprising the largest treasure of resources in the research field of Humanities and Social Sciences in China. These records will play an important role in promoting Chinese cultural construction and economic and social development. At present, the short-term planning of the local chronicles is that China will achieve the goal that all provinces, cities and counties throughout the country have the local chronicles and comprehensive yearbooks in the coming 2020, which would be a world cultural initiative. And the long-term planning is, in the 100th anniversary of the establishment of People's Republic of China, to complete the compilation of the national annals and local chronicles and yearbooks at all levels including communities and villages.

Currently, the Office of Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group has started the cultural projects of China's famous town chronicles, Chinese famous village chronicles, Chinese famous alcohol chronicles, Chinese famous mountain chronicles, and China's famous water chronicles. The local departments have also printed and published a large number of local records and materials of regional information, which have played an active role in serving the local governance, developing tourism projects, protecting the tangible and intangible cultural heritages, and strengthening close links between the mainland with Taiwan of China across the Strait as well as between Chinese at home and those abroad. Thus, in terms of the number and scale of compilation and publication, the new chronicles show a prosperous situation, and are also unprecedented in the depth and breadth of regional history and status quo recorded within. In particular, with the popularization of information technology, digitalization and networking technology development, as well as the growth of local

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<sup>3</sup> 冀祥德:《论依法治志》,《中国地方志》2016年第5期。

economics, local chronicles websites and the museums of local chronicles have been built.

The local chronicles museum is where local chronicles connect to the society and get social relations. It has multiple functions including collecting regional materials, records protection, exhibition, annals compilation and research, professional consultation, information service, resources utilization, local chronicles publicity and education, training, cultural exchanges and so on. In ancient times, there was no local chronicles museums. With the rapid development of the economy, some provinces, cities and counties have built a number of local chronicles museums with rich collections, good facilities and full functions, and even established digital local chronicles museums. Up to now, there are 597 local chronicles museums in the country, including one National Local Chronicles Museum, 25 provincial local chronicles museums, 131 municipal local chronicles museums, and 439 county's local chronicles museums.<sup>4</sup> The total number of three level regional information websites in provinces, cities and counties were 844, of which 30 were provincial, 220 were municipal level sites, and 594 were county level websites. The total number of digital local chronicles museums (database) is 222, including 21 provincial digital museums (database), 51 municipal digital local chronicles museums (database), and 150 county-level ones. The total number of new media was 373, including 29 new provincial media, 130 new municipal media and 214 new county- level media.<sup>5</sup> After more than 30 years of development, China has formed a team for local chronicles compilation comprised of more than 20 thousand full-time staff, hundreds and thousands of part-time staff, and a number of professional technical personnel.

In recent years, the Office of Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group has attached great importance to the Chinese local chronicle culture walking to the world, organized staff to carry out academic exchanges to the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France and other countries on local chronicles, and achieved fruitful results. From 19 to 20 September 2017, an international symposium on the local chronicle culture was successfully held in Beijing with the theme of "Chinese Local Chronicles Culture Going Global". More than 150 experts and scholars from China, the United States, Germany, Japan, Vietnam and other countries and regions participated in the conference. In the seminar, the participants discussed several topics, such as the research value of Chinese local chronicles culture, the study of the dissemination of local chronicles, the present situation of the collection of local chronicles and its academic value, the compilation of local chronicles and the theoretical research, the study of the compilation of foreign chronicles, the comparative study of the east and west yearbooks, the research on the development of local chronicles, the study of the digitalization of local chronicles, and so on. Many research achievements and academic viewpoints were shared and published.

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<sup>4</sup> 根据国家方志馆 2018 年 5 月底公布最新数据。

<sup>5</sup> 李培林：《在 2018 年全国地方志机构主任工作会议第二次全国地方志工作经验交流会暨中国名山志文化工程启动仪式上的讲话》（2017 年 12 月 26 日），《中国地方志》2018 年第 1 期。

On December 3 2017, the first English version of the Chinese Famous Towns' local chronicles, *Local Records of Wuzhen*, was presented in the world Internet Conference. As a special gift, it was given to the important guests of the conference. On April 27, 2018, all three English versions of Chinese Famous Towns' Local Records, *Local Records of Wuzhen*, *Local Records of Fengjing* and *Local Records of Zhouzhuang* were published in Canada. What's more, the above works will be published in 7 languages including Urdu, Russian, Vietnamese, Malaysia, Thai, Ukraine and Turkish. In the future, on the cultural exchange platform of local chronicles, the Office of Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group will carry out cooperation and exchanges with many organizations such as book collection institutions, historical records compilation and research institutions and universities etc..

In the past two thousand years, the compilation of local chronicles in China has never been broke off, which is a rare cultural phenomenon in the history of the world. From the beginning and in the long history of continuous self-improvement, local chronicles fully embody the Chinese ancient civilization and modern civilization in the same line. From the history of the development and evolution of local chronicles, it can be seen that local chronicles compilation is a cultural form of vitality. Even in the social, economic, political and cultural changes, local chronicles can follow the development and evolution of the times. Through different times, though facing the impact of foreign cultures, the compilation of Chinese Local Chronicles was not interrupted, and showed a trend of inclusive development.

### **The characteristics and the value of Chinese local chronicles**

The glorious history of local chronicles has made a profound impression in the Chinese culture development and earned its value and the prominent cultural position. With the development of the society, the contents and forms of local chronicles are constantly changing both in terms of extension and connotation. The local chronicles have the characteristics of being ethnic, being regional, being inclusive, being functional, being informative, being authoritative, being comprehensive and being standard, and play the functions to serve the public in keeping the history down, working as administrative reference materials and in general education.

### **The characteristics of Local Chronicles**

China has always attached great importance to history, there is a saying that a nation has its history, a prefecture has its local chronicles and a family has its own genealogy. Local chronicles, together with the nation history and genealogy, have inherited the rich and valuable historical and cultural genes of the Chinese nation. At the same time, local chronicles also have unique characteristics and values that are different from history records.

The first characteristic is that local chronicles record the Chinese nation. As known to all, Chinese culture has a long history. In the world, only China has a continued culture lasting for over 5,000 years. The reason why Chinese culture and history can

be spread throughout the world is that it has a long tradition in compiling history records and local chronicles. In ancient times, there was a cultural tradition that “the left official historian would record the Emperor’s words and the right official historian would record events”. The tradition has been handed down from generation to generation and spread to many countries in Asia. It is precisely because of local chronicles that the history of China can be documented and traced back, so that Chinese civilization can be inherited and so brilliant. It can be seen that the local chronicles is a unique culture of the Chinese nation with a quite ethnic characteristic.

The second characteristic is that local chronicles are regional. In the compilation process, local chronicles, no matter on which administrative level the records are, like a provincial chronicle, a prefecture chronicle, a city one or chronicles about a county, a town, a village, no matter what content the records have, like special records, department records or sector records, either ancient local annals or the new local chronicles after the PRC was established, all record a certain administrative division as the scope of description or consider a specific geographical area as the research object, following the principle of “not crossing the border to record”.

The third characteristic is that local chronicles are inclusive. The reason why local chronicles have a strong vitality in the development of traditional Chinese culture is that they are very inclusive. Local chronicles include diverse contents covering all aspects of nature and society. Almost all subjects studied in the natural sciences and social sciences have some relations with the objects included in the local chronicles. Local chronicles not only combine the characteristics of national history records, geography books and maps of a certain region, but also closely relate to geography, anthropology, sociology, economics, politics, archaeology, ancient literature, linguistics, literature and art, genealogy, business, agronomy, botany, mineralogy, and other disciplines. They are related and compatible.

The fourth characteristic is that local chronicles are functional. Local chronicles have many functions. According to the traditional view, local chronicles have the functions of keeping history down, taking consultancy reference roles for administrative governance, and educating the public. As times change, the function of local chronicles is also expanding and changing. Li Jinxi, a Chinese contemporary scholar, considers the roles of local chronicles in “*Local Chronicles Today (Fang Zhi Jin Yi)*” as resources for scientific researches, local annals, authentic local materials for teaching, and travel guidance. Obviously, local chronicles not only have the functions of preserving local documents, providing reference for government affairs, and social education, but also provide the basic material support for scientific research and tourism development, assisting the economics growth, social development, and the exchanges and cooperation between China and foreign countries. The importance is increasing and becoming more obvious.

The fifth characteristic is that local chronicles are informative. Being informative is

the essential attribute of local chronicles as a writing. The compilation feature is not to explore and study the law of the development of things, but to objectively and comprehensively record the development of a region in nature and social life, reflecting the basic features and characteristics of the region. The materials to compile are mostly taken from official documents, archives, stone or tablet inscriptions, genealogies, poetry collections, letters, notes, field surveys, and interviews, etc., which are highly reliable, and make local chronicles an irreplaceable work with informative intelligence playing the role to serve the social and economic development.

The sixth characteristic is that local chronicles are authoritative. The local chronicles are mainly compiled by official authorities and the compilation work is the official duty. Since the Sui Dynasty, the system for local chronicles compilation in different dynasties has been gradually full-fledged. After the founding of People's Republic of China, the Chinese government attached great importance to the work of local chronicles, setting up institutions, arranging personnel, and giving funds to ensure the local chronicles work in effective operation. Before the publication of local chronicles, the contents about “politics, historical facts, style and forms, and the confidential matters” are strictly examined, which ensures the local chronicles are scientific and accurate in records, guaranteeing the authority.

The seventh characteristic is that local chronicles are comprehensive. The British sinologist Alexander Wylie used to say that local chronicles in China are incomparable in either breadth the content covers or the systematic and comprehensive intelligence included. <sup>6</sup>Local chronicles record the natural, social, political, economic, cultural situations and other important historical events in a specific region of a certain period, reflecting the relationships people have with the nature, the society, and other people in the region from multiple perspectives and diverse levels. Due to the extensive and comprehensive contents in description, the local chronicles are hailed as the “local encyclopedia” by history experts.

The eight characteristic is that local chronicles are standard writings. From the ancient to the present, the compilation of local chronicles has not only specific requirements on the contents in preparation, but also the standard administrative requirements on the contents in organizing, the structure, the genre, the text in the process of reviewing and publication. Following certain rules and being standard in many aspects like style or forms are what make local records different from other works.

### **The value of Local Chronicles**

With the developing of society, the function of local chronicles is becoming more and more diverse as the local chronicles work itself goes. In ancient times, in order to

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<sup>6</sup> (英)李约瑟著,《中国科学技术史》翻译小组译:《中国科学技术史》(第5卷第1分册),科学出版社 1976年,第44-45页。



adapt to the feudal rule, local chronicles' value of working as administrative reference in the country governance, the economic operations, and the military activities was emphasized, and the compilation paid more attention on the authenticity and practicality of the contents. Nowadays, the local chronicles work insists on actively serving and integrating into the national economics and culture strategy, the science and technology education strategy, and the green development strategy centered on the nation, the society and the people. Local chronicles service has much more potential to explore, much larger space to grow and more precious value .

Firstly it is the value of keeping history down. Recording history is to preserve the rich historical materials for local people and to provide objective and reliable information for future generations to understand the local situation at that time. This is the basic value of local chronicles. Local chronicles bring together a large amount of real and objective chorography information about the region. These rich materials have high academic and application value. It is of great significance not only to the research in social sciences like the research on the history of science, architecture, folklore, ethnology, and economics, but also provide important references for people to understand the past, to guide the present and to predict the future. For example, the Chinese scientist, Tu Youyou got her insight from *A Handbook of Prescriptions for Emergencies* which wrote by Gehong in the East Jin Dynasty and invented the artemisinin, winning the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The other example is that according to records in local chronicles, the Chinese ancestors were the first who discovered and named the islands in the South China Sea. During the Han dynasty, Chinese discovered in the South China Sea several islands, and named the South China Sea as “the rising sea(ZHANG HAI in Chinese)”, and called islands in the South China Sea “zags in the rising sea”(ZHANG HAI QI TOU in Chinese). In the book “*Records of Rare Objects*” by Yang Fu of the Eastern Han Dynasty states that “with shallow water and many rocks, there are zigs and zags in the rising sea, which make the boat hard to sail here”. It can be seen that Chinese people firstly discovered islands in the South China Sea more than 1900 years ago. Another example is that the History Research Group of the Earthquake Work Committee of the Chinese Academy of Sciences uses more than 5,600 kinds of historical records of the past to compile the *China Earthquake Historical Material Chronology*, providing the only reliable and continuous historical data for seismic science. There are many other examples about how local chronicles provide justified evidence and play the particular role in the definition of geographical culture heritage, in the declaration of cultural heritage, in the protection of historic cultural relics, and in the protection and development of famous villages, town, and cities.

Secondly, local chronicles have the value to provide references for governance. There is a Chinese saying that “A governor with the world in the consideration always takes history as references and a governor with a nation in the consideration turns to local chronicles as the references.” The local chronicles provide past experiences and wisdom for the governance of the country and the region, playing a role as the adviser and think-tank for the leaders to know the local intelligence and make decisions scientifically. In ancient times, when the local officials took office in a certain

prefecture, reading local chronicles is the main way to get to know the place and the administrative conditions there. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chinese leaders of different period of time all attach great importance to the compilation of local chronicles and are extremely concerned about the function of local chronicles. For example, at the beginning time of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong went to various places to inspect and asked local libraries and cultural history museums for local chronicles to provide him with the information about the local situation. In 2006, Xi Jinping, then Secretary of CPC Committee of Zhejiang Province, when inspecting the reconstruction work after the Typhoon Saomai swept the Cangnan County of Wenzhou, read *Cangnan County Chronicle*, found much materials about typhoon happened in Cangnan's history and quoted the records in the discussion with the local officers. He quoted the local chronicles to remind officers to learn from history, to know about the typhoon movement from authentic local records, to recognize the influence of the disaster to Zhejiang Province, and to make scientific decisions to deal with it, so as to continuously improve the ability to prevent and fight with typhoons as well as the ability to handle various types of natural disasters.

Thirdly, local chronicles have the value in general education. Friedrich Engels once said that patriotism is based on the affection to hometown. Knowing about the hometown is the beginning to love it. It is the first to get to know the splendid landscape, rich resources, brilliant culture and the wonderful people in the hometown before loving it. As the information in the local chronicles is true and specific and the records are familiar to the local people, the local chronicles are truly that local people record the local things. Therefore, local chronicles are of far-reaching significance for the local people to know about their hometown and to inspire their affections to hometowns and the passion of patriotism. For example, in 2017, the large-scale documentary "Chinese Visual Local Records" jointly made by the Office of Chinese Local Chronicles Guidance Group and CCTV was on show. The combination of the new media technology and the local chronicle culture produce visual stories instead of written texts about the historical records, which makes the local chronicles alive and gives the audience a more vivid and deeper understanding of their hometowns, fully reflecting the value of local chronicles in the general education.

### **The cultural influence of local chronicles in China**

Lu Xun, a famous Chinese writer, once said that what is authentically local is easy to become popular in the world.<sup>7</sup> Chinese Local Chronicles culture is the crystallization of the material achievements and spiritual achievements created by the Chinese nation from generation to generation. It is China's most national characteristic culture. With its unique form and amazing achievements, it has become a unique theme, and has become the main theme of carrying forward the national spirit and regional culture. The local chronicles culture "not only has the unique position and function in the

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<sup>7</sup> 鲁迅:《致陈烟桥》,《鲁迅全集》第13卷,人民文学出版社,2005年,第18页。

Chinese excellent traditional culture, but also occupies the unique position and function in the world culture forest, and has the irreplaceable value and influence."<sup>8</sup> Once a scholar has proposed to declare the local chronicles of China as the world's intangible cultural heritage and to study and carry out scientific protection, development and utilization of the local chronicles as a world heritage. In November 16, 1972, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage clearly defined the cultural heritage, and the Chinese Local Chronicles were in line with the characteristics and requirements that "which are of the outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science".

Local chronicles are a bridge between China and foreign countries. Local chronicles of China in the history are widely distributed abroad, and are collectible for world-renowned libraries. Libraries in Japan and the United States as the two major foreign collection centers, national public libraries of Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, South Korea, Singapore, Australia and other places also receive a number of rare records and valuable books of high quality.

It is acknowledged that there are 3500 local records compiled before 1958 in the Library of Congress of the United States, more than 800 kinds of Ming and Qing Dynasties.<sup>9</sup> There are 2866 kinds of local chronicles in Japan<sup>10</sup>, and 2590 kinds of local chronicles in seven countries including Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Sweden<sup>11</sup>. There are 2516 kinds of local chronicles in British Museum, University of Oxford and University of Cambridge libraries<sup>12</sup>, and 1200 kinds of Chinese local chronicles are collected in the East Asian Library of University of Toronto<sup>13</sup>. The overseas scholars consider local chronicles as one of the most important materials used in the study of Chinese history and Chinese current situation, and the local chronicles also become an important platform and window for overseas people to understand the national and regional situation of China. For example, as far as the imperial examination system is concerned, there are detailed records in ancient local chronicles, from which we know that the system had great influence in the world and were introduced into many countries as an advanced culture. The ancient Japan, Korean and other countries directly put the system into use, the modern British, the United States, France and other capitalist countries also admitted the establishment of the civil service system originated in China's imperial examination system. Overseas scholars attach importance to the study of Chinese Local Chronicles, which is the contribution of China and the Chinese nation to world culture. The local chronicles describe the characteristics of custom and specialties, nature, humanity, history,

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<sup>8</sup> 冀祥德、宋丽亚：《论方志文化自信》，《中国年鉴研究》第1期。

<sup>9</sup> 邱颀、沈津：《美国国会图书馆藏中国方志简述——在2017年走向世界的中国方志文化国际学术研讨会上的报告》，2017年9月19日。

<sup>10</sup> 日本国会图书馆参考部：《日本主要图书馆、研究所藏中国方志总合目录》，1969年。

<sup>11</sup> （法）Y.Hervouet 编：《欧洲各国图书馆藏中国地方志目录》，法国巴黎耶区莫顿公司，1957年。

<sup>12</sup> （英）Andrew Morton 编：《英国各图书馆所藏中国地方志总目录》，英国伦敦大学东方与非洲研究院，1979年。

<sup>13</sup> 宋晔：《方志学研究论丛》，台湾商务印书馆，1990年。

geography, environment in a certain place. It makes the overseas people understand the potential advantages of China more and plays an important role in the continuous expansion of cultural exchanges and cooperation with China.

The large volume *Science and Civilization in China*, edited by British scientist Joseph Needham, refers to lots of local chronicles and has been a world-famous academic masterpiece. Therefore, the history, content and function of the local chronicles of China are highly evaluated. Joseph Needham mentioned in his masterpiece that the ancient Greek culture and even the modern Britain did not leave the documents similar to the Chinese Local Chronicles. To study the human civilization, it is necessary to study the local chronicles of China, and to study the Chinese culture, we must study the local chronicles of China<sup>14</sup>. Shi Yongge, an American agricultural scientist, began to refer to the local chronicles of Fujian and Guangdong Province in 1920s to study the growth rules of citrus, and made remarkable achievements. The monograph written by Japanese scholars, such as *Pu Su Kun Kao* and *Chinese Dialects in the Northern and Southern Dynasties*, all referring to a large number of local chronicles in various parts of China. Chinese local chronicles are praised as a priceless cultural resource by European and American countries, playing an important role in academic research both at home and abroad. In China with profound cultural background, local chronicles are one of the symbols of the ancient Chinese civilization and a great pride of the Chinese people who are proud in the river of the world civilization and are respected and valued by the people of the world.

President Xi Jinping points out that civilization is colorful because of communication, and civilization is enriched by mutual learning. At the same time, on many occasions, he suggests to jointly promote the construction of a community of human destiny. Nowadays, various forms of international cultural exchanges and cooperation are becoming more and more frequent. At the same time, in drawing the cultural essence of all the countries of the world, the people of all countries have a close or direct feeling of the colorful and unique charm of Chinese culture, which is beneficial for the world to understand China and to the world. Chinese culture not only provides rich nourishment for the Chinese nation's life and growth, but also makes a unique contribution to the progress of human civilization. It is a common spiritual wealth in the world. In the world, the cultural exchange of local chronicles in China has formed an all-round communication situation with multiple levels, channels and forms, indicating the outlook of local chronicles is prosperous. Under the background of economic globalization, social informationization and cultural diversity, the Chinese culture of local chronicles will have a greater impact in the culture exchanges of the world.

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<sup>14</sup> (英)李约瑟著,《中国科学技术史》翻译小组译:《中国科学技术史》(第5卷第1分册),科学出版社1976年,第48页。