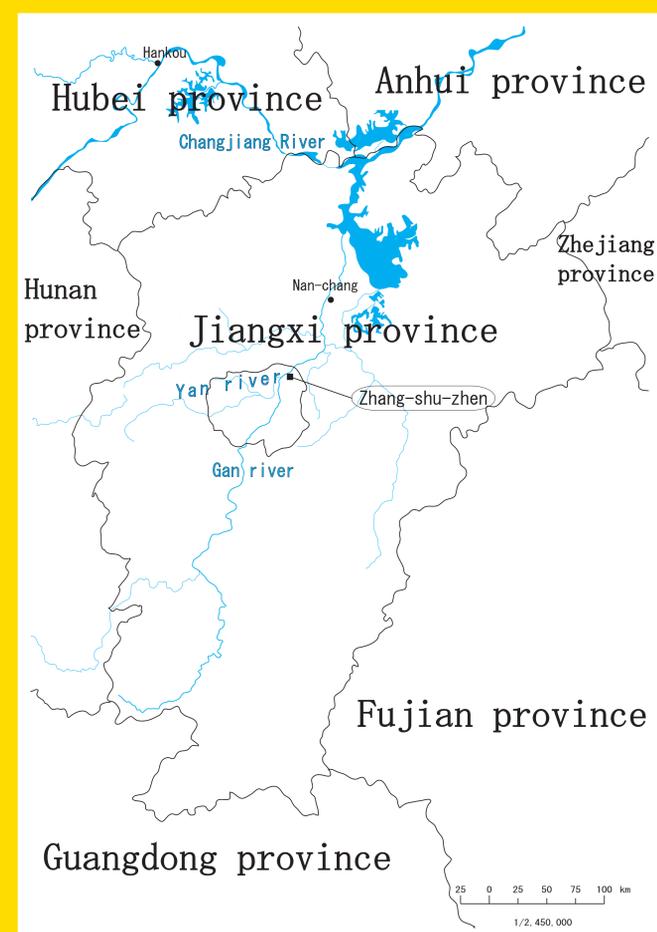


The genealogy book of pharmacists of Zhang-shu-zhen, in the Qing Dynasty, China

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MAP1:China in the Qing Dynasty



MAP2:Jiangxi province
in the Qing Dynasty

Zhang-shu-zhen is a traditional medical trade city in Jiangxi province of southern China. During the Eastern Han Dynasty (1st - 3rd century AD), the Zhang-shu-zhen pharmacists started trading medicines all over China and became famous. By the time of the Qing Dynasty (17th - 20th century AD) their business was in full bloom.

A large number of historical evidence documents their activity over the centuries.

However the most complete record of their passage through time were the genealogy books that the most prominent families kept. Chinese genealogy books are a Chinese tradition of recording various information about male family members. The information that is usually included is the name, the marital status, the person's occupation and his business activity.

For the development of pharmaceuticals in China, the expansion of a distribution network was absolutely necessary. This was accomplished by the role played by pharmacists in the entire country. The pharmacists in Zhang-shu-zhen also assumed a crucial role. Zhang-shu-zhen pharmacists would go to places of production to purchase various medical substances, while they would prefer big Chinese cities for the sale of their medicines. They were buyers, sellers and compounders.

Some representative examples of medical substances (according to the place of origin)

- Cordyceps Sinensis** ...Southwest China and Tibet
- Ginseng** ...Northeast China and Korea
- Seahorse** ...South China and Southeast Asia
- Musk** ...Northeast China, Southwest China and Tibet
- Rheum** ...Northwest China, Northeast China and Mongolia
- Angelica sinensis** ...Central China

Genealogy books: Are a Chinese tradition of recording family members in a book, including the marital status, the occupation and the travels of every male born in the family.

Concrete examples

(1). NIE Zhi-jian. *The Genealogy book of the Nie family in Qingjiang Jiangxi* 2nd edition Jiangxi China : 1902.

(2). NIE Dian-shun and NIE Ling-han. *The Genealogy book of the Nie family in Huzhuang Jiangxi* Jiangxi China : 1898.

Many family members of these families were engaged in medical related jobs while some of them held administrative positions in government officers.

(1)-1 Ru-huang: He was the forth son of Ji-zheng. He was born in January 7th 1834 and died in May 7th 1892. From a very young age he intended to study medicine, which he eventually mastered as he grew up. Apart from the study of medicine he was also heavily engaged in the trade of medicine in Jiangxi province.

(2)-1 Xing-hui: Today's Sichuan province was very flourishing during the Ming dynasty. The roads were affluent with goods and commerce was unhindered. 90 percents of the traders who went to Sichuan province were successful. Xing-hui was a man who came from Zhang-shu-zhen. In 1835, he went to Sichuan province from Jaingxi province. Xing-hui went to E-mei in Sichuan. Xing-hui reached this area and bought *Coptis chinensis*.

Conclusion

Until now, the historical study of the Zhang-shu-zhen pharmacists have mainly utilized local chronicles. However, if we use these local chronicles in addition to the genealogy books, we can understand the traces of their activities more concretely, and we can prove that the local administration and the commerce in this city had an organical co-existence.