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CULTURAL HERITAGE



THE 100 YEARS OF SHUZHUANG GARDEN

Li Min

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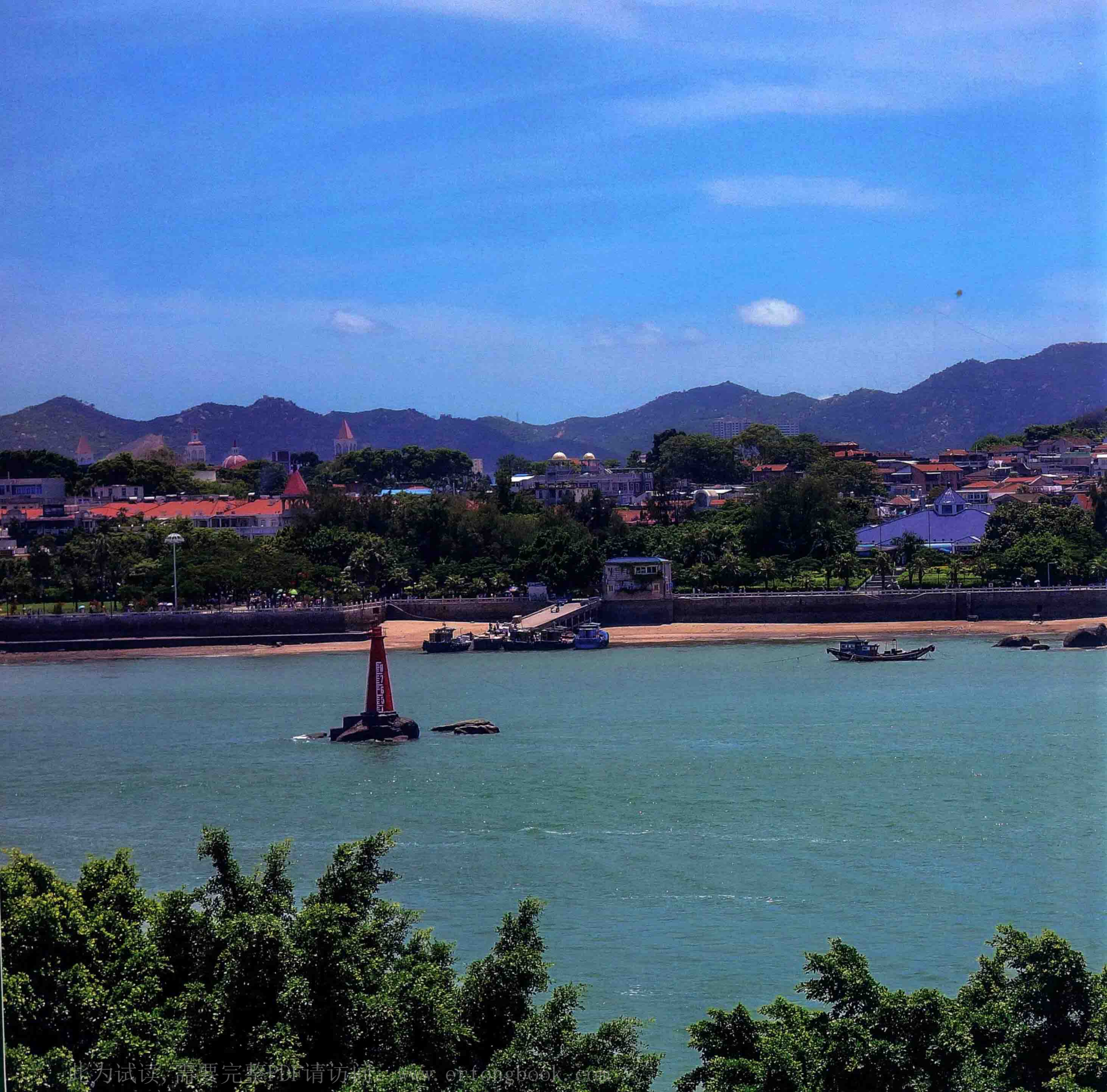
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Airview of Gulangyu





Preface

Gulangyu, detached island of Xiamen, a prominent pearl in world cultural history, is a micro city merging the Chinese and Western culture. On 2-km² small island, there are over 1,000 villas (especially more than ten foreign consulates). Avant-garde municipal facilities and lifestyle, a complete set of social structures and operational rules, those Western civilization indications are already well known. But what can be ignored easily is: when Chinese and Western culture met here, they completed the combination, transition and mergence of these two totally strange branches of culture, and in the end formed a unique essence and core of Gulangyu cultural gene.

Although architecture remains silent, it witnesses culture vicissitudes. From Gulangyu's pavilions, platforms, halls, windows and arcade pillars, we can see south Fujian overseas Chinese businessmen who were living in Xiamen dominated this cultural mergence. In Gulangyu Multinational Architecture Museum, buildings of elites like Huang Yizhu, Huang Zhongxun, Li Qingquan, Yang Zhongquan, set the island culture's character and tone. And, Shuzhuang Garden built by Lin Erjia is a stereotype.

Chinese classical gardens can be categorized into Northern

Gardens, Jiangnan Gardens, and Lingnan Gardens. Divided by functions, there are royal gardens, private gardens, and public gardens. Shuzhuang Garden is avant-garde of early modern Chinese public gardens, and almost the only fully preserved piece. Regardless of the fact that the site area is only 20,000 m², Shuzhuang Garden fully presents the open, comprehensive and delicate qualities and capabilities of mergence and recreation in Fujian and Taiwan culture, by means of 'hiding the sea and supplementing the hill' gardening art. Lin Erjia and Shuzhuang Poets' Clubs, Hu Youyi and Piano Museum, Ma Weidu and Guanfu Museum, and multitudes of outstanding heritage buildings with hundred years, also add elegant flavor to Shuzhuang Garden.

Professor Li Min, Doctor of Engineering of Tsinghua University, is author of *Charms of Classical Chinese Gardens*, a national present book supervised by State Council Information Office. He used to be a student of academics, Wang Juyuan, Meng Zhaozhen and Wu Liangyong, meanwhile he is one of the new generation leaders of Chinese Landscape Architecture field. Ever since spring 2007, when I first bought his book at Capital Airport bookstore, his talent and knowledge impressed me. To sort out Gulangyu's noble cultural heritage value, in

recent years, our board has been devoted to the publication of Gulangyu cultural heritage series. It happens to be 100 years anniversary of Shuzhuang Garden, perfect timing to publish an authoritative garden monograph on Shuzhuang Garden, and add another title to the series. Therefore, learned Professor Li Min, who was born in Fujian and very familiar with Xiamen, is a natural for our unique research and compilation.

This spring, we had the honor to invite Professor Li Min and his team to conduct research of Shuzhuang Garden. In the following eight months, Professor Li Min came to Gulangyu couple of times to do onsite investigation, research and collecting historical materials, photographing and went to Taiwan to study Banqiao Lin Family Garden. After several months' work, he finally accomplished the book. In this publication, Professor Li Min not only reviews construction history of Shuzhuang Garden, but also on this basis sums up cultural heritage value of Shuzhuang Garden, fill in the gap of Shuzhuang Garden cultural heritage research in early modern Chinese garden history. This is significant for building Shuzhuang Garden and Gulangyu's international reputation and promoting cultural exchange across the Strait. My deep gratitude goes to Professor

Li Min and everyone who has contributed to the compilation and publication.

100 years is a typical time node in retrospect, conclude, and collate for people, events and objects. To Gulangyu which is under a declaration for world cultural heritage and Shuzhuang Garden which has included new landmarks such as Piano Museum and Guanfu Museum, this book compiled by Professor Li Min, means a brand new start of future planning and vista definitely deserves more anticipation.



Cao Fang, director of Xiamen Gulangyu Wanshishan Scenic Spot Administration Committee, November 15th, 2013



Fig1-1: Shuzhuang Garden viewed from Gangzai Back Beach



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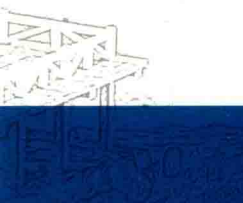
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The background of the slide is a monochromatic, reddish-brown illustration of a traditional Chinese garden. It features a multi-tiered pavilion with a tiled roof, a stone bridge with a railing, and large, leafy trees framing the scene. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodblock print or a traditional Chinese painting.

Chapter 1

Construction History of Shuzhuang Garden

1.1 Shuzhuang Garden Master - Lin Family

Shuzhuang Garden, the marine garden on Gulangyu, Xiamen, celebrates its 100th birthday in 2013. It embraces the sea with hills behind. After 100 years of vicissitudes, it's rejuvenating. Shuzhuang Garden sits in the dim shadows cast by sea wind and moon crossing waves, lives a reclusive life, watches the tide shows and ebbs in the wind, and composes music as life.

Today, when people go into this garden, they're keen to know its legendary preexistence and this life. In early modern Chinese garden history, this is the only sample of one-master-two-gardens.

Right across Taiwan Strait, Shuzhuang Garden's sister garden is Taipei Banqiao Lin Family Garden. As the richest Taiwan family since Mid-Qing Dynasty, Lin Family used to be a witness and participator of the times.

Then, what are Lin Family's development background and family features? How did it affect society? To seek answers, we need to fly across the Strait, through time and space, and trace Lin Family Garden master's footprints.

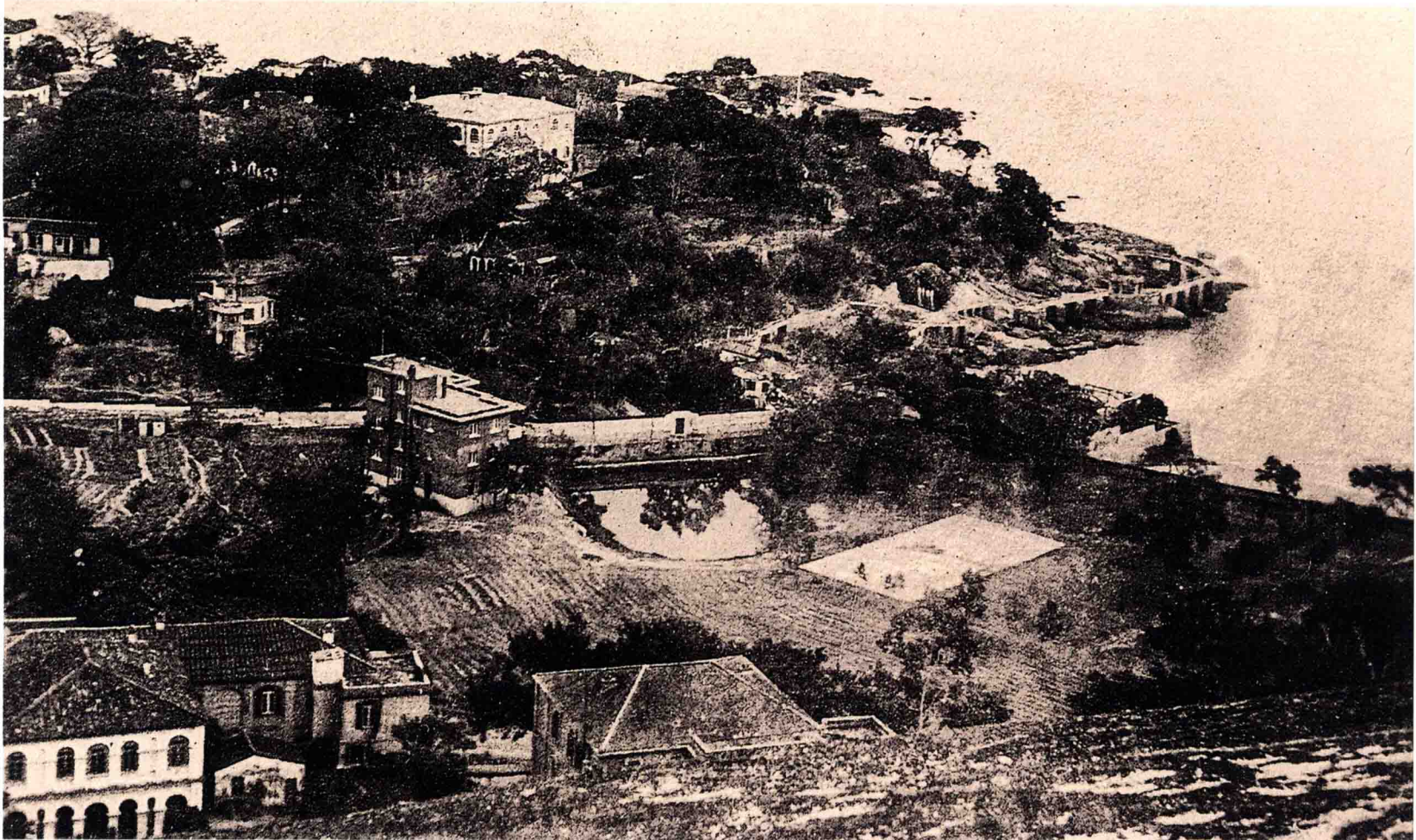


Fig1-2: Shuzhuang Garden in 1920s

1.1.1 Lin Family's Origin

Lin Family was originated from Zhangzhou Prefecture (now called Longhai City), Fujian Province. In 1776, Lin Yingyin moved to Danshui, Taiwan. This is the first generation of Lin Family entering into Taiwan.

In 1780, the second generation of Lin Family moved to Taiwan. Lin Pinghou, Lin Yingyin's son went to Taiwan to search for his father. With his business talent and diligence, Lin Pinghou made his way to a rice businessman, and also involved in the salt industry, shipping industry, camphor industry, and purchased lands. Lin Pinghou served for the government for 10 years and gained a good reputation and political achievements, meanwhile he protected his property in Taiwan by the status of official and gentry. He laid a firm foundation in wealth and social status for Lin Family.

The 3rd generation of Lin Family in Taiwan includes Lin Pinghou's five sons. Two of them have made the most influences - Ben and Yuan, who let the Lin Family known as 'Lin Benyuan'. In 1853, Taipei Zhangquan fight made Lin Family move from Dakekan to Banqiao, started Lin Family's Banqiao Era. Wealthy Lin Family started to pay attention to humanity cultivation.

These two brothers made acquaintances with many renowned artists, such as Lv Xicun, Xie Guanqiao, Ye Huacheng, Xu Yun, and so on. They collected inscriptions, and published *Aiwulu Remarks*, and *Aiwulu Carvings*, which not only taught Lin Family offspring more traditional Chinese culture, but also enriched Taipei region with humanity atmosphere.

The fourth generation of Lin Family in Taiwan is Guohua's three sons: Weirang, Weiyuan, and Weide. In 1862, 24-year-old Weiyuan and Weirang went back to Taiwan from Xiamen. 16 years later, Weirang passed away. Thereafter Lin Family was hosted by Weiyuan. Within 10 years of Liu Mingchuan being Taiwan governor to move back to Xiamen after Sino-Japanese



Fig1-3: Three courtyards of Banqiao Lin Family Mansion

War of 1894-1895, Lin Weiyuan made remarkable progress in farming and husbandry, livestock breeding, and banking industry in Taiwan. Therefore the family's wealth and influence have been accumulated and developed unprecedentedly. Banqiao Lin Family has by then become one of the richest and most influential families in Taiwan. What Lin Weiyuan contributed during the decade was highly appraised by Shi Shijie, a Taiwan scholar. Therefore, Lin Weiyuan was regarded as 'strings-puller behind Taiwan's modernization'. After Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, Lin Weiyuan led some family members to Mainland Xiamen, to show his attitude against the Japanese government.

So when Taiwan was under Japan's governance, Lin Family has been living in Mainland China and Taiwan separately since Lin Weiyuan. Lin Weiyuan was enthusiastic about charity. His unique motto of combining politics and business to achieve loyalty and profit made Banqiao Lin Family well known across the Strait and



Fig1-4: Taiwan Banqiao Lin Family group photo after crossing over to Xiamen

Nanyang (an old name for southeast Asia) regions. In 1905, Lin Weiyuan died in Xiamen, and started a new era of the Lin Family.

The 5th generation of Lin Family was hosted by Lin Heshou, Lin Erjia, and Lin Xiongxiang. They were living in Shanghai, Xiamen, and Fuzhou respectively. After Lin Weiyuan died, Lin Family began to split, from which we can see the 5th generation of Lin Family assets allocation. Three branches divided 250,000 Dan land rents. Senior branch got 10/25 (Xiongzhen 60,000 Dan, Xiongxiang 30,000 Dan, and Xionguang 10,000 Dan), second branch got 12/25 (Erjia 60,000 Dan, Zushou 20,000 Dan, Boshou 20,000

Dan, Songshou 20,000 Dan, and third branch got 3/25 (Pengshou, Heshou, and Songshou each got 10,000 Dan).

Lin Erjia held a special position in Lin Family: he was the most authoritative leader of Lin Weiyuan's second branch, and the most important inheritors of Lin Family.

After Lin Weiyuan's death in 1905, he continued establishing Xiamen Credit Bank, and held a post as Xiamen Commercial Committee manager. Later, Lin Erjia was recommended to Qing Dynasty to be a senior official, and he was very success-

ful in his political career. After Republic of China founded, he decided to retire from politics. Although he was selected as parliamentarians twice, he turned down the offers. He only took up the post of Gulangyu Engineering Ministry board member and Fujian Jinan Bureau (first overseas Chinese affairs administration in Chinese history) consultant, and funded Conservatives. When the Party leader Li Yuanhong was elected as President, Lin Erjia was employed as Presidential Palace consultant. Besides his activities in China, Erjia needed to deal with Japanese government. He loved poems, set up Shuzhuang Poets' Club, built Shuzhuang Garden. He organized poets' meeting regularly, and collected poems on a large scale – over 1,000 poems

submitted every time. He was also fond of publishing relevant gratulatory poetry anthology for some significant activities, e.g. *Shuzhuang Master's Silver Wedding Anniversary Remarks*, *Mr. Shuzhuang and Mrs. Yunhuan's 30th Wedding Anniversary Remarks*, *Shuzhuang Master's 40th Birthday Remarks*, etc..

Lin Erjia led an easy life. When he moved back to Taiwan in 1949, Erjia had to live only on inheritance. He set up Xiaohutian Poet's Club, continued to read poems to express his depression of not having a position in business circles or politics. He died in 1956 in Taipei. On the whole, he has lived a wealthy and leisurely life. ①

Note:

① The contents about the Lin family history of this chapter is mainly based on Taiwan's academic research literature: Xu Xueji, *Rendezvous Re-started – the History of the Lin Family and its Garden* (Part I)

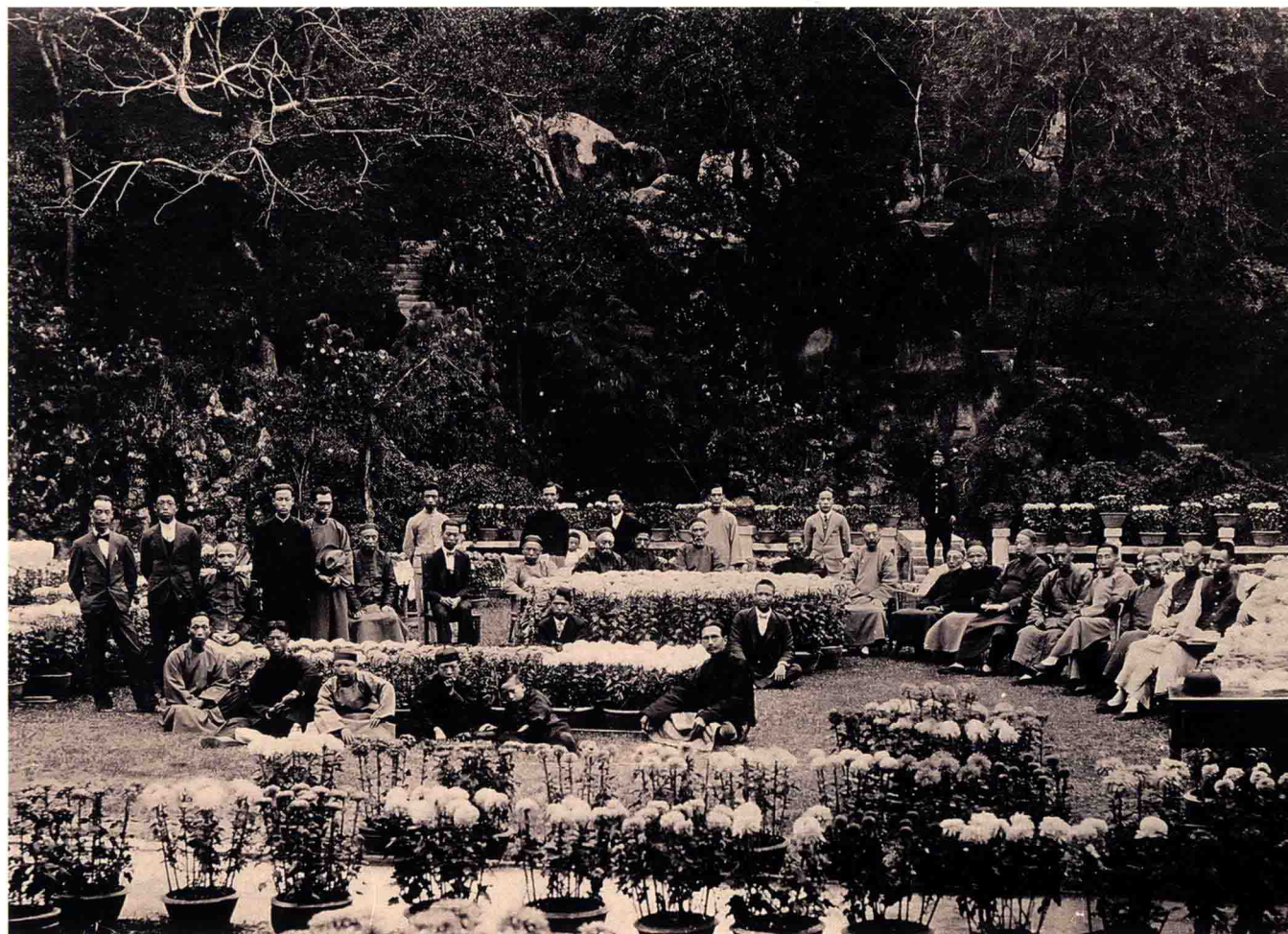


Fig1-5: Lin Erjia and his poetry mates admire chrysanthemum in Shuzhuang Garden



Fig1-6: Lin Wei yuan



Fig1-7: Lin Erjia

1.1.2 Lin Family's Social Impact

For over 100 years, Lin Family has taken part in social politics, economics, and cultural events of early modern Fujian and Taiwan; cast a deep impact over southern Fujian and Taiwan. Especially when Lin Weiyuan was active, Lin Family assisted Liu Mingchuan to aggregate many infant industries to one province, and helped Taiwan to make modernization progress. Taiwan was subsequently one of the leading provinces of China. Major research achievements about the Lin Family are as follows:



Fig1-8: Western wedding ceremony of Banqiao Lin Family



Fig1-9: Group photo of Lin Erjia and poets after club activity

1) Industry: In 1887, Liu Mingchuan nominated Lin Weiyuan as director to dredge up Keelung Port, measure channels, and level down the coast. Lin Weirang and his brother Weiyuan participated in revision of Danshui Hall's chorography, and contributed in building Changkengxi Bridge, South Gangzai Bridge in Shidianbao.

In Mainland China, Lin Erjia invested in Quanzhou Power Company, Longxi Farming and Husbandry Company, Guangfu Company, Sugar Company, Quanzhou Automobile Company, Hunan Camphor Factory, founded Xiamen Delvfeng Telephone Company, invested in Zhangxia Railway, organized Xiamen Waterworks.

Lin Heshou became president of Lin Benyuan Sugar Company in his 20s. He ran Hemu Industry Co. Ltd, and was the chairman representative.

2) Agriculture: Lin Heshou's brother Songshou developed sericulture and grew 100,000 mulberry trees. After 1919, he focused on his own Song's Cultivation Corporation, which was said to reach annual revenue of 30 million Yuan. Besides, Lin Erjia bought over 400 acres Zhangzhou Baijiaoxiang hilly area in 1911, imported advanced agricultural technique and founded Guangfu Agriculture Company.

3) Finance and Business: Lin Weiyuan and Li Chunsheng, another Taiwan wealthy figure cooperated on building Jianchang Street and Qianqiu Street, where Western-style buildings were constructed for rent, and foreign firms and businessmen ran native produce trade. The construction of these two streets led the way from agricultural assets to urban estate, which helped Lin Family's enterprises a lot and also made Lin Family much richer.

Lin Heshou ran bank business, such as Jianxiang's, Yichang's, Yujiquan Bank, and Jin Changhou; invested in Xingao Bank and held board member post. Taiwan Power Industry Co. Ltd, bought Taiwan Bank's stocks, and signed on the new banknotes, to build people's confidence in it.

Lin Erjia founded 'Xunmei's' (Xunshou is his elder brother, died early) with 5 million Yuan in 1922. He ran estate, grocery stores, and