



广州历史文化名城研究会
广州市荔湾区地方志编纂委员会

广州十三行沧桑

THE THIRTEEN HONGS IN GUANGZHOU



广东省地图出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

广州十三行沧桑 / 广州历史文化名城研究会, 广州市荔湾区地方志编纂委员会编. — 广州: 广东省地图出版社, 2001. 12

ISBN 7-80522-747-0

I. 广… II. ①广… ②广… III. 广东洋行—经济史—广州市 IV. F832.7

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2001) 第 089008 号

广州十三行沧桑

出版发行：广东省地图出版社

地 址：广州市环市东路 468 号

邮政编码：510075

印 刷：广东省科普印刷厂

开 本：850 × 1168 毫米 32 开 11 印张

字 数：250 千字

印 数：1-2420 册

版 次：2001 年 12 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

书 号：ISBN 7-80522-747-0/F·66

定 价：26.00 元

序一

国际贸易是世界各国和地区之间进行商品交换。国际间的正常经济贸易，互通有无，促进相互经济文化交流，有利于各国的共同发展进步。

广州有史以来就是中国重要的外贸港口。据 20 世纪 30 年代商务印书馆出版发行的《万有文库》记述：“吾国古代之通商口岸，海道则有市舶，陆路则有榷场。唯唐以前，以无专司之设置，难于稽考，大略最重要而互市最多之可信地点有二：（一）广州……（二）巴蜀……”据杨万秀、钟卓安主编的《广州简史》介绍：“广州是唐代唯一设置市舶使的城市，……在唐代对外关系上具有特殊重要的地位。”“开宝四年宋朝在广州初设市舶司”，“宋代与广州贸易往来的国家和地区不少于 50 个”。又据《万有文库》记述：“元代之通商地点如下：已置市舶司者有七：广州、泉州、上海、澉浦、温州、杭州、庆元。后并为三：广州、泉州、庆元。”“明代对外贸易甚多……除广州、泉州、宁波等地外，太仓、乍浦，亦占有极重要之位置。”“清代五口通商以前，虽有四海关之设，……然自乾隆二十二年后，江、浙、闽各海关，即不许贸易，定制所有番商，归并广东一港。”

大量史籍记载了广州作为连通世界各大洲的海上丝绸之路的外贸港口的历史。而尤以清代广州十三行的历史最为跌宕起伏、惊世难忘。始于清初的广州十三行，在 1757 ~ 1842 年这 85 年间，成为中国唯一的官方特许海外贸易的经营机构。十三行正常对外贸易曾达到了历史上的辉煌顶峰。现在还珍藏在欧美等地博

物馆的外销画，以及收藏在世界各地的古陶瓷，不少是这段辉煌外贸史的实证。但是，繁荣的十三行，却以不幸的悲剧结束。英国发动的鸦片战争，结束了十三行一口通商的历史，并把中国推入了半封建半殖民地的更黑暗社会之中。究其原因，是独口通商之始，正值欧美资本主义新贵们进入工业革命时期，新兴的西方资本家，迫切需要扩大海外市场；不少人更为了积累资本发展生产，剥下仁义道德的外衣，公开叫嚷用炮舰打开中国的贸易市场，赤裸裸地向中国输入鸦片。而自视为世界泱泱大国的清廷，轻视了资本主义的发展，在采取坚决打击鸦片输入的正义行动的同时，由于忽视了扩展正常对外贸易，没有依靠广大人民群众抗战等诸多原因，导致了在鸦片战争中失败。

经历了鸦片战争失败的中国人民，不懈地寻找救国强国之路。终于在20世纪初期，推翻了封建王朝统治；在20世纪中期，选择了社会主义道路；在20世纪后期，走上了改革开放的繁荣昌盛之路——中国特色的社会主义道路。广东，成为了改革开放先行一步的地区。通过海上、空中，广州开通了条条通往世界各地的新的丝绸之路，中国人民与各国人民间的经济文化交流，远胜于昔日鼎盛的十三行时期。

在新世纪之始，中国将加入世界贸易组织，丝绸之路，将更展现出路路通途。在这种新形势下，回顾昔日清代十三行这段历史篇章，可以进一步促进今天的中外经济文化交流，有助于建立起各国间真正在平等互利基础上的公平贸易关系。通过公平贸易，促进各国的共同发展。现在由联合国教科文组织和中国民俗摄影协会联合筹划的“串连起五大洲的文明，跨越四个世纪的航程”的重造18世纪“哥德堡”号商船的新世纪航行计划（计划从瑞典沿古老的海上丝绸之路航行到广州），正是试图再续历史的辉煌，推进各国人民的经济文化交往。

前几年，广州市历史文化名城保护委员会曾召开过十三行的专题研讨会。在中共荔湾区委、区政府支持下，荔湾区地方志编

纂委员会牵头召开了两次清代十三行的专题研讨会。今年，区政协、区文化局等单位也多次组织了有关专家座谈会，专题讨论开发利用十三行历史文化资源。本书一并将几次研讨会有关十三行历史的研究论述成果汇集成册，并征得一些专家、学者同意，辑录了会外的几篇专著入册，供读者阅读了解。由于清代广州十三行是一个牵涉领域很广泛的历史课题，本书各篇虽然是各位作者经过长期研究写出的文章，但毕竟是一家之见，加上篇幅所限，遗漏与不当之处，尚请各位读者补正。特别还请读者在如何借助历史名牌清代广州十三行的巨大影响推进当代中外经济文化交流方面，多多赐教。

广州市荔湾区代区长 刘平

2001年8月

Preface I

International trade is a kind of economic activity that commodity exchange is conducted to help supply each other's needs among the various countries and regions in the world. It can help to promote the mutual exchange in economies and cultures, and is hence beneficial to the common development and progresses in these countries and regions.

Guangzhou has been an important foreign trade port in China from the very beginning of its history. *Wan You Wen Ku* (*Universal Library*), a book published in the 1930s by Commercial Publishing House, has the following descriptions, "The trading ports that our country had in the ancient times include Shibo for marine trade and Quechang for land trade. Only it is very difficult to conduct an exploration about the trading ports before the Tang Dynasty since there were no specific departments responsible for such kind of affairs at that time. Generally speaking, credible locations that were most important and had most abundant business at that time may include Guangzhou and Bashu (now, named Sichuan.)" *A brief history of Guangzhou*, edited by Yang Wanxiu and Zhong Zhuoan, also has the following introductory sections: "Guangzhou is the only city where a *Shiboshi* (a department in charge of trade by ship) was set up in the Tang Dynasty,and played a particularly important role in the foreign relationships in the Tang Dynasty." "In Kaibao's 4th year (A.D.971), a *Shibosi* (similar to *Shiboshi*) was initially established in Guangzhou by the royal court of the Song Dynasty." "There were no less

than 50 foreign countries and regions that were involved in trade with Guangzhou in the Song Dynasty.” Moreover, *Wan You Wen Ku* describes, “The trading ports in the Yuan Dynasty can be listed as follows: 7 cities where Shibosi was specifically established, they are Guangzhou, Quanzhou, Shanghai, Ganpu, Wenzhou, Hangzhou, Qingyuan, which were later incorporated into 3 ports, i. e., Guangzhou, Quanzhou and Qingyuan.” “Foreign trade was also very flourishing in the Ming Dynasty……In addition to cities such as Guangzhou, Quanzhou, Ningbo and so on, Taicang and Zhapu also played an extremely important part in foreign trade.” “Before the five ports were open for foreign trade in the Qing Dynasty, there were four customs for trading. However, after the Qianlong’s 22nd year (1757), the customs in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Fujian were not permitted to be engaged in trading, and it was stipulated that all foreign trade shall be under the unified control of a single port in Guangdong.”

Abundant historical literature records the history of Guangzhou as a foreign trade port on the marine “silk road” that connected the various continents in the world. In particular, the history of the Thirteen Hongs in Guangzhou, a district engaged in foreign trade in the Qing Dynasty, constitutes the most undulating, most astonishing and most unforgettable chapter. The Thirteen Hongs, originated in the early Qing Dynasty, was the only foreign trade management organization that was officially licensed in China in the 85 years from 1757 ~ 1842. The normal foreign trade conducted in the Thirteen Hongs has once reached its splendid zenith in history. Most of the Chinese paintings for export that are now treasured in museums in Europe and America and the ancient ceramics collected in the various regions in the world are the material evidences of the splendid history of foreign trade in this period. However, the prosperous Thirteen Hongs was terminated in unfortunate tragedy. The Opium War launched

by the British ended the history of the Thirteen Hongs as the only trading port in China, and pushed China into an even darker semi-feudal and semi-colonial society. This is because that at the start of the history of the Thirteen Hongs as the only trading port in China, the new bourgeois elite in Europe and America has entered the industrial revolution period, and the burgeoning capitalists in the west countries had pressing needs to expand the overseas markets. A lot of these capitalists, aiming to amass capital and develop their own production, has torn off their masks of humanity, justice and virtue, howled publicly that gunboats be used to open the trading markets of China. As a result, they output opium to China in an undisguised manner. However, the Qing royal court, self-regarded as a country of vast territory, underestimated the rapid development of the capitalism. While the Qing court was taking justified actions by striking resolutely the opium input, it neglected the requirements of expanding normal foreign trade and hasn't relied upon the vast majority of the masses for the war of resistance, which have led to its defeat during the Opium War.

The Chinese people who have undergone the defeat of the Opium War have since been exploring the road toward saving China and building China into a powerful state, and finally succeeded in overthrowing the ruling of the feudal monarchy at the beginning of the 20th century, in choosing the socialist road in the middle of the 20th century, and in stepping on to a road of reforming and opening up to the outside, a road of prosperity and a road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, in the late 20th century. Guangdong is the region that went a step earlier in reforming and opening up to the outside world in China. Guanzhou, the capital of Guangdong, has opened up many new "silk roads", on the sea and in air, that leads to the various parts of the world. As a result, the economic and cultural exchange between Chinese people and people in for-

eign countries has far outnumbered that in the era of the Thirteen Hongs.

At the beginning of the new century, China is going to be accessed to the World Trade Organization (WTO), so the "silk road" will have more of its opportunities. Under the new circumstances, a review of the chapters about the history of the Thirteen Hongs in the Qing Dynasty can undoubtedly help to promote the economic and cultural exchange between China and foreign countries, can help to establish a truly justified business relationship based on equality and mutual benefit among the countries in the world, and can help to promote the common development of the various countries. At present, the new century navigation project of the reconstructing, 18th century trader "Gothenburg", titled "linking together the civilizations in the five continents and spanning across the voyages of four centuries" and jointly prepared by UNESCO and China Folk Custom Photography Association, aims right to restore the splendor of the history and to promote the economic and cultural exchange among the people of the various countries.

A few years ago, the Historical and Cultural City Protection Committee of Guangzhou convened a special symposium dedicated to the Thirteen Hongs. With the support from CPC Liwan District Committee and Liwan District Government, the Local Chronicles Editorial Committee of Liwan District took the lead in holding two special symposiums on the Thirteen Hongs in the Qing Dynasty. This year units such as the People's Political Consultative Conference and the Cultural Bureau of Liwan District, etc. organized expert panel meetings for several times that aimed to specifically discuss how to develop and utilize the historical and cultural heritages of the Thirteen Hongs. This book is a compilation of the achievements in historical research of the Thirteen Hongs made at the several symposiums, together with several other papers with the consent of the authors, that aim to help readers to have a deeper comprehension and

understanding about the history of this historical trading port. As the Thirteen Hongs in Guangzhou in the Qing Dynasty is a historical topic that involves a variety of fields, the papers compiled in this book can only represent the personal views of the various authors even though they are the results of long-term individual research. Moreover, as the length for each paper as provided by this book is rather limited, omissions and inappropriateness might be unavoidable. Consequently, complements and corrections from readers are kindly solicited, together with particular advices about how to push forward the economic and cultural exchange between China and foreign countries with the aid of the tremendous influence of the historical brand of the Thirteen Hongs in the Qing Dynasty.

Liu Ping

Acting governor of Liwan District, Guangzhou City

August, 2001

序二

新的世纪，《广州十三行沧桑》一书面世了。

清代广州十三行，曾作为官方特许外贸经营机构存在，其间有 85 年一口通商的特别辉煌时期。

现代学者对十三行有过很多不同的评价。从现代的全球经济一体化观念看，十三行的一口通商的种种限制也许是对经济发展的束缚，这些教训至今仍值得我们深刻记取。

但是，历史不能用现代观点去作“如果……”的解说。在当时的特定历史条件下，十三行被赋予了经营外贸特权，行商、外商实实在在地在交易，他们交易的客观效果就是开展了中外经济文化交流，这是十三行历史的主旋律。当然在这主旋律下，也会有杂音，有逆反旋律，这些杂音有时甚至盖过主旋律，这就是十三行正当贸易之外鸦片走私交易和鸦片战争。本书所辑的近 20 篇文章，有助于人们更好理解十三行这一曲曾激荡过世界的历史乐章。

知悉历史，是为了更好创造未来。我作为十三行行商的后人之一，更是以现代社会建设者之一的身份，阅读了这本书。衷心期望中外人民的友好经济文化交往能世代永久延续；衷心期望今天广州十三行，能被筹划建设成广州商贸旅游的一个新景点，为中外交流再作贡献。

潘祖尧（全国政协委员）

2001 年 8 月

Preface II

In the new Millennium, the book *The Thirteen Hongs in Guangzhou* has just been published.

The “Thirteen Hongs” in Guangzhou were government’s only licensed organizations for foreign trade and Guangzhou was the only trading port in China for a period of eighty five years with a celebrated history.

The contemporary academics have differing opinions about the “Thirteen Hongs”. From the view of the unified global economy, the limitation of the “Thirteen Hongs” and one trading port may be restrictive to economic development. In any event, the lesson here is still worthy of our reminiscence and study.

History, however, cannot be explained by supposition based on current opinion. At that time under special historical conditions, the “Thirteen Hongs” was given special license to trade with foreign companies. Foreign traders carried out trade and their independent effort started a cross fertilization of financial exchange. This is the main melody of the history of the “Thirteen Hongs”. Naturally under this main melody, there were bad and sour notes and these notes sometimes overpowered the main melody. This is referring to the opium smuggling, and the opium war. This book collected nearly twenty papers on the subject and this will pave the way to a better understanding of the “Thirteen Hongs” which had created huge ripples in the history of the World at one stage.

We must learn from the past in order to create a better future. As a

descendant of the traders in the “Thirteen Hongs” and especially as a contributor to the development of modern society, I have read this book. I sincerely hope that the friendly cross fertilization of the financial exchange be continued from generation to generation forever. In addition I hope that the “Thirteen Hongs” in Guangzhou can be re-established as a new trading and tourist attraction and once again made contribution to sino foreign exchange.

Ronald C. Y. Poon
member, National Committee
CPPCC, China
August, 2001

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