

侈言與侈譯：郭嵩燾《使西紀程》的西文史料稽考

(提要)

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郭嵩燾的《使西紀程》是晚清首部駐外公使日記，出版後旋遭官方禁燬。既有研究側重運用漢文史料來探討燬版的成因，鮮少留意《使西紀程》乃至燬版案在十九世紀西文報刊的傳播紀錄。本文利用大英圖書館與各地檔案館蒐集所得史料，考察出使日記在倫敦、香港與上海三地的譯介軌跡，進而以此為切入點，觀察晚清中英文文化的接觸、磨擦與碰撞。本文重點在考辨三名隱而不見的譯介者以及他們的英譯出版活動，指出英文報刊認為燬版肇因在於清廷無法忍受其中一則日記直言西方富強。然而，同一則日記卻被政見相左的諫官視作郭嵩燾取媚西洋諸國的「侈言」。本文從觀念「侈譯」的角度，探討這則日記的爭議之處，為出使日記燬版案提供新證。

關鍵詞： 郭嵩燾 《使西紀程》 西文報刊 譯本

Translation or Exaggeration: Guo Songtao's *Shixi jicheng* in the West

(Abstract)

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To gather reliable foreign intelligence, the Qing empire (1644–1911) ordered its overseas diplomats to submit their official diaries regularly in the nineteenth century. Guo Songtao (1818–1891), the first Chinese Envoy to the UK, depicted the thriving Western colonization project in his diary, *Shixi jicheng*. However, his writings were banned by the Qing court in 1877 for exaggerating the wealth and power of Western countries. A few researchers have noticed that Western newspapers disseminated the censored diary and condemned the Qing court for covering up the true narrative of the West. This paper identifies the circulation trajectory of Guo's diary in London, Hong Kong, and Shanghai to compare the Chinese and English interpretations on one key entry of the diary. It reveals that the controversial entry is not from Guo's own travel experience, but from his translation of a new foreign book. This case study will enrich the understanding of the envoy diary as a controversial cultural medium in Sino-Western relations.

Keywords: Guo Songtao *Shixi jicheng* English newspapers translated versions