

EXPLANATION OF CHINESE TERMS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC METHODS

Commonly Used Chinese Terms

1 *jin* = 0.5 kilograms or 1.10 pounds

1 *liang* = 0.1 *jin* or 50 grams

1 *mu* = 0.0615 hectare or 1/6 acre

Village Names

This book examines thirteen Chinese villages in detail, complemented by concise discussions of numerous others. To enhance the readability for English-speaking audiences, I have translated the names of these thirteen, as well as a number of others, into English based on their literal Chinese meanings. For instance, Dongshanxia is more recognizably translated as “Eastern Mountain Foot.” The original Chinese village names can be found in the glossary of this book.

Bibliographic Methods for Chinese Publications

In the bibliography and notes, I employ two methods that differ from traditional practices for Chinese publications. First, I have omitted the customary use of *pinyin* to phoneticize the title of Chinese publications. Instead, I use English translations juxtaposed with their Chinese titles. In the West nowadays almost all China scholars are proficient in reading Chinese, while public readers who do not read Chinese only need comprehensible, translated titles. Consequently, all bibliography entries containing Chinese characters were published in Chinese. Second, I have deviated from the typical practice of listing an author's name first for the Chinese organizational authors that have lengthy Chinese names or names that include two or three institutions. For example, the author's name, Feidongxian difangzhi bianzuan weiyuanhui (the Compilation Committee of the Feidong County Local Chronicle), can

be placed after the more contextually meaningful English title of its publication, *Feidong County Chronicle*. This approach is particularly relevant since these types of committees are established for compiling local chronicles for every county, city, and province, with the only variation in their institutional names being their administrative location. Chinese publications with individual authors or institutions with shorter names continue to follow the Chicago author-date style format. In both the bibliography and notes, surnames of individual authors for Chinese publications are always positioned first.

Glossary

This book presents a comprehensive glossary, organized into three sections. The first section is a catalog of Chinese individuals' names and their transliterations, overwhelmingly featuring everyday peasants who have been written about to varying degrees. The second section encompasses Chinese geographic names and their transliterations, specifically those of rural areas such as natural villages, administrative villages, production brigades, people's communes, reservoirs, lakes, towns, and counties. Names of cities, urban centers, and provinces are excluded due to their general familiarity and limited relevance to rural life. The final section enumerates special Chinese terms, presenting both their transliterations and English translations. The first two sections serve as a reference for readers interested in checking and verifying the names of Chinese people and places, while the third section, with translations, is intended to facilitate a swift comprehension of particular Chinese terms.