

Mediating Dual Roles through Divergent Messages: Public and Private Writings by Guo Songtao and Bin Chun

晚清使西記述中的角色切換：郭嵩燾、斌椿的官方日記與個人表達

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Guo Songtao (1818–1891) fell into a swirling vortex of controversy among his contemporaries for delegating an apologetic mission to Europe in 1876. Contrasting the previous criticism, Guo would find himself rehabilitated by later reformers and current researchers as a forerunner of modernization. However, reading beyond such a dichotomous evaluation reveals Guo's hesitation about sending trenchant comments back to China. Attempts to reposition oneself within rapid changes are not exclusive to the pioneer. As a part of a thesis project on Guo's diplomatic mission, the present chapter examines how the “progressive” Guo Songtao and “conservative” Bin Chun (1804–1871) both endeavored to balance their roles between late Qing representative and civilian traveler in different versions of writing. Following an overview of Guo's historical evaluation, this talk analyzes his revisions on personal diaries into a diplomatic manuscript, with Guo's subjectivity and self-censorship revealed in the editing process. Instead of developing different editions, Bin Chun presented divergent perspectives by distinguishing public records in the diary from personal poems sent only to his friends. The talk then offers a parallel reading of Bin Chun's prose-style diary and poetry to demonstrate how the writer represented different attitudes by employing separate writing genres.

1876年，郭嵩燾（1818—1891）應清廷委任，為雲南馬嘉理案赴英「通好謝罪」，因而在當時備受爭議。相反，清末的革命家與當代學者均為他正名，視之為現代化的先驅。然而擱置對立的人物評價，不難發現郭嵩燾對於寄回在西方記錄的的犀利見解頗為躊躇，他在劇變環境中維持平衡的努力也並非獨有。本章節意在研究「進步」的郭嵩燾和「保守」的斌椿（1804—1871）如何各自創作不同文本，平衡晚清使臣與個人旅客兩種角色。報告首先梳理郭嵩燾的歷史評價，隨後分析他由私人日記改寫為官方手稿過程體現的主觀選擇與自我審查。斌椿則採取了不同方式，分別撰寫官方日記與寄給友人的私人詩稿，報告亦將對讀文本，分析斌椿在兩種體裁中有意刻畫的西方社會與個人形象。



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