



Guo Qiuping, ed., *A Compilation of Archives and Document of the Jews in Harbin (15 volumes)* (郭秋萍主编:《哈尔滨犹太人档案文献汇编》), Beijing: Social Sciences Academic Press (China), 2020, ISBN: 9787520117821.

The collective memory is one of the important topics in the study of Jewish history. Due to complex historical reasons and the loss of historical materials, there are still some shortcomings in the study of the history of Jewish activities in China. *A Compilation of Archives and Document of the Jews in Harbin (15 volumes)*, edited by Guo Qiuping, was published by Social Sciences Academic Press in August 2020. The materials in this book mainly come from the historical archives of Heilongjiang Province Archives and Harbin Municipal Archives, as well as the information of the ruins and relics obtained from the author's search. The content covers the life experiences of Jews from Russia, Poland, Germany, Austria and other countries in Harbin from the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China to the 1960s, including regulations and materials of various social institutions of Harbin Jews, the information about Harbin Jewish social activist, the registration of Jews born in Harbin, the Excerpt of Harbin Jewish Household Registration (Hukou) files and their biographical records, the relics, ruins and remain of the Jews in Harbin, etc. The book provides valuable original materials for the study of the history and culture of Harbin Jews, which has important academic value.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the construction of the Middle East Railway, a large number of Jews came to Harbin from Russia and other European countries, forming the largest Jewish gathering place in the Far East in Harbin. They helped each other, shared weal and woe, and practiced group autonomy, which made Harbin Jewish community a unique existence among Jewish communities in the world.

The archives of this period of history are relatively well preserved in Heilongjiang Provincial Archives, which are rich in content, variety and value. The book consists of 15 volumes, mainly based on the archives of Harbin Jewish Religious Association in Heilongjiang Provincial Archives, and some household registration files in Harbin Municipal Archives. The documents collected in this book were written in Russian and Hebrew. In order to facilitate the use of the documents, the documents were classified, translated, processed and sorted, with millions of words, more than 1,700 pictures and more than 4,000 pages of scanned original text. The main contents include:

1. Regulations and materials of various social institutions of Harbin Jews. This part is mainly in volume 1 and volume 2, including Harbin Jewish Religious Association,





Harbin Jews Funeral Fraternity, Harbin Staff Mutual Association, Committee of Passover Observances of Harbin Jews, Synagogue of Harbin Jews, Harbin Jewish Music Literature Drama Association, Jewish School and Culture Education, the Middle East Railway Subsidiary Artists Association, Harbin Jewish Community of War Refugees Relief, Jewish Experts Association of Family Property and Real Estate in Harbin, Harbin Jewish co-op, Rabinovich Couple Jewish Nursing Home in Harbin, Harbin Jewish National Bank Far East Jewish Commercial Bank, Mutual Savings Association, Harbin Jewish Religious Association Arbitration Court, etc. From this, we can see that Harbin Jews have a strong sense of organization, strict organization rules and responsible organizer.

2. The information about Harbin Jewish social activist. There were so many Jewish organizations, and they all run very effectively, by active social activists. volume 3 and volume 4 of this book compiled nearly hundred Jewish activists, who are divided into five categories: clergy, business people and entrepreneurs, medical workers, educators, and others. Their activities were based on autobiographies in the archives, as well as reports from newspaper and magazine and letters of the time.

3. The registration of Jews born in Harbin. This part is presented in volumes 5 to 13 of this book. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 1960s, the number of Jews in Harbin has been recorded in history. The records vary from 10,000, and the maximum number is 50,000. Based on the 50 volumes of birth registration of Harbin Jewish Religious Association, this book for the first time obtains the data of the Jews born in Harbin and its surrounding areas (including Manchuria, Qiqihar and other places). From 1899 to 1961, there was a total of 3522 Jewish babies, 1805 boys, 1717 girls, born in Harbin and its surrounding areas. The earliest Jew born in Harbin was a girl in 1899, and the last one was a boy in 1961. The largest number of births appeared in 1919, when 172 were born in Harbin." Data on Jews who born in and around Harbin fill a gap in research. These birth registers record the children's name, date of birth (both Gregorian and Jewish calendars), master of ceremonies, father's name, mother's name, and so on. Now the Jews scatter around the world, this book can provide them with direct and reliable evidence for the identification of relatives and ancestors.

4. The excerpt of Harbin Jewish household registration and their biographical records. Volume 14 of this book presents the Alien Household Registration(Hukou) files established by the Public Security Bureau after the liberation of Harbin in 1946, which contain more than 600 Jewish faces and their biographical records, including names, gender, date of birth, occupation, address, education level, etc. It is the lives of these ordinary people that make up the life of Harbin Jews. Their resumes are the records of the grass-roots society and have important historical value.



5. The relics, ruins and architectural remains of the Jews in Harbin are presented mainly in volume 15. The architectural remains included two synagogues, as well as a Jewish high school, a Jewish hospital, a Madir Hotel, etc., which are mainly presented with photos. The site of the Jewish cemetery includes the site of the original Jewish cemetery and the site of the new Jewish cemetery. The New Jewish Cemetery has more than 590 burials and covers an area of 6,532 square meters. It is the best-preserved and largest Jewish cemetery in the Far East. This book contains these inscriptions the New Jewish Cemetery, including pictures and Chinese translations.

This book has multiple values. The first is the literature value. The book not only collected historical relics and remaining data of Harbin Jews, but also published a large number of archives of census register of Harbin Jewish religious association. From the system of laws to the character image, this work provided an extremely unique and valuable perspective for the research of Harbin's Jews. These materials have important reference value for the study of Judaism, religion, history, ethnology, anthropology and other fields. Especially, it has important reference value to study the social life and organization of Harbin Jews. The Harbin Jews in the diaspora managed the Jewish community with mutual assistance and autonomy. They established more than 20 organizations to manage the food, clothing, transportation, birth, aging, illness, death, and kept their children going to school. No matter how poor the people were, they would be buried after they died. It became a remarkable chapter in the history of Judaism.

The second is academic value. In the process of archival data compilation, the editor-in-chief has infiltrated a lot of research work and made some new progress, which is unique in the domestic Jewish studies. For example, when translating the name, it breaks through the tradition of transliteration and embodies the Jewish connotation of the name. Because the original data were in Russian, if they were transliterated completely, it would not reflect the meaning of the Jewish name itself. The Russian transliteration of Moreish, for example, would be Moses if it were to return to the original Jewish meaning. This translation is more suitable for Jews, and the names translated in this way are more like Jewish names. Another example is the order of names. According to Russian rule, the given name comes first. However, many Jews put their family names before their given names. When the book was published, the editor-in-chief decided to keep the file in its original format to reflect its regional character. Another example is the groundbreaking translation of tombstone inscriptions. The inscription of Rabbi Kiselev, the spiritual leader of Judaism, is inscribed in Hebrew. The translation of the inscription turned first to the rabbis of Israel, who translated it into English, and then translated English into Chinese. Through field investigation, many historical facts that have not been mastered or





were not accurate have been proved, which provides the basis for the conclusion of some facts. Some studies at the previous stage suggested that the Jews in Harbin were relatively closed and had little contact with the Chinese and local authorities. A study of the ruins, especially the Confucian Temple in Harbin, found that it was built in 1926 by the local government with donations from society, many of them from Jews. Confucian temple is a manifestation of national culture, and the Jewish people's donation to build Confucian temple reflects the Jewish people's identification with Chinese culture, and also shows that they are connected and intersected with the local authorities and society.

The Jewish nation has been well treated in China, whether in ancient Kaifeng, modern Harbin or Shanghai, which demonstrates the tolerance and kindness of the Chinese nation and civilization, and advocates and promotes equal exchanges and harmonious coexistence among all ethnic groups. Harbin Jewish archives have become important historical and cultural heritage and memory heritage due to their rarity and completeness. It witnessed the birth and reproduction of the Jews in Harbin, which is a valuable historical memory in the history of Jewish development and memory. Its publication, not only has the significance of excavating historical documents, but also provides important reference materials for research, and helps us to understand the diversity and complexity of history.

Guo Baige  
Social Sciences Academic Press (China)  
Edited by Ning Fan

Pang Guanqun, *Justice and Royalty: The Parlements under the Absolute Monarchy in France* (宠冠群:《司法与王权: 法国绝对君主制下的高等法院》), Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2020, ISBN: 9787010216737.

In the Middle Ages, the monarch was regarded as the arbitrator and mediator of the kingdom. His primary responsibility was to maintain justice, which was one of the main sources of the monarch's power. The Parlements, deriving from the King's Council in the Later Middle Age, became the most important sovereign courts of the monarchy and the main institution for upholding justice in France in the Later Middle Ages and Early Modern Times. In practice, this jurisdiction penetrated into all areas of political and social life. Therefore, to understand the characteristics of the French absolute monarchy, firstly we should know the ways “*État de justice*” works, as mentioned by Pierre Chaunu, as well as its effect on the different groups of society. Secondly, we should be aware of the gradualness and complexity of the

