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CHINESE QIAOPI AND MEMORY OF THE WORLD

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Qiaopi from Malaysia as Depository of Social History and Sources of Remittance to China

◇Danny Wong Tze Ken^①

【摘要】从迁移至马来亚始，华人就汇款于中国的家人。如同所有海外华人，他们为生计远走他乡，远涉重洋，稍有收入后，就汇钱回乡。他们透过各种管道汇钱，换种说法，各种侨汇方式因应华侨的需求而建立，以确保侨汇的安全。侨批就是其中的一种方式。华侨透过当地的中介，把钱汇去中国；而其在中国的家人，则可通过中介在中国的伙伴及公司，收取款项。这种方式，在早期还是相当基础，日后渐渐成为多年马来亚的华人汇钱回家可靠的方式。侨汇，只是侨批故事的一部分。在这些陈述汇款的信件中，有成千上万的华人向他们的家人描述他们在海外（马来亚）的状况。这是研究马来亚（或其他地区）华人生命史很重要的史料。此外经过侨批所寄上的钱也成为各中国政府外汇中重要的一部分来源。

【关键字】 马来西亚 侨汇 中国 书信 社会史 历史资料

Abstract: Since their migration to Malaya, the Chinese had been remitting money to their families in China. Like all Chinese overseas, the idea stemmed from the very impetus of migrating abroad at that time, namely, to earn a living and to send money back home to support their families. The money were sent through various channels and soon, various means or systems were established to help these Chinese to send their money, and to ensure that the money arrived safely. The Qiaopi system was one such system. The system involves the remittance of money through an agent arrangement in their localities where they money could be collected by their families through the agents' counterparts or companies in China. The system, though precarious in its early days nevertheless developed into the trusted system through which Chinese from Malaya sent their money back home. The remittance of money however, was only part of the story behind Qiaopi; in these re-

^① Danny Wong Tze Ken, 马来西亚马来亚大学, 教授。