S-70 — The Chinese Texts of Sciences and Technologies and the Technologies of Their Books

The History of Science and Technology

Organizers:
1) Hao Chang, (Center for General Education, I-Shou University, Taiwan, R.O.C), ch3hao@gmail.com
2) Xianbin Sun, (Institute for History of Natural Sciences (IHNS), CAS, P.R.China), sunxianbin@ihns.ac.cn

Abstract:
Books are carriers of knowledge. Through copying, printing, publication, and distribution, these activities created an enormously large social and knowledge network. Chinese culture is known to place great emphasis on the continual distribution of knowledge and historical experiences from one generation to another. Using paper and printing press, books became the core of culture. As a result, the survey of texts has become an important root-seeking work in the study of the history of science.

The past two decades has seen the re-publication of a massive amount of historical scientific texts. The increased availability of texts resulted in the expansion of the scope of the study of history of science. It also promotes the use of historical scientific texts in many other disciplines such as cultural history and many other area-specific histories. Among them, the study of Asia’s adoption of western knowledge through books, the investigation of cultural context for many everyday life technologies and the social history of scientific communities are good examples of this trend.

Needless to say, the study of the history of science demand the knowledge in assisting fields which is quite different from the traditional study of history. The study of historical scientific texts, as a result, not just cultivates a researcher’s ability to decipher texts within a specialized context; it helps the researcher to integrate various academic disciplines. The study of Mengxi Bitan and Tiangong Kaiwu, two landmark historical scientific texts, opened 20th century's wealth of Chinese history of science discovery. The goal of this workshop is to elevate young scholars' ability and interest in deciphering historical scientific texts in order to advance fundamental studies of the history of science by showing them how to read. Through cross-analysis of various historical scientific texts and other historical sources, we hope our efforts can reach deeper understanding to the history of science.

Keywords: editing of classics of sciences and technologies – texts criticism – technologies of books – scientific translation.

Participants:
• Xianbin Sun
• Miao Tian
• Hao Chang
• Baichun Zhang, Wenchao Li
• Qiang Liu
• Zhou, Wei-qiang
• Yi Wei
• Mau Chuan-hui