

A Century of Change: A Study on the Compilation of *General Gazetteer of Shengjing* and Its Contents

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Abstract

In regional studies of northeastern Chinese history, *General Gazetteer of Shengjing* without a doubt is an important reference often chosen by scholars for citation. However, as far as this gazetteer is concerned, very little has been studied in relation to its contents and editions. At present, there are five surviving editions of *General Gazetteer of Shengjing*, the compilation spanning the early Qing in the Kangxi reign to those of the Yongzheng and Qianlong emperors starting in the early 1680s and culminating in the 1780s. Covering nearly a century, the compilation fully embodies in concrete terms official viewpoints on compiling the history of the region around the old capital of Shengjing. At the same time, this gazetteer also reflects the changes that took place in terms of the people, politics, and economics of the Shengjing area.

The five official editions of the *General Gazetteer of Shengjing* include from the Kangxi reign a printed one of 1684 and a 1717 one with revisions. And from the Qianlong reign is a 1736 one with additions, a completely revised one from 1748, and a 1784 one with additions and revisions. This study attempts by analyzing the five editions of this gazetteer to understand better the historical background of its compilation, the process of transcribing additions and revisions to the text, and how the contents reflect the changes over history at the secondary capital of Shengjing in the Qing dynasty during a hundred years from the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries.

Keywords: Northeast, Shengjing, secondary capital, *General Gazetteer of Shengjing*, historical change

(Translated by Donald E. Brix)