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## A New Theory Regarding the Editions of *Gujin Tushu Jicheng*

Cao Hongjun

**ABSTRACT:** As has long been known by scholars, Chen Menglei, not Jiang Tingxi, was the compiler of *Gujin Tushu Jicheng* (Compendium of ancient and modern book illustrations). Chen Menglei was responsible for the most of the printed content, while Jiang Tingxi only oversaw a small section (roughly 4%) of the earlier content that was incomplete. Jiang Tingxi proof-read and made some changes to Chen Menglei's original material and this style of augmentative editing, called in Chinese *wabu qiangai* (lit., 'patching and signing off on a manuscript'), characterises all extant editions of the work. In terms of text, Jiang's contribution was minimal and so the later editions were still largely the work of Chen Menglei. *Gujin Tushu Jicheng* includes 64 works, and it is only in the related documentation that we find any reflection of the process whereby *Gujin Tushu Jicheng* was prepared for publication by Chen and Jiang. The bronze movable type used for printing *Gujin Tushu Jicheng* was carved and not cast, and the work would have required roughly 200,000 separate pieces of type, which would have exhausted the bronze movable font reserves of the palace printing workshop.

**KEY WORDS:** *Gujin Tushu Jicheng*; Chen Menglei; Jiang Tingxi; bronze movable type.

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## The Earliest Comprehensive Account of Sweden in China: An Outline of the Origins of the Late-Qing Dynasty Work *Ruidian-guo Jilüe*

Xin Deyong

**ABSTRACT:** From the perspective of the Chinese understanding of Sweden and the history of Sino-Swedish relations, the author describes the rare work *Ruidian-guo Jilüe* (Outline account of the land of Sweden) in his private collection. The author argues that the Chinese understanding of Sweden went through six stages of development down to the end of the Qing Dynasty: The first stage extended from the late-Ming Dynasty to the mid-Kangxi reign, and in that period a rudimentary understanding of Sweden was gleaned from missionaries. In the second stage, from the late-Kangxi to the early-*Daoguang* period, knowledge came from Qing emissaries and merchants who encountered Swedes or learned of Sweden by chance, as well as directly from Swedish merchants who sailed to China, indirectly from what merchants overseas heard, and from the writings of Chinese who had been to Sweden. The third stage comprises the brief 20 years of the *Daoguang* reign prior to the outbreak of the Opium War, in which foreign missionaries working in China began to introduce knowledge of world geography, which included information about Sweden. The fourth stage was from after the Opium War to the 4th year of the *Tongzhi* reign, and this was characterised by fuller descriptions of Sweden in geographical works written by Chinese scholars. The fifth stage extends from the 6th year of the *Tongzhi* reign to the mid-Guangxu period, from which time there are accounts of Sweden by Chinese diarists who visited the country. Such accounts were incisive if not systematic. The sixth stage extends from the mid-Guangxu period to the end of the Qing Dynasty. *Ruidian-guo Jilüe* is the landmark work of this final period and it represents the first systematic study of the country published in China. Although the work was not published for general consumption, it was a milestone in the history of China's understanding of Sweden.

**KEY WORDS:** history of Sino-European relations; Sweden; geographies of specific nations.

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