A Study on the Lineage of Taiwanese Traditional Architectural Paintings from 1910s to 1930s

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The colored painting decoration of the traditional architectures in Taiwan has been a long history; yet it is easy to be damaged due to humidity and the soot that deepens the difficulties on history studies for the architectures need to be repainted regularly.

According to information gathered from written sources and field research, the development of Taiwan’s traditional architectural painting can be divided into Ming-Qing period, Japanese Colonial period, and Post-War period. Each demonstrates its unique mode under different historical background. Judging from the amount of extant works, the period from 1910s to 1930s is the one when development of Taiwanese architectural painting reached its peak. In this article, I intend to explore the development of traditional architectural paintings in Taiwan during the Japanese Colonial period. Points to investigate include, 1) state-of-the-field review, 2) lineage mapping of the painting craftsmen, 1910–1930, and 3) analysis of the features of the craftsmen’s painting.

The research on the traditional architectural painting in Taiwan covers a wide-range of subjects, such as lineage of schools, division of labor, contents of the paintings, construction process, material-specific techniques, preservation and repair. Based on interviews with the craftsmen, investigations on the architecture and corroborating materials, this article intends to build up a more complete and correct lineage map of traditional painting craftsmen. It expects to shed light on benefit the research on the changes and traits of development of traditional arts.

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