

Die Ausführungen in dem hier rezensierten Buch bieten ein beredtes Zeugnis dafür, welche Fähigkeiten einige Europäer entwickelten in ihrer Anpassung an den ostasiatischen Kulturraum. Sie geben gleichzeitig denjenigen Anregungen, die China bewußt erleben. "Darüber hinaus soll das Andenken derer wachgehalten werden, die als Europäer in China dem Denken und Fühlen der Chinesen näher verbunden waren als viele ihrer Vorgänger" (S. 13). Das Werk ist darum allen an China Interessierten sehr zu empfehlen. Der Ostasiate findet auf den Seiten 152 und 153 Namen von 78 Persönlichkeiten in chinesischen Schriftzeichen.

Peter Gerhards

GEORGE L. HICKS (ed.) 1993: *Overseas Chinese Remittances from Southeast Asia 1910-1940*. Singapore: Select Books, 1993. XLII, 358 pp. ISBN 981-00-4227-2

The flow of remittances and contributions from persons of Chinese descent outside China to relatives, home districts and cities in Guangdong and Fujian (e.g. in the form of funds for railroads or modern schools), its socio-economic impact on development as well as its implications with regard to the ambivalent relationship between the PRC and its smaller neighbours, has baffled social scientists for more than 50 years. The reopening of investment and other opportunities for *Overseas Chinese* in the PRC after 1978 and the current 'China Fever' underline the strategic importance of *financial networks* linking Chinese communities in Southeast Asia and China. Little is known about the evolution of Chinese capital in Asia, the social organisation of prewar Sino - overseas Chinese economic relationships and associated transfers of money, skills or commodities. The book *Overseas Chinese Remittances from Southeast Asia 1910-1940* is a welcome contribution to the subject.

The monograph, edited by the well-known scholar and writer G.L. Hicks (with an illuminating foreword by historian Mark R. Peattie and an excellent introduction by J.A.C. Mackie), contains three 'long forgotten' prewar studies on the role of 'overseas Chinese' remittances and investments in South China. Originally written in Japanese and Chinese, they were drawn up under the auspices of three Japanese institutions which were involved in the economic (and subsequently military) penetration of Asia: 1. Japan's colonial administration on Taiwan (the Taiwan Governor General's Office), 2. the Bank of Taiwan, Japan's economic

spearhead of southward advance and 3. the South Manchurian Railway (SMR), a semi-governmental corporation which played a strategic role in Manchuria.

Book 1, originally entitled *Chinese emigrants: Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia and their remittances*, is a 'baseline survey' on Chinese institutions of emigration, major destinations (Singapore, Penang, Java and Sumatra), local influential Chinese capitalists and the various channels of remittances (post offices, returning Chinese, Chinese immigrant recruiter-couriers, private postal exchanges and banks) in Southeast Asia (Singapore, Penang, Java, Luzon, Thailand, Vietnam, Rangoon) and China (Amoy: Xianmen, Swatow: Shantou, Hong Kong and Canton: Guangzhou). It was compiled by the Bank of Taiwan in 1914 (the third year of the reign of Emperor Taisho), and aimed at providing recommendations of how the Bank could "capture a more substantial share of the remittance business" (p. 106) and adjust its expansion policies in the light of the strong commercial influence of the Chinese in Southeast Asia and their close connections to South China.

Book 2, initially a chapter of an (unfinished) comprehensive encyclopedic review of Nanyang Chinese, also reflects the commercial rivalry between the Chinese and Japanese in Southeast Asia and the strong interest of the latter to dominate regional commerce. This part centres upon overseas Chinese remittances to South China during the Japanese occupation. It was published in 1943 by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Taiwan Governor General's Office. The topics include the demographic and occupational patterns of the overseas Chinese, their economic dominance, regional trading networks, investment and business activities in Malaya, Thailand, Netherlands East Indies, the Philippines and French Indochina, as well as the sources and volume of remittances to Amoy and other major cities in South China before and after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident in July 1937. In addition the channels and methods used in the transfer of remittance payments and subsequent impediments are enumerated, as well as estimates regarding the substantial amounts of money brought to China by returners between 1935 and 1937. According to one estimate, Southeast Asian Hokkien Chinese alone contributed 35,058,000 yuan during that period (p. 163). The following chapters provide a brief socio-demographic analysis of remittance senders, recipients (a survey study of 100 households with members overseas, conducted in the late 1930s in Fukien, found that 81.4 per cent of these households' incomes came from remittances, p. 167) and a description of the striking differences between Chinese households

with and without members overseas with regard to food supply, housing etc. Book 2 ends with an illuminating account of overseas Chinese investments in Amoy and Swatow: real estate, the water and electricity supply, telephone, banking and transport industry, shipping, mining, the aviation industry and education.

In the course of the Japanese invasion, overseas Chinese from all over the world donated large funds to support Chinese resistance against Japan (in 1940 however remittances supposedly reached one billion yuan, p. 156). Japan's military successes after 1941 impeded the flow of overseas Chinese remittances, especially from Southeast Asia. Japanese attempts to revitalize and to 'utilize' this flow of resources were largely unsuccessful.

Book 3 is one of approximately 6,000 studies undertaken by the Research Section of the South Manchurian Railway Corporation, which is in charge of the chief railway line in Manchuria, and was founded in 1906 after the Russo-Japanese War. The study *Remittances by Overseas Fukien Chinese* was translated from Japanese into Chinese and re-published in 1942. As the title indicates, it considers mainly the relationship between the overseas Fukienese and the Fukien province. The organization of the study is similar to book 2. Major topics include Fukien's natural environment, the distribution of overseas Fukienese and their economic status in British Malaya, Netherlands East Indies, French Indochina, Thailand, the Philippines, Burma and Borneo, their relations with their hometowns (Amoy, Chuanchow, Changchou etc.) and estimates regarding the amount of remittances. The last two chapters of book 3 analyze the main uses for remittances, factors affecting remittance fluctuations, the impact of remittances on Fukien's balance of trade and the remittance procedures.

Hicks' book is the first part of an ambitious translation project, aimed at bringing the vast and largely untapped amount of prewar Japanese research on Southeast Asia and China to a wider audience. It will be followed by a bibliography of prewar Japanese literature on the overseas Chinese and a book on Chinese organizations in Southeast Asia in the 1930s. In spite of some shortcomings in terms of reliability and the validity of flow of funds data, simplifications and a general lack of theory (!), the works offer interesting insights into the Japanese viewpoint vis-à-vis the overseas Chinese between 1910-1940, as well as into the workings and dynamics of their early financial networks.