

Title: Comments on N4561 (Nushu Ad-Hoc Meeting Report in WG2#62)
Source: Orié Endo (English translation by suzuki toshiya)
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Status: Expert Contribution
Action: Discussion in Nushu Ad-Hoc Meeting

Dear all ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 members,

I pay my highest respect to all members discussing about the Nushu as a part of ISO/IEC 10646.

In the past, I had a few concerns on Zhao Liming's description about the history of Nushu, and submitted 2 documents that explained my concerns. In this submission, I express my concern regarding a comment in Nushu Ad Hoc meeting report from WG2 #62 (N4561). As a result, I request an official response from Zhao about it.

The rationale for this clarification is to question a comment in the WG2 Nushu Ad Hoc report, and to correct errors in the proposal itself regarding the history of Nushu. Without correction, such errors could lead to further inaccuracies, as others may refer to these documents.

The issue concerns the coin shown on p. 23 of the Nushu proposal from China, WG2 N3463 (submitted on June, 2008).

Errors in Nushu proposal

The picture of the coin is described in N3463 as

Till now, the earliest mention we found is the grade coin in the period of Taipingtianguo in 1850s, which has been identified by the experts in Palace.

(Note: The same text appears on page 71 in the updated proposal N4341, dated September 2012).

In WG2 N3705 (submitted on September, 2009), I asked who "the experts in Palace" are.

To my question, a quick response was given in WG2 N3719;

“Expert in palace” in WG2 N3598 should be “expert in Nanjing Museum”. Mr. Zhang Tiebao (张铁宝), a Taiping Tianguo history researcher, confirmed to the author of WG2 N3598 in 1998 that the coin was conform to the Taiping Tianguo money system.

This response includes several errors;

1. The response wrote that the expert in the palace points to Zhang Tiebao in the Nanjing museum. However, the Nanjing museum is not the palace.
2. The response mentioned that Zhang Tiebao confirmed to Zhao Liming that the coin was conformant with the Taiping Tianguo money system. However, Zhang had not seen the coin before 2001 and the coin was *not* identified as conformant with the Taiping Tianguo money system (see below).

Question about statement in Ad hoc report

On 2001, I asked Zhang for his review of the coin which has Nushu glyphs and was described as “made in Taiping Tianguo”. Zhang concluded it was *not* made in Taiping Tianguo, citing more than 10 points of verification.

In 2004, he presented his review result in the symposium “The History, Status Quo and Future of Nushu” (中国女書的歷史·現狀·未來) held in Beijing. According to his letter in which he recalled the symposium, he wrote:

I exchanged many discussions with the participants of the symposium. Zhao Liming and Gong Zhebing stated their agreements with my review result clearly. In addition, they commented they are not so familiar with the study of Taiping Tianguo, thus the participation of the experts of Taiping Tianguo is welcomed.

Afterwards, his review result was published as an article titled “A problem on the currency with women's script of Taiping-tianguo” in the book collecting the articles of the symposium (published by 中国社会学出版社, ISBN 9787500451457, 2005).

Almost 10 years have passed since the publishing, and no criticism or objections appeared in response to this article.

Except for the review result published in the proceedings from the 2004 symposium, Zhang has not published any other result.

Regarding the article with his review results, Zhang said, “Zhao Liming also participated in the symposium, thus she must know the existence of my review result. Furthermore, she directly commented to me that she agrees with my review result, during the meeting”.

If Zhang was sure in 1998 that the coin was made in Taiping Tianguo (as was stated in N3719), his review result in 2004 ought to have also been a confirmation. But his review result was not.

In the WG2 Nushu ad hoc report (N4561), it states:

Suzuki also quoted Endō (N3705) saying that Zhang Tie Bao had concluded the coin pictured in Chinese submissions as a forged object and that an authorized book should not refer to it as evidence. Chen reported Zhao saying that Zhang is wrong about this issue.

Thus I have to ask: where is Zhang wrong? If the Chinese delegate did not hear the details, please ask Zhao for her response.

In the article published in 2005, Zhang concluded that the coin was *not* made in the money system of Taiping Tianguo with multiple points of verification. If Zhao says his conclusion is wrong, she should clarify which verification in his article is wrong.

For the sake of understanding the history of Nushu correctly, and the honor of Zhang Tiebao, the expert of Taiping Tianguo, I ask for sincere response from Zhao and appropriate corrections to the proposal.

August, 2014

Orie Endo

致各位 ISO 委员：

有关是否将女书文字列入 ISO/IEC 中，各位委员正在反复进行热烈讨论，对此深表敬意。

对于提案人赵丽明氏的有关女书历史的观点，我抱有点疑问，曾经两次向贵委员会转达了我的意见。

本次是相对 2014 年 2 月会上中方代表陈壮氏的发言表明我的看法，并希望能够得到具有诚意的回答。

在二月份的会议报告中记载了以下中方代表陈壮氏的发言：“赵丽明说张铁宝是错误的”。这有关太平天国历史专家张铁宝氏的名誉问题。

我于 2001 年请张铁宝氏鉴定了「太平天国铜币」（以下简称「铜币」）。张铁宝氏举出了十多项证据证明「铜币」不是遵照太平天国钱币制度制造的，以次作为鉴定这枚铜币的结论。并于 2004 年在北京召开的《女书的历史，现状与未来国际研讨会》上做了大会发言。张铁宝氏在给定的信中回忆了当时的情景：“在其后的分组讨论和间歇休息时，与会代表进行了广泛接触交谈，赵丽明与宫哲兵等多位教授都明确表示认同我论文中的观点，并称自己对太平天国研究不多，现在有太平天国史专家参与讨论是件好事”。

此后该论文以《对所谓太平天国女书钱币的质疑》为题发表在了由中国社会科学院出版社出版的论文集《女书的历史与现状—解析女书的新视点》一书中。十年过去了，至今没有任何针对这篇论文的异议。

赵丽明氏于 2007 年之后，向 ISO 提交了将女书文字列入 ISO/IEC10646 的提案书。2006 年提交的 N3463 中第 23 页的「铜币」照片的说明标注有：Till now, the earliest mention we found is the grade coin in the period of Taipingtianguo in 1850s, which has been identified by the experts in Palace. 我曾对其中的“Expert in palace”是谁提出了质疑。（JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3705 Date: 2009-09-05 Title: Comments and Questions on N 3598）

有关我对 N3598 的 Quick Response，得到了以下回答：

“Expert in palace” in WG2n3598 should be “expert in Nanjing Museum”. Mr. Zhang Tiebao (张铁宝), a Taiping Tianguo history reasercher, confirmed to the author of WG2n3598 in 1998 that the coin was conform to the Taiping Tianguo money system. (ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3719 2009-10-26

Title: A Quick Response to (WG2n3705: Comments and Questions on N 3598 (Nushu))

在这里我想指出两点错误之处：

1. 回答中所述“Expert in palace”是指南京博物馆的张铁宝氏，南京博物馆不是“Palace”。
2. “太平天国的历史研究专家张铁宝于 1998 年向赵氏确证了这枚铜币与太平天国货币制度一致”的说法是不符合事实的。如前文所述，张铁宝氏第一次见到这枚「铜币」是

2001年。张铁宝氏对这枚「铜币」的唯一鉴定结果是2004年在女书国际研讨会上提交的论文。关于当时的情形张铁宝氏说到：“当时赵丽明教授出席了会议，她知道那篇论文的存在，并曾在会议期间当面向我表示基本认同论文中的结论”。

如果像赵丽明氏在N3719中所说，张铁宝氏于1998年确证了「铜币」是太平天国货币的话，那么2004年提交的论文就应该是肯定说，而不可能是否定说。

我和ISO日方参会者铃木曾经在2014年的会议上指出了对于赵丽明氏的这种前后矛盾不负责任的说明。对于此事，中方代表陈壮氏转达了赵丽明氏的以下回答：“张铁宝氏是错误的”。

在此我向陈壮氏提出请求，请回答张铁宝氏哪里错了。如果陈壮氏无法回答的话，请他直接问赵丽明氏。

张铁宝氏在上述论文中提供了多条证据证明了「铜币」不符太平天国钱制，有违太平天国典制。如果说这一判断是错误的话，请出示证据。

以上，为了给女书历史问题一个正确的判断，以及恢复太平天国历史专家张铁宝氏的名誉，请对此作出具有诚意的答复。

远藤织枝
2014年8月