

Research on Resource Sorting and Contemporary

Value of Commercial Activities in the Luzhou

Section of the Sichuan Guizhou Ancient Salt Road



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Abstract: The Luzhou section of the Sichuan Guizhou ancient salt road is a very important ancient official and commercial route, serving as a crucial passage for political, economic, cultural, social, and ethnic exchanges and integration in the southwestern region. In the process of formation and development, there are four famous ancient salt roads in northern Guizhou, namely the Fubian Ancient Salt Road, the Qibian Ancient Salt Road, the Renbian Ancient Salt Road, and the Yongbian Ancient Salt Road. The commercial activities in the Luzhou section have promoted the development of the Luzhou region and various areas in the southwest. Analyze the interaction between this channel and the economic and social development of the Southwest region, explore its inherent laws, and stimulate contemporary research in this field, while generating new economic, social, and cultural values.

Keywords: Sichuan Guizhou ancient salt road, Luzhou section, economy and trade, contemporary value

Introduction:

The Sichuan Guizhou Ancient Salt Road is the main channel for Sichuan salt to enter Guizhou, and the Luzhou section is a necessary passage. It is an ancient official trade route with important strategic value in the southwest region, and has formed a unique cultural phenomenon on this trade route. Has made significant contributions to cultural exchange and ethnic integration in the Southwest region.

1. The Historical Evolution of the Ancient Salt Road in Sichuan and Guizhou

1.1 Overview

Before the Qing Dynasty, there was no implementation of the system of diverting salt from the shore throughout history. It was not until the seventh year of the Yongzheng reign of the Qing Dynasty that Huang Tinggui, the governor of Sichuan and Shaanxi, and Xian De, the governor of Sichuan, proposed the method of orally teaching salt and

proposed the system of diverting salt from the shore by specialized merchants in Sichuan. This system involved determining the sales volume based on the population and then determining the route of salt transportation. Gradually, a network of land and shore circulation was formed between various salt fields, and from then on, the system of diverting salt was established. After the self counting of oral salt, Sichuan Salt implemented the policy of counting the shore and the border. The counting of the shore included oral salt, and salt was distributed according to the population. Generally, salt sold within Sichuan Province was counted as shore salt; The border includes the Sichuan Salt Port in Yunnan and Guizhou provinces. During the Yuan and Shun periods, Sichuan salt began to be sold in Guizhou. In the early Ming Dynasty, Ma Yi Salt and Chuan Salt were first sold in Zhaotong, Yunnan. Although Yunnan Province also produces well salt, the output is not high and requires salt supplementation from other regions. Guizhou does not produce salt and relies entirely on external salt supply. During this

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period, the transportation and sales of Sichuan salt to two provinces were not frequent and the quantity was not large. In the early Qing Dynasty, the production of Sichuan salt was severely damaged and it was impossible to export it. During the Kangxi reign, the salt industry revived and Yunnan Guizhou resumed the sale of Sichuan salt. But it was officially included in the transportation and sales plan in the ninth year of the Yongzheng reign. Sichuan salt was marketed in two provinces and regions, known as Bian'an in the Qing Dynasty. During the Qing Dynasty, Sichuan salt entered Guizhou and established four border areas, namely Ren'an, Qi'an, Yong'an, and Fu'an. And Qian'an is divided into four routes, from Yongning to Yong'an, from Hejiang to Renhuai in Guizhou, from Fuzhou to Fu'an, and from Qijiang to Qi'an (Xia, 1993).

1.2 Main lines

There are four main routes for Sichuan salt to enter Guizhou, from east to west: the first is the ancient salt road on the edge of the Fu River, which runs upstream along the Wujiang River to the areas along the river and Sinan, and is transported and sold to the eastern part of Guizhou; The second one is the Qibian Ancient Salt Road, which was transported by river to Songkanyi and then by land to various places in Bozhou. The third one is the Renbian Ancient Salt Road, which passed through the Chishui River to Renhuai (now Chishui) and was transported by land to northern and northwestern Guizhou; The fourth one is the Yongbian Ancient Salt Road, which runs from Luzhou via the Chishui River to Yongning (now Xuyong, Luzhou), and is transported by land to Bijie and western Guizhou. These four routes are all located south of the Yangtze River, and the ancient salt channel is mainly composed of waterways. The longest one is the Fulian Ancient Salt Road, and the shortest one is the Yongbian Ancient Salt Road. The four salt channels are mainly distributed in the northern Guizhou region. The ancient salt road in Fuling, where Sichuan salt is transported by water from Fuling along the Wujiang River to Gongtan, and then through Yanhe, Dejiang Xintan, Chaodi and other places, undergoes three shore changes and ship

exchanges to Sinan. From Sinan, it is then transported by land to Shiqian and Zhenyuan for sale; The other route to Tongren Prefecture starts from the banks along the river and is transported by land through Ganlongkou and Zhaiying before being distributed to various counties under the jurisdiction of the prefecture. The ancient salt road in Qibian is used to transport Sichuan salt through the Qijiang River to Guizhou, which is also divided into two routes: one route is transported by land to Anchang in Zheng'an Prefecture; Pass through the rushing water all the way to Songkan and then turn to Zunyi. The road to Zunyi is divided into two routes: one is transported by land to Dao Target Water and then transferred to Guiyang; Land transportation all the way to Caotang, Pingyue, Yuqing, Huangping and other places. The ancient salt road of Renbian, Chuanyan, runs from Hejiang River along the Chishui River to Renhuai Hall (now Chishui), passing through Shanyu (Yuanhou), Erlangtan, Xinglongtan to Maotai in Renhuai County. After Maotai arrived at the shore, it was divided into two routes: one route passed through Renhuai and Yaxi along the Sichuan Guizhou Post Road to Guiyang, and then further divided into transportation to Duyun, Xiasi, Luohu, Dingfan and other places; One route from Maotai passes through Lubanchang, Daguxinchang (now Jinsha), Lannigou, and Niuchang to Anshun. The Yongbian Ancient Salt Road transports Sichuan salt from the Yongning River to Xuyong, which is also divided into two land transportation routes: one route passes through the Chishui River (located at the border of Sichuan and Guizhou in Bijie) to Bijie for shipment to Weining; Passing through Bijie all the way to Shuicheng, Pu'an Hall, Xingyi Prefecture and other places for distribution. (Tan, 1987)

2 Formation of the Renbian Ancient Salt Channel in the Sichuan Guizhou Luzhou Section

2.1 Overview

In a broad sense, Renbian refers to the salt sales area of Renbian in Sichuan and Guizhou provinces, including Hejiang County and Gulin

County in Luzhou City, Sichuan Province, as well as Chishui City, Xishui County, Renhuai City, Zunyi City, Jinsha County, Anshun City, Guiyang City, Xiuwen County, Xifeng County, Pingba County, Qingzhen City, Qianxi City, Duyun City, Pingtang County, Danzhai County, Guanling County, Zhenning County, and Majiang County in Guizhou Province; From a narrow perspective, Renbian was only a port for the transportation of salt from Sichuan to Guizhou, known as "Ren'an" at that time. The first meaning is mainly used here. The Sichuan Guizhou Renbian Ancient Salt Road refers to the third salt transportation route from Sichuan to Guizhou, which runs from Hejiang County, Sichuan Province along the Chishui River to Maotai Town, Renhuai City, Guizhou Province. It is also known as the "Hemao Road". The specific route is from Fuxingchang to Bingtanchang to Hushi Market (now Hushi) to Simianchang (now Yuanhou) to Tucheng to Piaotan to Shunjiangchang to Erlangtan to Xinglongchang to Erheshu to Yangzilin to Maotai Village. After Maotai, it is all transported by land and divided into two routes: one is separated by Yaxi; Distribution in Erjing Xinchang (now Jinsha). There are two routes to Yaxi: one route passes through Dao Target Water and Zhazuo to Guiyang; Passing through Tuanxi and pig farms all the way to Pingyue (now Fuquan) cattle farm. Maotai was transported to Xinchang and then to Langnigou (now Daguan), divided into three routes: first, passing through Langnigou, Zhenxiwei (now Weicheng) to Qingzhen; The second route was through Lannigou and Liuguang to Pingyuan Prefecture (now Zhijin County); The third route is through Lannigou and Digan Bridge to Anping (now Pingba). Due to the fact that Guizhou does not produce salt, its salt administration was not given much attention for a long time, and only some tax agencies existed. But before the Yuan Dynasty, various dynasties had developed this area of Guizhou, such as Tang Meng's envoy to Nanyue, Han's establishment of Fu County in Renhuai, and Tang's establishment of Bozhou. The central dynasty established states and counties in these places. The stationed army, officials, and accompanying family

members all need salt. After on-site investigation and interviews with elderly people, it was found that before the opening of Renbian, Sichuan salt was mainly transported by land from Xuyong and Gulín to Bijie and Jinsha in Guizhou, or by land from Fubao Town, Hejiang County, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province to Donghuang Town, Xishui. Salt was then transported to these places and then transferred to other parts of Guizhou.

2.2 Evolution

Before the Ming Dynasty, there were very few records of salt transportation in Guizhou. In the "Huayang Guozhi", it is recorded that "the ancient salt road in Sichuan and Guizhou and the economic and social development of the southwest region were studied in the county of Shan Ju, which originally had salt wells. At the end of the Han Dynasty, the alliance between the barbarians could not be opened." The "Summary of Salt Marketing in Sichuan" records that from the Yuan Dynasty to November of the first year of Shun, Ren Shenshuo, Yunnan Province said: "It is also recommended that horses in places such as Xue (now Guizhou) graze on salt every month on the day of Shangyin, and the horses are healthy and disease-free. Due to the rebellion of Boyin Bohu, Yunnan salt could not be obtained and many horses died of illness. Zhao ordered Sichuan Province to supply salt to them. According to the "History of the Yuan Dynasty, "the transportation and sale of salt in Guizhou began during the Yuan Dynasty. The Chishui River Basin was under the jurisdiction of the Bozhou Pacification Commissioner's Office and had administrative institutions such as Renhuai Guzi, In addition, with the advantage of the access of the Chishui River to the Yangtze River, the supply of Sichuan salt is also scarce. Part of it is transported by boat from Ziliujing through Luzhou to Hejiang, and then transferred by boat upstream of the Chishui River to reach places such as Renhuai Guzi at the border of Hejiang. After unloading, it is converted to land transportation, carried by people and horses, crossing mountains and ridges through Chongpan and Qilikan to Xiaoguanzi, and then transported along the banks of the Chishui

River through Simian and Tucheng to Maotai, and finally to Yixi Buxue. The transportation of Sichuan salt during this period ended with the peasant uprising at the end of the Yuan Dynasty. However, the transportation and sales of salt in the Renbian area were not recorded in other books earlier than the Yuan History. Before the Ming and Qing dynasties, the ancient salt road in Renbian, Sichuan and Guizhou was only in its embryonic stage, especially from Fubao Town in Hejiang County, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province to Xihui Donghuang Town, which was the main road of the ancient salt road in Renbian, Sichuan and Guizhou during this period.

3 Overview of Commercial Activities in the Sichuan Guizhou Luzhou section

3.1 Overview

The development of the ancient salt road in Sichuan and Guizhou laid the foundation for the development of other industries in the areas along the route. According to the "Annals of Renhuai Zhili Hall" by Daoguang, "The customs duties for the earth city, living area, and fishing bay in this city are 3478287 yuan and 7 cents. Except for books, meals, lanterns, oil, paper, pens, and silver, the total amount is 12926 yuan, and the actual amount is 3349237 yuan and 7 cents. Tariffs, including salt taxes, have become the main source of government revenue, prompting the government to implement policies that encourage business in the local area. The opening of the ancient salt road along the Sichuan Guizhou Renbian border has promoted the diversified development of economic life among various ethnic groups, resulting in rapid economic growth in various ethnic regions and gradually forming a local business atmosphere. The economic life of many ethnic minorities along the Renbian Ancient Salt Road was once dominated by self-sufficient natural economy. But since the opening of the Renbian Ancient Salt Road during the Qianlong period, people began to develop the commodity economy. Taking the silk industry as an example. During the Qianlong period, Ai Bida's "Qiannan Shi Lue" recorded: "Since the eighth year of Qianlong, the magistrate Chen Yubi

brought his silkworm eggs from the left side of the mountain and taught the people to grow oak for breeding and take silk for silk. Today, clothing and bedding are very wide." At the same time, the "Qiannan Shi Lue" also recorded the method of teaching the people to raise silkworms, such as Zunyi Qi. "The method of taking silk is to use a large kettle to hold water, pour cocoons into it, and use the same silk drawing tools as household silk. The silk is woven to the fullest extent, also known as Zunyi Qi. The county is surrounded by mountains and valleys, and when you look at the silkworm clusters, the value of silk is twice that of cocoons. The value of silk is twice that of silk. Its benefits are in Guizhou Province, and its silk travels between Jing, Shu, Wu, and Yue. From this, it can be seen that after the eighth year of the Qianlong reign of the Qing Dynasty, sericulture became an important economic industry in various places of Zunyi Prefecture on the ancient salt road in Renbian. With the continuous development of salt roads, transportation along the salt roads has become relatively more convenient, information exchange has become more convenient, commodity circulation has accelerated, and sericulture has become the main industry in some rural areas along the ancient salt roads. By the Daoguang period, sericulture had become quite developed. As recorded in the "Annals of Zunyi Prefecture" by Daoguang, it has been hundreds of years since the county was good at raising silkworms. The sound of spinning is heard, and the shade of the mistletoe forest is lost on the road. When the neighboring villages meet, they only talk about the geometry of spring silk and autumn silk, and whether their children are good at raising silkworms or not. Meanwhile, the indigenous silk vendors go to the city, and at the age of 1155, they set up their own silk houses in parallel. The name of Zun silk even competes with Wu Ling and Shu Jin for price in the central, remote, and border areas that are not adjacent to each other. The merchants of Qin and Jin, as well as the merchants of Fujian and Guangdong, sometimes use cocoons to form cocoons, which are difficult to carry away, and compete with mulberry

silk. Mixing together, it belongs to the category of crepe and yue, which makes Zunyi consider Guizhou as the only province. The development and prosperity of the ancient salt road in Renbian not only promoted the rapid development of sericulture, but also promoted the development of the wine industry in the Chishui River Basin. The book "Qiannan Shilue" written during the Qianlong period records: "Maotai Village is located by the river and is good at brewing liquor. The locals call its liquor 'Maotai Spring'." During the Qianlong period, Maotai Town had already started brewing liquor. Later, due to the increase in population, many salt transport docks gradually had merchants investing in the liquor business. Therefore, famous liquors such as Maotai, Langjiu, and Xijiu also began to develop at that time. (Liang, 2008)

3.2 Business activities

The book "Qiannan Shilue" written during the Qianlong period records: "Maotai Village is located by the river and is good at brewing liquor. The locals call its liquor 'Maotai Spring'." During the Qianlong period, Maotai Town had already started brewing liquor. Later, due to the increase in population, many salt transport docks gradually had merchants investing in the liquor business. Therefore, famous liquors such as Maotai, Langjiu, and Xijiu also began to develop at that time. The emergence and development of these famous liquors are not only related to the geographical environment, climate, soil and other natural conditions of the Chishui River, as well as the lean brewing process, but also to the extension of the ancient salt road to Maotai Town in the first year of the Qianlong reign of the Qing Dynasty. The rapid development of the ancient salt transportation industry has driven a large number of merchants, boatmen, boatmen, and laborers to come to this salt transportation route for business and livelihood, promoting the development of brewing along the route and gradually forming an industry. Before the governance of the Chishui River by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, the Chishui River basin was sparsely populated, with few towns and underdeveloped brewing industry. People mostly

brewed and drank their own wine, and rarely sold it. The wine sold in the towns came from the Songji, Baisha, and Zhutuo areas of Jiangjin, Sichuan, and was not in large quantities. Most of it was picked back by operators hired from the production areas. With the development of ancient salt channels, the population in the Chishui River Basin increased, especially the floating population. Some merchants saw that many local households only produced wine for their own consumption, without selling it as a commodity. However, some merchants brought wine from Sichuan to sell along the Renbian area, which showed the huge business opportunities contained in it. Considering that the area along the Renbian Ancient Salt Road already has a history of producing wine, and the prosperity of the salt transportation industry in the ancient salt road has brought more market demand, merchants have built distilleries on both sides of the Chishui River transportation road in Renbian, such as Monkey, Maotai, Erlangtan, etc., to brew wine. On July 23, 1786, there was a record of "Gesheng Liquor" on the road construction monument from Renhuai County to Maotai. In 1794, the road construction monument from Mahuanggou to Changgang Dabagou recorded that the "Chengyi Hao" donated one or two taels of silver (Luo, 2012). This indicates that with the opening of the ancient salt road along the Sichuan Guizhou border, liquor merchants had already been born as early as the Qianlong period. Maotai Village is the intersection of water and land transportation in Renbian, so salt merchants, boatmen, salt bearers, horse gangs and others are mostly concentrated here, which makes Maotai liquor more developed than other liquors. According to the "Zunyi Prefecture Annals" by Daoguang, at that time there were more than 20 distilleries in Maotai Town, and the total amount of grain spent on brewing was over 20000 stones. "Wine topped the country of Guizhou, and salt climbed the Red Snake River. According to Daoguang's "Renhuai Zhili Hall Chronicles: Literature and Art Chronicles," "Families only store wine for sale, while ships carry a lot of salt." From this, we can see that the rise of salt transportation in

Renbian promoted the development of the liquor industry. Maotai liquor, the most developed in the liquor industry, was restructured by Ding Baozhen in 1876, implementing official transportation and commercial sales. Tang Jiong, a resident of Zunyi, was the general manager, and Hualian, a resident of Zunyi, stored and sold liquor. Ships carried a large amount of salt. "From this, we can see that the rise of salt transportation in Renbian has promoted the development of the liquor industry (Man, 2014). Maotai liquor, the most developed in the liquor industry, was restructured by Ding Baozhen in 1876. It implemented official transportation and commercial sales, with Tang Jiong from Zunyi as the general manager and Hua Lianhui from Zunyi as the general manager. After restructuring, Renbian Salt Transport has been fixed as four salt accounts: Yonglongyu, Yongfaxiang, Xiexinglong, and Yishenglong. Under the leadership of Hualianhui, Yonglong Yuyan opened a brewing workshop called "Chengyu Liquor House" in Maotai Village, which was later renamed "Chengyi Liquor House". Hualianhui utilizes the Yonglongyu Salt Store to establish sub branches in various regions for the sales of Maotai liquor, as well as for individual sales. The wine from "Chengyu Liquor House" was loved by salt ship workers, merchants, boatmen, and other people, but foreign merchants brought it out of Renbian and introduced it to Zunyi, Guiyang, Anshun, and other places through the salt code. Ten years after the establishment of "Chengyi Liquor House", people from Renhuai County, including Shi Rongxiao, Sun Quantai, and Wang Lifu, jointly established "Rongtaihe Distillery". Later, due to Sun Quantai's withdrawal, it was renamed "Ronghe Liquor House" (Zhao, 2014). During the period of the Republic of China, the salt transportation in Renbian reached its peak, and many distilleries were added, and the development scale of some distilleries gradually grew. In 1929, Zhou Bingheng opened the "Hengchang Liquor House" in Maotai. In 1941, salt merchant Lai Yongchu took over the "Hengchang Liquor House" and renamed it "Hengxing Distillery". The production name of the liquor was originally

"Hengchang Maotai" and later changed to "Laimao". From the above, it can be seen that the opening and development of the ancient salt road in Renbian, Sichuan and Guizhou have driven the development of commercial economy along the route, especially promoting the development of sericulture and wine industry, making a great contribution to the economic development of the ancient salt road in Renbian. (Lin, 1916)

3.3 Historical contributions

The sales volume of salt in Renbian Ancient Salt Road is relatively large among the four salt roads. During a certain period, when the sales volume of salt in Renbian Ancient Salt Road was the highest, it accounted for about one-third of the total salt entering Qianchuan. Since the reign of Emperor Yongzheng, the production of Sichuan salt has increased significantly, and the annual amount of salt imports has also increased. For example, in the eighth year of the Shunzhi reign of the early Qing Dynasty, Sichuan's salt industry was exhausted, with only 4940 salt invoices issued. In the twenty fifth year of the Kangxi reign, 7204 salt imports were changed, and by the eighth year of Emperor Yongzheng's reign, 10027 water imports were issued. In the ninth year of Emperor Yongzheng's reign, 11168 imports were issued, and in the eighteenth year of Emperor Qianlong's reign, it increased to 14899. During the Qianlong period, there were 5896 salt imports from Sichuan and Guizhou, accounting for about 40% of the total salt imports from Sichuan. It is not difficult to see that Guizhou Province was definitely an important area for the marketing of Sichuan salt at that time, which also proves the importance of Guizhou Province to the development of Sichuan's salt industry. It can be seen that the salt trade in Yongbian Salt Road was very prosperous at that time. After the Qing Dynasty, the Renbian Ancient Salt Road remained an important channel for the sale of Sichuan salt to Guizhou. During the Republic of China period, this salt road was still one of the main arteries of transportation between Sichuan and Guizhou. After 1946, with the changes in history, the Renbian Ancient Salt Road gradually

withdrew from the historical stage of salt transportation. The history of the emergence, development, and decline of the ancient salt trade routes in Sichuan and Guizhou tells us that humans are the driving force behind discovering and transforming the world, and the creators of human history. (Pei, 2012)

Conclusion

The Luzhou section of the Sichuan Guizhou Ancient Salt Road is an important commercial route in the southwest and a crucial channel for transporting and selling salt. This ancient salt passage is a highly significant political, economic, cultural, and ethnic integration channel in the southwest region, playing an important role in various aspects such as political nationalization, economic modernization, cultural diversity, and strengthening ethnic integration in the southwest region. In today's era, planning two cultural experience tourism routes, the ancient salt road land route and the water route, will plan the ancient paths, stations, villages, salt fields, guilds, ancient towns, etc. on both routes according to their functions at that time, and integrate them into local cultural heritage. Through the planning mainline of "overall theme, node functions, and cultural experience", the ancient salt road culture will be fully rendered, forming a cultural experience area with its own characteristics. At the same time, efforts should be made to strengthen the protection of the ecological environment and cultural resources along the ancient salt road, in order to prevent excessive development from causing damage. To shape a brand, a scientific plan should be formulated to ensure integrity and systematicity, and emphasis should be placed on innovating and creating unique tourism products and service projects. Strengthen market promotion to enhance visibility and influence, while also emphasizing integration with other tourism resources to form complementary advantages and jointly promote the development of cultural tourism industry. The Sichuan Guizhou Ancient Salt Road spans multiple provinces and cities, and regional cooperation should be strengthened to

achieve resource sharing and complementary advantages. A cross regional coordination mechanism can be established to strengthen communication and cooperation, jointly promote the protection and development of the ancient salt road, jointly carry out tourism promotion activities to expand the tourism market and enhance overall competitiveness, and jointly apply for world cultural heritage and other honors to enhance the international influence and popularity of the Sichuan Guizhou Ancient Salt Road.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest to this work.

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