

## **Abstract**

# **Jiangshanlou and Its Role in Gentry's Social Activities under Japanese Rule**

**By**

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Dadaocheng was the business center in northern Taiwan in the late Qing Dynasty. After the Shimonoseki Treaty, many large restaurants were built in Dadaocheng to meet the new demands of the Taiwanese gentry as well as Japanese officials and businessmen. Under Japanese rule, businessmen were the main component of the Taiwanese gentry. The new gentry class required a place to socialize with each other as well as with Japanese officials. Large restaurants like the Jiangshanlou were established at their request and profitable information and favors were exchanged.

The gentry frequented Jiangshanlou because the restaurant was outstanding in various ways, including the magnificence of its building, its refined cuisine, and the good management of the owner, Wu Jiangshan. Wu invited the gentry to leave their literary works in the restaurant thereby creating a chic-image for Jiangshanlou so that it could attract customers of the upper social class. Many business and cultural associations such as the Yingshe and the Nanyouhui chose this restaurant to hold meetings and banquets; many famous members of the gentry such as Chen Tianlai and Du Congming held welcome parties and weddings in Jiangshanlou, too.

In human society, an individual's culinary habits and means are a good reflection and

measurement of their position in that society and this was certainly true of Taiwanese society under Japanese rule. After the 1920s, Jiangshanlou represented the highest level of culinary standards in Taiwan. The popularity and importance of Jiangshanlou can be proved by the fact that when the Japanese Prince Imperial, Hirohito, the future emperor of Japan, visited Taiwan, the restaurant was designated to serve his meals. This thesis will examine the Jiangshanlou from various aspects as well as its relationship with the gentry.

Keywords: Dadaocheng, Jiangshanlou, gentry