

A Preliminary Study of the Japanese "Special Researchers in China" System in the 1930s and 1940s

Yueyue Qiu

Center for Singapore Studies, Gannan Normal University, Ganzhou, Jiangxi, China

Keywords: Japan, Special Researcher in China, Oriental Cultural Business, Cultural Invasion

Abstract: In 1937, Japan introduced the system of "Specially Appointed Researchers in China" to deepen its academic research in China, in the context of the "Oriental Culture Project". Japanese Researchers in China are selected through a rigorous application process and come to China for a period of 1-2 years to conduct independent research on relevant topics. Their meticulous observations of China provided the Japanese government with important information about China and provided an academic service to Japan's invasion of China. A large number of relevant archival histories are held in the database of the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, which contains a large number of letters and reports. Through the collation of data and the analysis of archival documents, it can be concluded that in the context of the Japanese invasion of China, the activities of Japanese specialized researchers visiting China went far beyond academic exchanges and inevitably had the purpose of invading China.

1. Introduction

In 1923, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs promulgated the "Special Accounting Law for Cultural Affairs with China", which allocated a large portion of China's reparations to Japan for cultural affairs with China, or "Oriental Cultural Affairs", which was based on the Special Accounting Law for Cultural Affairs with China. Since then, Japan has used the "Oriental Cultural Project" to promote its Chinese studies and intensify its cultural penetration and invasion of China. In 1935, Wakasugi, a counsellor at the Japanese Embassy in China, submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the improvement of cultural affairs with China, arguing that "in the past, our cultural affairs with China have been detached from politics and focused on mere academic research, but at this time of great change, it is necessary to fundamentally change the previous policy Our cultural affairs department should stand for Japan-Manchuria and the East Pacific Peace Policy, develop culture in China and close cultural relations between Japan and China"[1]. Thereafter, Japan accelerated the pace of its invasion of China, and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also closely cooperated with the Japanese army's invasion of China and accelerated its cultural penetration of China. Immediately after the outbreak of the July 7 Incident, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs promulgated "The Incident in China and Japan's Cultural Efforts Towards China Thereafter", proposing that "..... should be based on Eastern culture and follow the path that is most suitable for the submission of the hearts and minds of our Easterners, and therefore the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs to agree with the Japanese army and the Ministry of Education, formulate guidelines and

policies, and rely on inspections by specialists in cultural and educational thought to collect information that would help inform policy." [2] It was also during this period that the system of subsidies for Japanese Special Researchers in China was officially introduced. The activities of the Special Researchers in China were based on observation of the current situation in China and the collection of data, and were a concrete expression of Japan's "Oriental Cultural Project", which was in line with the Japanese authorities' invasion of China.

The research on "Oriental Cultural Undertakings" at home and abroad focuses on exploring the establishment process of the cause and studying abroad and other projects, and does not involve the relevant content of the "Japanese special researcher fellow in China" system funded by "Oriental Cultural Undertakings", such as Sun Ying's "A fragment of Sino-Japanese Cultural Relations in the first half of the 20th Century", ——"Oriental Cultural undertakings" tuition supply system for international students. Xu Zhimin, "Japan's Policy for Chinese Students studying in Japan (1938- - 1945), Liu Guojun's "Geng Money Subsidies for Students studying in Japan ", Xiao Lang, Su Qing's" alternative "study abroad and Communication ——" The third kind of ordinary Supply Students studying in China of Modern Japanese Foreign Ministry", etc. Japanese research achievements such as Abe's "The Establishment Process of Supporting Cultural Cause", Koichi's "Supply Students in China, the First and Third", Yu's "Education for Students under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs- -Nagasaki Higher Business School Occasions", etc.

There was a great deal of friction and conflict between China and Japan in the 20th century, whether politically, economically or militarily. As a culture closely linked to politics, it is undeniable that it served politics to a certain extent. The influence of the Japanese scholars, represented by the Japanese Special Researchers in China, on the Japanese invasion of China should not be underestimated, and the historical materials they left behind during their visits to China should be valued. Therefore, a study of the system of Japanese special fellows in China under the auspices of the Oriental Cultural Project can provide new ideas for the study of Japan's invasion of China and Sino-Japanese cultural relations in modern times. This article is based on the information on the Japanese "Special Researchers in China" system from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Cultural Affairs published by the Asian History Resource Centre, and is intended to examine the Japanese "Special Researchers in China" system as a whole, taking into account relevant research results at home and abroad.

2. The introduction of special researcher system in China

On 13 March 1937, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan issued the "Regulations for Special Researchers in China", which marked the formal introduction of the subsidy system for Japanese special researchers in China. In a letter from Minister Sato of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to the directors of the diplomatic missions in China, he informed "the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to add a special researcher in China rule to the system of subsidies for foreign students in China since November, Showa 5, and to implement and dispatch researchers on April 1, Showa 12." [3] The newly introduced system for the supply of Japanese researchers in China officially began on April 1, 1937. At the same time, it came to an end in 1941 with the end of Japan's "Oriental Cultural Project".

Special Fellows in China are subsidised by the Oriental cultural undertakings's "Tuition Fee" and are selected to come to China for 1-2 years to conduct research. The requirements are very strict: the candidates must have graduated from a Japanese university or vocational school for at least two years, have excellent research results and be in good health. The quality of the candidates for the Fellowship is assured to a certain extent by the recommendation of "the principal of the school concerned, or of a relevant organisation or individual such as Toa-dobunkai nationalism group, Dojinkai, the Institute of Japan and China, and other related groups or individuals" recommendation. [3] Furthermore, the

application documents submitted by these candidates must include a certificate of identity, a family register and a medical examination form to prove that they have a simple family background, no bad records and are in good health. It is clear that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs values not only their research abilities but also their physical and interpersonal skills when selecting Special Fellows. The high selection criteria are matched by the high level of stipends. According to Article 6 of the Regulations for Special Researchers in China, each researcher is entitled to an annual tuition fee of up to 2,500 yen and a travel research grant of up to 800 yen. In the case of exceptional circumstances, a grant of up to 50% of the previous amount is granted if deemed necessary.

3. Composition and investigation methods of Japanese special researcher fellow in China

Table 1: Statistics of Japanese Special Researchers in China

| Number | Dispatch time | Name | Age | Study site | Length of study(year) | Research project | Notes |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 1937 | Seiichi Inaba | 29 | Peking, South central | 2 | A Study on the Current Situation of Confucianism in China | National Military Service |
| 2 | 1937 | Nobutaro Okano | 39 | Peking | 1 | Chinese Literature Manchurian and Kwantung State Area Studies | -- |
| 3 | 1937 | Yasutaka Sumoto | 31 | Peking | 1 | Chinese Philosophy | Reserve Army Infantry Second Lieutenant |
| 4 | 1938 | Yasushi Nishikawa | 37 | Peking | 2 | The Development of "Humanism" in the Art and Literature of Sui Dynasty | -- |
| 5 | 1938 | Kiyoyuki Tokunaga | 35 | Peking, Shanghai | 2 | 1. Focusing on the current situation of China in the recent century, conduct empirical research on trade, currency, finance, etc 2. A Study of China's Economic Geography | First Additional Infantry in the 13th Year of Dazheng |
| 6 | 1938 | Shikazou Mori | 33 | Peking | 1 | 1. Research status of historical geography in China 2. Collection of geography and maps 3. Field survey of topography and historical sites in China, especially in northern China | Second Nation Militia |
| 7 | 1938 | Kuougen Satou | 37 | Peking | 2 | 1. Collection and research of materials related to Confucian classics, especially Shangshu 2. Modern Linguistic Studies in China 3. Research on Chinese Literature, Especially Chinese Writing | -- |
| 8 | 1938 | Katsukuni Mizuno | 35 | Peking | 2 | Research on Modern Chinese Culture and Socio economic Thought | -- |
| 9 | 1938 | Akio Itakura | 30 | Peking | 2 | Clinical study on endemic diseases in northern china | -- |
| 10 | 1938 | Keisyuu Sanetou | 42 | Peking, Shanghai | 1 | Modern Japanese Chinese Cultural Relations and Support Hebei Linguistics | -- |
| 11 | 1938 | Yosanetoshi Ono | 34 | Peking | 2 | Art archaeology | -- |
| 12 | 1939 | Xiangmo Li | 36 | Peking | 2 | Chinese Sociology | -- |
| 13 | 1939 | Toshikazu Oshima | 31 | Peking | 2 | 1. 1. Research on books related to ancient Chinese history 2. 2. Investigation of research materials of ancient Chinese history 3. 3. Survey of ancient Chinese research achievements | -- |
| 14 | 1939 | Fumio Hibino | 27 | Peking | 2 | 1. Geographical history of China 2. Investigation of historical sites and geographies related data in China 3. Collection of maps and geography books | -- |
| 15 | 1939 | Shozo Takata | 27 | Suzhou, Shanghai, Peking | 2 | The relationship between modern chinese and ancient chinese | -- |
| 16 | 1939 | Seiji Shirao | 32 | Shanghai, Peking | 2 | A Study of the History of China's Political and Economic Thought and System | -- |
| 17 | 1940 | Tadashi Sugimoto | 33 | Peking | 2 | Mongolian History | First supplementary military service enlisted in infantry |
| 18 | 1940 | Takao Uwaguchi | 39 | Peking | 2 | A Study of Confucian Classics in the Qing Dynasty | -- |
| 19 | 1940 | Sinten Sakai | 33 | Taiyuan | 2 | 1. Research on Simon's Translation Temple 2. Mongolian learning | -- |

Source: Asian History Resource Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs History Library, "Special Researcher Relations in China, Supplementary Relations, Volume 1-5"

The selection criteria for Special Fellows in China were extremely high and therefore their number

was small. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic History Library, between 1937 and 1941, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs dispatched a total of 19 special fellows to China. The details are as follows:

According to the table 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially dispatched special researchers in China from 1937 onwards, including three in 1937, eight in 1938, four in 1939 and three in 1940. While 1937 was the beginning of the Japanese attempt to conquer China by force by launching the July 7th Incident, the dispatch of Japanese Special Fellows in China seems to have been unaffected by the war. Not only was the dispatch of fellows guaranteed every year after the introduction of the system, but each fellow was in China for at least one year. The last three of these fellows, Tadashi Sugimoto, Tsugio Sawaguchi and Masanori Sakai, visited China in 1940 and spent two years in China before concluding their research trip in 1942. This was made possible by the fact that the Special Fellows were subsidised by the Oriental Cultural Institute's "tuition fee" to study in China under the name of "study abroad".

In terms of age, most of the Special Fellows in China are between 30 and 40 years old, the youngest of whom is 27 and the oldest 42, all of whom are physically fit young adults who are in the prime of their lives and have already achieved some academic success. These fellows must submit a medical examination form to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of application, which is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows a handwritten medical examination form for Akio Itakura. The form is titled "身体検査書" (Physical Examination Report) and "検査大夫" (Examiner). It contains various fields for physical measurements and health status, all filled with handwritten Japanese text. The form is dated "昭和十四年八月十一日" (August 11, 1940). The fields include: 身長 (Height) 一六〇・三釐, 体重 (Weight) 四八・二斤, 胸圍 (Chest Circumference) 七九・五釐, 視力 (Vision) 左 〇・五, 右 〇・五, 聴力 (Hearing) 左 〇・五, 右 〇・五, 呼吸器 (Respiratory System) 異常ナシ, 神経系 (Nervous System) 異常ナシ, 皮膚 (Skin) 異常ナシ, 泌尿器 (Urinary System) 異常ナシ, 生殖器 (Genital System) 異常ナシ, 痔疾 (Hemorrhoids) ナシ, 色盲 (Color Blindness) ナシ, 右検査所見相違無之候 (No discrepancy in right examination findings), 昭和十四年五月十日 (May 10, 1940), 東京大学医学部 (University of Tokyo Faculty of Medicine), 医学部附属病院 (Faculty Hospital), 内科 (Internal Medicine), 医師 (Physician), 鳥飼 龍生 (Toriike Ryusei).

Figure 1: Medical examination form for Japanese Special Researcher in China, Akio Itakura

Data Source: Foreign Affairs Data Center of Asian Historical Data Center "Special Researcher in China / Supply Relations First-Five"

The medical examination of each Fellow is more or less the same, which shows the meticulousness of the examination. Candidates who are in good health, free from disease, fit and well-nourished are eligible to be selected as full fellows. Research in a foreign country for a year or even two years requires that the researcher is in good physical condition to ensure that his or her research activities are carried out successfully.

The 19 Special Fellows in China were all outstanding graduates of Japanese institutions of higher learning, and most of them worked at prestigious Japanese universities or research institutes after graduation. For example, Akio Itakura graduated from Tokyo Imperial University in March 1934 and started working at the Ishihara Medical School of Tokyo Imperial University in April of the same year. His research results include: 1. Studies on blood conditions in white rats with vitamin B2 deficiency (not yet published); 2. Studies on desensitization factors in the panic state (in progress).[4] The graduation institutions and research results show that the Japanese Special Fellows in China are

of a very high academic standard, which guarantees that they will be able to submit meaningful research results after the study tour.

4. Mode and content of the study tour for Special Fellows in China

During their stay in China, the Japanese Special Researchers in China mainly stayed in one or two cities for a long period of time, and this city was their 'research location'. Their research sites were mainly in Beijing, followed by Shanghai, and occasionally Suzhou and Taiyuan. Beijing was a city of great political, cultural and educational influence at the time, and Shanghai was the economic centre, making these two cities the preferred research sites for Japanese Special Fellows in China. During their stay in China, they would go on field trips to observe the life of the local people, or visit libraries, collect literature and so on. The field trips allow them to get close to their research subjects, and by visiting monuments and interacting with local residents, the Special Researchers are able to obtain relevant research data and information to provide the most effective research material for their subjects. In addition, visiting libraries, collecting books and documents, and purchasing materials from various places are also important activities for Japanese Special Researchers during their stay in China. The libraries in each region have a rich collection of documents, providing a large number of primary documents for the Chinese research of the fellows in China. In his application, Kiyoyuki Tokunaga said, "The July 7th Incident had a tremendous impact on all aspects of China's politics, economy and education, especially in the northern and central regions of China. With the drastic changes in China's monetary system and even financial institutions, it is necessary to visit China and provide information adapted to the new format for the advancement of our various efforts I hope to make an academic contribution to Japan's national policy towards China." [5]

The Japanese Special Researchers in China placed great emphasis on observing the actual state of society. Because of their long stay in China and their main activity of visiting various places, it was easier for them to focus on Chinese society during their travels, and therefore their research on the face of Chinese society, historical monuments and the state of preservation of documents accounted for a large part of their work.

4.1 A Survey of the Social Appearance of China

The Special Researcher's survey of the social landscape of China has a regional character. Inspired by Japan's policy of invasion of China, Japanese scholars developed a craze for the study of Manchuria, and the north-east was consequently the area of greatest interest to them. The Japanese attempted to split up the north-eastern region from China. Japan had a strong sense of superiority over its colonial rule in north-eastern China and considered the 'Pseudo-Manchukuo' under its rule to be superior to other parts of China. This is also reflected in the Special Researcher's report.

During his study in China, Keisyuu Saneto wrote "To See the Manchuria Region from Northern China", saying that "coming to Manchuria from northern China is like entering other countries". In terms of public security, Saneto believes that "Manchuria" is safer than the north, and that "the gates and stations are heavily guarded against infiltration by communists". In terms of education, Japanese schools started in April, the Republic of China started in September and graduated in July and a half, while in Manchukuo school started in the first month. In addition, there were more Chinese begging in Beijing, with beggars at bus stops, in front of restaurants, etc. In the north-east, he met Japanese beggars and heard that "in Fengtian, one out of every three beggars is Japanese". In terms of language, he was often troubled by his inability to speak Chinese in Beijing, but in the "Manchurian region" Japanese language learning is very popular, so there is no need to use Chinese at all. In terms of food, he would not want to eat Japanese food at all in Beijing because Chinese food is cheap and tasty, but Japanese food is very cheap and tasty in the Manchurian region.

In general, the feeling he gets from Beijing and Manchuria is that "in Beijing you wear Chinese clothes, speak Chinese and eat Chinese food, whereas in Manchuria you wear foreign clothes, speak Japanese and eat Japanese food. Just that alone makes the difference between the two places obvious." In terms of hygiene, "Beijing has had poor sanitation for hundreds of years, with people urinating and defecating in the streets, whilst in Manchuria the markets are more modern and very clean and tidy. Thinking about this, I no longer want to go to Beijing. "From his observations of the social situation, he concluded that "Manchukuo is more advanced than Northern China and that the present situation in Manchukuo is the future situation in Northern China".[6]

Inner Mongolia has always been an important target of Japanese imperialism, and in 1915, the Japanese imperialists made seven demands to Yuan Shikai's government in the "Twenty-one Demands" regarding "the superior status of the Japanese State in Southern Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia". Since the outbreak of the July 7 Incident in 1937, Japan had seized Guisui and Baotou and established the "Mongolian Union Autonomous Government" in Guisui to colonise the Inner Mongolia region. The first Japanese special researchers in China visited China in 1937, and the Inner Mongolia region became the focus of their attention. Among the 19 Japanese special researchers in China, many of them have related topics in Mongolia. Katsukuni Mizuno visited the Inner Mongolia region in 1938 and wrote 'Conclusions on the Question of Mongolia drawn from a trip to Manchuria and Mongolia' on 15 September of the same year. He argued that in terms of policy towards Mongolia, the destruction of the Yuan dynasty by the Qing dynasty showed that the Qing dynasty's policy towards Mongolia was successful, and that it was therefore necessary to study and refer to the practices of the Qing dynasty when formulating policy towards Mongolia; in terms of culture, the most important issue was religion: "Of the five million Mongolians, 30 per cent or 1.25 million are Lama monks... ..Lamaism can have a major social and political impact. How to deal with Lamaism is a key consideration in future policy towards Mongolia"; and in education, "the majority of people in Mongolia are illiterate and cannot read or write. It can be said that they are completely uneducated. It is still questionable whether Mongolians have the desire to learn and they have no requirements for the state of society and their way of life. Therefore, there is no need for universal education for the time being"; in terms of ideology, he suggests that since the Qing Dynasty, there has been "no intellectual development" in Mongolia, so the Mongolian people are simple and unchanging in their thinking; when it comes to the value of the Mongolian region, he argues that before commenting on it, it is important to understand that this culture has continued for The Mongolian steppe culture, which has lasted for centuries, is a gift from nature to future generations. He was not sure whether he would be able to enter Mongolia successfully, but the two most important points of his policy towards Mongolia were "firstly, the anti-communist policy and secondly, the industrial policy", and finally he concluded that "efforts need to be made to develop Mongolia. In the process of development, it is necessary to follow the characteristics of the Mongolian region and discover its great value".[7] In addition to this, Tadashi Sugimoto travelled to the Mongolian region to study Mongolian history[8], Masanori Sakai has also delved into Mongolian language related issues. The scholars' interest in the Inner Mongolia region is a reflection of Japanese policy, and therefore much of their research has been to advise or inform Japanese policy.

In addition to the north-eastern region and Inner Mongolia, the Special Researcher in China also visited other cities in China. Tsugio Sawaguchi came to Jinan in Shandong in 1940 and was amazed at the number of passengers at the station and the beauty of the city. "I was amazed by the number of passengers getting on and off the train at Already at least twice I have taken the train to stay at the Tsuruya Hotel. It was like a beautiful hotel of the recent past and I was pleasantly surprised. I went to the market to study and it was very neat and tidy and had the same beauty of a modern city. The modern buildings are lined up. The city has the beauty of the city and the beauty of Gao Bu Di. As the capital of Shandong, it has a beauty that cannot be seen in Beijing or Tianjin. There are only

a few places in China that have developed to this extent and show the beauty of a modern city at a time when a new order is being built in East Asia." When he arrived in Qufu, Sawaguchi felt that it was a place where "commerce was not developed and could not be lit by electric lights, and the streets of Qufu had a primitive feel". He visited the Temple of Confucius, the Temple of Literature and the Temple of Fusheng, where he felt a strong Confucian culture. However, he felt that the local people did not have enough respect for the spirit of Confucius, and called on "the Japanese in Qufu to actively use the spirit of respect for Confucius to guide the people of Qufu".[9,10]

On the whole, the Special Fellows in China have chosen urban locations for their research, with the more modern the city, the more likely it is to receive attention, while rural areas are often not chosen due to the complexity of the roads and lack of access. The focus of their research is on the construction and development of China's cities, to the detriment of rural areas, and the geographical distribution is uneven. Also considering their own security, the locations they chose were closely related to the progress of the Japanese invasion of China, which was basically in the areas occupied by the Japanese.

4.2 Investigation on Chinese Historical Relics

Many researchers have attributed the good state of preservation of some of the monuments to the Japanese army, and have praised the Japanese for "paying attention to the preservation of cultural relics and respecting Chinese culture" during their invasion of China. During his inspection in China, Yosonetoshi Ono visited the ruins of the Warring States-era capital of Zhao in Handan, Hebei, the capital of Wei during the Three Kingdoms period in Changshui, and the Buddhist ruins from the Six Dynasties on Mount Qixia in Nanjing. He believes that the preservation of historical sites is of great importance as they "live on in tradition and have a great influence on modern times". He was pleased with the attitude of the Japanese side, which has been actively promoting the preservation of cultural relics and is committed to restoring the cultural relics of the Japanese occupation in China and doing its best to preserve them in their original state. "There have been countless instances since the Incident where Japanese communities have called for respect for the culture of friendly countries and where the Japanese army has protected cultural relics. For example, the Hanshan Temple in Suzhou, which is very dear to us, was renewed because of the loving care of the Imperial Army, and the tomb of Zhang Taiyan was also being cleaned by the Imperial Army in earlier years."[11]

Like Ono Katsunnen, Kuwabara Kintori greatly appreciated the actions of the invading Japanese army and made the following exclamation in his report: "..... The Yungang Grottoes outside Datong, Shanxi, are the most valuable relics as art of the Six Dynasties. On the occasion of this incident, our army occupied Datong and sent a unit directly to protect this place, and will continue to do so thereafter. I no longer know how to be grateful for the protection of Chinese culture by our army." Not only that, but Kintori Kuwabara believes that Japan should be more involved in the preservation of ancient Chinese sites, "not just the Yungang Grottoes, but I hope that Japan and China will work together to preserve and restore the Forbidden City buildings in Beijing, the Lihang Palace on Wanshou Mountain, the treasures passed down from the Chinese court, etc. "[12,13] During the Japanese war of aggression against China, being in China they were not concerned with the devastation the war had brought to China, but rather with promoting the active protection of cultural relics by the Japanese army in China, clearly glorifying and promoting Japanese aggression against China.

4.3 Collect Chinese literature

Influenced by the Japanese imperialist ideology, Japanese researchers on Chinese cultural relics and the preservation of the current state of the literature is not purely academic level, more for Japan's

imperialist claims to cite scripture, advice and suggestions. During his time in China, Keisyuu Sanetou visited the bookshops and second-hand bookshops in Ginza, Dalian, the fiction bookshops in Manchu Street, the Zuiwen Zhai in Xiaonanmen and the Sanyou Bookstore in Xiaobeimen in Fengtian, and collected numerous materials on Sino-Japanese relations. In his article 'A Proposal for Building a New Chinese Book Library', he proposed that 'single-volume books and news papers from the late Qing to modern times. Whether they are new or old, pro-Japanese or anti-Japanese, collect them all'. Keisyuu Sanetou believes that the Japanese intellectual community has taken a laissez-faire approach to Chinese xenophobic ideas and has not adequately studied Chinese xenophobia, and that it is essential for the Japanese academic community to plan ahead and "understand the past correctly. Therefore, it is important to collect and collate as many books and journals on modern China as possible, and to study them if necessary." He believes that it is important not only to understand contemporary China, but also to understand the past, identify its shortcomings and then surpass them, so that Japan can become "the leader of the East". [14] In 1938 he travelled to the Manchurian region and one of the purposes of his trip was to collect materials and purchase books. He collected a large number of materials on the cultural relations between Japan and China in the late Qing Dynasty, such as 29 papers on foreign students, including "The Current Situation of Chinese Students Abroad" published in Shanghai in August of the thirteenth year of the Taisho era, "The Prohibition of Marriage between Foreign Students and Foreigners" published in the Education Bulletin in April of the sixth year of the Republic of China, "Restrictions on Marriage between Foreign Students and Foreigners" published in the Government Bulletin in April of the eighth year of the Republic of China, and "Suspension of Dispatching Chinese Students Overseas" published in the China Times in February of the thirteenth year of the Taisho era. The Chinese and Japanese relations are discussed in 18 books, including "A New Translation of Japanese Laws and Regulations" published by the Commercial Press in the 32nd year of the Guangxu era, "A Chronology of World Events" published by the Meiji 35th year, "Diary of a Journey to Japan" by Wang Chaoyou, and "A Journey around the Yellow Sea" by Huang Yanpei.

The Japanese government believes that the promotion of "Japanese-Chinese goodwill" requires the use of traditional Chinese Confucianism, and that "the most appropriate institutional approach to Japanese-Chinese goodwill is to develop the original ideology of the East. Confucianism should be revived and the focus should be on building liberal arts universities that focus on Confucian education, which will not only help develop production and promote industry, but will also promote the integration of Japanese-Chinese goodwill". [15] Many Japanese scholars also have a strong sense of responsibility for the "promotion of Eastern culture". Shichiro Ota, a commissioner of the Cultural Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, believes that the "Way of the King" is the true essence of Eastern culture, and that its root lies in Confucianism, which came to Japan from China, and that Japan is now in a leading position and has a responsibility to tell the world about it. [14] In his article 'China's current situation and cultural cooperation between Japan and China', Fumio Ishii mentions that China used to represent East Asia, but "Japan has now come to represent East Asia as brother and father" [16] This is why the observation of the state of preservation of Confucian-related monuments and the collection of classical Confucian texts have received the attention of special researchers in Japan. The Kyoto Institute of Culture commissioned Kushi Sato to conduct Confucian studies in China, during which he wrote Xunzi and bow by consulting and collecting a large number of Confucian books. As for Xunzi, he argues that "Xun Qing was a great Confucian at the end of the Warring States period and the beginning of the Qin dynasty, and can also be considered the forefather of the Han Confucians. His learning came from Confucius, and he is especially credited with the scriptures." [17] When he was looking through ancient texts, he found that Zi Gong, or Zhu Zhang, revered Xunzi alongside Confucius, so he went through a large number of Confucian classics to verify this claim. At the same time he focused on

collecting information about scripture, especially the Shang Shu, and by 1938 he had collected more than 280 scripture-related documents in over 3,000 volumes, and searched the Beijing Library, the Forbidden City, and the books of the Eastern Culture Delivery Committee for transcriptions of the scriptures and subdivisions, transcribing the main parts of them.[18]In the second year of his research in China, he also explored the origins, history and impact of the development of Gongyang Studies in the late Qing Dynasty, with Changzhou as the centre. This shows the depth of his research into Confucianism.

5. Special researchers in China and Japanese war of aggression against China

After the Meiji Restoration, Japan followed the European and American lead and accelerated its invasion of neighbouring countries. Japan set up a large number of research groups to collect information on neighbouring countries. "Japan's aggression against China was certainly due to the strength of its naval and land forces and the sharpness of its weapons and warships, but what was particularly alarming was their military scouts", the overseas investigation groups set up by Japan "especially for the study of Chinese issues, such as the Toa-dobunnkai nationalism group, Dojinkai, Japan China Industrial Association, Manchuria and Mongolia Cultural Association, Orint Association, etc., which are all distributed in Shanghai, Tianjin, Hankou, Beijing, Dalian and other parts of China. The publications include the Journal of East Asian Studies, East Asian Studies, East Asian Philosophy, Light of East Asia, New China, East Asian Journal, Chinese Art, East Asian and Tohoku Culture Monthly. They have published a wide range of publications on morality, ethics, education, religion, geography, history, politics, economics, literature, art, industry, armaments, diplomacy, transportation, customs and traditions, etc., all of which are classified like the back of my hand." [19] Among them, the purpose of the Toa-dobunnkai nationalism group is "to develop the culture of Japan and China and to enhance the relationship between the two peoples" [20]. It mainly develops education, operates Tianjin Sino Japanese University, Hankou Jiangnan Middle School, etc., and investigates and compiles materials, investigate the political economy of China. The purpose of the establishment of the Dojinkai is to "improve the medical and pharmaceutical technology situation in China and other Asian countries" [21]. It has established hospitals in Beijing, Qingdao, Jinan, Hankou and other places to translate books on medicine or pharmacy. The president, the vice president and directors of the Institute are all Japanese, so these groups are actually controlled by Japanese side. They ostensibly seek benefits for China's education or medical care, but in fact they facilitate Japan's investigation of Chinese intelligence. After the launch of the "Oriental Cultural Undertakings" project, Japanese government began to send scholars to China for intelligence investigation under the guise of funding "studying abroad", "exchange inspection", etc.

The subsidy for the Special Researchers in China comes from the "tuition fee" of the "Oriental cultural undertakings". "In November 1930, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan began to provide subsidies for Japanese students visiting China. The status of the subsidies for Japanese students visiting China is as follows.

"The first kind of supply student: Japanese students who have graduated from primary school or have the same educational level and entered China's secondary schools. The monthly subsidy does not exceed 35 yen.

Second type of supply students: those who are selected to graduate from an old Japanese secondary school or finish their fourth academic year of secondary school or have the same educational level. The monthly tuition subsidy for studying in a special Chinese school or university shall not exceed 70 yen.

The third type of supplementary students: the subsidy is for those who have graduated from Japanese universities or special schools or have the same educational level and have entered special

schools, universities and graduate schools or other places in China to study and research. The monthly subsidy tuition is no more than 120 yen. "[22]

All three types of foreign students visit China mainly to study on campus and occasionally to conduct research on topics related to themselves. According to the "Regulations for Special Fellows in China", Special Fellows in China receive an "allowance for study in China" of no less than 2,500 yen per year. However, Special Researchers in China, who also receive the "tuition fee" subsidy, do not go to school. They settle in one or two cities during their stay in China and conduct their own research, either through field trips to other cities, library visits and transcriptions, or trips to different regions to collect data, depending on their research topic and research plan. The Special Researchers in China are selected from a pool of highly qualified intellectuals and are required to submit a research report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs each year, detailing their experiences in China and their thoughts on a number of issues. Some of these were selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and compiled into the China Inspection Report, which provided a very valuable and timely reference for the Japanese government's decision-making. It can be argued that the activities of the Special Researchers in China have nothing to do with "study abroad", but why are they mixed in with "foreign students" and receive a subsidy 20 times higher than that of foreign students? One has to wonder about the intentions of the Japanese government to covertly conduct in-depth investigations into China under the guise of academic exchanges, in order to obtain Chinese intelligence in a more secretive manner.

In addition to sending long-term special researchers to China, Japan also used the funds of the Oriental Cultural Project to send a large number of Japanese scholars to China for short-term visits, and attracted many Chinese scholars to Japan for short-term visits. According to the "Outline of Cultural Projects with China" published by the Cultural Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 1934, since 1923, about 900 Japanese scholars and 2,400 students have been sponsored by the Ministry to visit China, making a total of 3,300 people, with a total subsidy of 662,430 yen. About 630 Chinese scholars and 680 students, totalling 1,310, have been sponsored by the Ministry for visits to Japan, with a total subsidy of 484,100 yen.[23] The number of Japanese scholars visiting China for short-term inspection is almost three times that of Chinese scholars in Japan. The amount of funding provided by Japan to Chinese scholars was far less than that provided to Japanese scholars, which directly led to the fact that there were far fewer Chinese scholars visiting Japan than Japanese scholars visiting China. Subsequently, in order to attract more Chinese scholars to Japan and to ensure a balance in the number of reciprocal visits, Japan proposed to adjust the funding by reducing the subsidy for Japanese scholars to one-third of the total budget and increasing the subsidy for Chinese scholars to two-thirds of the total budget. However, due to the outbreak of war between China and Japan and the deterioration of relations between the two countries, this adjustment was not really implemented.

Thus, both in terms of funding for special fellows in China and in comparing the subsidies given to scholars visiting China and Japan, it can be seen that the subsidy policy is tilted in favour of the Japanese side, reflecting the fact that the Japanese side attaches more importance to their own Chinese studies than to the so-called "Oriental Cultural Project", which is a complement to the cultural projects of China. In the light of Japan's policy of aggression against China in the twentieth century, it is easy to see that the so-called 'special researchers in China' were merely a tool for the Japanese government to conduct intelligence research in China under the banner of 'study abroad'.

6. Conclusion

Through the research on the system of Japanese special researchers in China funded by the "Oriental Cultural Undertakings" in 1920-1940, it can be found that the research time of special

researchers in China is relatively abundant, and most of them have conducted research in China for two years. They were based in one city and did not plan their itinerary before visiting China. They conducted their own research during their stay in China, mainly by accessing libraries and travelling to various locations to collect documents. During this time they travelled to different cities for fieldwork. In terms of the content of their visit, the Special Fellows' research in China focused on social construction, history and heritage, and ideology and culture, with a focus on the north-eastern region and Mongolia. Due to the length of their visit to China, their research has become more in-depth. Their main purpose was to obtain the latest information on China and to make a complete and detailed investigation of the current situation in China. In the context of Japan's invasion of China, as a group with the ability to research and think about Chinese issues, Japanese Special Researchers had a great influence on the decisions of the Japanese ruling class and were responsible for an important and crucial part of Japan's war of aggression against China. The information they recorded and the materials they collected served, directly or indirectly, Japan's invasion of China. The travel reports submitted by the Special Researchers are full of words promoting Japan's policy towards China, praising the Japanese army and vilifying the image of China, which shows that they consciously and voluntarily made their academic research serve the needs of Japan's invasion of China. They sought historical and practical grounds for the Japanese invasion of China and offered advice and suggestions to the Japanese government to legitimise the Japanese invasion of China.

It is worth noting that among these special researchers in China, there are also scholars who are opposed to Japan's invasion of China and have actively devoted themselves to the cause of Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges after returning to China. Of course, this is not the original intention of Japanese government to implement the special researcher system in China, which is unexpected. Keisyuu Sanetou is one of the representatives. Sanetou came to China the second year after the September 18 Incident. He was anxious about the endless war and "worried that the books would be burned on one night." In his epilogue to the History of Chinese Study in Japan, he is ashamed of his idea of supporting Japanese invasion of China, saying, "I have completely become a drummer in the military." Sanetou collected a large number of Chinese materials during his stay in China. Shortly after the publication of the Chinese Study History in China in April 1960, he returned more than 40 books he had collected in China to China. He believes that "it is wrong to despise China, but it is wrong to favor China". Since then, he has continued to study foreign history and is committed to "taking the road of Japan-China friendship featuring neither humble nor overbearing, mutual help and mutual benefit and equality".[24]

References

- [1] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1935) National bandit compensation points related parts / Japanese attitude 7. Showa 10. JACAR Ref.B05015129900.*
- [2] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1935)5. After the China Incident, my cultural undertakings in China. JACAR (Asian Historical Data Centre) Ref. B 05015006500.*
- [3] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1937) Special researcher regulations. JACAR Ref.BB05015650500.*
- [4] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Akio Itakura: Akio Itakura. Historical materials of history of Japan. Foreign Ministry Foreign Affairs Historical Archives B05015646900.*
- [5] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Director of the Ministry of Culture and Provincial Affairs: Kiyoyuki Tokunaga division 1. JACAR Ref.B05015647100.*
- [6] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Keisyuu Sanetou. JACAR Ref.B05015647900.*
- [7] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1937) Katsukuni Mizuno. JACAR Ref.B05015648500.*
- [8] *Keio University President Makato Koizumi (1940) Tadashi Sugimoto. JACAR Ref.B05015649.*
- [9] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1940) Sinten Sakai. JACAR Ref.B05015649600.*
- [10] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1940) Takeshio Zaguchi. JACAR Ref. B05015649500, 201-202.*

- [11] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1939) Syounen Ono. JACAR Ref.B05015648600.*
- [12] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Urawa High School Professor Chikamichi Kuwabara Split 2. JACAR Ref.B05015694600.*
- [13] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Keisyuu Sanetou. JACAR Ref.BB05015648000.*
- [14] *The first lesson of the Ministry of Culture (1937) Criticism and Opinions on Various Aspects of Cultural Undertakings. JACAR Ref.B05015004800, 1.*
- [15] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1937) The regulations for special researcher in China in March of the 12th year of Showa. JACAR Ref.BB05015650500*
- [16] *The first lesson of the Ministry of Culture (1937) Criticism and Opinions on Various Aspects of Cultural Undertakings. JACAR Ref.B05015004800, 17.*
- [17] *Director of the Kyoto Research Institute of the Oriental Culture Institute Naoki Kano (1938) Kuougen Sato. JACAR Ref.B05015648300, 15-23.*
- [18] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1938) Naxi Sakano, Director of Kyoto Research Institute of the Oriental Culture Institute: Kuougen Sato. JACAR Ref.B05015648300, 30-31.*
- [19] *Hubei delegation to Japan (1924) Hubei Investigation Mission to Japan, 63.*
- [20] *Foreign Affairs Ministry (1933) Final Accounting Department Collection. JACAR Ref.B05015086700, JACAR Ref.B05015086700, 219-300.*
- [21] *Foreign Affairs Ministry (1933) Final Accounting Department Collection. JACAR Ref.B05015086700, 302-303.*
- [22] *Xiao Lang, Su Qing (2019) Many aspects of "alternative" study abroad and exchanges -- a preliminary study of the third kind of general supply students from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in China in modern times. Journal of Zhejiang University (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition, 49, 13-36.*
- [23] *Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (1934) The summary of cultural undertakings in March. JACAR Ref.B05015003800.*
- [24] *Keisyuu Sanetou (1960) Chinese History of Overseas Study in Japan, Tokyo: Kuroshio Published, 517-520.*