A147  Jiangkou qijing (Jiangkou sevenfold ritual alliance) 江口七境

The Jiangkou sevenfold ritual alliance is located in the town of Jiangkou, which currently has a population of over 10,000 people. The town formed gradually through the merging together during the Ming dynasty of several fishing villages clustered along the south side of the mouth of the Qiulu River. This area is irrigated by a canal diverted from the Qiulu river at the Nanan weir. From there, the canal runs alongside the river till just north of Jiangkou town, where it divides into three main channels, one of which continues to flows alongside the Qiulu river into and around Jiangkou township. The other canals bring water through the other multi-village ritual alliances of the irrigated Jiangkou plain, before allowing the water to flow into the Xinghua Bay through sluice-gates which are opened and closed depending on the tides. This area was part of three police/defense regions, the Yifangpu, Qinrenpu and Qinxiu fangpu, all within the Daixianli sub-canton. In the Ming, the villages of Xiaoyi, Gangxia, Qianhui, Houdun, Liujing and Duweitou were settled. In the early Qing, the village of Xinjing separated off from Houdun village. In the Republican period, Houdu village separated off from Xiaoyi village. However, because Houdu village still participates in the Yuanxiao processions of the Xiaoyi Youshengguan temple, there are still only seven independent ritual territories in the Jiangkou sevenfold ritual alliance.

The main temple of the Jiangkou sevenfold territory was originally the Zhenjundian, dedicated to Sandian zhenjun and Wen-chang dijun and Kuidou xingjun. This temple was torn down and converted into the Jinjiang Middle School in the Republican period. This temple was dedicated to Sandian zhenjun 三殿真君, Wenchang dijun 文昌帝君, and Kuidou xingjun 魁斗星君. Formerly, on each Yuanxiao festival, the gods of the temple would go on procession through the sevenfold ritual alliance. Even the palanquins of the Dongyueguan 东岳观 would have to stay overnight in this temple. Since the temple is no longer extent, there is no longer any overall procession for the Jiangkou sevenfold ritual alliance. Nevertheless, each year on the birthday of Sandian Zhenjun 三殿真君 on lunar 6/10, one or two days of opera are performed to honor the god.
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