1907年新加坡的中元節與驅瘟逐疫

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一、1907年的霍亂與中元祭祀

1907年7月,新加坡爆發霍亂疫症。根據翌 年新加坡總督的彙報,在1907年全島共有619,776 人。當年的死亡率為千份之39.07。因為疫症死亡 的共有201人,其中包括死於鼠疫的15人、天花 的 6 人和霍亂的 180 人。1 根據新加坡政府的死亡 登記, 在 1907 年 7 月, 新加坡居民身故者有 1,176 人,其中華人佔923人。因為霍亂而死的有15人, 皆由境外進入新加坡的。但是在8月4日到10日 的一星期內,新加坡328死者中,華人佔263人, 其中因為霍亂而死的共有49人。2隨後的一個星 期的 338 名死者中,因為霍亂而死亡的有 43 人。3 感染霍亂的「多屬華人,且以車夫為最。」4 政府的防疫政策是一方面把大部份的染疫者送往 外島淇漳山(St. John's Island)隔離,另一方面為 了防止疾病在社區廣泛傳播,把包括車夫在內的 華人苦力聚居的亞拉街(Arab Street 爪哇街,即 現在的阿拉伯街)、港仔墘(Rochore Canal Road 即現今梧槽乾拿路)、巴剎巷(Rochore Road 即現今梧槽路)和小坡二馬路(Victoria Street 即現今維多利亞街)劃為疫區。5(參閱圖1-3) 有染疫的地方,政府派差「將該屋所有器物 悉付一炬……一人染疫,全屋器物皆燒。」6 對於貧苦無依的華人苦力來說, 燒毀屋內所 有物品,在經濟上是很大的負擔。因此,為 了避免讓政府知道有因為疫病而死亡的同 屋者,他們把死者屍體丟棄道旁、山林。7 另一方面,對於孤身外地的貧苦苦力來說,他 們要面對死亡的恐懼、以及橫死、死無所葬的 遊魂可能帶來的災害的不安。新加坡的華人在 19世紀中葉,已經廣泛的舉辦中元祭祀活動。8 中元節是華人傳統的賑濟幽魂的節日。但是,這一 年的中元節,在爆發霍亂的、有很多苦力居住的地

方舉辦的中元節,明顯的與過去的中元祭祀有所不同。本文希望從1907年的中、英文報章的報導, 討論在疫症流行時,民衆在安撫幽魂之外,如何對 應瘟疫和因爲瘟疫而死亡的亡魂的恐懼。

二、華文報章關於 1907 年中元節的報導

我們可以參考的華文報紙包括《叻報》和 1907年8月創刊的《中興日報》。1907年在整個 農曆七月中,《叻報》只有在8日23日(即農曆 七月十五),有一段關於中元的評論。這篇由署名 「漁」的作者,沒有提及新加坡的中元祭祀,只是 指出應把花費在鬼神的款項,用在國家、教育、慈 善等人事方面。全文如下:

(1) 《叻報》,1907年8月23日。

1907 年 8 月發行的《中興日報》有四則關於 華人中元節的報導以及一則印度人(吉寧人)在現 在的小印度地方進行的送疫儀式。內容如下:

(1)《中興日報》,8月23日(農曆七月十五星期五)9

諧談:做鬼好過做人 (伏)

節屆中元,迷信家到處設盂蘭會,賑濟幽鬼。某老儒見而妒曰,一年來天災流行,饑寒交迫,死人若蟻,而滿人日事抽剝,未【?】其賑濟一人,【?】【?】深仁厚澤以待【?】漢人,如此看來,作滿人百姓,真真賤過鬼罷。適某甲在旁,偷聞其言,不禁歎曰,怪不得人人說道,如果不革命,做鬼好過做人了

(2) 《中興日報》8月28日:

(本坡)愚民造謠 本坡往年逢七月中元,迷信家到處設盂蘭會,賑濟幽冥,燒紙物【?】 山積,所費不貲,亦甚無謂。近日風氣漸開,作此舉者已寥寥無幾。蓋亦華人進化之明徵也。日 作竟有無數愚民言盂蘭會之冷淡,皆因一般有錢商家不肯捐提,故托言無鬼以慳荷包,勢必【?】 諸幽鬼,使降之禍等語,又謂某商之妻妾因怕鬼搗【?】,乃避居山園云。

(又按)科學發明【?】,神權旁落。年來已略見效。除【?】【?】【?】普通人民,均【?】然【?】神【?】【?】【?】【?】【?】不【?】内【?】【?】神建醮之事。亦日益【?】【?】【?】初,不【?】減少媚神建醮之地方人民。【?】【?】【?】鬼神一點責罰。而【?】【?】【?】【?】命者。是可知迷信者確無神福【?】【?】。而陰通者必無被神【?】【?】【?】矣。南洋華僑,居外人【?】【?】,習見【?】明【?】【?】長智識【?】【?】。應比內地稍勝一籌。乃何以年來內地迷信神權之惡習,日已減少。而外地人之迷信,曾不【?】少減也。豈不為內地人所竊笑耶。而本埠華僑,多數為食力之輩,每日竭其精力,以博【?】毫。血汗之資,理應愛惜。今竟以頻年積儲之費,擲諸渺茫不可知之地。計一日之事,所費輒百拾金。雖曰眾力易舉,而此百十金之血款,何莫將來作公益之舉也。願迷信者其熟思之。

按:無論是《叻報》或《中興日報》,都有着濃厚的反對在中元節消費巨款來施幽祭鬼的迷信行爲。 從資料(1)和(2)的報導中,我們或許可以在中元節的捐款中,意識到20世紀初華人的階級差異如何反 映在對於迷信的理解和民間宗教的實行中。

(3)《中興日報》,8月29日:

(本坡)和尚送疫。昨日本坡實龍岡地方,吉寧人巡【?】送疫。其中一吉寧和尚,裝成花面,數人挑之,沿途有舞者,甚是奇【?】。

按:實龍岡是印度人聚居的地方。印度人在 1907 年的農曆七月巡遊逐疫,一方面是因爲霍亂在苦力、 貧民居住的地方肆虐,印度苦力也不能幸免。另一方面,也可能受到鄰近的華人人力車夫的驅瘟逐疫儀式 的影響。(見附錄一和四)

(4) 《中興日報》,9月4日:

(本坡)民智漸啟。是年七月盂蘭,本坡商戶,多是改良,或有廢去者。但小坡新街,桂蘭街,新之街、馬交新街、長太街一帶,仍未改良。上年熱鬧,今春冷淡可見矣。今晚牛車水寨口普度,又未曉得如何光景也。

按:小坡一帶的街道,大概時海峽時報(Straits Times)報導的主要是福建和潮州人聚居的地區。(見附錄三)對照兩項報導,在這一帶的盂蘭祭祀雖然規模較往年小,但是依然進行。在牛車水居住的主要是廣府人。然而,報章並沒有跟進報導牛車水是否有舉行普渡。

(5)《中興日報》,9月9日(八月初二星期一)

(本坡)野蠻之尤。蘇林二姓舟人因迷信賑濟幽鬼,於【?】板路頭放船普渡演戲起禍,於去月廿九、三拾兩天,二姓舟人在杉板路頭及勿基海面,互相毆打。昨日福建幫之大船,竟不敢出而裝貨。商場未免大受窒礙云。

按:無論中英文報章,都鮮有關於水上居民的中元祭祀活動的報導。本則提到的,是在新加坡河口、駁船碼頭附近的水上居民因爲普渡演戲而鬥毆,從而影響到商業行爲的報導。¹⁰

翻查 1907 年的華文報章,主要是關於中元節 的迷信性質的評論以及與過去一樣的在中元節普 渡,賑濟幽魂的活動。除了印度人的巡遊逐疫外, 並沒有關於這一年新加坡華人在中元節如何利用 宗教行事,解決因爲疫症流行而引起的憂慮和不 安。

三、1907年英文報章關於中元節的報導要旨

1907 年新加坡英文報章有四則關於華人中元 節行事的描述,其内容如下。它們分別是:

(1)「嚇走霍亂惡魔:人力車夫組織巡遊」是 1907年8月21日,即農曆七月十三(星期三)關 於在星期一(七月十一)晚上來自福清的人力車夫 用了2,000元,在他們聚居的甘榜格蘭(Kampong Glam)地方舉辦的驅瘟巡遊的報導:車夫戴上面具, 敲鑼打鼓,扛抬旗幟、火炬,巡街驅瘟。他們經過 的苦力間都燃燒炮仗,趕走霍亂疫鬼。報導指出, 因為街上充滿厲疫惡魔,華人都不讓他們的孩子觀 看這樣的巡遊。報導也指出在農曆七月十三,車夫 會在後馬車路(Ophir Road 即現今奧菲亞路)附近 把四、五艘紙紮的船放出海上。這遣船的儀式,是 要把瘟疫(霍亂的惡魔)從新加坡送到其他地方。 報導者聞說這些福清車夫選擇了香港作為遣送疫 鬼的目的地。(詳見附錄一)

- (2)「一艘鬼船」是1907年8月24日(農曆七月十六日)關於在23日早上一艘幽船(寶船)漂流擱淺在丹戎禺(Tanjong Rhoo)岸邊的報導。這艘被風吹到岸邊的船長約五英尺的船。這大概是在8月21日(農曆七月十三)福清車夫遣送的載走疫鬼的船。(按,即附錄一8月21日報導的遣送的船)船頭兩側寫著「仙船」(寶船?S.S.Delwara)字樣。船有桅有帆。船中有槍炮以及數十具紙紮的人形水手。其中一些還有迷你的望遠鏡套在眼睛上。船上載著給「疫鬼」食用的大米、雞蛋和其他食物。觀看的華人都不敢觸碰這艘小船。但是,儘管華人覺得船會帶來災難,一位洋人視這艘小船為藝術品而把船帶回家中。(詳見附錄二)
- (3)「華人鬼節」是 1907 年 8 月 24 日關於在 23 日,即農曆七月十五晚上在福建和潮州人聚居的 駁船碼頭(Boat Quay),源順街 (Teluk Ayer street 直落亞逸街)和中街 (Market Street 即現今馬吉街)

的中元節祭祀活動。這個地區有福建人主要的廟宇 天福宮和潮州人的粤海清廟。報導主要描述在街上 的祭桌擺滿水果、燒豬、鴨、鵝、蟹等祭品,以及 金銀衣紙、旗幟和神袍等。這樣的中元節祭祀的形 式,和以往報導的沒有分別。(詳見附錄三)

(4) 「一個詭異的儀式:驅趕霍亂疫鬼的華 人宗教儀式 _ 是 1907 年 8 月 28 日關於在 27 日 (即農曆七月十九)在三馬路(Queen Street 即 現今奎因街)對開的後馬車路(Ophir Road 即 現今奧菲亞路)的苦力間舉行的驅瘟儀式。這 是一個由福州、福清和興化的人力車夫及他們 的頭家(towkay)集資5,000元舉辦的為期十 天的驅除霍亂疫鬼的儀式。8月27日是整個 儀式的最後一天。作者觀察當日從下午四時開 始,兩個多小時的儀式。儀式包括由數名道士11 帶領裝扮成惡魔模樣,手持長矛、尖棒的苦力 隊伍,以及三艘用竹子和彩紙紮成的帆船模 樣的船的巡遊儀式。主要的道士手舞長劍,向 著裝滿紙錢、香燭、餅乾、水果、大米的三艘 寶船(幽船?)進行遣船儀式。道士並且戮破 雞冠,進行用雞冠血將船上的紙紮人形、物 品以及船身各部分塗抹的開光點紅儀式。作 者提到新加坡的首席衛生檢查官也在場,並 且表示希望可以藉此儀式,掃除霍亂瘟疫。12 開光、遣船儀式進行到約下午六時。之後,道士手 執第四艘的小船進入苦力間,進行收疫鬼的儀式。 一名道士手執串上紙錢的棍子,另一名道士手持 長劍,戲劇性的在苦力間房內徘徊進退,就如與 不願被收服的疫鬼搏鬥的樣子。道士和疫鬼之間 推拉爭持了約20分鐘。在多次來回逡巡之後,道 士才半勸誘半強迫的把載著疫鬼的船帶離苦力間。 出了苦力間,小船在苦力間和其他帆船之間來回激 走五次,最後在圍觀的數百人的吼叫下,小船領著 載了黑、紅、藍、綠和黃色的代表疫鬼紙紮像的其 他三艘帆船,以及緊隨其後的遊行隊伍,向港仔墘 (Rochore Canal Road 梧槽乾拿路)方向出發。到 達梧槽河的一個上岸口時,鞭炮、鑼鼓齊鳴,裝扮 成疫鬼的苦力隊伍,隨即脫下衣著、洗去臉上的化 妝。主要的道士向河的方向揮動長劍,命令疫鬼離

去。接著,以小船為首,最大的寶船最後,一一把 船隊焚化。在最大的一艘船上放著活生生的白色小 狗、灰色小貓、公雞、鴨子各一隻,以及兩隻白鴿。 作者指出在很仔細的觀察下,並沒有看到這些動物 在焚化前被帶出來。然而,苦力頭家則信誓旦旦的 保證,在焚化寶船、幽船之前,已經把這些動物帶 走。(附錄四)

附錄四的作者描述的巡遊、遣船、收鬼、送 瘟的過程,和香港長洲太平清醮的遣船儀式非常相 像。這儀式的規模、參與的原鄉族群以及費用都顯 然較附錄一在甘榜格蘭舉行的更大、更多。例如: 連續三個晚上在染疫的街道巡遊驅瘟。幽船四艘, 最大的寬廣各為 20 英尺、兩艘長約 15 英尺。作者 沒有描述第四艘小船的尺寸,但是由於是儀式專家 進行遣船收瘟時用手拿著的,所以不會太大。參與 的族群不僅是福清的苦力車夫,還有福州和興化的 苦力車夫和他們的頭家。此外,和附錄一不一樣的 是這次的送瘟儀式是用火化來送走寶船、幽船,而 非隨河流把船送到大海。

除了道士之外,報導者觀察到有一名健壯的 苦力,翻上白眼,進入精神恍惚的狀態。他不斷地 比劃,為在場的人與他們死去的親友溝通。也就是 說,在道士進行驅瘟逐疫的同時,神明附體的乩童 進行了陰陽溝通的角色。乩童在其他報導沒有出 現。

顯然,基於洋人對華人宗教儀式的好奇心, 這一年的英文報導,特別注重和往年不一樣的儀式 行爲。也就是説,在祭品、演戲以外,特別注意到 和以往的中元節不一樣的因爲對付霍亂疫症而執 行的巡街、收瘟、逐疫、遣船的儀式。

英文報章從他者的角度,描述和洋人自身生活方式不一樣的節日情景。然而,華文報章在報導以外,强調對國人教化的倫理責任,在精英文化的驅動下,無視洋人唧唧稱奇的華人下層階級的儀式行爲。

四、小結:我們這樣理解 1907 年的報章報導

在過去關於新加坡中元節的報導,都有如附 錄三的祭品、祭桌規模以及各樣的演劇、街戲的描述,偶然也有關於儀式專家參與的報導。但是沒有

遊街逐疫的報導,也沒有關於遣船儀式的描述。13 1907年臨近農曆7月在苦力間爆發的霍亂,以 及政府的防疫政策,令到貧困的華人在精神上和 經濟上很大的憂慮和不安。因此,這一年的農曆 七月,華人不僅如往常一樣,舉行安撫和救贖 孤魂野鬼的儀式; 在霍亂爆發的苦力聚居的地 方,進行規模大小不一的驅瘟逐疫的儀式。一 方面,從英文的報導中,我們可以看到對儀式的 文化差異。這樣的差異,不但是華人對疫鬼的恐 懼和洋人對儀式的好奇和祭祀物品的藝術欣賞 的差異;而且,從華文報章完全沒有報導這樣 規模盛大的儀式的角度來看,顯示華人精英和 苦力民眾之間對驅瘟逐疫儀式的取向的差異。14 我們也可以觀察到政府在嚴厲執行醫學的防疫政 策的同時,理解到容許群眾通過儀式行為來紓解對 死亡和災難的不安的重要性。反之,華人精英在 遠離迷信的思潮下,疏離了貧苦民衆的宗教行事。 在儀式上的報導中,我們可以觀察到儀式執行人如 何利用震撼性的模擬行為,不僅提供圍觀人群的娛 樂,更重要的是把抽象的靈異世界呈現在群眾眼 前,通過擬真的行動,讓圍觀的苦力車夫看到收疫 鬼,遣送瘟疫的過程:把霍亂的惡魔驅離苦力間, 用神聖力量潔淨受疫鬼禍害的街區,然後在衆目監 察下,用火化或水流把載滿疫鬼的幽船、寶船送離 新加坡。此外,我們也可以看到不同的儀式專家, 在節日中扮演不同的角色:道士透過正統的宗教權 威,執行收鬼逐疫的儀式,乩童通過神明附體的方 法,成爲陰、陽溝通的媒介。苦力車夫不僅捐款, 而且參與籌備工作、組成裝扮的巡遊隊伍。從很片 面的報導,我們知道頭家的捐款和政府的認可。盛 大的儀式活動,吸引觀看的人群。顯然,在觀賞中 有着華洋的差異和階級的差異。

我們不能夠從報章的報導中詳細知道儀式場 地的佈置、報導以外的其他祭祀儀式,以及福清、 福州、興化系族群之外,其他在新加坡的華人族 群,如何通過中元祭祀,解決其對疫病和死亡帶來 的不安。我們也不知道除了道士的表演以外,有沒 有其他的街戲、傀儡戲等的娛樂人鬼神的活動。

1907年新加坡的華人雖然和往年一樣,舉行 安撫、賑濟和救贖孤魂野鬼的中元普渡活動。然 而,這一年因爲疫病的關係,社會底層的群衆舉辦 驅瘟逐疫的儀式,希望藉此紓解在他們生活範圍的 地區發生的災難所帶來的精神上的和經濟上的憂 慮和不安。我們不能知道福清、福州和興化以外的 方言群、以至人力車夫以外的華人職業團體,在一 向的賑濟幽魂以外,有沒有舉辦類似的驅瘟逐疫的 儀式。然而,在霍亂肆虐的地區,印度人也進行類 似的巡遊逐疫儀式。也許,衛生危機的對應方法, 跨越了族群的界限。

最後是在人群的心裏,疫鬼應該放逐到什麼 地方?香港究竟是福清、福州、興化人心中的污 穢、骯髒、敵對的地方;還是華人資料提供人在面 對洋人的詢問而提供的方便的答案?

註釋:

- ¹ "The Governor's Address", *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, October 3, 1908, p.6.
- ² 「死冊例登」, 《叻報》, 1907 年 8 月 19 日。 入口案例皆死於淇漳山 (St. John's Island) 的檢疫 站。
- 3 「化鶴何年:本坡國家冊報」,《叻報》,1907 年8月26日。
- 4 「霍亂日記」,《叻報》,1907年8月10日。
- 5 "Cholera Outbreak: Over a Dozen Cases Discovered in Singapore," *The Straits Times*, August 2, 1907, p.7.
- 6 「旅人宜慎」、《叻報》、907年8月10日。
- 7 疫症爆發期間,不乏這樣的報導:如「棄屍於 道」,《叻報》,1907年8月14日;「途有臥 蜉」,《叻報》,1907年月28日;「林內遺屍」, 《叻報》,1907年8日31日。
- ⁸ 蔡志祥,〈從鬼戲到歌台:中元普度的娛樂、 表演與儀式〉,《節日研究》,第14輯,頁 3-22。
- 9【?】為不能辨析的文字。標點為本文作者所加。
- 這大概是與清末的反迷信風潮有關。見蔡志祥, 〈從反迷信到萬緣會:廣州到東南亞的城市救 贖儀式〉,載於李孝悌、陳學然編,《海客瀛 洲:傳統中國沿海城市與近代東亞海上世界》

- (上海:上海古籍出版社,2017),頁30-43。
- "雖然文章用僧人 (monk) 來形容做儀式的人,但是,從作者描述的儀式行為來看,很像道士進行的收瘟遣船儀式。
- 12 政府高官出席華人的節日,時有報導。如 1887 年因為刺殺華民政務司的緣故,政府為了找出 幕後的主使者,禁止華人在街上進行中元祭祀 的活動。禁令引起華人群眾的不滿。為了得到 華人精英的支援,這一年新加坡總督出席了在 福建人的主廟天福宮舉行的儀式。這顯然是一 個政治的決定。然而,衛生官僚因為防疫關係 而出席中元節的報導,1907年大概是第一次。 關於 1887年的報導見蔡志祥,〈葬與祭:19 世紀末 20 世紀初新加坡英國殖民政府對華人節 日與墳山的管治〉,「臺北州建州百年紀念」 國際學術研討會,國立臺北大學海山研究中心、 新北市政府文化局、新北市立圖書館,2020年
- 10月30-31日。
- 12 参考蔡志祥上引〈葬與祭:19世紀末20世紀 初新加坡英國殖民政府對華人節日與墳山的管 治〉及〈從鬼戲到歌台:中元普度的娛樂、表 演與儀式〉二文。
- 13 這大概與清末的反迷信思潮有關。參考蔡志祥 上引〈從反迷信到萬緣會:廣州到東南亞的城 市救贖儀式〉一文。
- 14 "The coup de grace to 'chingays' and 'sembayang hantus,'" in Song One Siang, *One Hundred Years' History of the Chinese in Singapore*, Singapore: National Library Board, 2016 (reprint of 1923 by John Murray, London), pp. 602-3. 該書在 1993 年 由葉書德翻譯成中文。見宋旺相著、葉書德譯,《新加坡華人百年史》(新加坡:新加坡中華總商會出版發行,1993),頁 343-4。

附錄:1907年新加坡的英文報章的報導: 【】為本文作者所加的說明 附錄一:

"Frightening the Cholera Devils: Ricksha Coolies Organise a Procession", *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, 21 August 1907 【農曆七月十三,星期三】, p. 2.

The Hockcha【福清】 ricksha coolies organised a grand procession on Monday night for the purpose of frightening away the cholera devils. It is understood that the procession cost \$2,000. There were lanterns, flags and torches and everyone in the procession was garbed like a hantu【鬼】 and had a fiercely painted face. They paraded the streets occupied by ricksha coolies with much beating of gongs. At each depot they were received with cracker firing. Most of those attacked by the cholera were ricksha coolies, and the members of that community believe that they have now frightened away the cholera demons. The procession attracted a good deal of interest in the Kampong Glam district【甘榜格南,在新加坡河之北,梧槽 Rochor 地區】. Chinese children were not allowed to view the procession as it was believed that numerous "spooks" were about at the time.

We learn that some time to-day 【 農曆七月十三,星期三 】, four or five model junks will be launched into the sea by the ricksha coolies from the vicinity of Ophir Road. The idea is to send all the cholera demons away from Singapore by the boats to some other country. It is said that the Chinese have selected Hongkong as the place to send the cholera to!

附錄二:

"A"Hantu" Ship", *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, 24 August 1907【農曆七月十六,星期六】, p.6.

There was much consternation among the natives at Tanjong Rhoo【丹戎禺】yesterday morning, when it was discovered that a "kapal hantu" 【鬼船】 or cholera ship had drifted up to the beach. The natives crowded round, but would not touch the little vessel. It is believed to have been launched from Beach Road【美芝路】 on Wednesday night 【即8月21日,農曆七月十三】 by Chinese ricksha coolies, and it was hoped that the cholera demon had taken its departure by the boat. The little craft is nearly five feet in length, and "s.s.Delwara" is painted on each side of the bows. It is beautifully built and has a mast and sails. It carries a number of small guns and a crew of about a dozen dolls, some of whom have miniature telescopes up to their eyes. It is believed by the natives that owing to a squall the ghost ship was run ashore at Tanjong Rhoo. Rice, eggs and foodstuff are on board for the consumption of the "hantu". A European resident, one of the gallant S.V.C. towed the little ship to his bungalow and placed it in his room. He is looked upon by the natives as a doomed man? He is, however, very pleased with his curious find.

附錄三:

"Chinese Sembayang Hantu"【華人鬼節】, The Straits Times, 24 August, 1907, page 6

The Chinese Sembayang Hantu was celebrated last night. The finest comestibles Singapore could produce were placed on large tables in Boat Quay 【駁船碼頭】, and in Teluk Ayer 【直落亞逸街】 and Market Streets, as offerings to the spirits. As usual, incense was burned and baskets of gold and silver imitation money surrounded the tables.

Rain interfered seriously with the celebration, and, before the Sembayang ended, the banners and other articles of paper and cloth, which decorated the tables, presented a very bedraggled appearance. The various kinds of fruits, the roast pig, geese, ducks, crabs, and so forth, were not injured by the downpour, however, and will make quite as good food for the spirits as if the rain had not fallen.

附錄四

"A Weird Ceremony: Chinese Joss Pidjin: Frightening away the Cholera Demons" The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser, 28 August 1907, p.12. 這篇報導在 1923 年宋旺相編撰的關於新加坡華人的書中,有簡單的摘要。(見附錄五)

A unique and most interesting ceremony took place at the ricksha coolie depots in Ophir Road 【奥菲路】, off Queen Street【奎因街】, yesterday afternoon. A number of cases of Cholera have occurred in these depots lately, and several cases in the immediate vicinity. The coolies and towkays 【 頭家 】 organised a grand festival for the purpose of frightening away from Singapore the cholera demons. About \$5000 were collected among the towkays and coolies, and for the past ten days, or so, quaint ceremonies have been carried on. On three nights, processions paraded the various streets. The coolies were busy in the meantime building four model junks to carry away the cholera fiends.

The celebrations were brought to a close yesterday afternoon amidst much excitement, and in view of several hundreds of Chinese. The clans participating in the clearing out of the devils were the Hockchews 【福州】, Hockchas【福清】 and the Hengwahs【興化】. The ghost ships were made of bamboo and paper and were really works of art. They were cleverly made of various coloured paper, and in shape were exactly like Chinese junks. Two of the craft were about fifteen feet in length and one, the smartest of the lot, was over twenty feet long and broad in proportion. The final ceremony commenced at four o'clock. The three vessels were drawn into the roadway, the two smaller ones were carried and the large one was drawn on wheels. The sails, made of yellow paper, were then hoisted. The leading vessel had as a figurehead, a dragon with a flaming wide open mouth. On tables placed near the ships were candles, roast ducks, fowls, pigs, goats, fruit and cakes. Numerous sheets of sacrificial paper were burned and hundreds of crackers and bombs were let off. About two score ricksha coolies were dressed as demons with grotesquely painted faces. Some of their faces were red, blue, black, green and yellow, and were streaked with white. They were armed with spears and spiked clubs and many had horns fastened on to their heads. They were a fierce looking lot and formed a bodyguard for the fleet. One gigantic Chinaman carried a huge wooden sword and apparently represented an executioner. Several monks in gay robes were chanting prayers round the "Joss", inside the principal depot, to the accompaniment of Chinese music. Every few minutes they uttered long drawn out "oughs" in which they were joined by demoniacal bodyguard, while numerous other Chinese blew bamboo-horns. It was a weird spectacle.

Leaning on one of the "joss" tables in the roadway, was a stalwart coolie who appeared to be in a trance. He was in a frenzy and rolled his eyes till only the while were visible. It was explained that he was possessed of a spirit: a god had entered into him. He gesticulated wildly and was believed to be communing with the spirits of the departed. Any one whose friends or relations had died could converse with them through him. He was certainly not shamming. To the writer her appeared to be mad, but a medical gentleman present said, in his opinion, the man was in a trance. He went on unceasingly and untiringly.

The vessels were loaded up with paper money, candles, crackers, fruit and rice. In the largest junk were places a white pup, a grey kitten, a cock, a duck and a couple of white pigeons. The monks then assembled in front of the largest ship and chanted prayers, while the bodyguard knelt down in the road. The head monk picked up a sharp steel sword and fought a duel with an unseen spirit. He worked himself into a state of frenzy, and the crowd of onlookers stepped back in awe. The monk then picked up a cock and holding it in his left hand and the sword in his right danced about and gesticulated wildly. After some minutes he put the weapon down and pricked the cock's comb with a finger nail. A drop of blood was taken and was mixed with Chinese red ink. The fowl was then put under a joss table and after more incantations had been droned, the high priest mounted on a stool and dabbed the figure head and other parts of the boat with the mixture. He then returned to the Joss table and exhorted the demons to depart in the vessels. The men demons raised pandemonium with their yells of "ough" bamboo horns and banging of drums and clashing of cymbals. The spectators joined the noise. The Chief Sanitary Inspector was present and seemed to be assisting in the devil hunting. He expressed his desire of helping in anything that would drive away the cholera.

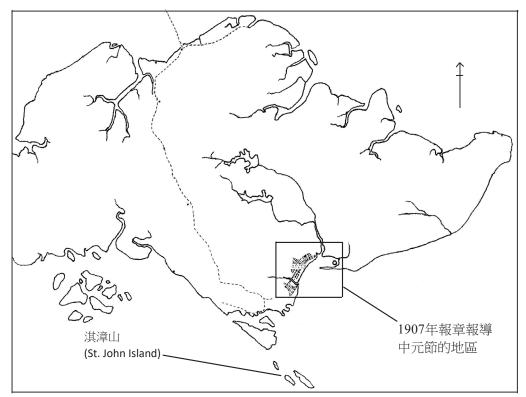
These exhortations continued till six o'clock and a fourth and much smaller vessel then made its appearance. It was apparently a tender to the bigger craft. The chief monk seized the small boat and carried

it into the depot. The idea was to take the devils out to the fleet, but this apparently did not meet with their approval. The little vessel tossed and rocked round the room, but the devils would not come out to the bigger ships. One priest endeavoured to coax the tiny ship out by means of bright papers on the end of a pole, while another priest tried to drive it out with a drawn sword. They sprang back when the boat turned on them. The excitement was great, and the "oughs" were deafening. Several times the boat got as far as the entrance, but returned again and careered wildly round the room. After fully twenty minutes of pitching and tossing, the boast was driven and coaxed out. It careered round the fleet and then dashed back to the depot again. Eventually, the devils were persuaded to leave the depot and the tender made five stormy trips to and from the big junk amidst the wildest excitement. The devils were represented by black, red, blue, green and yellow effigies and they were all put on board at last. The tender then took up a position at the head of the procession and after maneuvering about wildly for some time started off in the direction of Rochore Canal Road. The other vessels and the procession followed it with a rush, and a huge roar went up from the assembled hundreds. After a short mad, yelling rush, a stop was made at a landing stage at the Rochor river 【梧槽河】. Hundreds of bombs and crackers were let off and the gongs and drums were banged madly. The men dressed as demons tore off their devil clothes and washed their faces. The head monk waved his sword in the direction of the river and exhorted the devils to depart. The fleet were then set on fire one by one. The tender was burned first and the biggest ship last. The flames roared and crackled and burned fiercely and the ceremony was at an end. Our representative, who was watching very carefully, did not see the animals and birds taken out of the big junk before she was set alight and believes that they were burned to death. The towkays, however, assured him that they were removed before fire was put to the vessels. Perhaps, they are afraid of enquiries by the police."

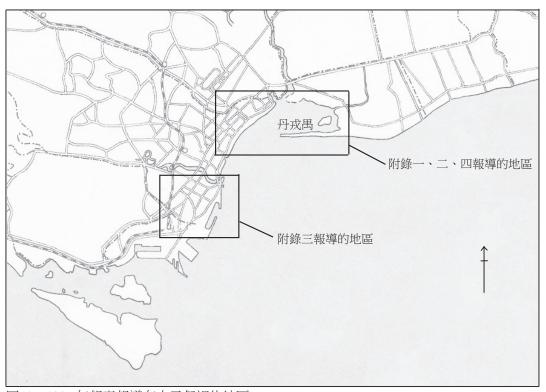
附錄五: (宋旺相著、葉書德譯:343-344)

八月廿七日,在靠近奎因街 Queen Street 的 Ophir Road 人力車苦力間舉行一古怪儀式。在這個苦力間曾經發生了一些霍亂病症,而為著要把霍亂的惡魔嚇走,連續十天沒有間斷地舉行了古怪的儀禮。福州 (Hockchew)、福清 (Hockchia)和興化 (Henghwa)的苦力與他們的頭家(老闆Towkays)籌集了一筆總數五千元作為肅清惡魔的經費。用竹片和不同顏色的紙張糊制了四隻魔鬼船,船形好像中國的舢板。其長度約十五尺到二十尺之間。在這些紙船中放了些紙錢、稻米、水果和蠟燭;而最大的那只紙船裝有一隻白色小狗、一隻灰色的小貓、一隻公雞、一隻鴨子和一對鴿子。大約有四十個人力車夫穿上像魔鬼的裝束,用油漆塗上奇形怪狀的臉,在他們的頭上縛著角狀的物體,手執長矛和打上長釘的棍棒。這些組成了紙船的護衛隊。

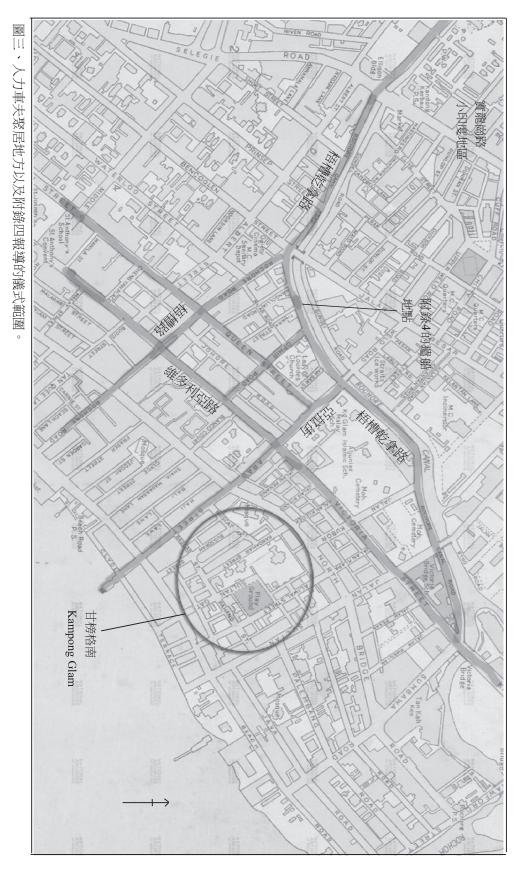
三隻較大的紙船放在路旁,當時幾個和尚開始叨念他們的咒文,被一些扮魔鬼的苦力以跪下的姿態圍繞著。幾小時後,第四只(較小的)船被拿出來。被為首的和尚把它猛撲,並放入苦力間,在這裡面,他們認為霍亂的魔鬼仍在逡巡著。為首的和尚在神壇邊再念了些咒文以後,告誠魔鬼要立即登上船離開這個屋子。當那只小船到了門口,突然再轉回頭,環繞前面的房子猛力沖跑時,引起一陣騷動。這些滑稽戲演了廿分鐘之後,被引到路上,用黑色、紅色、藍色、綠色和黃色等蕭像所代表的魔鬼都被放在那只最大的舢板上。嗣後進行的隊伍猛力而瘋狂地向前猛衝,一路走到梧槽河的上岸處,在那裡鞭炮齊鳴,為首的和尚在河的方向揮舞著他的劍,驅逐魔鬼立即離開,紙船即全被燒掉



圖一、1898年的新加坡地圖



圖二、1907年報章報導有中元祭祀的地區



0050568939ad New Singapore Street Map 1932-1935https://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/maps_building_plans/record-details/f7db6648-115c-11e3-83d5-