

「軍工匠首」與清領時期臺灣的伐木問題

1683-1875

陳國棟*

清領臺灣以後，原則上封禁臺灣的山林，但在朱一貴之亂以前執行得並不嚴格。其後隨著軍工匠首制度的確立與番界的形成，軍工匠首及其手下的小匠成爲少數可以合法入山伐木的人羣，而匠首更被賦予壟斷山林產品的特權。入山之禁在沈葆楨蒞臺時取消。軍工匠首獨佔制度存在於1725～1875的一百五十年間。

當時的伐木地點，就西部臺灣而言，從南到北都有；此外，東部的噶瑪蘭也有軍工匠首的蹤跡。不過伐木的規模不大。一方面是軍工伐木的目的僅在供應臺灣船廠修造戰船的部份材料，一方面臺灣更從大陸進口其他用材。因此，臺灣在軍工伐木時期，主要生產的木料僅爲樟木一項。由於對山林資源的利用有限，清領時期臺民對山林資源的認識也很少。

- 一、前言
- 二、山林封禁與軍工匠首的獨佔
- 三、軍工伐木的地點
- 四、軍工伐木的規模
- 五、軍工伐木的相關問題
- 六、結語

一、前言

本文旨在探討1875年以前清領時期臺灣地區的山地伐木問題。在這一段期間，山林原則上封禁，只有一羣名爲「軍工匠首」的人和他們所僱用的「小匠」可以合法地入山伐木，因此全文重點也就以「軍工匠首」制度的由來以及他們的伐木活動爲主。

* 中央研究院經濟研究所副研究員

Naval Lumberjacks and Tree-felling Activities in Taiwan under the Qing, 1683-1875

Kuo-tung Ch'en

Abstract

As early as the Qing started its rule over Taiwan, a ban prohibiting Han Chinese subjects from going into forest-covered mountains was declared. However, it had not been strictly enforced until the rebellion of Zhu Yigui was suppressed in 1721. Soon after the rebellion, a "Jungong jiangsho" (heads of naval lumberjacks) system was laid out in 1725, and a demarcation line between Han Chinese immigrants and the native aborigines was gradually drawn up. By way of these devices, the ban on entering into mountainous areas was made possible. Only the Jungong jiangsho and his employees were allowed to approach to the mountains for timbers. They were also invested with the monopoly of forest produces and products. The ban and the monopoly were revoked in 1875.

Bewteen 1725 and 1875, thirteen or more tree-felling sites were developed, which spread throughout the western part of the island, as well as included Gamalan on the northeast coast. However, the scale of deforestation was rather limited, on account that the demand from the authorities was not large. In the meantime, civil demand on timbers and woodworks of higher quality were met by imports from the mainland.

Consequently, during the major part of the Qing, forest resources of Taiwan were under-exploited, and local people's knowledge about them was not likely to be profound.