Xu(胥) in Wu Culture Author : Bohai,Xu

It is said that Yu(禹) regulated rivers and watercourses in Taihu Lake. There are two powerful assistants, one is called "Gu Xu(姑胥)", the son of Qi(弃), Qi(弃) was Shun's(舜) Minister of Agriculture, and the other is called "Ming"(冥), the son of Shun's(舜) civil affairs minister-Xie(弃). Unfortunately, "Ming"(冥) died in the water control project, and Xu(胥) was honored as the "water king" after controlling the flood. After the flood has retreated, it is necessary for competent cadres to lead the victims to rebuild their homes. Xu(胥) was a high-ranking child and experienced this flood test, so he was appointed as the local tribal leader. Since then, this area has been named Xu(胥), called 'Gu Xu(姑胥)'. Xu("胥") is a very famous strategist. Not only was he talented but also proficient in astronomical and geography. At that time, the rich Wu(吴) in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River was given to him, so it was known as "Gu Xu"(姑胥). Later, after a long time, the pronunciations of Xu("胥") and "Su"(苏) were similar, so Gu Xu("姑胥") gradually evolved into "Gusu" (姑苏).

The "Wu Di Ji" (吴地记) compiled in the Tang Dynasty said that this is the residence of Wu Zixu(伍子胥), so the name was taken, and even the stone tablets were preserved. Other books also have such records, adding that after Wu Zixu's (伍子胥) death, his eyes were dug out and hung on the gate of the city, so people called the door Xu Gate (胥门).

If this is the case, then the Gate is obviously the name of the descendants to

commemorate Wu Zixu(伍子胥). The problem is that the gate was opened when it was built in the big city of Helv(阖闾大城). Was the name of the gate always empty at the beginning?

Obviously not. Is it that Wu Zixu(伍子胥) named his own name? According to his personal heart, regardless of personal gains and losses, it will not look like. That is to use the name of his own name, it should also be called Yuan(员)door" or "Zixu(子胥)" Gate. There is also a version that says that Wu kingdom's martial thing,the Commander in chief of the army should be called Xumen Chao(胥门巢), and that the gate was named for his surname. However, Xumen Chao(胥门巢)was defeated at the beginning in the alignment operation, and later won with the help of other generals. Without the name of the other generals to name the city gate, but using the surname of Xumen Chao(胥门巢), it is reasonable to say no.

What is the meaning of Xu Gate (胥门)? The "Yuejue Book"(越绝书) written in the Eastern Han Dynasty said: "There is a road outside Xu Gate (胥门), which is built with the platform of the Gu Xu (the Gu Sutai, the ancient 胥 , 苏 had the same pronunciation), Looking at Taihu Lake." Contemporary historian Gu Jiegang(顾颉刚) believes that: "This name has nothing to do with Wu Zixu(伍子胥), it is named for the king of Helv (阖闾)to go through this door to travel Gu Xu Platform (姑胥台)."

To sum it up, it is because the Xu Gate is facing directly the Guxu Hill (姑胥山) outside the city of Suzhou, so it is called the Guxu Gate(姑胥门), referred to

as Xu Gate(胥门) for short.

In history, Xu Gate (胥门) also built enclosure for defence outside the city gate. According to the memories of the old man and the map drawn by "Suzhou City", the gate of Xu Gate's(胥门) enclosure for defence is opened to the south. In this way, through the Wannian Bridge in the northwest, you must travel around the gates, which is not convenient.

The Gate of this city, why don't open to the west or north? It is said that this is because the mountains of Suzhou are western and the ancients are superstitious. They think that there are many evil spirits in these mountains. If the gates open westward or northward, they will be suffocating. Evil spirits were easy to enter Suzhou City, and the whole city will suffer from it. Therefore, the city gate of Xu Gate's (胥门)enclosure for defence can only be opened to the south, so that the evil spirits can not find the entrance, at least it can also block the anger of the evil spirits. However, this statement has a fallacy according to me, because according to Feng Shui(风水), the city gate is facing south and facing the heaviest Yin Qi(阴气)mountain in Suzhou – Shangfang Hill(上方山). The Shangfang Hill(上方山) is the cult centre of the folk beliefs of Jiangsu and Zhejiang - the Wutong God(五通神). Since ancient times, the yin debt(阴债) of Shangfang Hill(上方山) cannot afford forever. Therefore, I believe that the gate of the city of Xu Gate, facing the south, is to use the Yin Qi (阴气)of Shangfang Hill(上方山)to overwhelm Yue Kingdom(越国), so that Yue Kingdom cannot be turned over (the Yue Kingdom's(越国) capital is

Shaoxing(绍兴) , which was in the south of Suzhou City).

Let us return to the question of Egyptian Pharaoh officials. *Sabef (s3b.f) was an Ancient Egyptian official under king Qa'a in the First Dynasty, around 2900 BC.*

Sabef is known from a stela found next to the tomb of the king at Abydos.

The stela, now in the Egyptian Museum of Cairo is made of limestone and is inscribed with a long list of titles. However, the reading and translation of his titles is highly problematic, given that the earliest hieroglyphic inscriptions are still difficult to translate. On his stela ,Sabef is standing and looking to the right with a scepter in one hand and a staff in his other hand. His titles include:

1. Director of the dining-hall and of the wine-cellar of the estate all protection behind (him)

2. Director of the domain: seat of the Horus with a harpoon and of the red house

3. Friend of the king's domain

4. The one responsible for every seat which is bespoken in the hall.

And the old pronunciation of “胥” is (s3b) , Liushutong characters is

,the “足” above resembles in , the “月” below is the

combination of and . Yizheng , Yangzhou ,Jiangsu has an ancient

town of Xupu(胥浦), and it is said that Wu Zixu(伍子胥) was crossing the

Yangtze River to Wu Kingdom , the ferry was in Xupu(胥浦).

The last section of the Yangtze River has no ferry in the Spring and Autumn Period! In other words, if Wu Zixu(伍子胥)hoped to cross the river directly from the north bank of the Yangtze River is impossible. Next, Zhao Guan(昭关) will soon surface. There were also two ancient ferries in the immediate vicinity – Yuqiudu(渔邱渡) and Wujiangdu(乌江渡). By observing the structure of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, we know that the Yangtze River goes to the sea, and the river is wider. That is to say, the last section of the Yangtze River is basically trumpet-shaped. As the water flows slowly after the river meets the seawater, the mud will be deposited into a sandbar, and then slowly connected to one side of the land, expanding the entire coastline eastward, narrowing the old bell mouth and becoming a normal river. The new bell mouth was formed in the east.

Due to technical constraints, the ancients needed to choose a place

with a narrow river surface and a slower water flow as a ferry. It is very difficult to cross the water surface like the wide river surface near the mouth of the Yangtze River and the rushing water flow like the Hukou(壶口). At present, the Yangtze River's river surface has to be significantly widened near Nantong, and the Yangtze River has begun to widen before it flows to Nanjing in the Spring and Autumn Period. That is to say, when the Yangtze River began to turn eastward, the river surface has become very wide in the Spring and Autumn Period. And because the ancients used water resources to the extent that they have reached the level of plundering, the ancient river surface is wider than what we have seen so far.

Let's first take a look at where Wu Zixu(伍子胥) finally crossed the river. This point is clearly recorded, and it is crossed from a place called

Yuqiudu (渔邱渡). This ferry is now affiliated to Hexian County(和县), Anhui. In ancient times, the name was called "Liyang (历阳)".

The Location of Zhaoguan (昭关)

There are two Xu brooks in history, one is the artificial canal that Wu Zixu(伍子胥) travelled from Chu State to Wu State (Suzhou) through the Anhui-Zhejiang border (I guess it is the artificial canal that *Sabef* digged by the guidance of Narmer). The other is the subsequent Wu Zixu (伍子胥) Canal route from Wu State to Chu State Canal-Xu Brook (胥溪). The former Xujiang Ferry(胥江野渡) is not the River from Suzhou Xu Gate(胥门) to Taihu Lake, but the official ferry established by Governor *Sabef*. If the former Wu Zixu escaped from Chu State to Wu State (Suzhou), it was found Liangzhu (良渚) Cultural Site in the artificial canal of Xu Brook, it can be proved that *Sabef* was the Governor of the Eastern Colony of Egypt.

Therefore, I speculate that Xupu ,Yizheng,should be the legendary Narmer period (about 2900 BC) Yu-禹(Narmer)'s expedition to Punt, with Sabef to Shaoxing(绍兴), the entire South of Jiangsu, central Jiangsu gave Sabef, so Xupu is called Xu-胥.

Narmer's tomb

The tomb of Narmer(禹) is considered to be in the cemetery of Abydos, but many Egyptian scholars believe that this is not his true tomb because of the construction and scale of the tomb does not correspond the strong Narmer's rule. China recorded the tenth eastward journey of the squatting place, and died after the commemoration of the Kuaiji - (会稽) (the bamboo book recorded-竹书记年 is forty-five years). After his death, his son Qi(启) started the Xia Dynasty. It is very likely that the real situation seems that Yu (禹) passed away in the tenth year of the parade to reach the Kuaiji (会稽) area of Zhejiang, China (the ancient Egyptian overseas colony), and then buried in Kuaiji!(会稽). About Mount Tai Yu Ling is located in Shaoxing, outside, 3 km

from the city. About Mount lush yellow house next to the Sheikh, the level of scattered housing group, the hold terrain, are grand. Yu Ling itself is a large large-scale classical style buildings, the Yu Ling, Yu Temple, Yu Temple of three parts, covers an area of 40 mu, building area of more than 2700 square meters, is listed as China's cultural relics protection units . Therefore, I think that Yu(Narmer) died when he arrived in the Yangtze River Delta area of China (the ancient Egyptian colony) in the ten-year parade. After Shaokang(少康)rehabilitation, the Yu's descendant Shaokang ' s(少康)son-Wuyu(无余) was sealed in Kuaiji(会稽), enshrined Yu(禹), and created Yue State(越国). In Yuling Village(禹陵村) of Shaoxing, the descendants of Yu (禹) have been defended the Mausoleum till now according to legend. The ancient Chinese character 越 (Yue) is completely an ancient Egyptian hieroglyph:

越

Bronze (金文编裏的字) Characters

B01747	B01748	B01749	B01750	B01751

Bronze (金文编裏的字) Characters
Papyrus stem in hieroglyphs	Papyrus stem-(tril.) --- w3dj-(uatch-uadj)	or or 3 of many spellings, "W3dj" in hieroglyphs			<div>Green-绿色 Vigour-活力 Young-年少</div>
莎草茎象形文字几种拼写法						

Therefore, I speculate that during Yu's-禹 (Narmer) expedition to Punt (the most eastern part of the ancient Egyptian colonies), he sent Sabef to go upstream from the Yangtze River, and crossed the river from Xupu,Yizheng (仪征胥浦)to enter central Jiangsu. So the South of Jiangsu and central Jiangsu was sealed to Sabef, so there were so many

Xu-"胥" names in South of Jiangsu and central Jiangsu.

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3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabef>