

## Remarks on “Wages for Silk Weaving in Suzhou and Peking, 1686 and 1752”

Christine Moll-Murata

Sun Pei 孫珮, *Suzhou zhizao ju zhi* 蘇州製造局志 (Treatise on the [Imperial] Silk Weaving Offices of Suzhou). 1686.

This treatise was written by Sun Pei, the Director of the two Imperial Suzhou silk manufactures, the so-called “Leading Weaving Office” *Zong zhiju*, and the “Weaving and Dyeing Office” *Zhiran ju*. It concerns organization, financing, and the production processes. Information on wages is recorded in a complex way. They are mainly piece wages, but for the most qualified occupations, such as designing the silk patterns, copying them in the pattern books, and installing them on drawing looms, time wages in form of monthly wages are given in chapter 5. Apart from these, the costs per loom and day are mentioned. One weaver and one assistant, the thread-puller, worked on one loom. Moreover, the annual total food provision costs for both Suzhou manufactures including the salaries for the administrative and security personnel are specified. In 1686 the “Leading Weaving Office” *Zong zhiju* had 85 administrative and 1225 manufacturing positions, and the “Weaving and Dyeing Office” 87 administrative and 1225 manufacturing positions.

The relevant parts on wages are included in Peng Zeyi, *Zhongguo jindai shougongye shi ziliao 1840–1949* (Materials for early modern Chinese craft history, 1840–1949), Beijing: Zhonghua shuju 1962/1984, pp.

For a detailed analysis and complete translation of this text, see Elke Piontek-Ma, *Der Bericht von Sun Pei über die kaiserliche Seidenmanufaktur*, Heidelberg: Edition Forum 1999