THE PRICE OF RICE
THE PRICE OF RICE:
Market Integration
in Eighteenth-Century China

by
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To Yin-shan, with love
Table of Contents

Map 1: The Grand Canal..................................................... ix
Table of Weights and Measures........................................... x
Table of Currencies (Approximate Conversion Rates)..... xi
Prefatory Notes ................................................................. xii
List of Maps ..................................................................... xiii
List of Tables ................................................................... xiv
List of Figures ................................................................... xv
Acknowledgements........................................................... xvii

Introduction: Transport, Economic Growth
and Market Integration......................................................... 1
Market Integration And The Rice Trade............................ 5

Chapter One: Canal Transport And The
Scope Of Market Integration ............................................... 15
The Role Of The State In The Canal Trade............................ 17
Market Integration Of Rice.................................................. 20
Henan Province................................................................... 21
Shandong Province............................................................. 23
Zhili Province And Beijing................................................... 26
Conclusion............................................................................. 35

Chapter Two: The Grain Tribute And The
Imperial Budget .................................................................... 37
Bureaucratic Administration For The Grain Tribute............. 38
Surplus Grain........................................................................ 40
Financial Aid To Provincial Governments......................... 42
Hidden Cost: Customs Duty And The Salt Revenue............. 46
Conclusion............................................................................. 51

Chapter Three: The Question Of Eighteenth-Century
Inflation............................................................................. 53
Copper Prices....................................................................... 53
Silver Prices In Kuping Tael............................................... 56
Inflation Or Deflation: Long-Term Price Trends.................. 59
Map 1: The Grand Canal
Table of Weights and Measures

**Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 mu</th>
<th>0.1518 acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 mu</td>
<td>1 qing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16 liang (tael)</th>
<th>1 chin (catty)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 catties</td>
<td>1 dan (picul, either 133 1/3 pounds [Customs picul] or 131.58 pounds [imperial standard])</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Volume**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 sheng</th>
<th>1 dou</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 dou</td>
<td>1 hu (half-bushel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hu</td>
<td>1 shi (bushel, about 103.55 liters)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Shi (bushel) is now read as dan (picul), but they were two different measuring units in eighteenth-century China. While dan represented a weight, shi was actually a measure of volume, which equaled to 103.55 liters. Converted into weight, one shi was about 185 pounds, which was heavier than one dan, which was either 133 1/3 pounds (Customs picul) or 131.58 pounds (imperial standard).

References:


Table of Currencies (Approximate Conversion Rates)

£ 1 sterling = 3 taels*
1 tael = 0.0378 kg of silver**
£ 1 sterling = 0.1134 kg of silver

Note and references:
* As £ 1 sterling equaled to 20s, or 240d while 1 tael equaled to 6s 8d, £ 1 sterling was therefore equal to 3 taels of silver. See H.B. Morse, *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China, 1635-1834*, (1926-29; repr. Taipei: Chengwen 1966), vol. 2, “Conventional Equivalents”.

** See Brian Moloughney and Xia Weizhong, “Silver and the fall of the Ming: a reassessment,” *Papers on Far Eastern History* 40 (September 1989) p. 78.
Prefatory Notes

When quoting imperial edicts or official memorials, the following abbreviations are used in footnotes to show reign titles:

SZ: Shunzhi (1644-1661)
KX: Kangxi (1662-1722)
YZ: Yongzheng (1723-1735)
QL: Qianlong (1736-1795)
JQ: Jiaqing (1796-1820)

Dates are given by “year in reign title/lunar month/lunar day”. A symbol “*” is used to indicate an intercalary month.
# List of Maps

1. The Grand Canal  
2. The Huai River Valley  
3. Market Centres of Illegal Salt  
4. Major Market Cities  
5. Zhejiang Province  
6. Fujian Province  
7. Hunan province
List of Tables

1.1 Grain Tribute Tax Quotas of 1735 165
1.2 A comparison of the rice prices in Suzhou and Beijing 166
2.1 Schedule of Grain Tribute Transport 167
2.2 Tribute Grain Sold for Price Stabilization in the Capital 168
2.3 Tribute Grain Retained in or Diverted to Provinces (By Year) 169
2.4 Tribute Grain Retained in or Diverted to Provinces in the Eighteenth Century (by Province) 170
3.1 Price Index of Rice (upper-grade) in Suzhou [Base year: 1713] 171
3.2 Price Series of Suzhou and Xiaoshan, 1781-1800 172
3.3 Prices in Xiaoshan, 1786-1805 173
3.4 Silver shipped to Guangzhou by the British East India Company 174
4.1 Prices of First-Grade Rice in Hanyang, 1739-1798 175
List of Figures

1.1 Prices of Rice in Yangzhou and Guangzhou (Henan province), 1751-1800 209
1.2 Prices of rice in Suzhou, Jining and Linqing, 1776-1800 210
1.3 Grain Prices in Tianjin, 1739-1748 211
1.4 Grain Prices in Baoding, 1739-1748 212
3.1 Trend of Rice Prices in Suzhou, 1700-1800 213
3.2 Trend of Rice Prices in Suzhou and Xiaoshan, 1700-1800 214
4.1 Prices of First-Grade Rice in Hanyang, 1739-1798 215
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