

Walking and Reading Shilin  
**Fudeyang Canal**  
Visitor Brochure

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**Hosted** by **Shiow-Duan Hawang**



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## *Preface*

The Soochow USR Past Life Project's "Reincarnation: The Reappearance of the Past Century's Brilliance of Shilin" has entered its second phase. In February 2022, we published "Walking and Reading Shilin – Exploring the Lost Memories of Fudeyang Canal," which has since received widespread attention.

Our team member, Distinguished Professor Hin-chong Wong, spent considerable time comparing Taiwan's fort maps, cadastral maps, and aerial photographs, as well as conducting long-term observations and records to produce this book. It is by far the most comprehensive and informative book on Fudeyang Canal in Taiwan. However, due to its wealth of content, we have also published a popular version for those who may find the academic version overwhelming.

Built in the first year of Qianlong (Year 1736), Fudeyang Canal was an important irrigation water source in the Shilin area. Its water intake was

at Waishuang River, next to the Second Teaching and Research Building of Soochow University. As we often say, "when drinking water, consider its source," in other words, when enjoying something remember with gratitude where it came from. It is important to preserve the memory of such a significant historical relic.

The unique feature of this book is that each chapter begins with a cartoon version of the watershed map drawn by Tzu-Ning, providing readers with a clear understanding of the flow direction of Fudeyang Canal in the area. The chapters then include photographs and descriptions, followed by thought-provoking questions. We believe that this book will serve as a useful handbook for middle and high school students, as well as the general public.

***Hawang Shioh-Duan***  
*Written at Waishuanghsi*

*Fudeyang Canal north-south  
main line direction map*



## Foreword

Fudeyang Canal has a long and storied history, having been excavated jointly by the Wu family and early settlers in Shilin District during the first year of Qianlong (1736). It is difficult for modern people to appreciate the hardships of that time. Nearly 300 years ago, there was no modern cement or convenient mechanical tools like nowadays. The time and effort that the pioneers spent on this project far exceeded what modern people could normally imagine. However, they persevered in their efforts to divert water from Waishuang River to irrigate Shilin and the Zhoumei Plain. Why did they go through all this trouble? Simply put, it was for the well-being of their descendants. Water is the source of life. With water, farming is possible; with farming, there is food. Only when we have a stable source of water can we consider higher-level needs. As the saying goes, “the predecessor planted trees, for the descendants to enjoy the shade.”

For nearly 300 years, Fudeyang Canal has been the lifeblood of Shilin. It was only in the past few decades, when the population soared, and the canal lost its function, with most of the water way covered and turned into a sewer. It is difficult for people to imagine the hard times their predecessors went through just by looking at the rainwater drainage under their feet.

The water channel map of Fudeyang Canal can be divided into two

main parts: the north main line and the south main line. The north main line originates from Waishuang River, flows through most of the farmland in Shilin, and enters the Zhoumei Plain through the Wufengang River downstream, ensuring that no drop of water is wasted. The south main line runs next to the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence, merging into Keelung River by way of the Neiwan water-way (now Jihe Road) next to Shilin Night Market. Although most of the water tunnels have been buried underground, there are still some relics on the ground that allow us to witness the achievements of our ancestors. Moreover, Fudeyang Canal is still alive and flowing in the last section of Zhoumei. In this book, we've selected twelve fixed points and provided pictures and descriptions to help readers understand the significance of each location. We've also included some thought-provoking questions to encourage readers to reflect on the meaning of each chapter.

Let's follow in the footsteps of our ancestors and embark on a journey to discover Fudeyang Canal!



## The water intake of Fudeyang Canal

Water flows downhill, and in a waterway the intake must be located upstream from where the water is used. The intake of Fudeyang Canal is located beside the Waishuanghsi campus (外雙溪校區) of Soochow University and features a weir. The Waishuang River runs along the base of Jiannan Mountain, passing through Soochow University's campus. Several small, natural streams converge at the top of the water weir between Jiannan and Wenjian mountains behind the university. The weir raises the water level of the streams, allowing them to flow into the water intake.

The original intake of the Fudeyang Canal used to be located next to the Music Hall of Soochow University, but that area has been rebuilt into the Second Teaching and Research Building, which most students on the Shuanghsi campus are familiar with.

The intake is constructed with cobblestones, presenting a more primitive appearance, and the nearby retaining wall is also made of the same material. There is a sluice gate at the intake, which can be manually adjusted by turning the wheel to raise or lower the water gate. Outside the gate are three-layered protective barriers of iron or steel to prevent debris from damaging the water intake. Originally, there were small stairs on the shore that could lead to the weir. However, since the weir was destroyed by rush of waters in the 1980s, the stream has not been able to enter the intake. Now, only the remnants in the stream can be used to imagine what the weir might have looked like in the past. The Taipei City Government has dredged the area below the original weir twice and turned it into first a single- then double-stepped stairway in the water, increasing the oxygen level in the stream.

Unfortunately, in 2020, the Taipei City Government repaired the nearby

damaged retaining wall and built a new cement wall covered with cobblestones for safety's sake. Although the water gate is still discernible, the original intake has been sealed within the cement wall. Fortunately, although the cement wall can seal the water intake, it cannot erase the memories of history.

After the channel flows past the Administration Building—Chughui Hall, originally an open channel—it would then follow along the Linxi Road heading out of the school gate. When the weir was still intact, because there was running water, one could catch some small fish or freshwater clams in this section of the channel. However, after the weir was washed away, the stream from the outer Shuanghsi River could no longer enter, causing sediment to accumulate in the water channel. After 2000, Soochow University acquired this section of the channel and built a pedestrian walkway over it.

After leaving the school gate, there were several temporary houses built on this section of the water channel where small businesses were conducted, but now it has been sealed and covered into a hidden drain. Currently, there is only a small section of open water channel left outside the school gate.



Map of the canal in Soochow University, Waishuanghsi campus



Past scene of the intake of Fudeyang Canal

## Questions

1. There are several wild streams upstream of the original weir. Why was the weir rebuilt downstream?
2. The dam was frequently destroyed by floods and was washed away in the 1960s. Why was it rebuilt?
3. Should fish ladders be built on the weir?
4. Are there any harmful invasive species in the water or on the riverbanks?

Present scene of the intake of Fudeyang Canal



The fish ladder beside the outlet of Keelung River where it merges into Waishuang River



## Fudeyang Canal flows into Linzakou (林仔口)

The area from the Waishuanghsi campus of Soochow University to the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence was formerly known as Linzakou. After the water channel flows out of the campus, it turns left into the Linzakou area before the “Dongwu Green.” The entire route is an open channel that runs along the mountain, passing by the military dependents’ village—an old military compound for veterans and their families. Some houses are built on the mountainside and, for the sake of their livelihood, small bridges and culverts are constructed over the water channel. The “Dongwu Green” is a small green area at the intersection of Zhishan Road and Linxi Road.

After passing Fudi Temple, Fudeyang Canal turns towards the veteran’s village, “Mei Lin New Village.” In the past, when it was lively, there was a grocery store called “Mei Lin Store,” and some snack shops at the intersection of Zhishan Road. Now, the houses in this compound have been cleared and prepared for new development.

There used to be a tributary of the water channel on the mountainside here, irrigating the farmland on both sides of Zhishan Road. Nowadays, the other side of Zhishan Road is no longer farmland, but “Zhishan Park,” which in recent years added a new-built ecological pond, still allows the environment to recuperate.

When the Fudeyang Canal arrives at the intersection of Zhishan Road, it turns left on a diagonal, passing by some of the veteran’s village houses, flowing along the side of Zhishan Road towards the left side of Shuanghsi Park.



The Fudeyang Canal flows into Mei Lin New Village





The Fudeyang Canal and the culverts

## Questions

1. What kind of stone was used for this section of the Fudeyang Canal? How is it different from the cobblestone material at the water intake?
2. What are the benefits of preserving the Fudeyang Canal as an open canal? Can it be covered and turned into a closed canal?
3. What is the historical origin of the many make-shift houses on the mountainside in this area?

The Fudeyang Canal and the culverts



Car parked across the canal



## Fudeyang Canal flows next to Shuanghsi Park

The Fudeyang Canal flows past Shuanghsi Park (雙溪公園). At the “Linzakou Wanshan Hall” (林仔口萬善堂) next to the park, there is a domed-roof shrine called Wanshan Hall which serves as a place for storing the “unclaimed bones” of “good brothers” — people who died far from home land and who no longer have any family to remember them. The hillside in this area was originally the cemetery area of Shilin, with many tombstones hidden in the woods. Many buried here in the 1950s were soldiers strayed too far away from home after the civil war in China.

Perhaps the lives of the ancestors have stayed here, but time still flows forward with the flow of the canal. On its way forward, it passes through under the magnificent Fushou Temple where there is another small place behind the temple called the “People’s Shrine” for worshipping the “good brothers.” The small park in front of the temple is known as the “Tang Poetry Park.” The floor tiles of the pathway are engraved with more than sixty Tang poems, which convey the joys and sorrows, sentiments for family and country felt by our ancestors from thousands of years ago. Some things may disappear, but some memories still accompany us today.

After passing through the underground of Fushou Temple, you can see that the canal next to the walkway behind the temple has been restored to an open channel, and the canal walls are made of pebbles. Immediately afterwards, there is a short covered section of the canal which passes through a small temple called “Shueichebian Wanshan Hall,” (水車邊萬善堂) which houses the unclaimed bones excavated during the construction of the road near Zhishan Yan. This small temple is well-equipped, with slightly raised dovetails on the roof ridge and an incense burner.

Past the temple the canal is paved again with pebbles, covered with various plants like Bird’s-nest fern flower. The canal crosses a small dirt mound, passes through a cement alley, and arrives at a shed behind the building housing the Parks and Street Lights Office. Besides flowing forward, the canal also has a tributary leading to Shuanghsi Park. After passing Fulin Road, it becomes three main tributaries and flows towards the farmland near Fulin Elementary School, which is known as “Shijouzi” (溪洲仔).

Shuanghsi Park is a roughly two-hectare triangular area known for its natural Chinese-style garden with mountain and water landscapes. Its architecture is modeled after Chiang Kai-Shek’s homeland scenery, which once made it a must-visit destination in tourist routes of the National Palace Museum. It used to hold various flower exhibitions and was a popular filming location for movies and TV dramas, portraying it as a royal garden. However, with the construction of high-rise buildings near Shuanghsi Park, it is no longer suitable for film and TV productions. In addition, the park has been poorly maintained over time and has become a community park. Perhaps it no longer exudes a fairy-like aura, but it remains a small utopia amidst the bustling traffic.



The Fudeyang Canal flows along Shuanghsi Park



Linzakou Wanshan Hall and the canal



Shueichebian Wanshan Hall

Shilin Fushou Temple



## Questions

1. Why was Shilin Fushou Temple built above the canal?
2. The canal walls in front of Linzakou Wanshan Hall and Shueichebian Wanshan Hall use different types of stones. Why is that?
3. The hillside in this area used to be a cemetery for Shilin. Why are the slopes behind Taipei High School covered in dense forests now?
4. Should banyan trees be planted next to the canal?

## The Three Tributaries of Shijouzi

The area from Fulin Road to Fulin Elementary School was formerly known as Shijouzi. The water channel at Shuanghsi Park splits into three tributaries, with one running northward to the outermost farmland. After straightening the bend of the Waishuang River, most of this tributary has been moved beyond the river embankment. A bicycle scenic bridge has been built to connect both sides of the riverbank park for people to enjoy the river scenery.

The second tributary runs northwestward, passing by the Fuzhi Community Park near the veterans' village. It then passes through the outermost houses of the park and next to the Yunong Bridge before flowing into the river channel of Waishuang River not far from the Egret Plaza in the riverside park. Nearby is the "Fulin Home" community, formerly the site of apartment housing built with sea sand, the sign of Fulin Home community can be seen on the river embankment at the intersection.

The third tributary runs through the corner of Shuanghsi Park, crossing Fulin Road and passing by the "Yunong Mountain Resort" veterans' village. It then makes a diagonal turn towards Zhongyong Street, crosses to Yunong Road, turns sharply at the Yunong Market, flows through the side gate of Fulin Elementary School, skirts around the far side of the school's playground, exits Fuzhi Road, and finally merges into the outer river channel of Waishuang River near the release gate behind Fulin Home.

Waishuang River, a tributary of the Keelung River (基隆河), originates from Neishuang River on Mt. Yangming's Qingtiangang area and the Jinghong Stream on Lengshuikeng. Each section was named differently in ancient times, once it reaches the Shilin Plain, the river is called "Shuanghsi" or "Lan Harbor." To avoid confusion with Shuanghsi District in New Taipei City, this book collectively refers to it as "Waishuanghsi." (外雙溪) It is important to note that the valley where Soochow University and the National Palace Museum are located was originally called "Waishuanghsi."



The three tributaries of the Fudeyang Canal at Shijouzi



The Fuzhi Park

## Questions

1. The terrain of Fulin Road next to Shuanghsi Park is relatively high. How does the tributary of Fudeyang Canal flow to the Shijouzi farmland?
2. How can we observe the flow direction of the buried canal tributaries now?
3. Why is the channel of Waishuang River cut and straightened? Why were high embankments built?

Where the second tributary merges



Where the third tributary merges



## *Fudeyang Canal's northern main starting line*

“Taibei High School” (臺北中學) was originally the “Taiwan Buddhist Monastery” located within Donghe Chan Temple outside the Dongmen of Taipei City. In 1938, it was moved to its current location in Shilin, and continues to becoming a long-standing educational institution. The Fudeyang Canal was divided into the northern main line and the southern main line next the High School. Let's first introduce the route of the northern main line.

The northern main line passes through Fulin Road, runs between houses next to Zhongyong Street, and flows toward Yunong Road. This section is the only visible open canal remaining of the northern main line in Shilin. There are hanging plants of nine-layered bougainvillea vines that have climbed over the walls in the courtyards of the houses next to the canal on Yunong Road. The canal has been repaired with cement, and the edges are still visible, with weeds such as large-flowered Xian-feng (*Bidens pilosa radiata*) grass growing on them. In the canal, there is also the invasive species of world pennywort, which gives a vibrant feeling.

The canal passes underground through Yunong Road, and next to the alleyway is the old shop “Ji Dang Jia.” It was not until the 1970s that the canal was covered and transformed into an underground stormwater drain.

Next, the canal arrives at Fulin Elementary School (福林國小). This used to be the front gate, and today's playground used to be farmland. After Fuzhi Road was opened, the main gate of Fulin Elementary School was moved from the old alleyway to the spacious Fuzhi Road. The gate next to the canal was then changed to the back gate. The canal branches off nearby, flowing towards the main gate of Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence (士林官邸) and connecting to the southern main line of Fudeyang Canal.



Map of Fudeyang Canal's northern main starting line



The northern main line passes through Fulin Road



The northern main line passes through the back door of Fulin Elementary School

The northern main line passes through Yunong Road



## Questions

1. Near the back door of Fulin Elementary School, there is a small tributary that connects to the southern main line of the Fudeyang Canal. Can you try to find out where this small tributary flows?
2. There is a canal outside the current back door of Fulin Elementary School. Can you ask your elders at home if they ever fell into the canal when they were going to school?

## Fudeyang Canal passes in front of Shennong Temple (神農宮)

After passing Fulin Elementary School, the canal enters the territory of Fudeyang from the Linzakou area. Fudeyang Canal used to have a tributary turning right at the location of Zhongshan North Road, passing by “Da Tsuo Nei” (grand house) of the Wu family, and its small branch flows northward into Waishuang River. This area used to be a swamp, but now it is buried under the Fulin Bridge and riverside park.

The canal passed through Zhongshan North Road and the front of Shennong Temple, the oldest temple in Shilin, which was not originally located there. The Shennong Temple, with a history of more than 300 years, was originally called the “Fude Temple (Zhilan Temple)” and was built near the current Shin Kong Hospital. However, after a flood among the downstream caused by a typhoon during 1741, it was moved along with the Youying Temple to Jiu Street. Since the Shennong Temple was established on Jiu Street, the alley in front of the temple was called “Qian Street.” Later, when the Tamsui magistrate Hu Ying-kui visited, he saw the pitched roof of the Zhilan Temple and suggested that “a higher-ranking deity should be enshrined here.” Therefore, when it was rebuilt in 1812, the main deity was changed to Shennong Emperor, with Fude Zhengshen as an accompanying deity. The five ancient stone tablets inside the Shennong Temple, dating back to the Qianlong period, record the development history of Shilin.

In the past, the channel of Fudeyang Canal in front of Shennong Temple was a place where children played with water, called “Wu Fenzi.” (五分仔) Unfortunately, it disappeared after the middle and lower reaches of the canal was covered in 1976.

Continuing along Qian Street, the canal reaches Youying Gongma Temple (有應公媽廟). The “Youying Gong Temple” is another temple that houses the remains of “good brothers.” Miss Wu Ruo-lan (吳若蘭), the daughter of a Han man and an indigenous woman, ran a school for the village that educated girls. The local residents built the “Holy Mother Temple” to commemorate her achievements, and the two temples were merged into the current “Youying Gongma Temple” during renovations.

The area around Shennong Temple is known as the Old Street, and the Youying Gongma Temple is a “ghost temple.” Although it was originally on the edge of the Old Street, it has now become the center of Shilin City. It is common to see residents and passersby worshiping and paying their respects. Although people change, some still continue to practice time-honored traditions. After passing the Youying Gongma Temple, Fudeyang Canal enters Meilun Street, which is always crowded and busy.



Fudeyang Canal passes in front of Shennong Temple, this area is called “Shilin Old Street”





The Shennong Temple

## Questions

1. Fudeyang Canal flows through the street in front of Shennong Temple. This area is collectively called the Old Street. Why are the lanes here narrow?
2. The three major temples of Shilin are closely related to the history of Shilin's development. Outside Shennong Temple, which two temples are collectively called the three major temples of Shilin?
3. There is an inscription of Jingzi Pavilion in the ancient stele. What is Jingzi Pavilion?

The five ancient stone tablets in Shennong Temple, first from the right was erected during 1792



Youying Gongma Temple



## Fudeyang Canal comes to Zhouweitou (洲尾頭)

The north branch of Fudeyang Canal functions as the main source of irrigation for Shilin. There are also tributaries that flow from Xingfu Street, Furong Street, Wenlin Road, Huarong Street, Huasheng Street, and Wenchang Road towards the direction of Shilin New Street, irrigating large areas of Fudeyang Plain (福德洋平原) in both the old and new streets.

The Fudeyang Canal runs straight through Meilun Street and crosses over to the back of the Shin Kong Hospital on Wenchang Road. The area from Meilun Street to Shilin New Street (now the Shilin Night Market) was once called Xiashulin. The area near the Shin Kong Hospital was where Han people first developed Shilin during 1703. It wasn't until a disastrous flood happened in 1741 that the residents moved to Old Street and reopened the market.

Zhouweitou was still a large area of farmland until 1973, with the Fudeyang Canal running through it. The urbanization here occurred quite late, most of the land outside of Meilun Street has been developed into "Meilun Park." (美崙公園) Since the filling of Keelung River, the inner bend became Jihe Road, this new land has added many cultural and recreational facilities, such as the Taipei Astronomical Museum. In addition, the Taiwan Science Education Center, originally located in the "Nanhai Academy" on Nanhai Road, has also been relocated here. The



Fudeyang Canal comes to Zhouweitou

Taipei Children's Recreation Center, originally located in Yuan Shan, has also been relocated in Zhouweitou and renamed as "Taipei Children's Amusement Park," with various amusement facilities and a connecting path to the riverside park.

Although the development here was relatively late, it has a calming pace that is nowhere else to find downtown providing a small world for adults and children away from the city to relax and bond.



The stone house and the dry canal at Meilun Park

## Questions

1. Near the Shin Kong Hospital is where the Han people first landed and developed the area. There was a place called Mo Shen Zai Gou (魔神仔溝), but why was it called that, and where might it be located?
2. Looking at Meilun Park, it doesn't seem like the low-lying area it used to be. What changes occurred in the past that made the current "Zhouweitou" look like a highland?

Meilun Park



## Fudeyang Canal enters Zhoumei (洲美)

After the channel of Waishuang River makes a right bend at its bottom and enters Zhoumei, it becomes known as the “Wufengang River.” (五分港溪) Zhoumei was originally called “Zhouwei.” (洲尾) Fudeyang Canal passes by “Zhouweitou,” which is located next to the Shuanghsi Bridge on Chengde Road, and enters the Zhoumei area along the Wufengang River. Once Fudeyang Canal enters Zhoumei Street, it flows in front of the residential area while Zhoumei Street is at the back of the residential area, running parallel to the canal.

After the Keelung River was straightened, a new outlet of Waishuang River that leads directly into it was excavated. Since then, the Wufengang Creek was separated from the Waishuang River by a sluice gate. The area around the mouth of Waishuang River is now known as the “Heshuang 21 Riverside Park.” After the new outlet was excavated and the new Zhoumei embankment was built, the path of the Fudeyang Canal into Zhoumei Street was cut off, and now the Fudeyang Canal in Zhoumei can only be pumped through the pumping station next to the new outlet. This particular section of Fudeyang Canal in Zhoumei is called Zhoumei Canal by the Chising Management Office of Irrigation Agency, Ministry of Agriculture (農田水利署七星管理處).

At present, the Beitou Shilin Science and Technology Park is undergoing reconstruction, and as a result, the builders have demolished most of the old houses in the Zhoumei residential area, including single rooms, and courtyard houses such as Zhoumei Elementary School. These houses, which were nearly a century old, have been razed to the ground. The residents of Zhoumei Street have since moved into high-rise buildings where they were resettled.



Fudeyang Canal used to run aside Waishuang River



The appearance after Keelung River was straightened



The new outlet of Waishuang River

## Questions

1. Since the Keelung River was straightened and a new outlet was excavated for Waishuang River, have there been any changes in the quality of the irrigation water for Fudeyang Canal in Zhoumei?
2. What changes have occurred in the current Wufeng River compared to before?
3. Since Zhoumei has already established a technology park, and most residents have moved into high-rise buildings, is there still a need for a pumping station in the new outlet of Waishuang River?
4. What is special about the new outlet where Waishuang River flows into the Keelung River?

The pumping station next to the new outlet of Waishuang River, Zhoumei



## *Fudeyang Canal is still alive in Zhoumei*

The Fudeyang Canal in Zhoumei runs through a hidden culvert until it reaches Lane 276 of Zhoumei Street, where it turns right and then left again to resume its flow in an open canal. The canal wall in this section is made of discarded building materials, bricks, and stones, which is different from the materials seen in the earlier section of the canal. Later on, the canal transforms into a fully cemented structure, clearly the result of modern repairs. The canal runs through a bamboo grove, meandering into a paddy field, and then entering a stone wall culvert ahead on the terrace. From the campus of Soochow University, only this segment of the Fudeyang Canal retains its irrigation function, except that the water source is no longer the Waishuang River next to Soochow University, but rather a pumping station in the new outlet.

On the terrace built along the riverbank and Zhoumei Street, there is the Beitou Incinerator and some private factories. Inside the private factory area, the original canal and the old branch of the Keelung River are still preserved. Historical records indicate that the Fudeyang Canal ultimately flowed into the small tributary of the Keelung River here.

The old branch of the Keelung River in the factory area here is separated from the main channel of the Keelung River on the outside by the Zhoumei Street embankment and requires control by inner and outer sluice gates.



Map of the final section of the Fudeyang Canal



The paddy field around the final section of the Fudeyang Canal

## Questions

1. How can the water quality of the Fudeyang Canal be improved at the end of the canal?
2. Can water be directly pumped from the Keelung River channel next to the incineration plant into the final section of the Fudeyang Canal?
3. Should the last section of the Fudeyang Canal be preserved in light of the construction of the Beitou Shilin Technology Park and subsequent urban development?

The embankment outside of the riverbank on Zhoumei Street

The old branch of Keelung River on the terrace



## Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence

Fudeyang Canal flows alongside Shuanghsi Park and divides into two branches before reaching the Fulin Road intersection – the north and south main lines. The south main line, after passing through the gate of Taipei High School, splits into two tributaries. One tributary flows straight to the main gate of the official residence, while the other takes a left turn, meanders through the farmland between the high school and the official residence, and then merges with the straight tributary at the parking lot exit of the official residence's main entrance. This farmland was later transformed into a village of military families, which was reconstructed to eliminate the previous congestion. However, the inwardly curved tributary disappeared during the village's construction.

The section of the Fudeyang Canal that runs in front of the main gate of the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence is a visible channel, with the bottom made of cobblestones. The exit of the parking lot at the main gate greets a small branch of water flowing from the north main line. This small branch connects the north and south main lines, and was probably filled in during the early 1960s when the Shilin Zhongzheng Road was constructed. After flowing past the side gate of the official residence, the Fudeyang Canal turns left onto the lawn in front of the official residence and then turns right into the visible channel. The dry channel on the lawn is the main channel of the Fudeyang Canal, while the visible channel that comes from the side of Fulin Road is actually a later constructed underground waterway.

After passing the back of the Taiwan Power Company's North District Branch, the Fudeyang Canal flows into the military camp. This long sec-

tion of the canal used to meander through the farmland as a natural waterway. In the 1960s, it was widened and organized into a large canal, and the surrounding area became the official residence park, no longer resembling an irrigation canal. In recent years, water-friendly facilities have been built, greatly changing its appearance.

The Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence was originally the "Shilin Horticultural Experimental Station" established in 1908 during the Japanese colonial period in Taiwan. After the Nationalist government moved to Taiwan, it was renamed the "Chiang Kai-shek Official Residence" in 1950. After the passing of Chiang and the departure of his family, the residence was then managed by the Taipei City Government. In 2011, it was opened as the "Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence Park" and has been very popular among Taiwanese and tourists.



Fudeyang Canal flows through the main and side gate of Shilin Residence





Fudeyang Canal outside the main gate of Shilin Residence

## Questions

1. Why is the Fudeyang Canal outside the main gate of the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence shallow, while the Fudeyang Canal on the side of the official residence is both large and deep? Is it suitable for irrigating farmland?
2. Is it worth renovating the Fudeyang Canal outside the side gate of the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence into a water-friendly facility?
3. What aquatic creatures are present in the Fudeyang Canal outside the side gate of the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence?

Fudeyang Canal water-friendly facilities at the side gate of Shilin Residence



## Sanzijiau Tzuen Small Canal (山仔腳圳小運河)

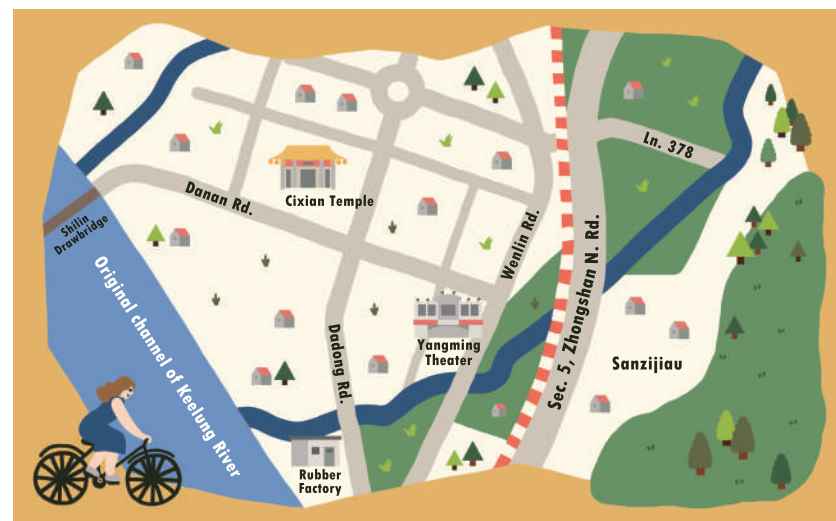
After passing through the wire fence on Lane No. 378, Section 5 of Zhongshan North Road, Fudeyang Canal disappears into a military camp. It can only be seen again after crossing Zhongshan North Road. Fudeyang Canal crosses over Zhongshan North Road and the railway line to reach Shilin New Street, which was once called “Sanzijiau,” just like “Linzakou,” “Shijouzi,” and other place names. Fudeyang Canal connects to the “Sanzijiau Canal” next to New Street. This area was previously farmland, and the water canal still serves as an irrigation system, while Zhongshan North Road and the railway were constructed later. 1860, after the Zhang-Quan conflict (漳泉械鬥) and the burning of the old street, Pan Yong-qing and others proposed to construct a new street in Xiashulin, which later became “Shilin New Street” where the Shilin Night Market is now located. At that time, two small canals were constructed on both sides of the new street, which were commonly known as “Ding Shui Dang” (upper water barrier) and “Xia Shui Dang” (lower water barrier). Besides convenient transportation, they also had defensive functions. The highland near Ming Chuan University was used as a lookout point since the construction of the new street.

Fudeyang Canal South Main Line flows into the “Sanzijiau Tzuen Small Canal.” The canal is relatively wide from Keelung River to the Yangming Theater area, and it used to have piers and docks. In the 1960s, the section of the canal on the south side of the Keelung River was transformed into the “Yitang Rubber Factory” that produced tires. However, there are no signs of it today.

In 1945, after crossing Zhongshan North Road, the canal was still an open channel. It passed through the “Fude Bridge” on Wenlin Road near the Yangming Theater, then passed through the “New Street Bridge” on Dadong Road, and then converged into the channel of the Keelung River at the inner bend. The lower reaches of this section of the canal were covered in 1972 and became the “Yangmingshan Crop Accumulation Area,” which later developed into the largest traditional market in Shilin. It wasn’t until Lane 101 next to the Yangming Theater covered the canal in 1977 that it became a place where vendors gathered.

Even though the section of canal from Zhongshan North Road to Wenlin Road was later covered up with a cluster of buildings, it is still possible that it has not yet become an underground sewer.

The Keelung River was straightened, and the abandoned river channel was completely filled in and turned into Jihe Road in 1987, which greatly changed the landscape of the area. The remains of the south main line canal of Fudeyang Canal can still be seen at the end of Wenlin Road to Zhongshan North Road.



Fudeyang Canal South Main Line flows into the “Sanzijiau Tzuen Small Canal”



Fudeyang Canal flows through Zhongshan North Road

## Questions

1. A hundred years ago, ships could navigate the meandering Keelung River, and boat races could be held and docks set up in the Sanzijiau Canal. Why have they disappeared now?
2. How should the small canal of the Sanzijiau Canal between the MRT track and Wenlin Road be renovated?
3. Can you ask your elders at home if they have any old photos of this area? It would be great to learn more about the early stories of the Shilin New Street.

Fudeyang Canal flows across Lane 110, Wenlin Road



## Fude Tzuen Small Canal

After the mediation of the Zhang-Quan conflict, in the tenth year of the Xianfeng reign (1860), when planning the new Shilin Street, a water channel was excavated in front of the Fude Temple on Danan Road, which went straight to the current location of Shilin Elementary School. It was called “Fude Tzuen Small Canal” and was commonly known as “Xia Shui Dang,” it shield ships inside the canal. During the era of continuous conflicts, the design shows wisdom of ancestors that built the new street. Unfortunately, it has now been filled in and turned into Fude Road 31 Lane, so it is difficult to fully understand the situation at that time.

At the intersection of Danan Road and Fude Tzuen Small Canal, a suspension bridge was built across the Keelung River in 1937, which was dismantled when the Keelung River was straightened and the waste channel was filled in by 1985.

At that time, the Fude Tzuen Small Canal extended to Fude Road next to Shilin Elementary School, and this section of the water channel was quite spacious. To enter Shilin Paper Company, one had to cross the “Shizi Bridge” above the canal.

Shilin Paper Company was founded in 1918 and was Taiwan's earliest mechanized paper mill. Papermaking requires a large amount of water, which was directly taken from Fudeyang Canal outside the gate of Soochow University. The red brick factory building was the earliest building of Shilin Paper Company. Later, some asbestos tile factory buildings were added in the 1960s. The Chilian stone wall of the mill is still there, but the asbestos tile buildings in the factory area are now dilapidated.

The northern main branch from Wenlin Road and Meilun Street flows through the main entrance of Shilin Elementary School and connects to



Fude Tzuen Small Canal and its surrounding area

Fude Tzuen Small Canal next to the “Shilin Town Hall” (士林公民會堂) at the intersection of Fude Road and Dadong Road. Before this branch reached the campus of Shilin Elementary School, it branched off to the right at the intersection of Lane 421 of Wenlin Road and flowed around the campus, while at the same time receiving water from the Meilun Street and Huarong Street branch. Then it flowed past the back of the elementary school and between Shilin Junior High School. The land there used to be the farm of Shilin Elementary School in the early years. A small section of the diverted water channel still exists in Lane 34 of Fude Road. Old photos of Shilin Elementary School still show the earthen canal at the school gate.



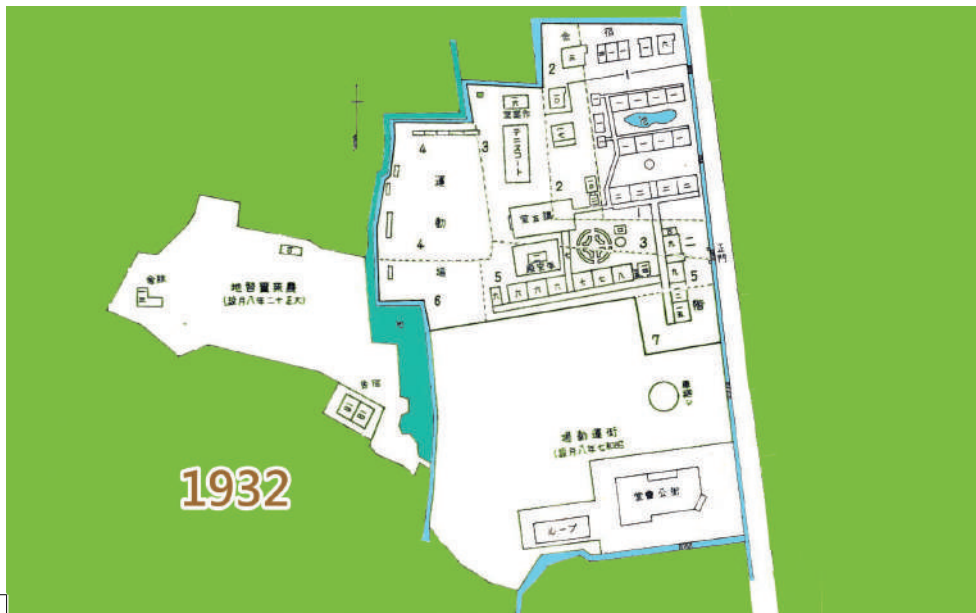
The Canal used to flow pass the main entrance of Shilin Elementary School

## Questions

1. The meandering Keelung River accumulates silt. Does the new Keelung River channel created by straightening the river also fill with sediment? If so, how should it be treated?
2. With frequent urban renewal and high-rise buildings being built in Shilin, how can we preserve valuable historical relics?
3. The Fudeyang Canal, which was excavated by Shilin's ancestors, has served their descendants for nearly 300 years. How can we make more people aware of this ancient canal?

The water channel that exists in Lane 34, Fude Road

According to the campus map of Shilin Elementary School, the canal made a detour around the school



## Further Resources

By the end of 2021, we launched a book called *Roaming in Shilin: Exploring the Lost Memories of Fudeyang Canal*, published by Wunan Publishing. The book provides detailed introductions to the main and branch streams of the canal, and those who are interested can refer to it for more information.



Additionally, we have created several short films introducing Fudeyang Canal and the changes in its environment over time. These videos are available on a public YouTube channel and can be found through online search or by scanning the QR codes below, which can assist in the reading of this handbook.



The first video in the Fudeyang Canal series covers the scenery from the water intake to the northern main canal, which is currently the main stream.



The second video in the Fudeyang Canal series mainly covers the current scenery along the southern main canal.



“Fudeyang Canal Still Flows in Zhoumei” uses cadastral maps and historical aerial photos to locate Fudeyang Canal still irrigating rice fields in Zhoumei.



“Uncovering the Mystery of Fudeyang Canal's Source” uses cadastral maps and aerial photos to trace the source of Fudeyang Canal.



“The Ancient Canal Flows into Fudeyang Canal (Part 1)” introduces the main stream, branch streams, and existing relics of the northern main canal based on cadastral maps and aerial photos.



“The Ancient Canal Flows into Fudeyang Canal (Part 2)” introduces the main stream of the southern main canal and the small canals that connect to the two new streets based on cadastral maps and aerial photos.



“Changes in Shilin through Aerial Photos” compiles historical aerial photos to showcase the changes in the bustling Shilin district and the Waishuanghsi area over the years.



## Postscript

Starting at 1703, Zheng Wei-chian (鄭維謙) led people from Zhangzhou to settle near the present-day site of the Shin Kong Hospital, where they established the Shuanghsi Canal and gradually formed a settlement. They opened a market, built the Fude Temple, Youyinggong Temple, and other buildings. After a major flood in 1741, the village was moved to the current location of the Old Street, originally called Zhilan Street, which formed a more complete street layout and wharf facilities. Other areas were farmland, with scattered farmhouses and farms. At this time, the Fudeyang Canal should have played its greatest function, providing clean water from Waishuang River to the farmland in the areas of Linzakou, Xizhouzi, Fudeyang, Shanzijiau, Xiashulin, and Zhouwei.

During the tumultuous years of the Zhang-Quan conflict, Zhilan Street was repeatedly burned down in 1851, 1853, and 1859, with the most severe damage in 1859. The “Tianhou Temple” by the Shuanghsi River was also destroyed in fire. In 1860, Pan Yong-qing proposed to build a new street in Xiashulin and use the rebuilt “Tianhou Temple” as the center of the new street, now known as the “Cixian Temple.” Therefore, the new Xiashulin Street did not exist until after 1860, and was later called “Shilin.” This formed two markets, the Old Street and the New Street. By 1945, the basic landscape was the same in both places, and the farmland between the two markets was irrigated by the Fudeyang Canal. After the 1950s, the buildings in the two markets gradually connected into one, and after the 1960s, residential and commercial areas replaced agricultural areas. The Fudeyang Canal gradually lost its original irrigation function after the 1970s, and the middle and lower reaches of the canal were covered and turned into a storm sewer.

Starting from the water intake near the Waishuanghsi campus of Soochow University, and ending at the main gate of the Chiang Kai-Shek Shilin Residence, there are relatively intact remains of the Fudeyang Canal that are worth exploring. The last section of the Fudeyang Canal in Zhoumei is a newly constructed channel, but remnants of the original Fudeyang Canal that flows into the tributaries of the Keelung River still exist. To visit these remains, permission from factories on Zhoumei Street Plateau is required.

Although most of the waterways, such as the Shanzijiau small canal, the Fude Tzuen Small canal, and the old Shilin street, have been buried underground and are almost untraceable, these places have richer landscape changes and cultural stories that are worth visiting and exploring.

This handbook is a simplified rewrite following the book, *Walking and Reading Shilin — Exploring the Lost Memories of Fudeyang Canal*. It is accompanied by maps of each section and is more suitable for local course teaching needs.

The completion of this handbook is one of the results of Soochow University's USR project, “Finding Shilin's Former Glory in the Past and Present.” We would like to thank Professor Hawang Shioh-Duan for her support, supervision, and encouragement, Wang Tzu-Ning for creating all the maps, and Ling Wei for assisting in writing the text. We apologize for any shortcomings and thank you for your long-term support of this project.

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*September, 2023*



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