Xu Dinglin | 許鼎霖

Expanded research and assembly speeches
Primary texts, source assessment and archival leads
15 November 2026

The strongest additions

This follow-up reaches beyond the earlier Drive compilation to assembly proceedings, an original business report, diplomatic documents in Chinese and English, Republican government records, early biography, scholarship, correspondence collections and library catalogues. The principal result is a practical reading guide to Xu's recorded interventions as member No. 115 of the 資政院. [1]

New evidence	What is now accessible
Assembly proceedings	A searchable transcription of Li Qicheng's 2011 edition of the original shorthand records. Relevant passages were read in context; see the session/page guide on page 2.
His industrial writing	Original scanned pages of 耀徐玻璃公司總理許久香報告書, 東方雜誌 7(9), 1910, 調查第一 pp. 83-85. All three pages visually inspected. [7]
Diplomatic activity	His report on Sino-Japanese railway negotiations and a treaty compilation naming him among the signatories on 2 November 1911. [8, 9]
Republican public service	A 1914 government publication names him on a judicial-reorganization review committee. This is evidence of participation, not a verbatim speech. [13]
Surviving manuscripts	A 2024 exhibition documented original correspondence involving Xu, Zhang Jian and Shen Yunpei; one Xu-to-Shen letter was donated to 朐山書院. [15, 16]

What "accessed the proceedings" means

The exact title 資政院第一次常年會議事錄 is catalogued as a 1910 printed volume at 首都圖書館, but that catalogue supplies no scan. The speech text accessed here is the related 速記錄, reproduced in a modern punctuated edition. Minutes and shorthand transcripts are different record types. [1, 3]

The online OCR stops during meeting 39 at printed p. 654, although the edition's contents list 42 meetings. I did not obtain a complete original facsimile or a complete set of records for Xu's brief chairmanship in January-February 1912. This is a verified selection of interventions, not a complete concordance.

What he said in the 資政院

Locators refer to the numbered meeting and printed page in the 2011 edition, not the web page or PDF image number. The observations below are concise paraphrases. These are member-stage interventions in the first annual session, 1910-1911. [1]

Meeting / page	Subject	Xu’s intervention
8 / 60-61	Procedure	Wanted intelligible procedural rules and an orderly opportunity for government representatives to speak.
9 / 78	Early parliament	Joined the drafting group; urged members to prepare practical arrangements at a study meeting the next day.
15 / 162-163	Official accountability	Condemned official lawlessness and blocked grievances; proposed legal penalties while seeking a workable compromise.
23 / 326	Footbinding	Proposed combining the footbinding proposal with the queue-cutting proposal for review.
28 / 404-406	Responsible cabinet	Favoured responsible government, but opposed precipitating dissolution; replacing ministers alone would not fix institutional irresponsibility.
29 / 431-432	Railway companies	Pressed the ministry on shareholders’ election rights under company law; defended his right to continue speaking.
35 / 553-554	University spending	Questioned cost per student; other members challenged his calculation and explained small enrolments.
39 / 647-649	Religion and law	Sought clearer limits on protected worship and questioned how broad criminal provisions would affect foreigners.
39 / 651-654	Opium prohibition	Supported a specific prohibition on retaining opium-smoking equipment despite objections about police interference.

本員向來是調和派

“I have always belonged to the conciliatory camp.” Meeting 28, p. 404. Traditional characters normalized from the simplified transcription; punctuation omitted.

本員言論自由

“I have freedom of speech.” Meeting 15, p. 162. This concerns his ability to speak in the chamber; it should not be enlarged into a claim about all his positions on press freedom.

OCR caution: characters, spacing and a session-date heading contain visible problems. Session numbers and printed page markers are the safer immediate locators. Check a facsimile before using a long quotation in publication.

Beyond the chamber: his own industrial report

The 1910 article is especially useful because it is attributed to 許久香, Xu's courtesy name. The title appears on printed p. 83, and the text continues through p. 85. In the Wikimedia scan these are PDF pages 170-172 (one-based). [7]

Xu presents the glass venture through the availability of local raw material, dependence on imported glass, imported machinery and technical labour, and the difficulties of funding a pioneering plant. His account makes industrial development a practical problem involving materials, expertise, production and sales. It is more informative than a later list merely calling him a company founder. [7]

Treat the report as a manager's public account: strong evidence for how he described the undertaking, but not independent proof of every performance claim. Company ledgers, shareholder reports and the later factory history would be needed to test costs and commercial success. Hu Jijun's study points to a 1935 factory visit in 中央日報, 31 January, second sheet, second page. [5]

Diplomacy: a report and an independently printed convention

The Chinese treaty compilation reproduces a report by the Fengtian foreign-affairs commissioner on the Yalu bridge and cross-border railway talks. Xu describes resistance to Japanese efforts to narrow the negotiations to customs matters, arguments over the bridge's midpoint as a boundary, customs treatment, railway inspection, military movements and freight equality. He portrays the negotiation as prolonged and contentious. [8]

An English documentary compilation, Manchuria: Treaties and Agreements, prints the resulting convention as No. 31, dated 2 November 1911, pp. 143-146. Its signatory list identifies Hsü Ting Lin as China's foreign-affairs commissioner at Mukden. This independently supports the identification and date; it does not independently verify every claim in his account of the negotiations. [9]

The treaty regulates connections between the Antung-Mukden and Korean railways. The published terms cover the Yalu bridge boundary, locomotive changes, customs inspection, military transit and freight charges. Its source note points back to the Japanese Official Gazette of 15 November 1911, MacMurray's treaty collection, and a Chinese Customs bilingual edition. [9]

A Japanese archival trail

JACAR reference B12083173700, 支那地方税雑税関係雑件 第二ノ一巻, lists 交涉司許鼎霖 among the document creators, alongside Japanese consuls. The indexed date range is 21 August-2 October 1911. The catalogue was discoverable; the record viewer returned an access error, so the individual images and full correspondence were not examined. [10]

Political interpretation and biographical checks

The evidence supports reading Xu as a constitutional reformer who preferred accommodation and retained conservative positions on some substantive questions. That is an interpretation of the combined record, not a party label that explains every vote.

Chen Xinyu's study of the criminal-code debates identifies Xu among the white-ballot voters supporting criminalization of consensual sex involving an unmarried woman in the 8 January 1911 debate. The study also shows why moving other business ahead of the criminal code cannot automatically be treated as conservative sabotage: supporters of both voting camps sought agenda changes. Xu's specific agenda motion belongs to meeting 29, not meeting 30. The vote is reported here through Chen's research; the original roll call lies beyond the accessible OCR excerpt. [2]

The assembly text distinguishes Xu from 劉春霖, member No. 108. Their similar given names create a real attribution hazard. In meeting 9, the celebratory remark about China's future and the ensuing budget argument belong to Liu, immediately after Xu's speech. [1]

Period	What can be supported
Early life	Ganyu origin, courtesy names 久香 / 九香, and the 1882 provincial examination are supported by institutional biography and research. [4, 5, 19]
1893-1896	Hu Jijun dates the Peru consular posting to these years, citing 清季中外使領年表, p. 88. A separate account describes four years of service. Exact appointment and departure documents remain to be checked. [5, 6]
1904-1908	Industrial networks connect him with Zhang Jian, Shen Yunpei and Shanghai investors. The museum study identifies ten investments in 1904-1907 and his 1908 Jiangsu Education Association vice-presidency. [6]
13 June 1911	宣統政紀 vol. 54 records imperial approval of 三代正一品封典. This is a rank honour; the same text calls him 安徽候補道. [11]
26 January 1912	宣統政紀 vol. 69 records his appointment as 資政院議長 after Li Jiaju's departure. The Gregorian year is 1912 despite the reign-year designation 宣統三年. [12]
1914	A political-conference report dated 27 April, printed in 政府公報 No. 720 on 9 May, names Xu on the judicial-reorganization review committee. [13]
15 October 1915	The National Library of Public Information biography gives his death in Shanghai on this date. [4]

A near-contemporary profile in 近代名人小傳 describes a broad political and newspaper network but judges his administrative performance unimpressive. Its tone differs sharply from commemorative biographies. It is evidence of reputation and contemporary judgment, not an objective performance audit. [14]

Surviving sources and unresolved questions

Source family	Finding / access status	Research value
Original minutes	首都圖書館 holding: 議事錄 Nos. 1-42, with 公報 Nos. 1-9 and 33. Catalogue only. [3]	Obtain a facsimile to check dates, wording and the distinction between minutes and shorthand.
Shorthand records	NTU law/social-sciences library photocopy, upper and lower volumes, cited in an NCCU thesis. Holding lead only. [20]	Alternative route to the original text, especially the missing end of meeting 39 and meetings 40-42.
Personal letters	2024 exhibition: over 60 original letters involving Zhang, Xu and Shen, plus over 50 related items. This is the total exhibition, not a count of Xu letters. [15, 16]	Company finance, personal networks and the language of private correspondence. One Xu-to-Shen letter was donated to 朐山書院.
Epitaph	陳三立 composed; 張謇 calligraphed; 1949 Commercial Press publication. Bibliographic and quoted-text leads, not a full scan. [5]	Family history, office chronology and contemporary commemoration; compare with official records.
County sources	Hu cites 贛榆縣續志, 人物 / 許恩普, and 中國地方志集成 江蘇府縣志輯 65, pp. 706-707. [5]	Check the account of his father’s imprisonment and vindication.
Newspapers	盛京時報 vol. 66 catalogue includes 許鼎霖呈請代奏收回成命昭雪父冤原折 and a continuation. PDF too large for this retrieval route. [18]	Find the exact issue date and read the petition before using its substantive allegations.
Collected letters	劉傳賢輯錄, 張謇給許鼎霖的五封信, 贛榆文史資料 6, p. 25, cited by Hu. [5]	A specific, manageable correspondence target. Not read in full here.
Recent synthesis	轉型的推動者：「江北三傑」評傳, 2025; ISBN 9787553349312. Catalogue checked, book not read. [17]	Potentially useful bibliography; no substantive claims from unexamined chapters.

The 1912 chairmanship needs separate research. Yan and Leung report that Xu sought dissolution of the council in early February 1912; I located this in their article, but have not verified the original request or a speech transcript from that period. [21]

Searches used traditional and simplified names, 久香 / 九香, the authority-file alias 許七襄, and Romanized forms including Hsü Ting-lin. Romanized searches also returned unrelated modern people, who were excluded. Direct Peruvian consular correspondence was not located.

Sources: proceedings and primary documents

[1] 李啟成點校, 資政院議場會議速記錄 (2011) Open source
上海三聯書店; ISBN 9787542634627. Accessed OCR of original proceedings; modern introductory essays and meeting summaries are distinct from the historical transcript. Web text ends at p. 654.

[2] 陳新宇, 誰在阻撓《大清新刑律》的議決？ Open source
清華法學, 2011, no. 6. Full article consulted; procedural analysis, named votes, and references to the original records and 汪榮寶日記.

[3] 首都圖書館 holding of 資政院第一次常年會議事錄 Open source
1910 printed volume, Nos. 1-42, with selected 資政院公報. Third-party catalogue explicitly says it supplies a holding lead, not a scan.

[4] National Library of Public Information: 許鼎霖 Open source
Institutional biographical overview and links into 東方雜誌. Modern summary; use official records for precise titles and dates.

[5] 胡繼軍, 張謇與許鼎霖交往的歷史考察 Open source
Research association article with references to diaries, letters, epitaph, gazetteer and industrial reports. Detailed indexed passages consulted; direct page access was intermittent.

[6] China Merchants History Museum: 清末新政時期上海官、紳、商結合的實業活動 Open source
Research article on political and commercial networks. Search within the article for 許久香 / 许久香.

[7] 東方雜誌 7(9), 耀徐玻璃公司總理許久香報告書 Open source
1910; 調查第一 pp. 83-85; scan pages 170-172. Original pages visually read. The issue is also catalogued by NLPI as magazine ID 0001102.

[8] 清朝條約全集: 宣統條約, 日本約第十六 Open source
Digital transcription of Xu's report transmitted by Zhao Erxun on the cross-border railway negotiations; OCR defects remain.

[9] Manchuria: Treaties and Agreements, No. 31 Open source
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of International Law, Pamphlet 44. Convention dated 2 November 1911, pp. 143-146; Hsü Ting Lin appears on p. 146. Digital text consulted.

[10] JACAR B12083173700 Open source
支那地方税雑税関係雑件 第二ノ一巻; creators include 交涉司許鼎霖; indexed dates 21 August-2 October 1911. Metadata only: viewer inaccessible.

[11] 宣統政紀, vol. 54 Open source
五月甲寅: approved 三代正一品封典. Consulted in the preceding research stage; 13 June 1911 conversion checked there against the official calendar.

[12] 宣統政紀, vol. 69 Open source
十二月辛丑: appointment as 資政院議長. Consulted in preceding research; date converts to 26 January 1912.

Sources: later life, manuscripts and research leads

[13] 李經羲: report on judicial reorganization, 27 April 1914 Open source
政府公報 No. 720, 9 May 1914. Digital transcription consulted. Xu is a named reviewer; the corporate report must not be attributed to him individually.

[14] 近代名人小傳, middle volume, 許鼎霖 entry Open source
National Library of China scan, available on Wikimedia. Digital text consulted; entry in the printed p. 135 (scan p. 136). Author byline appears as 次丘仲子. Check the image before quoting OCR.

[15] Lianyungang government: letters exhibition, 2 July 2024 Open source
Reports exhibition opening on 27 June at 朐山書院 / 朐美術館. Establishes existence of the collection, not the contents of every letter.

[16] 張謇研究會: exhibition and donation details Open source
Names 郭家高 and 丁寶子 as providers of exhibits and records a donation of a Xu-to-Shen letter. Published 2 July 2024.

[17] 楊東升、徐學鴻、閻建寧: 轉型的推動者 Open source
南京出版社, January 2025; 406 pages; ISBN 9787553349312. Bookseller catalogue only. Full text not inspected.

[18] 盛京時報, volume 66 Open source
NLC scan; 141 pages, approximately 42.7 MB. Catalogue locates Xu's petition about his father. Full PDF exceeded the retrieval limit; issue/page still to be established.

[19] Academia Sinica: 近現代人物資訊整合系統 Open source
Authority record lists 許鼎霖, 久香, 九香, 許七襄 and Hsü Ting-lin; links several biographical and diplomatic indexes. Indexed record consulted.

[20] NCCU thesis bibliography: 清末湖北地方自治研究 Open source
Identifies upper and lower photocopy volumes of 資政院會議速記錄 in the NTU law/social-sciences library. This is a collection lead, not direct access to that copy.

[21] Quan Yan and Ernest Ming-tak Leung, A Forgotten Experiment Open source
British Journal of Chinese Studies 10 (2020), pp. 15-39, DOI 10.51661/bjocs.v10i0.54. Author-uploaded text accessed; the journal's former URLs returned errors. Xu's dissolution request is discussed around pp. 20-21.

Priority retrieval requests for a fuller edition

First obtain the original shorthand pages for meetings 39-42, then the second annual session and January-February 1912 records. Next obtain the 1949 epitaph booklet and the named five-letter collection. For overseas service, start with 清季中外使領年表 p. 88, then the Academia Sinica diplomatic index and the corresponding Peruvian appointment/exequatur files. These are research targets, not sources already read in full.

This supplement preserves the earlier distinction between an honorary rank grant and a substantive office. It also separates contemporary documents, modern scholarship, catalogue-only leads and interpretations. No claim of exhaustive archival coverage is made.