

A Small Biography of Mr. Xiao Haibo

By Zhang Yongchun, February 1995
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Xiao Haibo was born in 1863 in Duliu village, Gu'an County, Hebei. When he was 17 or 18 years old, he asked Guo Yunjia of Tongben village to teach him martial arts (according to Xiao Haibo's grandson, Xiao Qiwei, he was in the same clan as Xiao Hailou and Xiao Zhensen.) When he was 19, he left his family and went to the Hongji village in Gu'an to study the arts with his cousin Liu Baozhen.

According to the 1942 compilation, *Gu'an County Record, Vol 3*: "Liu Baozhen (1861-1922), also known as Pingqing, was from Eastern Hongji City. He was skilled in the martial arts. He trained in the martial arts under the famous master, Dong Haichuan."

Xiao taught martial arts in the Qing Zhuangqin palace. And on one occasion he held the position of protecting the ore at the Jehol Cepo Gold Mining Company. After the fall of the Qing Dynasty, he returned to his native place. He taught his arts to Liu Xuezheng and others. Around 1930, he answered Zhang Zhankui's invitation to teach at the Tianjin #1 Guohsu School. He taught many students there. In 1944, he again returned to his village and taught his arts to Chen Jiatai, Lu Zhiren and many others. He died in 1954 at the age of 91.

In 1937, Xiao Haibo's classmate, Ren Zhicheng (1878-1967), authored the book *Yin Yang Ba Pan Zhang*.

In 1987, the book, *Yin Yang Ba Pan Zhang* was published by Xiao Haibo's student Mr. Wen Zheng as the editor and Mr. Ren Wenkui of Beikeli village, Wen'an who posed for the pictures and wrote it.

In the book is recorded that the two gentlemen Xiao and Ren carried on Liu Baozhen's art in all its details. But in studying the history of the art one finds many fabrications. Today in "Chinese Martial Arts Famous Men Dictionary", the editors did not do their research properly. The entry for Xiao Haibo in the dictionary is divided in the listing to make two people Xiao [肖] Haibo and Xiao [萧] Haibo. This is really incorrect.

Today this small biography of his life can be used to show the true history.