

An Analysis of the Founding and Changes of *Journal of Silk*

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Abstract

The history of *Journal of Silk*, especially the early history, is full of ambiguity because of missing sample publications and passing away or forgetting of founders. By capturing the relevant information from the existing sample publications, this paper can make precise speculations of some phases of the development of *Journal of Silk*. It concludes that the *Journal of Silk* has renamed six times since the establishment in 1956, which are *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* (1956-1962), *Zhejiang Silk* (1963), *Silk* (1964-1966), *Silk Intelligence* (1971-1972), *Silk News* (1973), *Silk* (1974 ~). The characteristics of *Journal of Silk* with each name are closely related to that era, and the founding of *Journal of Silk* is closely related to Zhu Xinyu.

Keywords: *Journal of Silk*, inaugural issue, staging, change

Journal of Silk has a long history of development, and the history of operating and publishing the journal is also full of hardships and struggles. The development of *Journal of Silk* is a brief history of the development of China's silk industry, and even that era. Its development deeply imprints the background of that generation. Regarding to the current incompleteness of *Journal of Silk* sample publications and passing away or forgetting of founders, the timeline of the history of *Journal of Silk* is ambiguous. In view of this, this paper attempts to clarify the transition of its names based on the study of the founding of *Journal of Silk* in order to restore the true history.

1. Founding of *Journal of Silk*

On October 25, 1956, Zhu Xinyu (1902-1987), a pioneer of China's silk industry, a well-known silk expert, and silk educator, personally planned and prepared and founded *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*, the predecessor of *Journal of Silk*, on the bank of West Lake in Hangzhou (Figure 1). There are three reasons that *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* is the predecessor of *Journal of Silk*: ① The management institutions of two journals are the same, and there is a sequential relationship between two journals. The organizer of the first 5 issues of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* was the silk industry professional company of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Industry. From 6th issue published in 1957, to 8th and 9th issues, the organizer was the Silk Industry Management of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Industry Bureau. From 1st issue in 1958 (10th issue in total) to 8th and 9th issues in 1958, the organizer had always been the Silk Industry Administration of the Zhejiang Provincial Light Industry Department. From 1959 to 1963, according to the memory of Mr. Qian Tongyuan, the name was changed to *Zhejiang Silk* (Qian, 2006), and the author inferred that it was renamed in 1963 based on relevant data. It was officially renamed *Journal of Silk* in January 1964, and the organizer of the journal was the Silk Industry Administration of Zhejiang Light Industry Department. The change of the host organization was only the change of the name of the administrative management organization, and no substantial changes had taken place. ② The inaugural issue of *Journal of Silk* marked "Inaugural issue in 1964 (61st issue in total)" on the copyright page of the bottom cover, indicating that the first 60 issues were run by *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* and *Zhejiang Silk*. The editorial department of *Journal of Silk* admitted them as its predecessor. ③ The inaugural issue in 1964 was officially named as *Journal of Silk*, because there were two reasons: one is that, it states on the official website of *Journal of Silk* (The office of *Journal of Silk*, 2020); the other is that this issue has an inscription of the Vice Premier Li Xiannian, "More Develop our country's silk industry quickly and economically" (Figure 2). It is worth to be noted that the time of this inscription is 1st October, 1963. If the inaugural issue in 1964 is not the inaugural issue of *Journal of Silk*, it would not be published with an inscription of 1963. For the inscription, the inscription is only published at very important time.



Figure 1. The inaugural issue of Zhejiang Silk Industry News—the predecessor of Journal of Silk (1st issue, 1956)

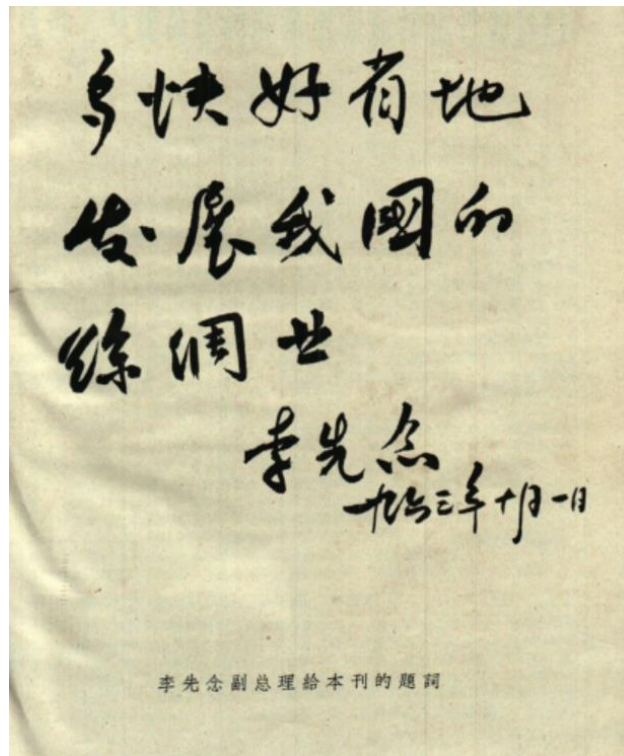


Figure 2. Li Xiannian's inscription for the inaugural editorial of Journal of Silk

1.1 The Speciality of Zhu Xinyu, the Founder of Journal of Silk

The founding and development of Journal of Silk has always been closely related to Zhu Xinyu's support.

Zhu Xinyu, an outstanding silk expert and educator in China, was the dean of Zhejiang Silk Institute of

Technology (now Zhejiang Sci-Tech University). He made great contributions to the restoration and development of the silk industry in Zhejiang Province in the 1950s, and he has an important position in the silk industry in Zhejiang and even in the national silk industry.

First of all, he is a professional that educated with professional technics, worked on professional technical education and management, and more over, silk industry administrative management, finally silk industry higher education (Table 1), that he has great reputation in this industry. At the same time, he was very familiar with silk professionals and production situation in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, which make it easy to build an editorial team.

Table 1. Zhu Xinyu's main educational experience and experience in silk education and silk industry

Time	Main educational experience and experience in the education industry
September 1915-September 1919	Study at Zhejiang Lijia Sericulture School
October 1919-July 1920	Teaching at Zhejiang Lijia Sericulture School
Summer vacation of 1920	Nanjing Jinling University studied silk and agricultural education and won the first prize
February 1921-January 1923	Teaching at the Second Agricultural School of Wuhu, Anhui
February 1923-July 1925	Study in Japan
January 1926-March 1928	Teacher and extension work at Zhejiang Lijia Sericulture School and Suzhou Second Agricultural School
April 1928-July 1937	In April 1928, he served as the director of the promotion department of the China Hezhong Sericulture Improvement Association and the director of the women's sericulture seminar (Wuxi) of the association. In October 1929, the Women's Sericulture Institute moved to Zhenjiang, and in 1930 it was renamed "Zhenjiang Women's Sericulture School" and served as the principal. After the Japanese army invaded China in July 1937, Zhenjiang Women's Sericulture School was disbanded (Wang & Huang,2011)
1932-1940	Successively presided over the technical guidance and promotion of the sericulture improvement model area in Jintan, Jiangsu and Xiaoshan, Zhejiang, and also served as a lecturer in the Department of Sericulture, Nanjing Central University
April 1939 - March 1946	During the Anti-Japanese War, Zhenjiang Women's Sericulture School moved to Chuxiong, Yunnan, and served as the principal and director of the school's promotion department
1940	Professor of Sericulture Department, Sun Yat-sen University
1942	Professor of Sericulture Department of Yunnan University
1945	Served as a full-time member of China Silk Corporation, and director of Zhejiang District of the Silk Association of the Ministry of Economic Affairs
May 1949	Professor of Zhejiang University College of Agriculture
August 1950	He served as the deputy director of Hangzhou Administration for Industry and Commerce, Enterprise Bureau, and Industry Bureau. During the period, he organized the Zhejiang Textile Research Institute and concurrently served as the director. Founding and distributing the predecessor of the national "Silk" publication
March 1960	Associate Dean and Head of Textile Department of Hangzhou Institute of Technology
September 1961	Hangzhou Institute of Technology merged into Zhejiang University, the Department of Textiles reopened Zhejiang Silk Technical College, and served as the principal
1979	Reappointed Dean of Zhejiang Silk Institute of Technology

Secondly, Zhu Xingyu had many social duties, which provided convenience for him starting the publication. In March 1950, Zhu Xinyu was introduced by Shi Fuliang, Vice Minister of Labor, to join the China Democratic National Construction Association. In 1956, he transferred to the "Jiusan Society", had served as the People's representative of Zhejiang Province, a member of the Provincial People's Committee and a member of the Provincial Political Consultative Conference, vice Chairman of the Provincial Jiusan Society, Vice Chairman of the The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Deputy Director and consultant of the Provincial Science and Technology Committee, Director and Honorary Chairman of the Provincial Textile Engineering Society, and director of the National Textile Engineering Society.

1.2 The Social Background of the Founding of *Journal of Silk*

Zhu Xinyu gave a detailed explanation of social background of the inaugural issue from the inaugural editorial of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*:

Zhejiang Silk Industry News, meet everyone today. This is a good news, this is a good thing. Especially on the eve of the National Silk Printing and Dyeing Technology Experience Exchange Conference held by the Ministry of Textile Industry of the Central Committee of the Peoples Republic of China in Hangzhou, it is a great encouragement to us and help to us a lot, we welcome it; we should also fully introduce our current situation and some successful experiences, lessons from failures, and existing problems, to consult all delegates and silk workers from all over the country.

After the liberation, the silk industry has made great progress and many improvements. After the National Silkworm and Silk Conference in 1954, putting forward the policy of vigorously developing silk production, it motivates silk workers across the country to give full play to their potential. Silk industry is developing vigorously throughout the country. Zhejiang, like the other fraternal regions, is moving forward on the original basis.

Of course, there will be some difficulties on the way forward. The purpose of socialist production is to satisfy ever-increasing material and cultural life needs of society to the maximum. The quantity requires to increase, and the quality requires to improve. It requires to exceed the national plan under the principle of more, faster, better, and saving. Therefore, certain difficulties are inevitably encountered in the moving stage. As long as we continue to work hard, it will definitely be solved. The central government instructs to march towards science and culture, this is our glorious road.

We have been thinking of engaging this journal for a long time. We believe that sharing information, experience and lessons, exchanging opinions and conducting extensive discussions according to the key of production on the existing basis, correctly implementing the policy of "contend among a hundred schools of thought", and actively depending on the wisdom of the masses in order to improve the theoretical level and technologies of production. This is the way that silk production develops positively.

Comrades! Let's work hard together! In order to bring out our great socialism; in order to develop silk production in the motherland, any new information, any bits of experience, faster communications and better discussions.

Comrades! Work together and move forward! (Zhu, 1956)"

By interpreting his inaugural editorial, we get a lot of useful information.

Firstly, he mentioned the "Ministry of Textile Industry". The Ministry of Textile Industry was established on October 1949. Its establishment reflects that the central government attaches great importance to industry of people's livelihood. It also reflects that clothing problem has not been solved in our country at the beginning period of the founding of the People's Republic of China. There are still large amount of people who are not able to wear warm clothes. Although the textile industry is already a relatively developed industry in China's modern industries, national capital has achieved great success in this industry. Due to the Japanese War of Aggression against China and the War of Liberation, the textile industry had been through huge difficulties at the beginning of the founding of New China. In addition, the active speculative capital resulted in a prominent contradiction between people's needs for textiles and shortage of supply (Zhang, 2020).

The inaugural editorial mentioned that the National Silkworm and Silk Conference in 1954 put forward the policy of vigorously developing silk production. At the same time, the National Silk Printing and Dyeing Technology Experience Exchange Conference was about to be held in 1956, which represents that the national clothing warm problem (relying on cotton fabrics) had been solved by a series of improvement in technology, saving of raw materials, conditions and quality after 3 years of the founding of the People's Republic of China (Zhou et al., 2011). The inaugural editorial was also considering vigorously developing a silk industry that can accumulate funds and generate foreign exchange incomes, and preparing for positive communications in 1956.

Zhu Xinyu's inaugural editorial states that the purpose of the publication is to make silk production developing better. It shows that there were still many problems in silk production at that time, otherwise it would not advocate the exchange of experiences and the founding of publications.

2. The Changing Progress of *Journal of Silk*

2.1 The Predecessor of *Journal of Silk*-the overview of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* and *Zhejiang Silk*

The predecessor of *Journal of Silk* was *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* and *Zhejiang Silk*. They had existed from October 1956 to December 1963 and published a total of 60 issues. There are only 17 issues of *Zhejiang Silk*

Industry News published from October 1956 to December 1958 in the world, including 2 issues in 1956, 7 issues in 1957, and 8 issues in 1958 (a combined issue of 8th and 9th). From 1956 to 1957, total issue numbers were used. 1st to 5th issues in total were published in the form of newspaper with no cover. Although these were in the form of newspaper, the contents are very technical. This can be proofed from the relevant articles of 2nd issue in 1956 (Figure 3). The cover had appeared from 6th issue in total, and lasted for 3 issues with total issuing number, which are 6th, 7th and combined issue of 8th and 9th(Figure 4). From 1958, the journal started to use year number as issue number (Figure 5). The frequency of publishing of Zhejiang Silk Industry News had been irregular, and the number of total pages are also not fixed. See Table 2 for details.

Zhejiang Silk Industry News is mostly a summary of the experience of work process, and also some technical knowledge and lectures, which are at the same level of of the silk industry at that time. Moreover, there are also work task arrangements of the organizer that need to deliver to its subordinate enterprises and the latest meeting records.

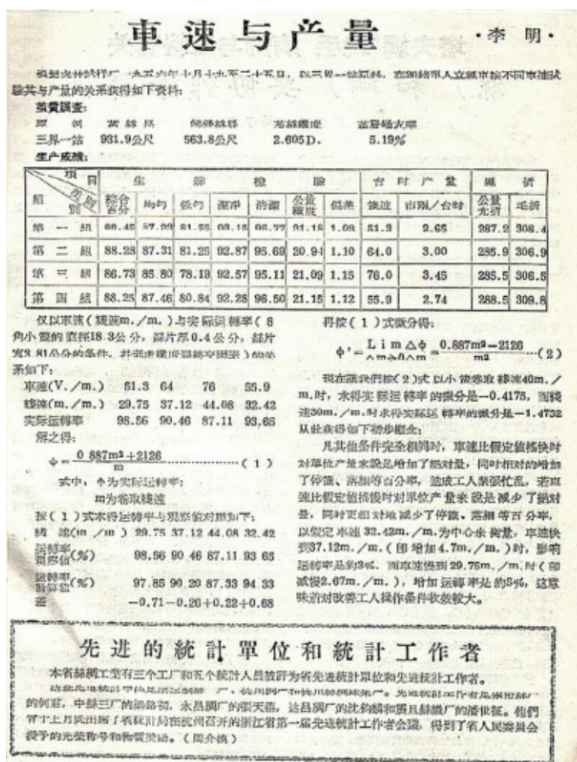


Figure 3. A technical article in the second issue of Zhejiang Silk Industry News in 1956



Figure 4. Covers of the 6th, 7th, and 89th issues of Zhejiang Silk Industry News



Figure 5. The cover of the relevant 1958 issue of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*

Table 2. Publication time and page number of relevant issues of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*

Number of periods	Date of publish	Page number
Total Issue 1	October 25, 1956	Version 6
Total Issue 2	December 29, 1956	14 pages
Total Issue 3	February 25, 1957	18 pages
Total Issue 4	April 15, 1957	16 pages
Total Issue 5	May 27, 1957	16 pages
Total Issue 6	July 31, 1957	20 pages
Total Issue 7	September 25, 1957	24 pages
Total 8th and 9th period	December 5, 1957	44 pages
No. 1, 1958	January 31, 1958	34 pages
No. 5, 1958	August 31, 1958	68 pages
No. 6, 1958	October 25, 1958	37 pages
No. 7, 1958	November 15, 1958	48 pages
No. 8, 1958	December 10, 1958	64 pages

When did *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* change its name to *Zhejiang Silk*? At present, there is no sample journal of *Zhejiang Silk* in materials that the author has, nor does relevant editorial department, only in Qian Tongyuan's memory between *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* and *Journal of Silk*. Before discussing its renaming progress, we must have a prerequisite. The renaming of Chinese publications is different from the inception of publications. Generally, a new name is chosen in a new year. If there is evidence of when *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* changed its name, you can determine the founding time of *Zhejiang Silk*. The sample issue of the last issue of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* we have, is 8th issue in 1958 (December 10, 1958), considered to be the most

complete literature of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* in academia. It should be noted that subscription information and manuscripts were published in this issue (Figure 6), indicating that the title of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* in 1959 remained unchanged, and it is estimated that there would be 7 to 8 issues per year just like 1957 and 1958. So in 1959, *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* estimated that 24 or 25 articles were published. Since *Journal of Silk* was formally named in 1964, and its inaugural issue had the words "Total No. 61st", we can assume that there were 60 issues of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* and *Zhejiang Silk* in total from 1956 to 1963. According to the information available to the author, we can speculate that 1959 was also 7th or 8th issue of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*, so there were 36 or 36 issues of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* or *Zhejiang Silk* from 1960 to 1963. Judging from the experience of publishing a journal with the title of a well-known "News", publication can always be irregular, but there must be quite a few issues per year. *Zhejiang Silk* must be a monthly journal, because *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* issued 7 to 8 times a year, and *Journal of Silk* is a monthly journal. Only 1960~1962 *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* published 21-24 articles. 12th issue of *Zhejiang Silk* in 1963, can match the same amount of 36 issues between 1960 to 1963. Therefore, there can be a judgement that, *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* was renamed *Zhejiang Silk* (monthly) in 1963.

It should be noted that the author believes that the publication of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* was not affected during the period of the three-year national famine from 1959 to 1961 (Wei, 2013). There are two reasons: ① It is inferred from the data on the copyright page of the inaugural issue of *Journal of Silk* that the publication of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* from 1959 to 1963 had not been suspended. ② 8th issue at the end of 1958 also published subscription information and manuscript agreements, indicating that everything was in normal operation during the last period of the *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*. Between 1959 to 1961, the three-year national famines mainly concentrated on small towns and rural areas. The famines were triggered by the transfer of farmers' food rights. However, the impact in big cities like Hangzhou was not fatal, its urban citizens were still able to keep daily life and produce normally. Therefore, the normal operation of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News* is also inevitable.



Figure 6. Subscription information and draft contract on the August and September 1958 Joint Period of *Zhejiang Silk Industry News*

2.2 Overview of the Initial Period of *Journal of Silk* (1964~1966)

Journal of Silk was founded on January 20, 1964 (Figure 7). The issue was a monthly issue. In 1964, except for the second issue on February 11, other issues were published on the day of 20th of each month, with a page number of about 40 pages. From 1964 to 1965, the publication task was accomplished, and a total number of 24

issues were published. But from 1965, it had changed to publish on the day of 5th of each month (except for 7th issue in 1966, which published on 30th June). In 1966, there were only 8 issues. The publication ceased after 8th issue (Figure 8). The reason why *Journal of Silk* ceased publication is because of the violent impact of the "Cultural Revolution" that began in May 1966.

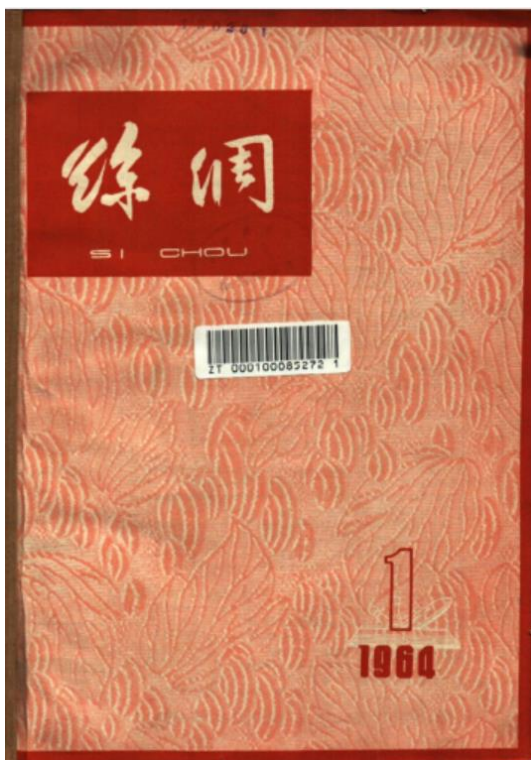


Figure 7. The cover of the inaugural issue of *Journal of Silk*

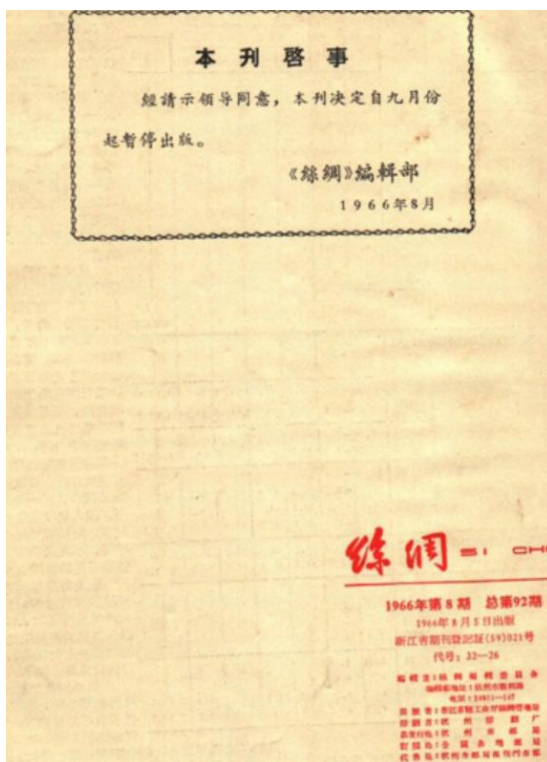


Figure 8. Announcement of the suspension of publication of the 8th issue of *Journal of Silk* in 1966

Every year, the editorial department of *Journal of Silk* listed a year's general catalog in last issue of the year. The author classified and audited these catalogs, the distribution of articles in *Journal of Silk* in 1964 is shown in Table 3. Among them, political category is in the general catalog. "Editorial Comment", "Paper (political article related to silk weaving)", "Caprice", "Newsletter", the literary category is "Silk History", "Around the Motherland", "Poems, Paintings, Photos, and Reader Mailboxes in the general catalog", "Information", "Other". The distribution of articles published in *Journal of Silk* in 1965 is shown in Table 4. Its political categories include "Editorial•Commentary•Monographs", "New Achievements of Silk Industrial Production and Construction", "Quality First, Variety First, Two Kinds" and "Two Labor Systems", "Cadres Participate in Labor", "Advanced Persons and Advanced Teams". The literature and art category includes "all parts of the motherland" and "workers' poetry and painting". This year, there is no "Silk History" article. The distribution of the articles in *Journal of Silk* in 1966 is shown in Table 5. The publication was suspended during the year. All articles are classified according to the nature of their titles. Among them, there is only "all parts of the motherland" for literature and art. From Table 3 to Table 5, the author found: ① From 1964 to 1965, *Journal of Silk* worked hard to increase the number of technical articles, because it can celled the "Silk History" column, resulting in fewer "literary and artistic" articles. ② In 1966, the "Arts and Art" column also canceled the "Worker Poems and Paintings" column, increased political articles, and "technical" articles dropped sharply. This was caused by the national situation at the time, and was contrary to the development plan of *Journal of Silk*.

Table 3. Classification of articles in *Journal of Silk* in 1964

Political		Management		Technology Category		Translation		Literature and Art		Total
Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	
59	13.8%	21	4.9%	254	59.6%	39	9.3%	53	12.4%	426

Table 4. Classification of articles in *Journal of Silk* in 1965

Political		Management		Technology Category		Foreign technical abstracts		Literature and Art		Total
Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	
46	10.6%	27	6.2%	329	76.0%	12	2.8%	19	4.4%	433

Table 5. Classification of articles in *Journal of Silk* in 1966

Political		Technology category		Foreign technical abstracts		Literature and Art		Total
Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	Number of articles	Percentage	
69	30.5%	144	63.4%	8	3.5%	6	2.6%	227

2.3 Overview of the Reissue of *Journal of Silk* (1971 ~)

Regarding the time when *Journal of Silk* resumed publication, some scholars believe that it was in 1972 (Wei, 2013), but author believes that it was on April 1971, and it came with the name *Silk Intelligence*. The background and purpose of the reissue can be seen from the "post-editing" of its reissue: "*Silk Intelligence* had met with readers in a good situation at domestically and abroad. Its mission is to exchange the silk front and the experience in promoting production, mass technological innovation and scientific and technical research,, earnestly study Mao Zedong Thought, grasp the revolution introduce scientific research results domestically and abroad, serve the three revolutionary movements and workers, peasants and soldiers. " It happened that this issue of *Silk Intelligence* was in a combination of 1st issue to 3rd issue on April 1. Judging from the monthly publication of *Silk Intelligence* in 1972, it should have published in a monthly frequent in 1971, but its reissue started on April. In 1973, *Silk Intelligence* was renamed *Silk News* and 12 issues were published in 1973. In 1974, it was officially renamed *Journal of Silk* and set to be a monthly journal.

Silk Intelligence and *Silk News* are mainly based on silk industry conferences, experience exchanges, and

equipment introductions, allowing readers to learn more about information, and have accumulated a large number of followers. *Journal of Silk* was originally designed to be a publication of nature of industry information, exchange of experience, and related lectures. With the improvement of China's textile education, it had gradually developed into an academic publication, especially after the expansion of applied postgraduate students at the end of the 20th century, the number of textile and apparel graduates has continued to increase. This led to a huge demand for academic literatures, which brought an increased number of contributions of academic articles in *Journal of Silk* year by year. *Journal of Silk* has been taking advantage of this trend to continuously solve problems and develop publications.

3. Conclusion

Regarding the research on the changes of *Journal of Silk*, this paper believes that the fuzzy time nodes of the changes of *Journal of Silk* can be speculated from the known time nodes. From 1959 to 1962, *Journal of Silk* was published under the name *Zhejiang Silk Industry*, and *Zhejiang Silk* was published in 1963. *Silk Intelligence* was published in 1971, not in 1972. In addition, the founding of *Journal of Silk* is closely related to Zhu Xinyu, but its founding had its background which was inevitable. The name changing, suspension, resumption and development of *Journal of Silk* are closely related to the textile industry and textile education.

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