



嘉慶十五年七月

兩廣督部堂百 示昭得灑洲斜陽兩
島孤懸大海最易藏奸本廟堂
奏明永遠封禁不准來此
居住倘敢故違定罪

Stone Inscription Permanently Forbidding Settlers on the Islands of Weizhou and Xieyang, 1810

This is a stone inscription encountered during author's fieldwork in January, 2010, on Weizhou Island. The stele is located in front of the Sanpo 三婆 Temple, which is dedicated to a female deity closely associated with pirates, fishers, and seafarers. It is not clear where the stele was originally set up, but it is very likely that it was at this temple, since temples were important gathering places where information was shared among a diverse group of people, thus officials and locals often placed announcements there. Villagers on the island stated that during the Cultural Revolution this stele ended up in the nearby fish market and was used as a cutting board for chopping fish. Only in recent years was it recovered and restored, and placed outside in public in front of the temple.