

## **Social Networks and the Impact of Buddhist Canon Printing in Modern China: Focusing on Tianning Monastery in Changzhou**

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*Since the late Qing dynasty, the development of Buddhism in China has faced crises caused by both internal and external factors, including the destruction and loss of Buddhist scriptures. Under such circumstances, a group of lay Buddhists and monks, represented by Yang Wenhui 楊文會 (1837–1911), led a wave of collecting and carving scriptures anew that became the pivotal turning point and prerequisite for the revival of modern Buddhism. This trend was not promoted by Yang Wenhui or Jinling Scriptural Press ( Jinling kejingchu 金陵刻經處) alone, but rather by the collective efforts of numerous monks, temples, and scriptural presses, among which Tianning Monastery in Changzhou (Changzhou Tianning si 常州天寧寺) was a key collaborator. By examining the scriptural press of this monastery—a lesser-known institution that produced nearly the entire Buddhist canon—this study investigates the printing of Buddhist scriptures in modern China, including the volume of scriptures produced, circulation, operation of institutions, source of funding, involvement of personnel, diverse objectives, and collaborative networks, among others. Carving activities at Tianning Monastery not only embodied technological reform and the collective aspiration of modern Buddhists striving to revitalize Buddhism within the context of reform but also indicated that Buddhists had been diligently seeking the path reflecting their devout faith regardless of temporal changes.*