

# Analysis of the historical inheritance and aesthetic characteristics of Han dance in the new era

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**Keywords:** new era; Han Dynasty dance; historical inheritance; aesthetic characteristics

**Abstract:** Dance in Han Dynasty is a kind of dance formed in China's natural and humanistic ecological environment, with strong national flavor and local cultural characteristics. The content covers people's production, life, local conditions and customs, and expresses the pursuit and yearning of the Han people for a better life. Han nationality dance is a unique and important part of China's national dance drama, but it has been paid little attention to by theoretical circles. The research on it often stays in the morphological analysis and expression of cultural characteristics of a single dance drama, which reveals the phenomenon or analyzes the creative ecology, but lacks theoretical explanation and induction of creative aesthetics. Showing the eulogy of the common qualities of the people, the continuous enhancement of the national cohesion of the Chinese nation in the process of jointly resisting foreign enemies, and the people of all ethnic groups' commitment to the common ideal of getting rid of poverty and achieving common prosperity, the consciousness of the Chinese national community has gradually been firmly cast. At the early stage, the dance in Han Dynasty effectively promoted people's recognition and ownership of the country through the "integration" narrative of the Chinese people's co-creation and co-construction of new China.

## 1. Introduction

Dance originated in ancient times. It is one of the ways that human beings use to express their feelings. The expression of emotion is not necessarily to say, but also to show. At the beginning, some actions are used to express a certain signal[1]. With the development of the times, this body language and specific artistic conception can express a certain emotion. Not only that, while expressing emotions with limbs, it also contains some national characteristics. The construction of the ecological system of national traditional dance culture is the form of the overall construction pattern of the Chinese traditional culture project[2]. The emergence, formation and development of dance culture are based on a certain natural environment, social environment and cultural environment, involving many factors such as humanities, nature, social environment and so on. Dance cultural ecology is an extremely complex system[3]. The relationship between dance and human social and cultural environment is far more diverse and complex than biological ecology. Among them, dance culture has a close symbiotic relationship with natural environment, social environment, cultural environment, modern social development, economic system, artistic aesthetic paradigm of the times and so on. The dance of Han Dynasty creatively pushed the ancient Chinese dance culture to the development path of humanistic and artistic consciousness with significantly improved dance skills[4].

It was an era when elegant music declined and popular music flourished in Han Dynasty, and music and dance drama was just a part of this flourishing development. The flavor of the times in Han Dynasty, which is "both common and rich, with boundless entertainment", made music and dance drama one of the popular entertainment cultures. Han Dynasty is another period of unification of feudal dynasties after Qin Dynasty[5]. In such an era background of pursuing "unity", the first historical and cultural product of "unity" is the gradually improved and unified Han Dynasty thought. Thought always influences and even guides practice. Under a relatively free unified dynasty, with the pursuit and liberation of new ideas, artistic practice gradually moves from muddy purity to reason, from vulgarity to romance, from witchcraft to religion, from group to individuality[6]. Dance in Han Dynasty is the product of artistic practice in this transitional era.

From the perspective of dance anthropology, social customs, cultural characteristics and other cultural factors in different times will remain in the dynamic image, dynamic rhythm characteristics, performance procedures, costume props and venue settings of the dance, forming a relatively stable dance art form and passing down. Therefore, the discovery, combing and research of dance resources in Han Dynasty is of great significance to understand the historical and cultural characteristics of China and explore its cultural inheritance[7].

## **2. Dance of the Han Dynasty in the new era**

### **2.1. The history of dance in the Han Dynasty**

The Han Dynasty was an era of unprecedented unification of Chinese society and unprecedented integration of Chinese culture. Its mentality of unifying the world and being a great country with hundreds of countries coming to Korea also created a broad-minded and open mind. Under the influence of this atmosphere, folk dance flourished and the art of hundred operas flourished unprecedentedly, forming the dance of the Han Dynasty. It is a peak in the development history of Chinese dance and has a wide impact on folk art in later generations. At the same time, the Han Dynasty is an integrated period in the history of Chinese ancient music and dance. Chinese ancient music and dance culture is closely related to etiquette and custom culture. Since the pre-Qin period, "etiquette" and "music" have become the "right arm" to consolidate the centralized rule of class society. On the premise of inheriting the centralized ritual system of the previous dynasty, the Han Dynasty continued the traditional artistic form of the trinity of "poetry, ritual and music" of the Zhou and Qin Dynasties, and developed "music", which was not purely for the purpose of aesthetics, but more as a tool to instill ethics and morality[8]. Attaching "music" to the political system can not only develop the ritual and music culture of "music and political communication", but also become a major transformation period of ritual and music culture of "breaking ritual and establishing customs". Between the Royal Palace aristocrats and ordinary people, it created a spectacular folk dance activity - the beginning of the dance of the Han Dynasty. Under the guidance of the great journey of building socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, it is urgent to deeply understand the importance of Chinese excellent traditional culture, accurately grasp the development direction of contemporary han dance culture, further strengthen cultural self-confidence, carry forward national excellent traditional culture, and build the ecological system of han dance culture in the new era. Therefore, in the process of the development of the times, we should see that we can appreciate and inherit national dance.

### **2.2. The historical inheritance of dance in the Han Dynasty**

Liu Bang unified the establishment of the early Han Dynasty, and had a new concept of governing the country, so there was a new adjustment in system of rites and music, and the court elegance was no longer pure "elegance". Influenced by feudal ideology, although the Han Dynasty made major adjustments to the dance before the Pre-Qin Dynasty, the performance content was still inseparable from the song of sacrifice. During the dance performance, the scene is still huge and magnificent, not only to consolidate the people's hearts, but also to show the power of one king ruling the world. The dance in the Han Dynasty not only entered the city with the dance features left by the deficiency, but also developed many dances with the charm of the Han Dynasty on the basis of the previous one[9]. These dances, created by the folk, enjoy both refined and popular tastes. They not only serve the nobles, but also enrich the daily life of the common people. No matter how precious things are, they can only have higher value and significance if they are passed on and left behind. Dance in the Han Dynasty in the new era should belong to the immortal meaning of China. Dance in the Han Dynasty in China contains Chinese national characteristics and Chinese national spirit, which contains immeasurable artistic value, and can even last forever. Of course, no matter how good things are, they need to be passed down by someone, otherwise, like some historical sites, they will really become sites that may not be remembered for a long time. From the Han Dynasty to the present, what has changed is the change of dance form, and what remains unchanged is the

artistic inheritance of dance in the Han Dynasty. Therefore, from the Lingxing dance in the Han Dynasty to the word dance in Zhu Zaiyu in the Ming Dynasty to today's Yunpai dance, what changed was the form of dance, and what remained unchanged was the people's beautiful wish of peace and happiness in the world. Only by deepening the historical inheritance of Han Dynasty dance, a traditional culture, can China's extensive and profound culture be better carried forward. Figure 1 shows the historical inheritance of dance in Han Dynasty.

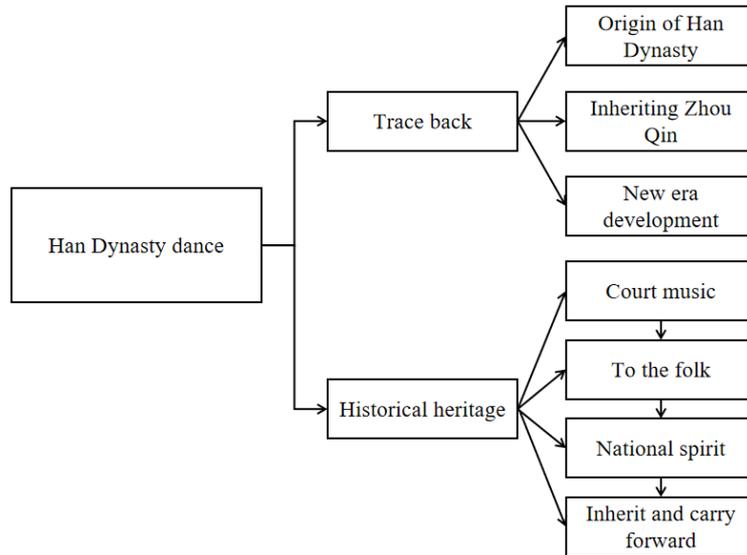


Figure 1 The historical inheritance of dance in the Han Dynasty

### 3. The formation of artistic style and aesthetic characteristics of dance in Han Dynasty

#### 3.1. The artistic style of dance in the Han Dynasty

With its significantly improved dance skills, the hundred operas of music and dance in the Han Dynasty naturally became a wonderful flower in the development of ancient Chinese dance. It has developed skills such as "light body like a swallow" and "folded wing sleeves" to show the lightness, dexterity and softness of the dancer's body. At the same time, it has also developed flexible driving skills such as "Pan drum dance", "Jian drum dance" and "Long Sleeve Dance" to show the dancer's familiarity with props. This is the first great challenge for dancers to themselves and the limit of props in the development of ancient Chinese dance. It is also a significant improvement in dance emotion, dance aesthetics and dance artistic conception in the Han Dynasty. The entertainment characteristics of song and dance in the Han Dynasty formed the Chinese people and their unique mentality and habits of art appreciation and art aesthetics. In the art history of the Han Dynasty, music and dance received great attention from all aspects. No matter who they are, they are actually attracted by the wonderful music and dance performance[10]. The members of the Han Dynasty can often show their pursuit and yearning for faith life with the help of dance, a special "language". Various types of written descriptions in Han Fu give a detailed description of the performance scale and law of Han Dynasty dance, and clearly record the characteristics of Han Dynasty dance. In today's society, various dance creations based on the dance of the Han Dynasty actually originated from the aesthetic thought of the Han Dynasty. The performance contents show a series of harmonious thoughts represented by "people-oriented", so its artistic characteristics are more clear. The unique artistic characteristics of ancient dance have irreplaceable important value for the research, inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music and dance.

#### 3.2. The aesthetic characteristics of dance in Han Dynasty

Traditional dance is rooted in the national traditional culture that has accumulated for thousands of years and is an integral part of the national traditional culture. Among them, dance in Han Dynasty is an important cultural role, which can be inherited and developed. According to the

aesthetic paradigm of the Chinese nation, it is combined with certain forms and programs. After a long period of historical evolution and inheritance, it has gradually developed into a relatively stable and natural traditional dance aesthetic system. In the Han Dynasty, culture and art laid their own culture and art foundation, and created the unique charm of dance at that time. The dance in the Han Dynasty has inherited the traditional dance pattern in form, and the dance art in the Han Dynasty has its essence. On this basis, further innovations have been made, which not only make the dance beautiful, but more importantly, can well show the social atmosphere and outlook at that time. In the new era, spreading the beauty of dance in the Han Dynasty is to spread the true meaning of dance in the Han Dynasty, spread the beauty of dance art in the Han Dynasty and enhance the artistic aesthetic of Chinese people. Contemporary social art aesthetics can't be swallowed up and assimilated by the popularity of rotation. Young people's definition of beauty can't be generalized by popularity, and they can't like what is popular. Aesthetic appreciation of art is a kind of ability, which requires firm belief in beauty and should not be interfered by other people's choices. At the same time, the beauty of Han Dynasty dance is pure, and we should further innovate and change under the condition that the national soul of Han Dynasty dance remains unchanged, so as to be understood and passed down by more people. That is to say, the Han Dynasty dance with aesthetic characteristics is a kind of dance with rich connotations, which expresses emotions in dance, conveys national spirit in dance and contains rich and colorful national life. Figure 2 shows the artistic style and aesthetic characteristics of dance in Han Dynasty.

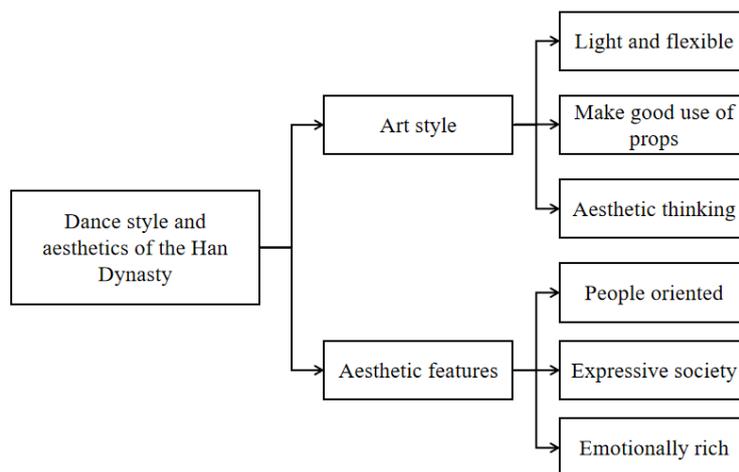


Figure 2 The artistic style and aesthetic characteristics of dance in the Han Dynasty

#### 4. Conclusions

Dance in the Han Dynasty has a long history. It was bred in the pre-Qin period and sprouted in the Qin Dynasty. It inherited the Royal elegant dance and folk folk music in the Xia and Zhou dynasties, and opened up the music, dance, opera and acrobatic art of all dynasties. It is the peak and key link in the history of dance in China, and has an important impact on the dance of later generations. It not only absorbed the ideological tendency of governing by music in the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties, but also inherited the general strategy of governing the country in the spring and autumn and Warring States periods. However, the Han Dynasty became an important historical period when song and dance art began to move towards independent performing art because of the vigorous prosperity and development of music and dance operas. At the same time, ancient Chinese Dance flourished in the Han Dynasty, forming a vigorous, solemn and magnificent style. The Han Dynasty was a special period for the formation of dance. It not only gathered the elegant music left by the purse, but also integrated the folk dance and exotic style to breed a variety of music and dance operas. At the same time, it also formed its own unique artistic characteristics and aesthetic style, which laid a solid foundation for the later development of Chinese dance.

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