Exploration and Reflection on the Practice and Theory of Chinese Archaeology

Qingyan Liu
Beijing Zhongqihangyuan Technology Co., Ltd, Haidian District, Beijing, China
1436817692@qq.com

Keywords: Chinese archaeology, Practice and theory, Innovative thinking

Abstract: In recent years, crimes such as theft and sale of cultural relics often occur. To crack down on these crimes thoroughly, it is far from enough to rely on beating, catching and managing. Excavating and protecting cultural relics is the effective way to solve these crimes. This paper mainly analyzes the development status of Chinese archaeology in recent decades, and makes reflection and innovative thinking on the practice and theory of Chinese archaeology, hoping to provide certain reference for the development of Chinese archaeology.

1. Introduction

With the development of social science and technology, Chinese archaeology has been updated and improved to a great extent in its research types, archaeological methods and technical applications. A deep understanding of the historical changes of Chinese archaeology, especially the development status in recent decades, can help us to understand the past and present of Chinese archaeology, and provide basic information for the better realization of future development. Modern Chinese archaeology is deeply influenced by Western archaeological culture, among which Chinese basic disciplines, stratigraphy and typology, as well as many innovative ideas and methods, are realized through absorbing the experience of Western archaeological development. With the development of society and the continuous combination of the methods and achievements of international advanced archaeology, Chinese archaeology has achieved rapid growth in recent decades.

2. History and Achievements of Chinese Archaeology

With the founding of new China, with the support of the Communist Party and the state policy, archaeology in China has been developing and innovating continuously, and has made great achievements. It is mainly reflected in the realization of a more systematic discipline construction system, the expansion of professional archaeological research team, and the expansion of the scale of archaeological excavation research. At the same time, through the exchange and study of international advanced archaeology and the application of advanced scientific and technological means, outstanding achievements have been made. The specific development and results are as follows.

The archaeological research team has grown. Chinese archaeological research institutions and professional teams have changed from several teams in the early days of the people’s Republic of China to dozens of corresponding archaeological research institutions in prefecture level cities. Archaeology researchers have also developed from dozens to tens of thousands today. The growth of archaeological research team means the importance and development of talent training, and the construction of talent training is the source power to realize the development and progress of archaeology. The cultivation and construction of archaeological talent team is mainly carried out through the training of colleges and universities at all levels and the establishment of national archaeological team training class, which plays a great role in promoting the construction of archaeological talent training.

The scale of archaeological work has been expanded. With the development of Chinese society, the scale of archaeological work has been growing. From the only basic archaeological excavation
projects such as Zhoukoudian, Yin relic in Anyang and Hui County in the middle of last century to
today, there are thousands of archaeological projects every year, and large-scale archaeological
projects such as the Three Gorges Project and the South-to-North Water Diversion project have
been established. It has achieved great breakthrough and development in both quantity and scale.

Archaeology discipline has been systematized. The research field of Chinese archaeology has
developed from prehistoric archaeology, Han and Tang Dynasties archaeology, Shang and Zhou
Dynasties archaeology in the early days of the founding of the people’s Republic of China. It has
covered all the stages of Chinese civilization from Paleolithic and Neolithic period to the Ming and
Qing Dynasties. In addition, it has expanded the fields of animals, plants, environment, ceramics,
metallurgy, grotto and so on. The construction of archaeological discipline system is continuously
improved and systematized.

Great achievements have been made in archaeological research. In terms of the overall
construction of archaeology journals, more than ten kinds of journals have been added since the
founding of the people’s Republic of China when there were only three, namely, Relics, Journal of
Archaeology, Archaeology. A large number of high-quality academic research papers appeared in
these journals, which provided a platform for archaeological research in China and international
exchange.

The international academic status of archaeology has been improved. In terms of academic
exchanges, Chinese archaeology has also developed from almost no international exchanges in the
early days of the founding of the people’s Republic of China to the continuous deepening of
exchanges and learning today. Through the joint excavation of Bronze Age sites by China and North
Korea, mutual cooperation with international research institutions, and today’s “invite in” and “go
global” research of Chinese archaeology, Chinese archaeology research institutions continue to
achieve the goal of going abroad and going international. Through the exchange and research
cooperation with other countries, the status of Chinese archaeology in the international academic
community has been significantly improved.

3. Reflection on the Practice and Theoretical Development of Chinese Archaeology

The development of archaeology is open, which is the result of interaction between man and the
world. The practice and theoretical development of archaeology are also not closed. Chinese
archaeology has its own characteristics in practice and theory. The specific analysis is as follows.

3.1 Development of Archaeological Practice in China

Based on the time axis, this paper analyzes and reflects on the development process of Chinese
archaeology practice since the founding of the people’s Republic of China. Modern Chinese
archaeology was born at the beginning of the last century. China’s archaeological research in the
initial stage was based on the construction of local historical will, and the archaeological research at
that time was mostly carried out around historical issues, such as paleontology, cultural chronology
and painted pottery, etc. From the initial stage of the founding of the people’s Republic of China to
the 1980s, Chinese archaeology developed by leaps and bounds, and cultural history became the
main research direction and content of archaeology at that time. The archaeology methods gradually
transformed from accumulation of archaeological materials to the exploration of macro problems.
Chinese archaeology in the 1980s played a connecting role in its development history. Since then,
Chinese archaeology has gradually developed into a development situation of joint research of
various disciplines, achieved certain expansion and extension in its archaeological materials and
methods, and it keeps continuing to learn from western archaeology, no longer just material analysis,
the depth of the study extended to the spiritual and psychological level.

3.2 Development of Chinese Archaeology Theory

This paper analyzes and reflects on the development process of Chinese archaeology theory from
the internal and external factors affecting Chinese archaeology. The internal factors influencing the development of Chinese archaeology theory mainly include archaeological material, specific research methods and corresponding social practice. With the development of society and the deepening of archaeological research, a large number of archaeological materials have been accumulated, and research methods are becoming more and more scientific and technological means. In social practice, various museums, historical and cultural heritage protection museums have been established. The influence of external factors is mainly reflected in the changing direction of archaeological research and ideological trend.

4. Exploration and Reflection on the Practice and Theoretical Development of Chinese Archaeology

The application of innovation in Chinese archaeology should be more accurately regarded as improvement and optimization. Compared with the pure innovation from the beginning, it is easier to realize and has less risk. The innovation of Chinese archaeology in practice and theoretical development should be carried out in a certain order. It is necessary to learn from the experience and achievements of the advanced, reflect on the corresponding problems in combination with our own development characteristics and specific situation, and then carry out the application of corresponding innovation strategies, constantly promote and apply the innovative achievements.

The development direction of Chinese archaeology in innovation is practice and theory. It is the basis for the innovation of Chinese archaeology to study the advanced western archaeological theories and to carry out practical activities based on the current situation of Chinese archaeology. Nowadays, the development speed of Chinese archaeological theory is relatively fast. With the strong support of national policies, many advanced western archaeological theories and methods have been used as classic teaching materials for translation and study. However, compared with other disciplines in China, archaeological translation still has certain backwardness and defects. To speed up the translation of advanced western archaeological works and improve the quality of translation is a key content in the future development. But this is not a requirement to blindly copy, but must rely on China’s actual situation to achieve the perfection and optimization of theory and application practice. Science is the basis of the development of Chinese archaeology, but the pursuit of science in China is more practical, lacking the purity of western countries, which hinders the breakthrough of theoretical research, requiring us to constantly change the standard of scientific test and play a purer scientific spirit when we conduct archaeological research. Comparatively speaking, Western archaeology is more active in its theoretical research and practical application, and its ideological development is active, which makes it have sufficient innovation power, while Chinese archaeology is more conventional in its research, lacking a certain sense of bold development. In the process of the development of Chinese archaeology, constant self-reflection and self-criticism are necessary to achieve innovation. We should constantly abandon the old ideas and methods, and use advanced theory and practice to conduct archaeological research.

Be well-prepared for risks when realizing innovation and accepting opportunities. Chinese archaeology should combine the actual situation of our country, carry out innovation and strengthen the construction of interdisciplinary system. Through systematic research, we can better verify the applicability of innovative application, and at the same time, we can find problems in time, then carry out risk prevention and control.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the development history of Chinese archaeology and its corresponding achievements, this paper analyzes and reflects on the practice status quo with time as the axis, analyzes and reflects on the theoretical status quo from the influence of internal and external factors on Chinese archaeological theory, and explores and ponders on the development of Chinese archaeology time and theory with innovative thinking. Through the content of the paper, we can see the continuous development and achievements of Chinese Archaeology in recent years. It can be
seen that the continuous development of thinking, the pursuit of pure scientific spirit and the systematic construction of archaeology discipline play an important role in promoting the development of Chinese archaeology practice and theory.

References

