

Research on Chinese Literature Archives Heritage in Northwest Frontier Ethnic Areas

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Abstract: The ethnic minority areas in the northwestern frontier have plentiful Chinese archives heritage, clarify the connotation and extension of the archival documentary heritage, analyze its characteristics in order to better utilize and protect the Chinese archives heritage in this region for the Archive Museum and other related departments. It has great significance for protecting, inheriting, and studying Chinese traditional culture in the ethnic areas of the Northwest Frontier.

1. Introduction

According to the archives heritage entities classification, the documentary heritage of Chinese archives in the Northwest Frontier Ethnic Areas are mainly divided into Chinese material archives documentary heritage and Chinese non-material archives documentary heritage.

1.1 Chinese Material Archives Documentary Heritage

The Chinese material archives documentary heritage can be further subdivided as follows: 1. According to the existing form, it is divided into ancient archives documentary heritage, Relay archives document heritage, ancient city archives documentary heritage, Beacon archives documentary heritage, inscription archives documentary heritage, epitaph archives documentary heritage, seal Archives document heritage, officail archives document heritage, grotto archives document heritage, etc.; Second, according to the file type, it is divided into paper archives documentary heritage, stone-cut archives documentary heritage, woodcut archives documentary heritage, oral archives documentary heritage and golden archives documentary heritage; 3. According to the archival period, it is divided into the archives documentary heritage of the pre-Qin period, the Qin and Han Dynasties, Wei, Jin and Southern and Northern Dynasties, the Tang Dynasty, the Five Dynasties and the Ten Kingdoms, the Liao and Song Dynasties, the Mongolia-Yuan Dynasty, the Ming Dynasty, the Qing Dynasty, as well as the Republic of China; fourth, according to the record format, the Chinese image archives documentary heritage, Chinese Character archives documentary heritage, and Chinese audiovisual images Archival documentary heritage, etc. Only the heritage of Chinese material archives classified in the form of records is discussed in this article.

1.1.1 Chinese Image Archives Documentary Heritage

It refers to the heritage of Chinese material archives in the form of images, mainly including rock paintings, murals, sculpt, screen paintings, wood paintings, etc. For example, in the ancient tombs of Harahezuo of Tulufan, Xinjiang, a large number of figures, animals and other wooden carvings figures, clay sculptures, grass straws were unearthed. Among them, the first year of Yongchang in the Tang Dynasty (AD 689), "painting deva-king stepping the ghost", which was unearthed from the tomb of Mrs. Zhang Xiong, which is the only remaining of "woodcarving king stepping ghost" in China.

Although this wooden plaque that consisting of more than 30 various sizes pieces of wood carvings which has 132,7 years until now, its vivid image, bright color and exquisite paintings are called ancient excellent art works.

1.1.2 Chinese Character Archives Documentary Heritage

It refers to the heritage of Chinese material archives in the form of words, mainly including ancient books, papers, epitaphs, seals, cliffs, wooden slips, and Golden inscribed character. These archives cover

political, economic, cultural, military, historical, philosophical, architectural, and pharmaceutical etc. This is a precious material for studying Chinese politics, economy, and culture in the ethnic areas of the Northwest Frontier. At present, there are more than 500,000 Chinese ancient books in Xinjiang. From 1983 to 1984, Inner Mongolia archaeologists discovered ancient Chinese documents that more than 2,200 pieces in Heishuicheng (now Ejinaqi, Inner Mongolia), which provided a large amount of precious research materials on the political, ethnic, military, literary, archaeological, scientific, and cultural aspects of the Xixia, Song, and Yuan dynasties. Precious materials have filled the scarcity of the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty documents in China.

1.1.3 Chinese Audiovisual Archives Documentary Heritage

It refers to the heritage of Chinese material archives in the form of sound images, mainly are photographs, videos, audio tapes, video tapes, etc. This kind of archival documentary heritage is mainly Photos, videos, recordings, etc. which were left in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the so-called “expedition” and “exploration team” of Britain, Russia, Sweden, France, Germany, Japan, the United States, Finland and other societies plundered Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia.

1.2 Chinese Non-Material Archives Documentary Heritage

The Chinese non-material archives documentary heritage can also be subdivided as follows: 1. According to the type of non-legacy, it is divided into folk literature archives document heritage, traditional drama archives document heritage, traditional art archives document heritage, traditional music archives document heritage, traditional dance archives literature. Drama archives documentary heritage, traditional sports, entertainment and acrobatic archives documentary heritage, traditional art archives documentary heritage, traditional medical archives documentary heritage, folklore archives documentary heritage, etc.; second, according to the form of expression, physical archives, documentary heritage, sound archives Heritage, voice and shape archives documentary heritage. Only the Chinese non-material archival documentary heritage classified in the form of expression is discussed in this article.

1.2.1 Physical Archives Documentary Heritage

It mainly refers to the archives and documentary heritages of traditional art, dance, techniques, sports, and folk activities, which are represented by Chinese Taoist priests, monks, entertainers, and artisans. For example, golden and silver mixed inscription skills are regarded as national treasures and have been listed in the third series of Xinjiang autonomous region intangible cultural heritage. The skill has a long history, and the academic field generally believes that it is originated from the Shang Dynasty. The technique mainly use gold wires (silver wires) or gold pieces (silver pieces) in the engraving jade, to be inlaid into various characters or patterns, and polish them to flat with friction stone. It mainly includes the selection of materials, the setting of gemstones, the welding of gold and silver, and the matching of ornamentation etc.

1.2.2 Sound Archives Documentary Heritage

It mainly refers to the heritage of Chinese instrumental music archives and the Chinese oral archives. That is to say, the various musical instruments and Chinese texts in the form of mouth-ears transportation to express political, economic, cultural, artistic, social, religious, military, historical, folk, medical, dance, drama and other mouth words records, which are used in the long history of the northwestern frontier ethnic minority areas. For example, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang Chinese instrumental music heritage about instruments cover piano, flute, drum, string, tube, cymbal, zither, whistle, silk, bamboo, star, cymbal, erhu, rolling kite, horror, caller, chime, compilation and so on.

1.2.3 Voice Profile Document Heritage

It mainly refers to the archives and documentary heritages of traditional Chinese priests, elders, monks, artists, etc., which are played through sounds and forms to express festivals, traditional ceremonies, and traditional dramas. For example, Xinjiang Quzi Opera is the only Chinese local drama in Xinjiang. In May 2006, the opera was evaluated the first series of National intangible cultural heritage.

Xinjiang Quzi opera is widely spread in Changji, Fukang, Yanji, Miqan, Urumqi and other places. At present, the Drama has more than 50 traditional show plays, more than 10 music cards, and 40 tunes. These voice archives heritage have penetrated into all aspects of Chinese social life and is an important manifestation of Chinese traditional culture.

2. Characteristics of Chinese Archives Heritage in the Existing Ethnic Areas of the Northwest Frontier

2.1 Long History

The time span of Chinese Archives Heritage in the existing areas of the northwestern frontiers from the pre-Qin period to the pre-founding of The People of Republic of China, It reflects the political economy, social life and artistic achievements of Chinese in various historical periods. The earliest existing paper private testament that the fragment of “the testament document of the military officer Sixianyou”, during in the “Jusi Gaochang Period”, was unearthed in Xinjiang. The Earliest Chinese Paper Painting-”The Living Paintings of the Tomb Master” in the Period of the Sixteen Kingdoms, the Earliest Chinese woven silk Paintings of the Females--”Maiko painting” of the Tang Dynasty, The earliest manuscript of the “Three Kingdoms” - the manuscript of the “Sun Quan, Wu documents, the Three Kingdoms” in the Wei and Jin Dynasties, the earliest manuscript of “The Analects of Confucius Zheng Xuan” - the second years of Jinglong during in the Tang Dynasties (708 AD), the earliest and well-recorded Chinese Buddhist scriptures in the world-”the Buddhist scriptures collection” in the Western Jin Dynasty, the earliest excavated caves - Kizil Grottoes, etc. “Maiko painting” in the Tang Dynasty, which was Unearthed from the Tomb of Zhang Lichen, 230 Astana, Turfan, Xinjiang, except the right hand of the painting is partly damaged, the rest is basically intact.

The hair is stilted, the forehead describing pheasant shaped flower, and the body is dressed in white background with yellow and blue, and grass shaped beautiful sleeves, the red skirt is tossing the ground. The foot is wearing a pair of heavy shoes, and the left hand is scorning a thing, it should be silk.”^[2] This is the earliest silk paintings that have specific period of the Tang Dynasty.

2.2 Multiple Numbers

The documentary heritage of Chinese archives in the ethnic areas of the Northwest Frontier is the largest and most diverse documentary heritage in the region, and it has a very high research values. For example, the archaeological heritage of the ancient city in the Yuan Dynasty of Jining Road ,Chayouqianqi, Wulanchabu City that have plentiful Archives and documentary heritage, including housing sites, tombs, wells, reservoirs, and funerals. From April 2002 to November 2003, the Archaeology Institute of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Cultural Relics had excavated 877 pieces of pottery, 351 pieces of bronze, 36,849 pieces of copper, 10 pieces of gold and silver instruments, 268 pieces of iron instruments, 7,416 pieces of recoverable porcelain, and 200 pieces complete porcelain, etc., these mostly are Chinese archives documentary heritage. The porcelains are bowls, bottles, incense burners, dishes, a can, pots, high-foot cups, plates, pots, etc. The porcelains belong to the Ding Kiln, the Cizhou Kiln, Yaozhou Kiln, Jingdezhen Kiln, Longquan Kiln, and Jun Kiln. It covers the famous kiln at that time in China, and its kiln mouth, system and appearance are very beautiful and have high quantity that are very rare in unearthed cultural relics.

2.3 Multiple Outstanding Products

The Chinese fine archives heritage in the ethnic areas of the northwestern frontiers are mostly precious national ancient books, state-level’ cultural relics, and cultural relics of the autonomous region. Many archival documentary heritages are only existing in China and make up historical materials, It has significant meaning for studying political, cultural, and science technology history during that time. For example, “The Analects of Confucius Zheng” is a version of Zheng Xuan, who was a classical Confucius theory master in the Eastern Han Dynasty. After the Tang Dynasty, this version had been lost, and its disintegration has been seen in other ancient books. Fortunately, the continual unearthing of “The Analects of Confucius Zheng’s Note” in the Tang Dynasty from the 20th century, in Turpan, Xinjiang

etc., which makes up for a blank in China's philology.

The longest and best preserved of these fragments is "The Analects of Zheng An Note", which was written by Bu Tianshou in the fourth year of Jinglong in the Tang Dynasty (710 AD), which was unearthed from No. 363 Tomb in Astana, Turpan. The residual volume is 538 cm long, each line has about 20 words, totally 178 lines, dating back more than 1300 years.

Another example is the murals of Han Dynasties' Tomb in the Helinger of Inner Mongolia, the existing murals are more than 100 square meters, 46 groups murals, 57 pieces, 250 questions, more than 700 words. Currently it is that "pictures and lists are the most preserved, the scene is larger, Han Dynasty wall painting with extremely rich content."^[3]

2.4 Multiply Variety

The documentary heritage of Chinese archives in the Northwest Frontier Ethnic Areas is divided into shell, paper, brick, cloth, stone-cut archives documentary heritage, etc. The types are classified into oral, gold, and woodcut archives documentary heritage, etc., According to the existence form, it is divided into pottery, bronze, silk, porcelain, lacquer, timber, brick, glass, metal-ware, ancient, document, seal, bamboo, epitaph, grotto, treasury, ancient city, mural archives documentary heritage, etc. According to period, it is classified as pre-Qin, the Qin Dynasty, the Han Dynasty, the Wei, Jin and Southern and Northern Dynasties, the Sui Dynasty, the Tang Dynasty, the Five Dynasties and the Ten Kingdoms, the Yuan Dynasty, the Ming Dynasty, the Qing Dynasty and the documentary heritage of the People's Republic of China.

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