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TIBETOLOGY

第16辑

四川大学中国藏学研究所 编



中国藏学出版社



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Abstracts

A Preliminary Archaeological Survey Report on the Cist Burials in the Upper Rgyal mo rngul chu River

Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University
Rnga ba Cultural Heritage Administration, Sichuan Province

(Lü Hongliang, Chen Jiafen)

This article reports on nine cist burial cemeteries found in Chu chen County (金川县), Sichuan province, that are located in the upper Rgyal mo rngul chu River (大渡河). Some pottery wares such as cups in Gu-shape and the amphoras are similar to those found in the Qijia culture. This indicates a very rich archaeological record that dates from the Neolithic age to the Warring States period. The culture of this valley has very strong connections with the upper Minjiang River and Dkar mdzes plateau. On the other hand, this valley also presents strong regional features. These findings will be helpful for understanding the prehistoric colonizing pattern of the Rgyal mo rngul chu valley and the regional variability of cist burials of the northwestern Sichuan plateau.

Report on the Excavation of the Cist Burials at the Pukar Gongma Site, 'Bri stod County, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Department of Archeology, Sichuan University

Chengdu Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

(He Yuanhong, Cai Linhai, Du Wei, Yu Xiaohong, Ma Chunyan, Li Pei)

In 2013, a cooperative archaeological team carried out an excavation in the site of Pukar Gongma, 'Bri stod county of Qinghai province. Nine cist burials were unearthed. More than one thousand relics were brought to light: pottery vessels, stone implements, bronze objects and ornaments made of agate, etc. It was the first systematic excavation of the stone cist burials in the southern Qinghai Plateau. The date of the east section of this cemetery can be possibly dated back to the middle and late Spring and Autumn Period; the tombs on the western section of this site might be dated to the late Warring States period, and the latest might possibly belong to the Han dynasty. The findings of these cist burials reveal its close relation with eastern Tibet and west Sichuan Plateau.

Report on the Investigation of Deng nge chu Petroglyphs in 'Bri stod County of Yul shul, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Department of Archeology, Sichuan University

Chengdu Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

(Ma Chunyan , Pan Shaochi , Cai Linghai , Li Pei , Zhu Detao)

This paper introduces the discovery in 2012 of seven petroglyphs locations along the Deng nge chu River, in 'Bri stod county of Yul shul, Qinghai Province. The petroglyphs are all carved on the rock surface and include forty-seven scenes and no less than two hundred and twenty individual figures. The scenes of the petroglyphs are mostly related to husbandry, hunting, warfare, dancing, and nature worship. The animal petroglyphs at Bi se and the hunting petroglyphs at Gar chung are very typical. The discovery of these petroglyphs provides important new materials for the research of petroglyphs on the Tibetan plateau.

An Archaeological Survey Report of the Sku gzugs byon pa Buddhist Rock Carvings in the Leb 'khog Valley in Yul shul, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Center for Tibetan Studies, Sichuan University

(Lu Suwen, Zhang Changhong, Qiao Hong, Song Yaochun)

The site of the Sku gzugs byon pa Buddhist rock carvings is located in the Leb 'khog valley of the Yul shul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, in Qinghai Province. It contains two engraved negative line etchings that previous scholars have named “Worshipping the Buddha” (Group A) and “Buddha’s Sermon” (Group B). The central image of Group A is a standing Śākyamuni Buddha, the male donor next to him wears a high-barreled crown cap and left-handed lapels robe which is the typical costume of Tubo period. The authors suggest this figure is a Tibetan Tsanpo-ruler after a detailed comparison with similar images found in Dunhuang paintings and an analysis of the inscriptions found in east Tibetan area. The central figure of Group B is also Śākyamuni Buddha, who is making the teaching gesture. The prototype of the back throne and the double-lion base with a curtain can be traced back to India. This is one of the earliest remains of this kind of art. The facial features and halos share some similarities with those paintings and stone carvings found in Dunhuang and east Tibetan area. This demonstrates an obvious characteristic of Han-Tibetan fusion. The date of this site is around the second half of the eighth to the ninth century.

An Archaeological Survey Report of the Dbus nag byon pa Buddhist Rock Carvings in the Leb 'khog valley in Yul shul, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Center for Tibetan Studies, Sichuan University

Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University

(Zhang Changhong, Zhang Yanqing, Qiao Hong, Song Yaochun)

In the summer of 2012, the Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, the Center for Tibetan Studies, and the Department of Archaeology of Sichuan University organized a cooperative archaeological team to conduct a survey of four Buddhist rock carvings in the Leb 'khog valley of Yul shul, Qinghai. This report offers a preliminary study of the so-called Dbus nag byon pa site. In this site, five groups of negative lined carvings combined with Tibetan inscriptions were found and we marked these Group A to E. Group A is a scene of the "Monkey offering Honey to the Buddha" and includes two paragraphs of Tibetan inscription. Group B is a grand presentation of Buddha’s birth and the Tibetan inscription is titled *Tshe dpag du myed pa'i mdo sde*. Group C contains seven figures which seem consist of a scene of listening to Buddha’s teaching. Below these figures is a substantial twenty-eight-line Tibetan

inscription of the *'Phags pa bcom ldan 'das ma shes rab gyi pha rol du phyin pa'i snying po* which dominates a huge stone and is located in the middle of the whole site. Group D displays the Buddha's descending from the thirty-third heaven in the company of Brahma and Indra. A pair of Bodhisattvas, Mañjuśrī and Samantabhadra with their lion and elephant vehicles also appear in the carving. At the bottom of this scene is a seven-line Tibetan inscription that explains the story. Group E is the largest panel and is composed of several different scenes. Unfortunately, it is very badly preserved and only a few figures can be identified. At the top we can see one Buddha and two Bodhisattva figures; the latter may be identified as Vajrapāṇi and Avalokiteśvara. The middle portion displays the scene of Buddha's nirvana. One Buddha and several Bodhisattvas can be identified below the nirvana story. The inscription underneath the scene is by and large illegible, but it does mention that non-Buddhists (*mu stegs*) fled to the frontier area. Therefore, there must have been a scene depicting how Buddha subdued the non-Buddhists that has yet to be identified. Both the images and inscriptions of this site are similar to those found in the neighboring areas of the Tibetan imperial period. We suggest that this site can be dated sometime between the second half of the eighth to the first half of the ninth century. These materials are very important and helpful to the study of Sino-Tibetan relations, Buddhism in the eastern Tibetan area, and Sino-Tibetan Buddhist art history.

Archaeological Survey Report of Chab 'gag Buddhist Rock Carvings in the Leb 'khog Valley in Yul shul, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Center for Tibetan Studies, Sichuan University

(Qiao Hong, Lu Suwen)

The third of four sites in the Leb 'khog valley of Yul shul, the Chab 'gag Buddhist rock carvings contain negative line etchings and reliefs. The relief carvings include the image of Vairocana and two Bodhisattvas. A goddess and a flying *apsara* are engraved in negative lines. A three-line Tibetan inscription is carved below Vairocana's lion base in which is mentioned "carved in the year of the horse", "Pay homage to Buddha Rnam par snang mdzad, Phyag na rdo rje and A rya ba lo." Based on the comparison and analysis of the images and inscriptions, we argue that the inscription may be dated back to the beginning of the ninth century, so that the horse-year could be 802 or 814.

A Brief Archaeological Survey Report on the Song Dynasty Rock Inscriptions in Geri of Yul shul, Qinghai Province

Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Center for Tibetan Studies, Sichuan University

(Zhu Detao, Cai Linhai)

In August 2016, Qinghai Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology and the Center for Tibetan Studies of Sichuan University formed a research team for the purpose of making an archaeological survey of the newly discovered Song Dynasty rock inscriptions in Geri, Yul shul Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, and to collect important information of the site. This paper, firstly, provides a detailed introduction to the content of the carved images and the Tibetan inscriptions. On this basis, the authors then study some questions about the characteristics and the dates of the carved images; some aspects of the Tibetan inscriptions are also discussed. According to the Tibetan inscriptions, this site could be dated to the year of 1101. The style of the carved images shows that they reveal the close ties between the first Propagation of Buddhism and the second Propagation of Buddhism in Tibet. This new discovery fills a gap in Song Dynasty archaeological discoveries at the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. In addition, this paper also has significance for the study of the history of the development of Buddhism and art history during this period as well as for the Sino-Tibetan relation and so on.

A Study of the Tang Sandstone Pillar with a Chinese Inscription that is Housed in the Field Museum of Chicago

Lin Meicun

(School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University)

There is an historical record that, in the eighth year of Tianbao era of Tang dynasty (749 CE.), the Tang Chinese general Ge Shuhan 哥舒翰 captured the Tibetan castle named Shipucheng 石堡城 on the east coast of Qinghai Lake (Kokonur). It mentions that more than tens of thousands of Tang Chinese soldiers were killed during this battle. This Tang-Tibetan battle was described in the *Bingchexing* (*Song of the Conscripts* 兵车行), a poem that was composed by Du Fu 杜甫. Archaeologically, by the end of nineteenth century, a Tang sandstone pillar with a Chinese inscription that describes this battle was dug up on the farm at the Yangba 羊巴 village of Zhuoni County in southern Gansu Province. With this discovery, a discussion ensued about the location of the Shipucheng castle and the battle: was the castle located on the east coast of Qinghai Lake or at the Yangba village and where did the battle take place? Over the past century, the whereabouts of this pillar had remained unknown and the only clue for this debate was based on the Long you jin shi lu (*Epigraphy Studies of Gansu* 陇右金石录) by the epigrapher Zhang Wei 张维. When the author visited Chicago in August of 2015, he made the exciting discovery

that this octagonal pillar was now housed in the Field Museum of Natural History as a bequest of the US sinologist Berthold Laufer. This paper aims to discuss this important pillar with its accession to the Field Museum and its historical significance for the study of Tang-Tibetan trade.

Tracing the Cultural Relics Unearthed from the Tombs of the Tubo Period in Tulan, Qinghai Province

Huo Chuan

(Ph. D. Student, Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University)

The Tubo tombs in Tulan, Qinghai, are located in a large cemetery with a very wide distribution. The cemetery is the largest and the most diverse found in Qinghai province, and it can be dated sometime from the Northern and Southern dynasty to the Sui and Tang dynasty. Most of the tombs were looted prior to the formal excavation by archaeologists. The unearthed cultural relics are relatively rich in the Reshui Tomb No.1 and the four tombs on the south bank of Reshui ditch. However almost no findings were ever published. In the newly built museum in Tulan county, the first batch of unearthed cultural relics from the Tubo tombs that were obtained through different channels in recent years are now exhibited. This paper adds more information on the burial objects in terms of type, date, function and so on, which can be corroborated by previously excavated materials. It provides researchers with more relevant information.

An Archaeological Survey Report of Work Done in 2015 in the 'Phyongs rgyas River Valley in Lho kha, Tibet

Center for Tibetan Studies, Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University

Institute for Cultural Heritage Preservation and Research, TAR

Lhokha Cultural Heritage Administration, TAR

(Yang Feng, Tang Li, Xu Hailun)

In July 2015, the Institute for Cultural Heritage Preservation and Research of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Department of Archaeology at Sichuan University formed a team to conduct a comprehensive and systematic archaeological survey of the 'Phyongs rgyas river valley in Central Tibet. The previous census of Central Tibet's cultural heritage basically assessed the distribution of immovable cultural relics in this region, but the investigation was not systematic and no examples of plans designed for future research projects were developed. This time, the pull-net survey method was used to find out the distribution of prehistoric sites in the 'Phyongs rgyas river valley. A number of tombs and petroglyphs

were found and systematic survey methods suitable for Central Tibet were explored, which will provide rich empirical foundation for future archaeological surveys in the Yar lung river valley.

Archaeological Report on the Newly Discovered Tubo Dynasty Rock Sculptures in the Town of Sgar thog in Smar khams County, Tibet

Center of Tibetan Studies, Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University

Smar khams Cultural Heritage Administration, Tourism Administration, TAR

(Yang Qingfan, Lu Suwen, Zhang Yanqing)

In 2014, Tshe ring rgyal po, a researcher of Academy of Social Sciences of TAR, discovered the rock sculptures of a Vairocana and eight Bodhisattvas and another rock carving in Smar khams county. Then in July 2016, the Center of Tibetan Studies, the Department of Archaeology of Sichuan University, Smar khams Cultural Heritage Administration and Tourism Administration of TAR conducted a detailed field research. A new rock carving with Tibetan inscriptions and another rock sculpture of Vairocana were discovered besides the two that had been previously reported. Based on the subject matter, artistic style and characters of the Tibetan inscriptions, these newly discovered rock sculptures might belong to the period between the reign of Khri strong lde btsan (755-798) and the reign of Khri lde strong btsan (798-815), that is, from the middle of the eighth to the first half of the ninth century. Along with the Tubo dynasty rock sculptures that had already been discovered in Smar khams, these Buddhist remains provide new evidence for the transmission of Buddhism between the Tubo and Tang dynasties, and have considerable value for the art history of Tibetan Buddhism.

Identification and Analysis of Faunal Remains from Dkar dung Site of Mnga' ris, West Tibet

Zhang Zhengwei, Lü Hongliang

(Center for Tibetan Studies of Sichuan University)

In 2013, during the excavation in Dkar dung site, one thousand three hundred and thirty-one animal remains were collected. The NISP value is 110 and the MNI value is 28, with species identified as *Bos grunniens*, *Capra hircus*, *Ovis aries*. These three taxa are considered to have been the livestock that was raised by the early Dkar dung people. With paleobotanical evidence from the early Dkar dung people may have practiced agropastoralism in and around the site. Zoo-archaeological evidence from the adjacent Gu ru gyam and Chu 'thag cemeteries shows a contemporaneous people who occupied those areas and probably practiced a more specialized pastoralism. We suggest that in western Tibet we encounter an

intersection of populations who practiced various economical patterns since at least the first millennium AD. Interactions among these people deserve to be further investigated.

Research on the Human Skeletons from a Prehistoric Cist Burial in Amdo County of Nag chu, Northern Tibet

Yuan Haibing¹, Bsod nams chos ki nyi ma², Lü Hongliang³, Shargan Wangdue⁴

(1, 3. Department of Archaeology, Sichuan University

2. Nag chu Cultural Heritage Administration, TAR

4. Institute for Cultural Heritage Preservation and Research, TAR)

In this paper, we study one ancient human skeleton unearthed from a cist burial located near Tsige Dartso, in Amdo County, northern Tibet. This cist burial was built sometime between the 8th and 5th centuries BC, and it is the first northern Tibetan cist burial that has so far been carbon dated. The morphological features of the human crania show that the racial type is closely related to the modern North Asiatic Mongoloids, but most physical characteristics of these skulls are closer to the Ancient Mongolian Plateau peoples. Some physical characteristics of the crania are likely to belong to the "Ancient Mongolian Plateau type" residents. The animal sacrificial set of these taxa is an indicator of the nomadic pastoral economy of the tomb owner; the artifacts found in this tomb also show similar cultural characteristics with those discovered in bronze-age cist burial sites of southwest China and northern China. These findings suggest that during the early metal age, cultural contact existed not only between Tibetan Plateau and Sichuan and the Yunnan region, but also extended to the vast region of northern Asia. These people may have come down from northern China as a nomadic tribe.

Rock Reliefs in East Tibet and Yizhou in the Context of Cultural Exchanges between Tang and Tubo

Huo Wei

(Center for Tibetan Studies of Sichuan University)

In recent years, a series of Tibetan Buddhist rock carvings and reliefs, most of which had been completed in the ninth century, were discovered on the borders between Sichuan, Gansu, Qinghai and Tibet. After a close study of the styles of the reliefs, the inscriptions both in Chinese and Tibetan, and the religious background of the organizers, we found that some of the reliefs seemed to have a connection with Ye shes dbyangs, a crypto-Zen master who flourished in the Tubo Kingdom, and that the inscriptions even dealt

with historical events such as Dpal chen po, the high official position taken by chief monks in Tubo, and Tubo's first contact with the Tang Kingdom, etc. Geographically, these reliefs were located in the areas close to Yizhou, Jiannan Region, in the Tang Dynasty, when Yizhou was one of the central places for the spreading of Zen Buddhism from Central China to Tibet. As Tibetan envoys or monks were sent to Central China, they probably passed by Yizhou, where they were in close communication with local Buddhists. Because of its great geographical and military importance, Yizhou not only served as front-line defense on the borders, especially in the late Tang Dynasty, but also contributed a lot to the alliance between Tang and Tubo. Therefore, the rock carvings and reliefs should be explored in the context of cultural exchanges between Tang and Tubo.

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