

Мэдээллийг Төв аймагт 2004 онд хийсэн сүм хийдийн анхны судалгаагаар цуглуулсан Information collected by surveyors in the DOMM Pilot Study in 2004 in Tov Aimag

ТӨЭР 045 Gunjiin Sum (Rinchen 423: Barouounbayangin Khoural (Bayangin Khoural, Gunjiin sum))

Current situation (2004)

Today parts of the boundary wall are still standing and there are ruins of the main and gate temple buildings, some of which have been partially repaired to prevent them from falling down. Active reconstruction has been taking place on the site since 2000 using plans made by the staff of the Museum of Toev Aimag in Zouounmod. MNNKH is sponsoring the work along with *Soyol Ourlagijn Khoegjliin San* (Eng: Foundation for the development of Culture and Art). The six-sided chapel, *Tuukhiin Sum*, which stands outside the walls to the southeast, has been reconstructed. The original granite turtle with a 3 metre high stele on the top remains although it is now very difficult to read as the inscription has faded. This is written in Manchurian and Chinese and recounts the Oral Histories of the site.

The Princess' burial mound has undergone a great deal of excavation in the last fifty years and bricks from the burial chamber are spread around the whole site. It is difficult to determine the original features: currently there are two large holes with a smaller one in front of them. There are two arches originally consisting of five layers of bricks. The arches seem to be set into a rectangular stone foundation or base but today the stone lines are only visible on the western and the eastern side. According to Academician Damdinsuren there were two coffins below the arches but no traces remain. In northeastern area of the whole complex there were some remains of clay and bricks that could have formed a stupa. Outside the fence next to the six-corner chapel there are two piles of blue-greyish bricks made by Chinese brick makers and two trees hung with blue khadags (Eng: offering scarves)

Source(s): Erdenbat, Zouounmod Museum)

Alternative names: Bayangin Khoural, Baruunbayangin Khoural

Oral Histories

The Gunjiin Sum was a memorial place for the Manchurian Princess, Khicheengoui Amarlangoui (1697-1740), built in 1740 by her husband Tusheet Khaan Dondovdorj. She was the sixth daughter of the Manchurian emperor Kangxi (Mong. Enkh-Amgalant) and was educated in the duties of a princess from a young age. In 1713, when she was 16, she was sent as a gift to marry Tusheet Khaan Dondovdorj at which time she was confirmed by the successor of Kangxi Yungchen Shitsu. The confirmation was written on a golden foil in Manchurian and Chinese script and this is now kept in the National Museum of Oral Histories in Ulaanbaatar. Dondovdorj was an eminent scholar and poet. In 1722 Dondovdorj fought with the Manchurians against the Tibetans. He also had a Mongolian wife and a son who was sentenced to death by the Manchurian emperor Kao-tsung. He was involved in the release of the Oirat Amarsana who rebelled against the Manchurians in 1755.

The great Mongolian 20th century scholar, Damdinsuren excavated the site in 1959 and a year later he published the book 'Gunjiin Sumiin Tuukh'. Rinchen also wrote a book about the princess in the 1960's. According to both of them the princess was buried in a white coffin gilded inside and made of Thumian-wood. The princess was wrapped in white silk on which was written a Manchurian-Chinese inscription describing her life. Buried alongside her were some boxes decorated with gold containing a blouse covered in pearls, two big pearls, half of an earring, human dolls made of gold and silver and animal dolls carved with jewel and crystal inlays. Some of these objects are now in storage at the National Museum of Oral Histories in Ulaanbaatar. It is claimed that the Mongolian Master, Danda, made most of them. Another coffin was found in 1949. In it the researchers found the remains of a big man sitting in the lotus position along with several work tools such as a saw, a chisel and an axe.

The original Gunjiin Sum consisted of 4 temples, three inside a 66 square metre 2.5 metre high Chinese brick wall. The six-cornered chapel called Tuukhiin Sum stood outside the wall to the southeast. The gate in the middle of the southern wall was made of wood. There was a gate-temple in the northeastern and the western corner. In the centre of the complex, behind the gate-temple, was the square main memorial temple called Khargal Tsogchin with four steps leading up to it and measuring 10.90 metres (east-west) x 10.80 metres (north-south). There were eight painted pillars inside and some of the wooden roof rafters were also painted. The Princess' burial mound was

Мэдээллийг Төв аймагт 2004 онд хийсэн сүм хийдийн анхны судалгаагаар цуглуулсан Information collected by surveyors in the DOMM Pilot Study in 2004 in Tov Aimag

behind the memorial temple. According to Damdinsuren there was a brick making place about 100 metres outside the wall in the southeast.

Source(s):

Source 1: Works by Damdinsuren Mongolian 20th century scholar

Source 2: Erdenbat, Zouounmod Museum