

The Ancestral Tomb Model in the Tomb System of Tang Dynasty

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ABSTRACT

There is ancestral tomb model in the tomb system of the Tang Dynasty, including Yongkang Tomb, Xingning Tomb, Jianchu Tomb and Qiyun Tomb. The stone carvings are concentrated on both sides of Shinto on the south side of the grave mound, standing opposite each other. The stone carvings from south to north are a pair of stone pillars, a pair of auspicious beasts, 2 pairs of stone horses, 3 pairs of stone people, and a pair of squatting lions. The Yongkang Tomb and the Xingning Tomb were built in the early years of Wude. The content and layout of the stone carvings are a continuation of the tomb stone carvings of the Northern Dynasties. The stone carvings of the Longyao Ancestral Tomb were built between 674 and 677 AD, the layout of which is the same as that of the Yongkang Tomb and Xingning Tomb but different from the Xian Tomb. The horseman and the statue of civilian official appearing in the Longyao Ancestral Tomb may be a new factor due to time.

Keywords: Tang Dynasty, stone carvings, tomb

I. INTRODUCTION

After more than 300 years of turbulent times, the Tang Dynasty urgently needed to establish a stable social order. The royal family is at the top of the hierarchical social pyramid, and its funeral system has an exemplary role and the effect of superiors acting and inferiors imitating significance. The stability of the tomb not only affects the fate of later generations, but also affects the length and security of the state, and is an important part of the country's political life. Therefore, on July 19, 618 AD, Li Yuan claimed the beginning of the emperor, immediately honored the four ancestors in accordance with tradition, and reinterred the Taizu (the posthumous title of the founding emperor) Li Hu and Shizu (the posthumous title of the ancestor's surname) Li Bing, and built the Yongkang and Xingning tombs. Yongkang means forever governance, Xingning means prosperity and tranquility, and the tomb number shows the political aspirations of the new dynasty.

II. THE YONGKANG TOMB

Li Hu died 17 years after the unity of Western Wei Dynasty and was first buried in Chang'an. In the year of 606 AD, Li Hu was reburied in Qingshui, Qinzhou, now Qingshui County, Gansu Province, and in the first year of Wu De, his body was moved back to Changan again.

The site of the Yongkang Tomb is located in Shimadao Village, Lingqian Town, Sanyuan County, Shaanxi Province. It is located in the Loess Plateau of Weibei, and it is documented that there are twenty-five li inside the Yongkang Tomb and four seals to the four directions, which indicates the scope of the Tomb. The cemetery is located in the middle of the tomb. The gates and walls no longer exist. The grave mound is conical with a circumference of 122 meters and a residual height of 7 meters. There are many brick tiles left about 80 meters south of the grave mound center, which is presumed to be the ruins of offering hall. About 750 meters south of grave mound, there is a rammed soil site with a gate. The base site is about 60 meters from east to west. Outside the double gates, there is a small original stage with a low south and high north. The double gates use natural terrain and are built the south of the terrace. The Shinto is about 30 meters wide. The northern section is flush with the surrounding surface. It gradually lowers from the north to the south and becomes a deep trench. The southern end is 8 meters below the surface. Archaeological surveys² found that when Shinto was firstly built, it was lower than the ground, forming a ditch structure that is low in the south and high in the north. It may be to open a gentle slope road on the cliff on the south side. The stone carvings are located on both sides of the Shinto, and

¹ Jiang Baolian, Qin Jianming. Investigation of Yongkang Tomb, Wenbo, No. 6, 2002, pp. 21-25.

² Gong Qiming. Investigation of Yongkang Tomb in Tang Dynasty, Wenbo, No. 5, 1998, pp. 46-57.

there was a pair of stone pillars 3280 meters north of the gate site, which has already fallen. The total height of the stone pillars is about 4.3 meters. The stone pillars on the west side are engraved with 5 seal characters of "唐永康之陵" (Yongkang Tomb of Tang Dynasty), which is now unclear. The chapter is about 1.05 meters high, the top is a round orb and the below is a pitching lotus throne. The height of the column is about 2.8 meters, which is an octagonal prism. The width of the corrugated surface is about 0.25 to 0.3 meters, which gradually narrows from bottom to top. The base is square, with a side length of 1.2 meters, a thickness of 0.38 meters, and the top surface is a round basin-shaped foundation with a diameter of 0.65 meters. There was a pair of auspicious beasts 29 meters north of the stone pillar. And now, the only remaining is the auspicious beast in the west. The auspicious beast is standing with its head toward the east and its tail toward the west, which is straight in shape. It is 2.6 meters long, 2 meters high, 0.7 meters wide, with missing left hind legs and odd hooved feet. The first pair of stone horses is 29 meters north of the auspicious beast and the second pair of stone horses is 32 meters north of the first pair of stone horses. When the two pairs of stone horses were surveyed by Gong Qiming and Jiang Baolian, only two of them on the east side were left, and the head and limbs are all disabled, leaving only the horse body. 60 meters north of the second pair of stone horses is a pair of stone men. The stone man on the east side was relocated to the Beilin Museum in the 1960s and is well preserved. The stone man is an image of a sword warrior of 2.23 meters high and 0.7 meters wide. The stone man on the west side only exists below the waist and is also a sword warrior.⁴ According to the "Diary of the Inspection of the Tang Tombs"⁵ by He Zhenghuang, in 1943, there were three pairs of stone people, 1 standing and 5 fallen. The north of the stone people is a pair of stone lions, about 270 meters north from the center of the grave mound. The stone lion on the east side has been damaged, with only one residual stone remaining of the trunk. The stone lion existing on the west side is now preserved in Xi'an Beilin Museum, which is a squatting lion of 2.05 meters high. The stone lion was not mentioned in the archeological report of the original site. The author compared the pattern on the

shoulder of stone lion. The pattern on the right is clear and the pattern on the left is completely invisible due to weathering. There are many northwest winds in the Guanzhong area. Tang tombs' stone carvings are more severely weathered in the north than in the south. From this, it can be judged that the stone lion was originally placed facing east. In addition, He Zhenghuang's investigation records also mentioned that the two stone lions stood opposite each other. This way of placing is different from the south-facing arrangement of the stone lions in the south gates of the tombs after the Qian Tomb.

III. THE XINGNING TOMB

Li Yuan's father, Li Bing, was revered as the Shizu founding emperor. Because Li Hu's Guogong (Guogong is a title of nobility granted to founders of a state) title of Tang Dynasty was pursued after death, Li Bing was the first person to truly enjoy this title. The Xingning Tomb is located on the north terrace of the Houpai Village of Weicheng District, Xianyang City, Shaanxi Province. Its land is the second-order terrace of Xianyang. The Lingnan of Xingning and Changan City of Tang Dynasty face each other across Weihe River, and the grave mound is about 3 kilometers from the Weihe River. There are no historical records of the system and specifications of the Xingning Tomb. In addition to the erosion of the surrounding farmland, the style and specifications of the original grave mound are difficult to examine. The existing grave mound is roughly circular, with a diameter of 13 meters at the bottom and a height of about 5 meters. About 540 meters south of grave mound is the edge of the bluff of the loess ridge. There are 8 stone carvings existing on the surface. From south to north, there are 1 pair of auspicious beasts, 2 pairs of stone horses, and 1 pair of stone lions. The auspicious beasts are about 400 meters away from the center of the grave mound. The two stone beasts face each other with a distance of about 20 meters. The head is damaged by one horn. The base and the calf are buried in the soil and there is no way to judge whether it is hoof or claw. The first pair of stone horses is 30 meters north of auspicious beasts, and the second pair of stone horses is about another 28 meters north. The two pairs of stone horses face east and west, and the legs and the base are below the ground. The second pair of stone horses is 60 meters north of the stone lion. The stone lions are about 280 meters from the center of the grave mound and the distance between the two lions is about 22 meters. On the west side, only the head of the stone lion is above the ground. On the east side, a small part of the back of the stone lion is above the ground besides the head. From the angle of the head and the back, it is assumed that the posture is squatting. The stone lions face east and west. The head of the stone lion on the east faces the west, the back faces east, and the head of the stone lion on the west

³ According to the author's inspection in November 2013, there are only remnants of the western stone pillar (already fallen), the western auspicious beast and the eastern gate lion ruins. In the place where the original stone carving was located on the east side, local farmers built a new north-south diversion canal, and the stone carving remains are no longer visible. The following description of the status of stone inscriptions is a comprehensive report by Gong Qiming and Jiang Baolian.

⁴ He Zhenghuang. *Archaeological Travel Notes of He Zhenghuang*, Beijing: People's Fine Arts Publishing House, March 2010.

⁵ Wang Peizhong. *Investigation of Xingning Tomb in Tang Dynasty*, Wenwu, No. 3, 1985, pp. 46-47.

faces east and the back faces west. When the Xianyang City Museum surveyed the Xingning Tomb in 1977, there were 3 pairs of original stone men standing opposite each other between stone horses and stone lions. There was a pair of original stone pillars in the south of auspicious beasts. These stone carvings were buried in the ground after they fell down in their early years.⁶

IV. THE JIANCHU TOMB AND QIYUN TOMB

In the first year of Wude, Li Yuan's great-great-grandfather Li Xi and great-grandfather Li Tianci were respected on the same day with Li Hu and Li Bing. But at that time, Li Xi and Li Tianci were only respected as Gong (the feudal princes), and in the period of Emperor Gaozong of Tang, they were respected as emperor. The "Hui Yao in Tang Dynasty" recorded that:

The name for the respected Emperor Xuan of Xianzu is Xi. He was the great-grandson of Wang Gao, Wuzhao Emperor of XiLiang Dynasty, the grandson of Siliang Emperor Xin and the son of Chong Er, prefecture chief of Hongnong County. On the 22nd day of the first year of Wude, he was honored as Xuanjian Gong. On August 15th, 674 AD, he was honored Xuan Emperor with the posthumous title Xianzu, and was buried in the Jianchu Tomb. The Jianchu Tomb was at Zhaoqing County boundary in Zhaozhou. On the May 1st, the 2nd year of Yifeng (677 AD), it was renamed Jianchang Tomb. In the 28th year of Kaiyuan (740 AD), on July 18th, its name was changed to Jianchu Tomb.

The name of Yizu Emperor Guang is Tianci, and he was the first son of Emperor Xuan. On the June 22nd, the first year of Wude, he was honored the Emperor Yi. On August 15th, the 5th year of Xianheng, he was honored the Emperor Guang. His posthumous title was Yizu and he was buried in the Qiyun Tomb. The Qiyun Tomb was at Zhaoqing County boundary in Zhaozhou. On March 1st, the 2nd year of Yifeng, the Qiyun Tomb was renamed as Yanguang Tomb. On July 18th, the 28th year of Kaiyuan, the Yanguang Tomb was renamed as Qiyun Tomb.⁷

The Jianchu Tomb and Qiyun Tomb are co-located in a cemetery. The site of the tomb is in Weijia Town, Longyao County, Hebei Province. Customarily, they were called by a joint name of the Tang Tombs of Longyao. The tomb is now a depression that is 1 to 2 meters below the surrounding ground. And the grave mound now has already gone. In the 1980s, the vault

roofs of two brick-chambered tombs were found in the north of the depression, arranged north to south, with a distance of about 25 meters. About 25 meters south of the burial chamber to the south, bricks and building bases were found, which were supposed to be the ruins of offering hall. The Shinto is about 100 meters long and 40 meters wide, 1.2 meters below the surrounding ground. There are 20 original Shinto stone carvings, all of which are damaged, and are arranged around the Shinto from south to north. The southernmost has a pair of stone pillars, which are both broken. The base is buried in the ground, the column is an octagonal prism with a diameter of 0.6 meters, the chapter is an upturned lotus flower basin with pearl, and the bottom of the basin is an octagonal chassis. 13 meters north of the stone pillar is a pair of auspicious beasts, more than 2 meters long, about 0.8 meters wide, the head of which has been lost, and most of the legs are buried in the soil. There is mane on the neck. The moire-shaped bas-relief wings are engraved above the forelimbs and shoulders. There are two pairs of stone horses 12.3 meters north of auspicious beasts. The distance between the horses is 12.5 meters from north to south. The stone horse on the north side of Shinto is disconnected from the neck, and the horse's head is stored in the county's Cultural Relics Depository. The remaining 3 horses all have incomplete heads. The stone horses are decorated with saddle blanket, cage habena and martingale, and most of the horses' legs are buried in the soil. The Longyao County's Cultural Relics Depository has tried to excavate the stone horse on the north side of the east. The horse measures 1.76 meters in height and has a double-layer stone seat. The first stone layer is 1.72 meters long, 1.02 meters wide and 0.3 meters thick, and is carved from a single block of stone horse. The second layer is 2 meters long, 1.22 meters wide, and the thickness is unknown. Each stone horse has a horse puller on the left side, with a broken head, arched hands, and lapels with narrow sleeves and waist ties. There were three pairs of stone people in the north of stone horses, and four exist, all of which are seriously damaged. The first and second stone men are missing from south to north on the east side. The stone man on the westernmost side is 17 meters away from the stone horse, and the north-south distance between the stone men is about 12 meters. To the south is a pair of sword warriors and to the north are 2 pairs of civilian officials holding scepters. 13.7 meters north of stone people is a pair of stone squatting lions, which are preserved in the different place of Hebei Museum. According to the illustration of Xingtai.com's "Illustrated Longyao"⁸ article, the stone lion is placed in the same form as the Xingning Tomb, facing east and west. Both lions are 1.5 meters high and connected to the base. The east side

⁶ Hui Yao in Tang Dynasty, Volume 1. The Emperor's Title I.

⁷ Xingtai.com: Illustrated Longyao.

http://www.xtrb.cn/xtt/2011-08/12/content_303690.htm

⁸ The above data is quoted from Li Lanke: Longyao Tang Tomb, Stele of Guangye Temple and Ancestral Tombs of Tang Dynasty, Wenwu, No. 4, 1988, pp. 55-65.

of the lion base is 1.43 meters long and 1.03 meters wide, and the west side base is 1.5 meters long and 1.02 meters wide.

There is no biography of Li Xi and Li Tianxi in history books. When they were buried in Longyao is not clearly recorded in history books. In the first year of Wude, the actual control area of the Tang Dynasty was limited to Guanzhong and southwestern Shanxi. Hebei was still under the influence of Dou Jiande. Therefore, at this time, Li Yuan could only construct the Yongkang Tomb and the Xingning Tomb. As for Li Xi and Li Tianxi, Li Yuan can only honor them in terms of name and no actual construction or repair of the tombs of the two was possible.

The author judges that the completion time of the Longyao Tang Tombs stone carving is between 674 AD to 677 AD, which is the same as the Gong Tomb stone carving. The stone lion modeling style of Longyao Tang Tombs is also close to that of Gong Tomb. It is also similar to the stone lions of Shun Tomb and Qian Tomb later, but different from Tai Tomb and Jian Tomb. The appearance of the horseman is the characteristic of Longyao and Tang Tomb that is different from that of Yongkang Tomb and Xingning Tomb. However, the east and west horseman are both on the left side of the stone horse, which leads to a slight asymmetry on both sides of the Shinto. However, Qian Tomb Shinto's east and west horsemen are all located on the north side of the stone horse, which is a placement method that pursues symmetry. And the two methods of placing horseman are different. Civilian officials appear in the stone people, which is also different from the former two ancestral tombs. The civilian officials in the 18 tombs are first saw in the Tai Tomb, which is also one of the evidence that Lin Tongyan determined the completion time of the stone inscription. However, the arrangement of civil and military officials of stone people in Longyao Tang Tomb is different from that of civil officials at east and military officials at west after Tai Tomb. A south pair is warrior and 2 north pairs are civil officials. Probably because the horseman and civil officials are a new type of stone carving, their placement has not yet formed a fixed shape. Regarding the construction time of Longyao Tang Tomb, no matter what kind of statement, one thing is agreed upon, that is, it is completed after Xian Tomb and Zhao Tomb. However, Longyao's Tang Tomb did not adopt the newer cemetery's shape and structure of Xian Tomb and Zhao Tomb. Instead, it continued the formation of the Yongkang Tomb and Xingning Tomb, which proves Lin Tongyan's point of view that in the Tang Dynasty's tomb system, there is a different ancestral tomb shape and structure from the emperor.

V. CONCLUSION

The characteristics of the ancestor tomb model of Tang Dynasty are as follows.

The tomb model has the following characteristics:

The tomb name consists of two characters, namely: Yongkang, Xingning, Jianchu (Jianchang), Qiyun (Yanguang), which is obviously different from other single tomb names of Tang emperors. The two-character tomb name is dedicated to the ancestor tomb, and its status is lower than the tomb with a single character. The grade of the official responsible for managing the mountain tomb also reflects the difference between the two.

At the site of the tomb, Yongkang and Xingning tombs are built on the high and open loess ridge. The due south of the tomb area is the original stage. The tomb gate is built on the southern edge of the terrace. Visiting the tomb and admiring it from the bottom to the top of the ridge can better show the momentum of the tomb. This site selection method was also inherited by the tombs using the earth.

The grave mound is round, which is different from the inverted funnel-shaped grave mound of the tombs after the Xian Tomb. The circular grave mound is a popular style of mounds from the Eastern Han Dynasty to the Southern and Northern Dynasties, indicating the inheritance of the tomb system of the four ancestors' tombs of the Tang Dynasty.

Stone carvings are set on both sides of Shinto outside the south gate of the tombs. From south to north, they are a pair of stone pillars, a pair of auspicious beasts, 2 pairs of stone horses, 3 pairs of stone men, and a pair of stone lions. The stone carvings are all opposite to each other to the east and west. Stone lions' way of placing things facing each other is unique to ancestor tombs in Tang tombs.

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