

Additional Material collected by Survey Team

ДУГУ 082 Ганжуур хийд

Interview with R. Ravjaa, monk of the revived Ganjuur temple in the centre of Govi-Ugtaal Sum (was born in 1925, had been a monk in Baruun Choir monastery).

According to the informant, the temple was revived in 1990 in a very small temple (situated now on the very West in the courtyard). This temple building was originally a wooden building, which was a monk called Choijamts's house. (He was Zoch master in Baruun Ganjuur temple, who was arrested during the purges.) His house was then taken to the Sum centre (by camels?) and used as a local government building (Zakhirгаа). Later it was used as a storage or warehouse and also as an archive. After this it was used as the first temple building being erected by the new stupa on the South-East of the Sum centre. Later again it was taken to the new temple courtyard. Our informant showed us a metal ring in the east wall of this old temple building, where the first abbot, Gonchogchültem, tied up his horse.

At the time of the revival, there were first only three old monks: Khaidav, Luvsansharav and Choimbel. Later many others joined them once they heard about the opening and then there were about 20 old monks. The abbot became Gonchogchültem. (He was a local governor before that though before the purges, he had been a monk in Züün Ganjuur monastery. He died some years ago.) In these early years of the revival about 20 young monks joined the monastic community.

The painted scrolls and pictures the following deities of are placed on the altar: in the middle is Gombo (who was the main deity in the Lamrim temple in Baruun Ganjuur monastery), Lkham (this thangka was saved from the Ganjuur temple of the old Baruun Ganjuur monastery) with Jamsran (who was the main deity in Düinkhor temple of Baruun Ganjuur and the main deity of Baruun Ganjuur on the left. The picture of Gongor (who was the main deity in Züün Ganjuur) and Makhgal are on the right.

Currently apart from R. Ravjaa monk, there are only a few young monks in the monastery one of whom is his son. Most of the other monks are in Ulaanbaatar. Therefore ceremonies are only held on the great days such as the 8th, 15th and 29th of the month. The first ceremony was held in 1990 and the new temple building was built about 4-5 years later.

On the right (East) of the new temple there is a separate wooden building, which is a warehouse with the old temple building (the ex-wooden house of Choijamts monk from Baruun Choir) standing on the left (West). This old wooden building houses the volumes of the Ganjuur (bought with funds from Tibet Foundation, London) and the volumes of the Yum (Prajnyaparamita sutra). The Yum volumes are old ones saved from the purges.

In the (new) monastery paintings of the two Ganjuur monasteries have been hung. The painting of Baruun Ganjuur monastery is on the left wall. It was painted by Bayar, who is also known as Gezegt Mergen. The painting of Züün Ganjuur is on the right wall. It was painted by Khaidüv.

The monks and people of the Sum would like to revive the Maitreya circumambulation ceremony, and the cart of Maitreya, his horse and a Maitreya statue was made last year (2006) for the cost of 500,000Tgs on the initiative of D. Lkhamsüren (female) who is the key holder of the temple.

Data given by D. Lkhamsüren (middle aged women), the key holder of the temple

There are two stupas in the courtyard: the one on the left was sponsored by a family called Dolgor; the other big stupa, which is a Bodhi stupa (Bodi suvraga), stands in front of the old wooden temple building and was erected on the 3rd of July 2003 sponsored by D. Amgalan, B. Terenmönkh, A. Saruuljargal, A. Saruulbaatar and A. Saruulsaikhan. The Tibet Foundation's Buddhism in Mongolia project provided funds (£470) for the volumes of the Ganjuur in 1998. They also provided £1,150 for the building of the new concrete temple building. Up until this was built winter ceremonies were held in a yurt, and in summer in the small wooden temple.

Written by Krisztina Teleki and Zsuzsa Majer

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