

## Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UBNR 947

NOT in Rinchen 947 - Yonzon khambiin süm

Yonzon lamiin shariliin gazar

Tibetan name: *yongs-'dzin mkhan-po*

English name: Temple of Yonzon khamba, Relics temple of Yonzon lam/khamba

GPS was taken at the east of *Choijin lamiin süm*

Elevation 1287m

N 47° 54.875'

W 106° 55.154'

**Sources:** Photo in the Film Archive (K-23983), Photo of the mummy of Yonzon khamba in the Film Archive (K-23964), Painting by Jügder (1913), Photos of József Geleta published by Forbáth (p. 8., 168.)

Sereeter, Ö., *Mongoliin Ikh Khüree, Gandan khiidiin tүүkhen бүтэtsiin towch.* 1651-1938. Ulaanbaatar 1999.

Bawden, C. R. (translated and edited), *Tales of an Old Lama*, The Institute of Buddhist Studies [Buddhica Britannica Series Continua VIII], Tring, U. K. 1997

Forbáth, L., *A megűjshodott Mongólia*, Franklin [A Magyar Földrajzi Társaság Könyvtára], Budapest, 1934

Pozdneyev, A. M., *Mongolia and the Mongols*, edited by Krueger, J. R., translated by Shaw, J. R. and Plank, D., Bloomington, Indiana University 1971

Pürew, O., *Mongoliin uls төriin төw.* Ulaanbaatar 1994

Painting by Jügder (1913)

**Photos:** Film Archive (K23964, K23983), Shepetilnikov (93), Geleta/Forbáth (168, 2 pictures, outer look and interior with the altar, 8 (golden mummy of the 8<sup>th</sup> bogd))

### History

Yonzon (Tib. *yongs-'dzin*) is a title borne by the tutors of the Dalai lamas and the *jewtsündamba khutagts*.

Luwsankhaimchog (Tib. blo-bzang mkhas mchog) was a Tibetan lama who came to Mongolia as the *jawtüi lam* (Tib. *byabs-khrus-kyi bla-ma*, lama who performs purifying rituals) of the *jewtsündamba khutagt* in 1915. He later became, what was, the last of the *yonzon khambas*, the tutor to the 8<sup>th</sup> *jewtsündamba*, and, from 1920, the main abbot (*khamba nomon khan*) of the whole Ikh Khüree. (He was the last to fulfil this position, too.) He bore the latter position from then until his execution in 1937.

However, this temple was probably built for his predecessor.

In the Film Archive there is a picture showing a three-storey Tibetan style temple (K-23983, in the Chinese temples category, K-23971–23987, box 93). The photo has the inscription: '*Yonzon khambiin süm*, situated at the east of *Choijin lamiin süm*'. The categorization of the photo implies this must have been a Chinese temple, but its Tibetan style contradicts it. The pictures of the same building taken by Geleta in the 1920's are in Forbáth's book. *Yonzon khamba's* temple was situated in a fenced-off building to the east of *Choijin lamiin süm* (Rinchen 915). Pürew confirms this (*Mongol töriin golomt*, p. 59.), stating that *yonzon khamba* Luwsankhaimchog lived on the east of *Choijin lamiin süm*.

Jügder's painting also shows a building on the right and to the east of *Choijin lamiin süm*, marked with the name of *yonzon khamba*, simply saying 'that of *Yonzon khamba*' and not giving any data on the type of the temple or its function.

The most informative account on this shrine is given by Jambal (English text pp. 57-66., Mongolian text pp. 739-753.), who was the treasurer or bookkeeper (*nyaraw*, Tib. *gnyer-ba*) of this temple. According to him, the shrine contained relics (*sharil*) of Baldanchoimbel (Tib. dpal-ldan chos-'phel), the previous *yonzon khamba* (before Luwsankhaimchog, the last one), who had been the Tibetan teacher for the young 8<sup>th</sup> *jewtsündamba*. Baldanchoimbel *yonzon* bore the title *khamba nomon khan* from 1865-1899 when he died aged 70. His body was dried, mummified and being preserved in this special temple where it was honoured by the 8<sup>th</sup> *jewtsündamba*. There is a photo of the mummified *yonzon khamba*, in sitting position on his throne, behind glass screens, in the Film Archive (K-23964). The mummified body of the 8<sup>th</sup> *jewtsündamba* was kept in this temple after 1924, too. (A picture can be seen in Forbáth's book, p. 8.).

Jambal also claims that this temple was under the authority of the Dalai Lama's treasury. Furthermore he  
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says that the Buryat Agwaan *Ikhaaramba* or Agwaandorjiew (Tib. ngag-dbang rdo-rje, 1853/54-1938) who arrived to Urga accompanying the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, lived in the relics temple, which was shared by Tibetans and Mongols. Jambal also records that the pastures of this relics temple were at Shariin gol.

As Jambal describes in details, most of the property and the flocks and herds of the Relics temple of *yonzon khamba* were ruined by the Gamin, the Chinese Nationalist army of Kuomintang (English text p. 72, Mongolian text p. 756.) when they entered Ikh Khüree in 1919.

No further data was found on the temple, neither on its religious life, nor its destruction.

### Current situation

There are no remains of the temple of Yonzon khamba. The relics of the *yonzon khamba* Baldanchoimbel are kept in *Choijin lamiin süm* at present.