

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UBR 918

Rinchen 918 - Töwdiin khural

Unzai lamiin khural

English name: Assembly of Tibetans, Assembly of Unzai lama

GPS was taken at School number 24th, west of present State Department Store

Elevation 1286m

N 47°55.025'

E 106°54.148'

Data provider: Dashtseren lama of *Züün Khüree Dashchoilin* monastery (Born 1921)

Sources: 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

Dügersüren, L., *Ulaanbaatar khotiin tүүkhees*. (2nd edition), Ulaanbaatar 1999

Forbáth, L., *A megujhodott Mongolia*, Franklin [A Magyar Földrajzi Társaság Könyvtára], Budapest 1934

Idshinnorow, Sh., *Ulaanbaatar khotiin khuraangui*. Ulaanbaatar 1994

Pürew, O., *Mongoliin uls төрийн төв*. Ulaanbaatar 1994

Pürew, O., *Mongol төрийн golomt*. Ulaanbaatar 2004

Photos: none

History

The 13th Dalai Lama, Thub-bstan rgya-mtsho (1876-1933) came to Ikh Khüree, the Mongolian capital, in November 1904, when he was escaping from the British army led by Younghusband. Jambal (English text p. 35-46., Mongolian text p. 714-726.) accounts that when the Dalai Lama arrived, he was initially installed in a meditation tent and two yurts in Gandan in the place where the stupas of the 5th and 7th *jewtsündamba khutagts* were (*5-r bogdiin shariliin süm*, *7-r bogdiin shariliin süm*, 'the relics temples of the 5th and 7th *bogd*' (These temples are currently called *Ochirdariin süm* or Vajradhara temple, which is the *Tsogchin* temple of Gandan monastery, and *Zuugiin süm*, the Buddha temple beside it.) In addition, 50-60 extra yurts were put up in the fenced-off area (*khashaa*) of the lama dwellings of Gandan for the Tibetans who accompanied him into exile. (According to Jambal these were all men as no women or children were among them). Jambal also claims that all the expenses incurred by the Dalai Lama and his retinue were covered by the four aimags and the *Ikh shaw'* (subordinated areas), the five divisions.

According to Dügersüren (p. 53.), a fenced-off building called *Dalai lamiin san* ('Treasury of the Dalai Lama'), with its fenced-off area being called *Dalai lamiin sangiin khashaa* ('The court of the Treasury of the Dalai Lama') was built as a dwelling of the 13th Dalai Lama in 1905. According to Dashtseren lama, a Tibetan quarter (*Töwdiin khoroo*) sprang up around this building, which served as a refuge shelter (*nömörgön*) for the Tibetan inhabitants. As it was situated neither in Gandan nor in Züün Khüree where commerce was not allowed, it became a commercial centre selling Chinese goods. In effect it was a free trade zone.

This *Töwdiin khoroo* was situated in Baruun ömnöd khoroo, the South-west district occupied by laymen, where there were numerous other small assemblies. The exact location of the Tibetan quarter was on the east bank of the Baruun Selbe River, next to the Buryat quarter (*Buryatiin khoroo*), where there weren't any temples.

According to Pürew's book (*Mongoliin uls төрийн төв*, p. 46.) the treasury (*Dalai lamiin san* or *Töwdiin san*) for the temple was established with donations believers gave in honour of the Dalai Lama that was later managed by the *Shanzaw töwdiin gazar* ('treasury of the Tibetans'), the financial office.

Geleta claims (Forbáth, p. 172.) that for Mongols the majority of the devotional objects and religious artifacts were ordered from Tibet. An envoy was appointed to manage and maintain this flourishing commercial connection between Tibet and Mongolia. Thus Choini Lussan Chinde lama (Forbáth's transcription, Lussan should be Luwsan, Tib. chos-? blo-bzang ?, see his photo in Forbáth, p. 104.) represented the Dalai Lama in Ulaanbaatar in the 1920's. He had very good diplomatic skills and commercial acumen and managed to obtain all the commissions for Tibetans rather than using Chinese sculptors and masters, who had a famous workshop in Dolonnuur.

The Tibetan assembly (*Töwdiin khural*), situated in the Tibetan quarter, was also called as *Unzai lamiin*
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khural, most probably after its head, *Unzai lam*. It occupied a wooden building. Only Tibetan male lamas belonged to this Gelukpa (Yellow Sect) temple, about 30 in number. Daily chanting was held. According to Dashtseren lama, some of the lamas had wives.

No other data was found on this assembly.

Current situation

According to Rinchen's map, the assembly temple must have been situated behind the present State Department Store, which was the north-eastern part of *Baruun ömnöd khoroo*. According to Idshinnorow (p. 34.) the Tibetan quarter was situated around the present School No. 24. on the west of State Department Store.

There are no remains, the whole area is built up.