Explore the Carving Art of the Typical Folk Memorial Archway from the Historical Context -- Takes Anyi County as An Example

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Abstract: As an important part of Chinese folk traditional folk architecture, the memorial archway has high historical, artistic value and profound historical, cultural and social significance. As an important branch of Chinese archway, Anyi County archway is not only a huge number, but also has a profound culture, rich carving content and distinctive carving techniques. This paper takes the memorial archway of Anyi County as the research object, through big data research, and field investigation, combined with the geographical location and historical development of Anyi County, and takes the Deng chastity memorial archway as an example to analyze its carving art characteristics, to explore the artistic interior of the memorial archway carving.

Keywords: Anyi County, Memorial Arch, Carving, Context of the times.

1 Introduction

Anyi County now belongs to Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province. As early as the Song Dynasty, Anyi Shang Gang became a crucial part of jiangyou Shang Gang with its superior geographical environment and the correct way of doing business, with a long cultural history[1]. The author summarized the data of the memorial archway in Anyi County according to the third cultural relics survey in Jiangxi Province (Tab 1). Among them, the number of merit archway, family workshops and filial piety workshops is large, in addition, there are symbol workshops, temple workshops and so on. This paper takes the memorial archway of Anyi County as the research object, and combines the memorial archway carving and historical development of Anyi County, to explore the carving art and cultural connotation of the typical folk memorial archway, inherits the style of the business tradition of Anyi people, and the style of putting righteousness first.
### Table 1. Classification of Archarchways in Anyi County

(Data source: Third Cultural Relics Survey of Jiangxi Province)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>number</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>geographic position</th>
<th>Name of cultural relics</th>
<th>dynasty</th>
<th>area (㎡)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Signal workshop</td>
<td>Xinmin Village, Xinmin Township, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Xiong Jia Village Gate Square</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Merit memorial archway</td>
<td>Yunxi Village, Dongyang Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Seal back door square group</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>125.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Merit memorial archway</td>
<td>Dangshan Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Dangshan Doctor First Gate Fang</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Family archway</td>
<td>Yijiguan West Gate Square</td>
<td>Yijiguan West Gate Square</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Family archway</td>
<td>Kansai family door square</td>
<td>Kansai family door square</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>57.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Family archway</td>
<td>Beijing and Taiwan Shimen Square</td>
<td>Beijing and Taiwan Shimen Square</td>
<td>Ming Dynasty</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Festival filial piety fang</td>
<td>No.41, Heping Neighborhood Committee, Longjin Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Kuibi Lianhui Gate Square</td>
<td>early republic of China</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Festival filial piety fang</td>
<td>Dengjia Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Deng Jiazhen Festival archway</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jiexiao Workshop (centenarian Workshop)</td>
<td>Yitang Natural Village, Yiji Village, Changbu Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Yi Ji Zhen Shoumen Fang</td>
<td>The 22 years of Qing Daoguang</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Temple fang</td>
<td>Xubu Village, Dongyang Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>The xu archway</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Temple fang</td>
<td>Dangshan Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Dangshan ancestor Hall archway Gate</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>other</td>
<td>An Village, Yanfang Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Home gate workshop</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>20.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>other</td>
<td>Xiaqiao Village, Changbu Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Hai Ya Tian Fengmen Fang</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>other</td>
<td>Mafangdian Natural Village, Yiqi Village, Changbu Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province</td>
<td>Ma Fang teach son door head</td>
<td>Qing dynasty</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 The Carving Art of the Memorial Archway in Anyi County

The city of Anyi County is full of ancient buildings, Anyi ancient village group depends on the mountains, water from east to west, is a rare geomantic treasure, covering a total area of about three square kilometers. The underground water system is complete. The layout of local buildings and the street traffic conform to the trend of the water flow, fully reflecting the Confucian cosmology of "the unity of man and nature". The following combines the archway of Anyi archway to illustrate the basic characteristics of these three ancient villages:

2.1 The Yearning for the Imperial Examination System

Whether the family dignitaries, scholarly families, or poor scholars, all hope to pass the imperial examination "carp yue longmen", to achieve the leap of the class and the prosperity of the family. Out of the yearning for the imperial examination system, the lintel was made into an official hat, which not only framed the facade, but also expressed the wishes of the prosperity of the house and the continuous official luck.

Shi Fu Doctor in Luotian Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province, was built in the first year of Qianlong Xinji (1762), covering an area of more than 4,400 square meters. From the overall view, the building carved beam embroidery households, solemn style, strict layout, the preservation is basically complete. Between the fingers, hundreds of years of history have flowed like a long river. Although the era of high men is no longer, the remaining ancient houses play an important role in the study of architectural carving art in northern Jiangxi. Located in the second entrance courtyard of the house, there is a wall-style gate door, named "Shuang Yixilan" (Fig 1, Fig 2). The door is made of marble and redstone. The plaque around the exquisite carving, or relief, or carving, the lintel carving is divided into three layers: the lower layer is "diving Longmen", the middle layer is symmetrical round carving "champion riding the street" and "Kirin picture", the upper layer is "phoenix auspicious". The left and right sides of the lintel use sacrificial red stone, just like the hat wings on both sides of the official hat, with different colors, making the door head decoration look like an official hat.[2]

Fig. 1. "Shuang Yixilan" official hat

Fig. 2. "Shuang Ru Xilan" in the fish leaping over the dragon gate, the champion swimming street,Kirin diagram carving
2.2 Highlight the Respect for the Traditional Ritual System

As the prop of the ruling order, the memorial archway is inseparable from the ritual system from the moment of its being. In Chinese history, Confucius advocated "self-denial". Jia Yi of the Western Han Dynasty deepened the view of "father and son filial piety, brother love and respect". Emperor Wudi of the Later Han Dynasty took the three main principles and the five permanent members as the social ruling order. In the feudal ritual society at home, the memorial archway reflects people's respect for the ritual system.[3]

Shuangdemen head is in Jingtai Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City, composed of Shide men (Fig 3) and Chongde men (Fig 4). The carved bricks of Shide Gate head are all dragon-shaped (Fig 5), while the carved tiles of Chongde Gate head (Fig 6) are all dragon-tail-shaped. Elder brother is elder brother, elder brother is younger brother, younger brother, you can see that architectural decoration respects the Confucian school and pays attention to brotherly etiquette. From this, we can think that Liu Zongxu and Liu Zongshou, who were later founded, also paid great attention to the inheritance of brotherly rites and laws, so that Jingtai Village can leave a large number of beautifully carved Jiangxi school buildings.

Fig. 3. Shide Gate Head
(Photo source: Photo by Xiaoyu Pan)

Fig. 4. Chongde Gate Head
(Photo source: Photo by Xiaoyu Pan)

Fig. 5. Dragon head-shaped bucket arch carved brick at the head of the Shide Gate
(Image source: Photo by Xiaoyu Pan)

Fig. 6. The dragon tail-shaped bucket arch carved brick at the head of the Chongde Gate
(Image source: Photo by Xiaoyu Pan)
2.3 Reflects the Filial Piety of Caution

Since ancient times, the Chinese people have paid great attention to filial piety and have a strong family consciousness. The construction of the stone archway not only inherits the filial piety of prudence, but also strengthens the cohesion of future generations.

Jingtai Shimen Square is located in the middle of Jingtai Village. It was built in the first year of Tang Yuanhe (806), repaired in the fourth year of Ming Zhengde (1509), and rebuilt in the twenty-third year of Qing Jiaqing (1818). It is a stone sign square with the north facing south, four columns and three floors (Fig 7 and Fig 8). In the south, there is "Shao Zhonglei" (Fig 9). In the north, there is "Yintree" (Fig10), reflecting the respect of Liu descendants to the ancestors and blessing. Jingtai Shimen Square is simple and thick children, retaining the typical Ming Dynasty architectural style. Its intact preservation provides a physical example for the study of the architectural craft of the Ming Dynasty, and the cultural relic value is relatively high.

3 Typical Case —— Takes Deng Jia Chastity Archway As an Example

The Deng chastity archway is Huang's chastity Square, located 200 meters northwest of Dengjia Village, Shitai Town, Anyi County, Nanchang City. The Qing government to commend Deng Muying's wife Huang Guilan, unswerving and thrifty noble quality and stand this workshop.

3.1 Chinity Archway and Chastity View

In the Ming and Qing dynasties, the concept of chastity developed towards the extreme, almost religious, and extremely strict on women. Therefore, from the perspective of the original intention of the formation of chastity concept, it has a role in maintaining the stability of family relations, and from the patriarchal feudal thought it leads, it must have a considerable degree of repression on women's human nature. [4]
Women value the famous festival, insist on chastity, or are not dependent on their husband to live alone, which itself is also a reflection of women's ideological progress and perfect personality. In the feudal period, although establishing the memorial archway for loyal women was restricting women, and had the positive significance of advocating people to be good for beauty and abide by the rules and morality.

### 3.2 Master Huang Shi's "Bai Jie Qing Cao"

The owner of the archway, Huang, was originally a native of Luotian Village. During the Daoguang reign of the Qing Dynasty, Huang, 16, married to Dengjia Village. According to the "Deng family spectrum·Deng mother Huang Ru people 70 life preface" (Fig 11,12,13) description: "sexual quiet, wan class female, red words and smile, all women virtue, worthy of the female motto, in I too weng, really called a wife...". She endured many hardships, and was still famous for Qing exercises in her later years. In order to commemorate the character of Huang's "Bai Jie Qing Cao", the people built the Deng's chastity archway in the 21st year of Daoguang (1841) to express their remembrance and praise.

![Fig. 11. Deng Family Tree](image source: Shaozheng Lu shooting)

![Fig. 12. Deng Family Tree](image source: Shaozheng Lu shooting)

![Fig. 13. Deng Family Tree](image source: Shaozheng Lu shooting)

### 3.3 Deng Family Chastity Memorial Archway Carving Characteristics

Deng Jia chastity archway faces south to north (Figure 14, Figure 15), with four columns and three gates, made of granite, with a total height of 7.1 meters and a width of 6.3 meters. The square is composed of the square base, column, body and top phase into a three-layer structure. The square base is covered by rolling clouds, and the four columns are all square. The lower plaque is 2.4 meters long and 0.6 meters high. Both the north and south are engraved with "The chastity Square of Deng Muying's wife, Huang Shi". These carvings are not only lifelike, but also exquisite knife work, very line sense, it is amazing.
3.4 Historical Context and the Internal Exploration of Carving Art

The carving process has grown for hundreds of years, and various forms of carving works are presented in their unique way. The eunuchs and generals placed the expectations of their ancestors for both civil and military affairs. Sculpting "eight immortals crossing the sea" means to display skills, compete with each other, and express Deng's reverie for a better life. Carving "Fu Xing, Lu Xing, longevity star", symbolizing happiness[5], good luck, longevity. Flowers and vases, constitute a symbolic pattern, through the metaphorical carving technique, I hope that the Deng ancestors bless the descendants of a safe life[6]. The elderly, children and Ruyi together constitute a picture, which also has the hope of family safety (Fig 16). Both double dragons and double cranes are symbols of beauty for Deng's descendants (Fig 17). The dog and swallow are carved together to constitute a "poor family, the new husband of the dog", telling future generations should learn from Deng and his wife, treat others sincerely, and do not climb high and step down. Deer and flamingo are symbols of loyalty; "deer crane spring" figure, homophonic "six contract spring", meaning the ancestors of Deng good wishes for peace[7].

4 Epilogue

Anyi County has gone through the most prosperous era. Today, the memorial archway is just a relic for us, but an honor for the owner and for later generations. The ancient stage, ancient archway and ancient house of Anyi ancient village are like the elders
who wash the lead flowers, not arrogant and impetuous, quietly watching the passage of time.

After thousands of years of wind and rain and polishing, the ancient buildings of Anyi are still standing, and the story of Anyi is also known to more people. In recent years, the Anyi government has developed tourism combined with its own characteristics, and joined hands with the local people to promote the economic development of Anyi area. At the same time, it has repaired the local damaged buildings, successfully building Anyi ancient village into a famous national historical and cultural village.

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