

# Research on Educational Inheritance of Manchu Paper-cut Art in Mount Yiwulv

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**Abstract**—Although the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv was listed in the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list in 2010, its inheritance status and development prospects are still not optimistic. Based on the inheritance and development of the Manchu paper-cut art in Mount Yiwulv, this paper explores the ways to solve the problems from the following three aspects: the protection mechanism of the inheritors, school teaching method and “living” teaching method of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, protection and inheritance mechanism.

**Keywords**—Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, Intangible cultural heritage, Inheritance, Education

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv is mainly expressed by the worship of primitive natural gods, plant totems, animal totems, ancestor worship and Manchu customs. Its style is simple and primitive, retaining the most primitive form of paper-cut art. It has strong regional and national primitive characteristics. In Mount Yiwulv, Beining city, Linghai city, Fuxin, Yi county and other places have been handed down from generation to generation, which lasted for more than 370 years. After 2006, as the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv was selected and recorded by the national non-material cultural heritage list, and UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list, territorial governments and Jinzhou city non-material cultural heritage protection center have intensified the efforts on the protection of it, not only a lot of fruitful rescue recording work were achieved, and also created many ways to heritage and development it base on the foundation of communication, education, community activities. However, the practical problems of representative inheritors' aging but lacking of successors and contemporary life have not been well solved. Based on the present situation of the inheritance of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, this paper explores the methods and paths for the educational inheritance and development of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv by drawing on the effective practices of other regions in the inheritance of similar non-heritage projects.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROTECTION AND INHERITANCE OF THE MANCHU PAPER-CUT IN MOUNT YIWULV

Record Protection is Effective. Relevant units and personnel have carried out more than 20 years of digging, collecting and collating work. Since the staff of Jinzhou Museum of Mass Culture first came into contact with the Manchu paper-cut art of Mount Yiwulv in the late 1980s, "More than 80 paper-cut artists from western Liaoning have been interviewed, 1384 paper-cut works have been collected. More than 2,500 photographs of Manchu paper-cut culture and ecological environment in Mount Yiwulv have been recorded, and 200,000 words of writing have been taken. Personal archives have been set up for 86 paper-cut writers and the digitized pilot project of "Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv" has been completed with high quality. The entry and quality of the data entered rank second in the country. "[1]

The Value of Inheritors of Intangible Cultural Heritage Projects is Accepted by the Society. The key to protecting "intangible heritage" is to protect inheritors. Benefiting from Wang Guang and Zhang Bo, who insisted on going deep into the folk cultural memory for many years, more than ten inheritors of paper-cut of different ages, such as Wang Xiuxia, Zhao Zhiguo, Hou Guizhi, Ma Fengyun, Huang Lianyu, Ma Fengyun, Yu Aihong, Liao Wenqin and Wang Fengjun, who had lived in the countryside unknown, were found one after another. In 2008, Wang Xiuxia and Zhao Zhiguo were named as the representative inheritors of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, a national intangible cultural heritage, and Wang Xiuxia was also named as the outstanding inheritors of Chinese folk culture; while relatively young inheritors Zhang Bo and Lin Xinyu have been committed to actively promoting paper-cut art in campus and community activities. Lin Xinyu was appointed a Visiting Professor by the College of International Exchange of BOHAI University. Wang Xiuxia, Zhang Bo and other eight successors were appointed as volunteer counselors by Beizhen New District Primary School, one of "Education Inheritable Bases of Manchu Paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv". They regularly taught students Manchu Paper-cut courses.

With Various Exhibition Activities, the Popularity of Manchu Paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv have been Upgraded. In May 8, 2009, the Jinzhou Paper-cut Association was formally established. Jinzhou Museum of Mass Culture organizes exhibitions of Manchu paper-cut works many times a year. Various training and exchange activities are carried out all year round. At the same time, it actively builds exhibition platforms for inheritors, and organized successively representative inheritors such as Wang Xiuxia, Zhao Zhiguo, Zhang Bo and Lin Xinyu to participate in art exhibitions both inside and outside the province for many times to promote popularity of paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv.

While the government has increased its support, educational institutions at all levels in Jinzhou municipality are also contributing to the protection and inheritance of this intangible cultural heritage. Beizhen city has been committed to the

inheritance of Manchu paper-cut in the compulsory education stage. Since 2006, Manchu paper-cut has entered 47 primary schools and 25 Junior High schools in Beizhen city. Since its establishment, the College of International Exchange of BOHAI University has always regarded paper-cut as a compulsory course for undergraduate and master students majoring in Chinese international education. After several years of training, many students' paper-cut skills have been recognized by inheritors, and some foreign students have begun to teach paper-cut in their own countries.

### III. THE WORRISOME PRESENT SITUATION OF INHERITANCE

Manchu paper cutting art lacks heirs. The intangible cultural heritage is different from the material cultural heritage. The intangible cultural heritage must depend on the consciousness and practice of people or groups to remain. It belongs to a "dynamic" culture. Therefore, the core of preservation lies in the protection of "people". Only when the "people" are well protected, can the inheritance of skills, knowledge, consciousness and culture be realized.[2] However, due to the influence of the times, there are few potential paper-cut enthusiasts who are willing to study. There are only two apprentices who are officially accepted by Wang Xiuxia and Zhao Zhiguo, the national representatives of the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv so far. This can be seen from the number of participants in the paper cut contest held by Jinzhou public art center over the years. In 2014, for example, there were only 33 participants in the adult team competition. In many paper-cut training activities held by public art center, although the participants' enthusiasm for learning is high, we cannot avoid the awkward reality that they are mainly retired people. Obviously, the lack of successors has become a difficult knot for Manchu paper-cut protection.

Manchu paper cutting art lacks creative. The author has visited the Manchu paper-cut exhibition in Mount Yiwulv for many times, and found that there are more paper-cut works completed completely in accordance with the tradition, but few of them can innovate their own style on the basis of inheriting the tradition, and some of the academic works almost completely divorced from the spirit of the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, by using techniques of paper-cut to complete individual creation only.

The reason is that the traditional folk culture of western Liaoning area is fading away day by day. No matter the paper-cut enthusiasts or the students who are arranged for the paper-cut class by the school, most of them cannot explore the folk culture rooted in the Manchu paper-cut works. They do not know what they should inherit because of their lack of ideological understanding. Almost all the trainees still Staying in the imitation stage, always seek pursuit of truth, spend all time on fine work, but lost the most important element of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv such as ancient clumsy, unrestrained charm. The unique character of paper-cut is gone, and the production will lose its attraction.

"Living" Protection and Inheritance Mechanism is not Perfect. "Living" protection means not to isolate non-legacy culture from daily life for protection, but to return non-legacy culture to the people, using a flexible way to re-nourish the enthusiasm of non-legacy culture in today's folk life. [3]

However, according to the results of the author's field investigation, the Manchu paper-cut art in Mount Yiwulv has not been integrated into the modern life of the local people. On the one hand, except Yi country and Beizhen city, most people in Jinzhou do not know about the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv. 89.6% of the respondents do not know that there is such a world-class non-legacy project around them. On the other hand, people have limited access to know about the Manchu paper-cut in Jinzhou city. Beizhen city, as the birthplace and place of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv, has no Manchu paper-cut elements in its public cultural space and tourism creative products.

### IV. STUDY ON WAYS OF EDUCATIONAL INHERITANCE OF THE MANCHU PAPER-CUT ART IN MOUNT YIWULV

Continue to Increase Protection for Inheritors. Intangible cultural heritage inheritors are the core of the protection work, the government of Jinzhou city should continue increasing support for inheritors, in view of issue on the lack of funding and shortage of new inheritors, we should draw lessons from Shandong, Shanghai and other provinces and cities related measures, such as set up inheritance funds allowance special funds, push out "representative heritage promotion project", to raise funds to help famous heritage are set up personal studio, oriented to the public through the media selection of intangible heritage inheritance, increase the public's attention to the intangible heritage project and further increase the enthusiasm of the inheritors to join the work of non-genetic inheritance.

Continue to improve the school education inheritance mechanism of the Manchu paper-cutting art in Yiwulv. The key to the protection of non-legacy lies in the "living" inheritance, and the participation of the whole people can make non-legacy preservation have lasting vitality. In addition to the regular activities (such as competitions, exhibitions, festivals, exhibitions, short-term paper-cut training classes, etc.) to publicize the paper-cut culture, we should vigorously promote the multi-level teaching of the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv and broaden the coverage of the cultivation of inheritors.

Set up "Manchu paper-cutting" art course in Jinzhou university as the core of the relevant courses. Colleges of Jinzhou city should give students lessons by draw lessons from the practice of BOHAI university flexible teaching way such as: hire famous paper-cut of Manchu inheritance people visiting professor, demonstration, practicing, please come in, go out, speak out. By practice teaching of the public elective courses, let students and teachers who are interested in inheriting traditional Manchu paper-cut patterns to grasp the characteristics and regularity of Manchu paper-cut, cultural content of the Manchu paper-cut works to create a production reality.

In the mature conditions, the college can help the paper-cut enthusiasts to set up the paper-cut society of the Manchu people in Mount Yiwulv area. Through the society to regularly hold lectures, exhibitions, and other activities on campus, more people can participate in, and expand the true spread of folk art in life.

Set up Paper-cut Art course in the school of Deaf-mutes in Jinzhou City. Practices in other provinces have shown that children in schools with deafness are more focused on technical courses because of some disabilities. Folk paper cut is one of the simplest forms of communication with the heart. Children can calm down through this course, find comfort in the free creation of art and regain confidence. They can also become a unique inheritance group under the current education system.

Explore Educational Inheritance Mechanism of "Life-like" Actively. An "intangible cultural heritage" project cannot maintain its long-term vitality without the acceptance of modern urban life and the recognition of urban people. The protection of "life-like" mainly means that the folk culture of intangible cultural heritage can continue to exist in the actual daily life, so that it can acquire new forms of expression in the process of natural integration into modern life, and thereby achieve sustained inheritance and development.

Promote Manchu Paper-cut Art as a Recreational Item for Modern Urban Life. Apart from common exhibitions and competitions, fashion activities and family and children activities are popular cultural entertainment and leisure projects at present. By virtue of the current public enthusiasm for urban leisure culture, the modern activities with orderly organization, exquisite design and strong interaction can be integrated into people's Daily life. However, it should be noted that for such activities to be successful, they should not adopt the traditional folk expo's "spread" presentation mode, which should provide a spacious, bright and tasteful display environment for paper-cut artists to increase the attraction of such activities.

Promote Manchu Paper-cut Art to Become a Local Public Cultural Element. The inheritance of the Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv can not only focus on the knife and paper, but also expand the application of paper-cut in many areas. Since the sui dynasty, Mount Yiwulv has been a famous leader mountain in the north of china for a very long time, and should try to apply the paper cut elements into the design of local tourism products and hotel tableware actively. At the same time, the designer of the art has been actively approached to explore the combination of the paper cut of the Manchu people in Mount Yiwulv, household design, indoor display, and public cultural space design. For example, in Jinzhou or Beizhen city, many suitable Manchu paper-cut elements can be use on the planning and construction site, such as sculpture, wrought iron to decorate the road and bridge, it will reflect cultural connotation of the city and also on the other hand the outsiders from other city will have impression deeply on paper-cut first. To sum up, the inheritance of Manchu paper-cut in Mount Yiwulv should be opened up to the imagination, and multiple inheritance modes should be implemented.

## V. SUMMARY

Now we have to face a problem, how to integrate ethnic folk culture and art into education system of all levels and categories to achieve the best inheritance and protection of intangible cultural heritage. In utmost to keep the true nature of cultural heritage and at the same time incorporate modern factors, the old traditional art to gain new breakthrough should become the direction of our efforts, research paradigm and the content of this article is based on the experience of the field more countermeasure research, there are many insufficient in the theory of reflection, system construction, we hope we can make a breakthrough in both areas by follow-up researching.

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