

On the archaeological remains of Buddhism during 11–13th centuries discovered in Western Tibet

Huo Wei

This paper is focusing on the introducing and analysis of the remaining of the Buddhism during 11–13 centuries in the archaeological investigation in the Western Tibet by the Chinese archaeologists as well as its values of importance, which includes the newly discovered founding of wall paintings, bronze status of Buddhism, the log-carvings, and the remaining of incomplete leaves of Buddhist books – a clear reflection of the inter-relationship between the Guge Kingdom and the rest parts surrounded it (such as Kashmir, North-India, Spiti etc.).

In the early days of Guge – a kingdom in west Tibet, there were an active group of great Buddhist monks such as Rinchen Zangpo (A.D. 958–1055), and being positive promoted by the Tibetan kings. At the time, the cultural activities were very active in Guge and from abroad, in the kingdom of which artists were busy working at building up the Buddhism temples, digging the stone caves, setting up the Buddhist Statues and towers, which remained as the cultural spots or historical sceneries that was recorded in the early papers of G. Tucci (an Italian Tibetan scholar), yet what has been discussed in this paper is beyond those by Tucci.

This paper offers something new on the art relics of Guge Buddhism with different styles and different times through the introduction and the analysis of the new materials.