

## The Study on the Protection and Inheritance of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

### Manual Bamboo Weaving of Hetang Township in Jingdezhen

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*Abstract: This paper analyzes the environmental factors, development advantages and disadvantages of manual bamboo weaving of Hegang Township through the perspective of the local cultural background of bamboo weaving of Hetang Township. It introduces the inherited pedigree and distribution area of the non-genetic inheritors of manual bamboo weaving of Hetang township and summarizes the protective measures for such intangible cultural heritage: setting up joint bamboo weaving production bases combined with colleges, schools and towns; optimizing the policy environment of the development of bamboo weaving industry and training new talents; strengthening the brand construction and promotion of bamboo weaving industry and promoting the organic combination of bamboo weaving and cultural tourism industry.*

*Keywords: Intangible cultural heritage; manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township; protection and inheritance.*

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## 1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE MANUAL BAMBOO WEAVING OF HETANG TOWNSHIP IN JINGDEZHEN

### 1.1 The Local Cultural Background of Manual Bamboo Weaving of Hetang Township

Hetang Township is located in the south of Changjiang district, Jingdezhen city, Jiangxi province, twenty-one kilometers away from downtown. It is adjacent to Shou 'an township of Fuliang county in the east, next to the former countryside of Leping pagoda in the south, arrives in the west of Yushan town and borders on Lvmeng township, Gaoxin district covering an area of sixty-three point zero three square kilometers, which is a typical hilly country called "Eight hills with half water and half field, one road and manor". The highest altitude of Hetang Township is six hundred and fifty-one meters, and the lowest altitude is zero point four meters. The pyramids form the mountainous topography of low mountains and high hills. Its mild and humid climate belongs to subtropical monsoon climate zone. Winter is cold and summer is hot making the four seasons distinct with abundant rainfall, which provides a good growing environment for the forests in this area. Hetang Township is rich in forest resources, among which the existing woodland acreage is 68,000 a unit of

area and the bamboo acreage is 10,000 a unit of area. The total volume of bamboo is 1 million. The normal green broadleaf forest is dominated by science and technology, which is adapted to the growth of camphor trees. The main wood forest has 20 species, such as bamboo, pine, fir, camphor, sassafras, etc providing excellent wood for the formation and development of the township's bamboo weaving techniques.

Bamboo weaving, an ancient folk art, has a long history in Hetang township. Since ancient times, the forest had dominated Hetang township where the bamboo resources are very rich particularly providing a unique condition for the formation of bamboo weaving techniques. And the needs of people's living and production become the source of the development of bamboo weaving techniques. The painstaking exploration and innovation of generations of artists constantly enriches the connotation of bamboo weaving techniques.

As early as the Ming and Qing dynasties, people began to utilize bamboo based on the abundant bamboo resources. They supplied Jingdezhen porcelain factory with bamboo baskets, weaved bamboo frames to store porcelain embryo, weaved baskets to wash vegetables, made up bamboo hats to take shelter from the rain, knitted fish baskets and shrimp baskets to catch fish and shrimp, etc. Especially the baskets for the imperial competitive examination in Beijing not only means that the bamboo weaving technique has long existed in Hetang township, but also indicates that the bamboo weaving technique has a high level at that time. It can prove that the manual bamboo weaving skills of Hetang Township are very prosperous before Qing dynasty according to the founded test baskets.

According to the incomplete statistics, there were more than forty bamboo craftsmen in the middle period of the republic of China, and around one hundred in the early period of liberation. Before liberation, there were no shops and workshops for professional production for the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township. In general, it was a kind of retail style that the bamboo craftsmen masters taught their apprentices to inherit the hereditary skills, which forms a scattered and numerous inheritance system. After the 1970s, due to the development of production and the needs of production and life, Hetang Township organized folk artists to establish the first comprehensive handicraft society to produce agricultural products, industrial products and living products.

### **1.2 Environmental factors in the development of traditional manual bamboo weaving**

The bamboo resources in Hetang Township are very rich, which provides the exceptionally good conditions for the traditional manual bamboo weaving techniques. It can prove that the manual bamboo weaving skills of Hetang Township are very prosperous before Qing dynasty according to the founded test baskets. On the one hand, it became the necessity of ancient people's life. In ancient times, there were no present bags or suitcases. Before entering Beijing for the imperial competitive examination, they asked the bamboo masters to make a delicate rectangular basket for learning supplies. On the other hand, the prosperity of Jingdezhen porcelain had also become the necessary products for the local people to produce and live. They supplied Jingdezhen porcelain factory with bamboo baskets, weaved bamboo frames to store porcelain embryo, weaved baskets to wash vegetables, made up bamboo hats to take shelter from the rain, knitted fish baskets and shrimp baskets to catch fish and shrimp, etc.

### **1.3 The status analyses of the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township**

#### **1.3.1 The advantages of the development of the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township**

The manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township is seemingly simple, but its essence is profound. With the originality of its craftsmanship, the scientific nature of its techniques, the practicality of its craftsmanship procedures and its ornamental value, bamboo weaving craft has formed its unique advanced nature. Its weaving crafts are shown in the very exquisite skills of the bamboo split: it has a three-dimensional rotation and multi-angle longitudes and latitudes when weaving. The design is ingenious and exquisite, and the finished product is practical and ornamental. This has made outstanding contributions to the improvement of bamboo weaving handicraft.

Originality of craftsmanship: in the process of bamboo split, it pays much attention to that the skills, handwork and hair make a line and use the power of the hands in balance. It also needs to boil the strips at high temperature in order to prevent decay and mildew.

The science of craftsmanship: it adopts the kinds of diameter weft knitting, hexagon weaving, triangular eye weaving, tiger eye weaving, corner three-dimensional weaving, cyclotron reduction weaving and multilateral money eye weaving. The long bamboo filaments instantly constitute a variety of patterns.

The practice and ornament of craftsmanship: the formation of bamboo weaving handicraft is based on the development of folk daily necessities. Many of the bamboo weaving works themselves are commodities, but they all possess the traits of artistry and appreciation in a certain degree. Therefore, most of the bamboo weaving crafts are combined with practice and ornament, it's just the focus is different.

#### **1.3.2 The disadvantages of the development of the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township**

With the rapid development of technology at present, the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township is like a lonely old man as other handicrafts, which is faced with the threat of new technological materials, the lack of innovation with single design production, the unwillingness of youth to inherit, the emergence of faults and other problems. Its inheritance and development step into the predicament. After entering the 21st century, the new materials and techniques have greatly impacted traditional handicrafts with the development of social production level and the progress of science and technology. The large industrial production of plastic and metal products gradually replace the handicrafts in life, and the bamboo weaving crafts in the new social living environment lose its former competitiveness, gradually walking out of people's life.

It lacks of diversity and innovation. The existing products and modern life do not connect, the traditional crafts become the main type. The young are unwilling to inherit, it has no successors. The old artistes gradually die, and fewer and fewer people master the bamboo weaving skills. It takes time and trouble to learn and has difficulties in mastering which makes young people unwilling to study or hold on. This is currently the main problem of manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township.

## **2. THE PROTECTION AND INHERITANCE OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE MANUAL BAMBOO WEAVING OF HETANG TOWNSHIP IN JINGDEZHEN**

Since 2008, Jiangxi province has carried out three times of application and selection work of intangible cultural heritage in order to carry forward the excellent traditional culture of Jiangxi. In the appraise and election of the first, second and third batch of provincial intangible cultural heritage, the

traditional handicraft, folk literature, folk art and traditional folk customs such as Leping ancient stage construction technology, Jingdezhen handmade ceramic skills, traditional porcelain kiln workshop construction technology, porcelain customs, manual bamboo weaving of Hetang township in Changjiang district, the Kung fu black tea making skills of Fuliang Yantai village and so on, a total of 15 items were selected as provincial intangible cultural heritage.

### **2.1 Introduction of inheritors**

There are two sets of inherited pedigree for the manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township. One group is Yan Hemei, Liu Shilong, Luo Qinglao, Luo Qingping and Cheng Zhuanzheng inherited from Master Luo Zhiyu, another one is Tong Liangqing, Tong Liangren, Zhang Kaigui, Tong Liangchun and Hu Shuifa inherited from Master Wang Fayuan.

The typical inheritors of manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township: Yan Hemei, Liu Shilong and Tong Liangchun.

### **2.2 The distribution areas of the intangible cultural heritage**

The main areas of the traditional bamboo weaving of Hetang Township are located in Tongfang village, Cangxia village, Yangwan village and Shanmen village. According to incomplete statistics, there are twenty-two bamboo craftsmen master s now, who mainly live in Tongfang village, Dongwu village, Hengbai village, Yuyi team, Chenwan, etc.

## **3. THE PROTECTION MEASURES OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE MANUAL BAMBOO WEAVING OF HETANG TOWNSHIP IN JINGDEZHEN**

The status quo of the intangible cultural heritage manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township is faced with both internal and external problems. Only taking effective measures can make it shine again. The specific measures are as follows:

### **3.1 Setting up joint bamboo production bases combined with colleges, schools and town**

Setting up joint bamboo production bases combined with colleges, schools and town is a new development direction for the bamboo weaving industry. It is a national initiation for the bamboo weaving technology profession in Yibin city, Sichuan province to enter the vocational-technical schools, which also makes great success. Its successful case can carry on extensive dissemination in the bamboo plait production base: training courses on bamboo weaving technology, preparing teaching notes and setting up teaching courses for bamboo weaving classes—— a large number of product designs are carried out for the development of bamboo weaving products in villages and towns with abundant bamboo resources as well as the students' learning of bamboo knitting technology.

### **3.2 Optimizing the policy environment of the development of bamboo weaving industry and training new talents**

It should encourage and support various forms of ownership, including state-owned, private and individual, in participating in the development of bamboo weaving industries. The government should strengthen the support in the aspects of training and capital and do a good job in the continuous upgrading training of peasants' bamboo weaving technology to provide a good policy environment and financial support for the development of bamboo weaving industry. The government of Hetang Township should strengthen the leadership and coordination, establish the professional cooperation

organization of bamboo weaving, so as to strengthen the bamboo weaving craft industry with local characteristics.

### **3.3 Strengthening the brand construction and promotion of bamboo weaving industry**

The government should increase the scientific and technological investment in the development of bamboo weaving technology and set up the professional bamboo weaving technology product research and design studio, so as to study the new products of bamboo weaving with independent intellectual property rights putting on the market, and study bamboo weaving products of both practical value and ornamental value, high-grade bamboo weaving packaging of famous wine, high-grade bamboo weaving sofa furniture product series, indoor bamboo weaving decoration and modern transportation equipment decoration products. The development of bamboo weaving handicraft should be supported by science and technology. The government should carry forward and protect the intangible cultural heritage of bamboo weaving arts and crafts to make contributions for the local economy.

The survival and development of bamboo weaving art cannot be achieved without government's support and the establishment and improvement of the protection and inheritance system of traditional bamboo weaving art, which is the fundamental guarantee for the survival and development of manual bamboo weaving art in Hetang Township.

### **3.4 Promoting the organic combination of bamboo weaving and cultural tourism industry**

Jingdezhen is a famous porcelain capital with many tourist attractions of "4A" and "5A". There are many tourists coming here. The scenic spot is a large market of bamboo weaving souvenirs. It has a broad market as well as good social and economic benefits to develop bamboo souvenirs with local features of manual bamboo weaving of Hetang Township, especially the high-end tourist souvenirs with convenient carrying, local cultural symbols and ethnic elements.

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