THE CASE OF CHINA

Qing Dynasty Yangshi Lei Archives

Inscription on International Memory of the World Register in 2007

Ranging from the middle of the 18th to the early 20th century, these documents on imperial architecture include drawings and models from architectural surveys, designs, and plans for construction and decoration. They refer to cities, palaces, gardens, altars, mausoleums, official residences, modern factories, and schools. The formats include land surveys, architectural sketches, construction and floor plans, elevations, sections and decorations, as well as models and notes on construction progress and engineering, and even some imperial and official orders.

Records of the Qing’s Grand Secretariat ‘infiltration of Western Culture in China’

Inscription on International Memory of the World Register in 1999

The decline of feudal civilization in the face of western influence is a topic of historical research worldwide. The clash between Western and Eastern culture in the 18th century China shaped world history. Contemporary archives on the activities of Western priests are included in the confidential records of the Qing’s Grand Secretariat, and provide a detailed first-hand account of the “infiltration of Western Culture in China”.

Golden Lists of the Qing Dynasty: Imperial Examination

Inscription on International Memory of the World Register in 2005

The Palace Examination was the final stage in the sequence of civil service recruitment examinations during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The examination was prepared and presided over in person by the Emperor. The Golden Lists contain the names of successful candidates, and were written on sheets of yellow paper.

UNESCO has two more programmes related to heritage. More relevant cultural treasures have been inscribed in UNESCO World Cultural Heritage and Intangible cultural heritage.

Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang

Seat of supreme power for over five centuries (1416-1911), the Forbidden City in Beijing, with its landscaped gardens and its many buildings whose nearly 10,000 rooms contain furniture and works of art, constitutes a priceless testimony to Chinese civilization during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, Chengde

A vast complex of palaces and administrative and ceremonial buildings.

Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing

A masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. The natural landscape of hills and open water is combined with artificial features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges to form a harmonious ensemble of outstanding aesthetic value.

Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

Constructed for the founding emperors of the Qing Dynasty and their ancestors, the tombs follow the precepts of traditional Chinese geomancy and fengshui theory.

Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing

A dignified complex of fine buildings set in gardens and surrounded by historic pine woods. It symbolizes the relationship between earth and heaven.

Kun Qu

Kun Qu Opera developed under the Ming dynasty (fourteenth to seventeenth centuries) in the city of Kunshan, in the region of Suzhou, southeast China. With its roots in popular theatre, the repertory of songs evolved into a major theatrical form. Kun Qu is one of the oldest forms of Chinese opera still performed today. It was among a variety of recreations highly valued in royal life.

INTEGRATED APPROACH OF THREE UNESCO HERITAGE PROGRAMMES

The Qing Dynasty Yangshi Lei Archives is a rich resource on the theory and techniques of Qing construction. It extends understanding of the social, political and historical aspects of the Qing Dynasty, the stories behind the royal style and the scientific knowledge of construction. The other documentary inscriptions flesh out the political and social context of the era.

SYNERGIES between the documentary, built and intangible heritage recognised in the three programs offer the possibility of greater awareness, better public understanding, education and tourism, greater access and an improved preservation environment through coordination of efforts.