

The Official Construction and Management of Chinese Buddhist Temples in Beijing during the Qianlong Period: Focus on the North Road of the West and the Northwest

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Abstract

The paper discusses the history, implications of their locations and functions of Chinese Buddhist temples in Beijing, focusing on two areas, the north road of the west and the northwest. The names and locations of those temples constructed and managed by the government are defined depending on the Record of Temples, Monks and Nuns of Beijing's Eight Areas and the survey about Beijing temples conducted in the 35th year of the Qianlong reign(1770). In addition, according to the archives of the Imperial Household Department (IHD), the research explores the financial sources of those temples constructed and managed by the government and how the Qianlong Emperor funded temple renovation project and supported monks and nuns through the Imperial Household Department.

The Birthday Ceremony was held several times during the Qianlong reign. The ceremony procession passed through the north road of the west and the northwest of Beijing, driving the construction and restoration of roads, stores and temples around there, costing a lot of money. Accordingly, the north road of the west and the northwest became the key areas of temple construction and management. In addition, those temples were used to pray for rain.

Keywords: Qianlong, Beijing temples, Official construction, Official management, Monk official