Study on the natural and humanistic environment of runcheng town

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Abstract. Runcheng town is one of the first Chinese characteristic towns to be selected in Shanxi province. It is 38 kilometers from the Jin city and 7 kilometers from Yangcheng County. It’s also an important undertaking place for the project "Industrial Westward Move of Jincheng City" and an important tourist town of Qin Castle Valley. The Runcheng town has a history of thousands of years, with a deep cultural background and unique natural landscape. This paper studies the history and cultural resources and makes a preliminary study on the natural and humanistic environment of the Runcheng town.

1. introduction
The Runcheng town is located in the east of Yangcheng County, Shanxi province. As early as the Warring States period, it was a heavy town for Han dynasty and Zhao dynasty to compete for each other. It was formerly known as "Shaocheng" and "Xiaocheng", because its advanced iron making industry it is also known as the "iron smelting town", in the year of Jiajing of the Ming Dynasty its name was changed to "Runcheng Town"[1]. The city possessed three rivers and surrounded by mountain peaks on all sides of the city. The Runcheng town is located on the East Bank of the Qinhe River, and Fanxi River flows through the town.

2. The natural environment of the run town
Runcheng surrounded by Zitai ridge, Tiantan Mountain, Meishan Mountain and Yanxia Mountain, Qin River flows from east to west, and then flows from north to south, bypassing the village. Fanxi River and Yugou River flow into the Qin River from the center of the ancient town and south respectively (Fig.1). The scenery is pleasant. The mountain and water scenery form the basic elements of the natural environment of Rucheng Old Town. At the same time, the construction of the ancient town is also built according to local conditions and selection of auspicious places: Qin River brings abundant water to the ancient town; Fanxi (East River) passes through the village, forming a valley of more than 20 meters in width and more than 500 meters in length. The village stretches along two sides of the Dong River and is surrounded by mountains on three sides of the east, south and west. The main residential buildings face east and southeast. And the mountain winds from the northwest of the Tiantan Mountain range, blocking the cold and frost in the northwest.
The location of the ancient town follows the principle of "pillow mountain, ring water and face screen" \[^3\]. Not only conforms to the idea of fronting water and with hills on the back in Chinese traditional culture. More importantly, it creates a living environment that is integrated with mountains, water, heaven and earth, which focus on settlement landscape and natural harmony.

3. The historical environment of the run town

3.1. military fastness
Yangcheng is an important geographical location. Since the ancient times, many ethnic minorities in the north have invaded the Central Plains and crossed the Yellow River from Yangcheng. Therefore, Yangcheng is a barrier against the invasion of ethnic minorities by the Han people of the Central Plains and an outpost for the invasion of ethnic minorities in the north \[^4\]. As a battleground for military strategists, war has happened every generation for every generation since ancient times. As a result, a number of villages in Yangcheng have constructed such defensive structures as the castle, the city wall and the gate tower. The Diji city in Runcheng town is a typical example of the fortified fort in Qin River basin (Fig.2).

3.2. Trade and post station
Runcheng is a town with large population and scarce land resource; most of the residents are mainly
engaged in industry and commerce during the period of the Republic of China. Runcheng town communicate with Shanxi and Henan through the Qin River. At the same time it occupies an important area of the Reed River. which is convenient for the town to trade with South of Shanxi. The town is located in the traffic arteries, combined with the high-quality products at that time - iron daily necessities, making frequent travelers traders in an endless stream. Even with years of famine, trafficking trade potential has not seen the weak.

During the Daoguang period of the Qing Dynasty, The Sanmen markets of Runcheng have appeared on the source Yuantai Code, Tai Chang Code, King Mao Dian and several old-style Chinese private banks. In addition to the exchange of silver and money, the main business of the bank began to issue money. In the early years of the Republic of China, Rucheng City's "Yu Shunxiang" bank also replenished postal service and paid the land for peasants on their behalf, paid the raw materials and wages on behalf of the owners, and had more functions than the modern ones. This business boom has continued into modern times.

3.3. A town of iron making industry

Figure 3. Sanmen Street.

The ancient Chinese history edited by Zhu Shaohou wrote: "After the mid-Ming Dynasty, appeared a huge scale (multi-village contiguous) of the iron industry over 100 iron-producing areas in China, such as Foshan in Guangdong Province, Yangcheng in Shanxi province and Longxi of Fujian province." Runcheng is one of them. Runcheng's history of iron making industry can be traced back to the Northern and Southern Dynasties, according to "Hundred official records of Suí dynasty", the Northern Qi Dynasty set up the Iron making Authority in Yangcheng(for the country's seven major Ironworks Bureau), the court appointed specific duty officer. According to archaeological excavation ancient iron smelting sites, Runcheng has been converted to square furnace smelting pig iron; fried smelting of cooked iron, smelting technology has also been a considerable level.

Runcheng and neighboring several villages connected to form a larger iron smelting industry. From the three sites can be found in the history of large-scale iron making. One is in the top of Tieshan mound and locates in the east of the village, the other is in the top of Tieshan mound and locates in the west of the village, and they were made of iron or cast waste pile and like the small hill, covered with temples and other buildings. The third is in the northwestern village of Diji City, most of the interior walls of the city are built with abandoned crucibles of iron making.

4. Spatial pattern

According to "Monument to Rebuild Dongyue Temple" records that the Dongyue Temple in the Ming Dynasty was the center of the town, the town was divided into twelve blocks and one gate in each of the four directions of east, west, south and east. The social space was basically shaped. Dongyue Temple faces south with the back to the north with its grand scale. The streets and dwellings of the ancient town are all laid out with it as the center, which symbolizes the construction concept of the supreme power of Rucheng Ancient Town.

Runching’s main axis is Sanmen Street (Fig.3), connected with Xijiagedong Street. Sanmen Street, two chastity memorial arches (destroyed) and two existing gateways constitute the complete
space sequence of the ancient street. The layout of the ancient town is an important symbol of the unprecedented development of regional culture.

5. Runcheng town's cultural environment

Qinhe River gave birth to Runcheng's economic prosperity. The ancient civilization of the Qinhe River Basin was promoted by the Runcheng town. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, numerous wealthy businessmen in Runcheng chose to enter the court to serve the state; many of them become the ancient and modern celebrity. The prosperity of economic and cultural left Rucheng many precious cultural heritage, they all reflect that the Qin River civilization has a long history, confirms the brilliant of Runcheng’s culture.

5.1. Humanities environment

Runcheng has been known as "small Jiangnan" for a long time. Regardless of architectural style, or the human environment, Runcheng deserved to be a microcosm of Jiangnan which has a rich hydrological environment, it is not only owned the distribution of 48 temples in the Qin River delta, but also three sides of the Qinhe Peninsula surrounded by water - the Diji city. Many ancient rivers’ and lakes’ style of Jiangnan Water Village is more prominent. It is a unique blend of humanities with different kinds of cultural blend of capital.

5.2. The origin of Confucianism

In the annals of history, Yangcheng had more than 120 Jinshi, which is the second famous cultural town in Shanxi province. According to Mr. Tian Shuzhong's textual research, the Jinshi account for 23.5% of the total number of the county, and the poets account for more than 60% of the total county, and the extant poetry anthology of Ming and Qing Dynasty accounts for more than 80% of the total county. The collection of cultural talents and rich cultural products are the foundation of the town.

6. conclusion

Runcheng town is China's material and cultural heritage, carrying rich historical information, which requires us to protect and inherit. In order to create Runcheng characteristic town as the ancient castle cultural tourism industry belt in the Qinhe River Basin, take the township as the core area, and make full use of the advantages of rich resources of the ancient fort village to display a variety of products in the Qin River Basin to realize the business distribution center of prosperity, showing brilliant scene of Ming and Qing Dynasties.

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