

A MANCHU DOCUMENT FROM 1663 CONCERNING THE IMPERIAL PALACE IN SHENYANG

In any times it was a difficult and expensive enterprise to maintain and preserve great architectonic complexes like the Imperial Palace in Shenyang, China. Nowadays, modern technology gives a precious help in conservation activity, while in ancient times different materials now out of use had to be employed.

An example of what was needed to paint the rooms which were added behind the *Qingninggong* 清寧宮 in Shenyang in 1663 is found in a Manchu document, a report to the Emperor made by Fiyanggū 費揚古, head of the *Neiwufu* 內務府, and by the dignitaries Niyahan 尼亞罕, Šanghing 尚興, Indari 音達哩, Šemi 施密

and Lio Bang-gui 劉邦貴. Its date corresponds to June 5th, 1663 [1].

The list contains 39 entries, among which is the exact number of sieves, brooms and buckets needed. The most interesting entries are the different colours and other construction materials used for this work, altogether more than 10,000 kg.

Sometimes the translation is difficult because of some Manchu technical terms which cannot be found in any dictionary. However, the document is a very unusual and rare evidence for the history of Shenyang's Imperial Palace, and allows us to look deeply inside the old palace-building techniques.

Transcription

Dorgi baita be uheri kadalara yamun i booi amban Fiyanggū sei gingguleme wesimbu-rengge.

Hese be baire jalin: booi weilere jurgan i alibuhangge. meni jurgan. dangse be baicaci. duleke aniya

Genggiyen elhe gung ni amala nonggime araha orin nadan giyan i boo be. nirume ioleki sembi sehe wesimbuhede.

Hese. ishun aniya weile sehe be gingguleme dahafi. te meni jurgan nirume iolere de baibure okto i jergi hacin be bodoci tungnio ilan minggan sunja tanggū juwan gin. tuze ilan tanggū susai emu gin. toseng orin nadan gin. piyal fulgiyan boihon juwe tanggū nadanju gin. se sirge ninggun gin juwan juwe yan. suwayan giowanze juwan ninggun da. muke amdun ilan tanggū nadanju jakūn gin. guwa el fun emu tanggū gūsin gin. diyan hūwa emu tanggū gin. ding fun emu tanggū gin. el lioi emu tanggū gūsin gin. da lioi duin tanggū gin. io hūwang jakūnju gin. cing fun emu tanggū gūsin gin. teng hūwang juwan ilan gin. fiyan emu minggan ilan tanggū turha. cinuhūn juwe tanggū dehi emu gin. hūwangdan ilan tanggū nadanju jakūn gin. [be]he ilan gin. san lioi dehi gin. sahaliyan ku ninggun gin. fekšun orin gin. mei hūwa cing emu tanggū susai gin. amba fulgiyan feigin jakūnju kuwai. amba suwayan feigin nadanju sunja kuwai. feigin latubure nimenggi emu tanggū gin. yoohan emu gin sunja yan. asu boso jakūnju emu. solho hoošan susai nadan afaha. dejjire moo duin minggan nadan tanggū juwan gin. moo yaha ninggun tanggū gin. fuka jakūnju. sisku juwan juwe. erku juwan uyun. muke tatakū duin. hūnta juwe tanggū nadanju gin. jima malanggū nimenggi susai duin gin. maise ufa juwe minggan emu tanggū ninju gin. šanggiyan doho ilan minggan sunja tanggū juwan gin baibumbi sembi seme alibuhabi: erebe amban meni gisurehengge. jima malanggū nimenggi. maise ufa. doho. muke amdun. dejjire moo. moo yaha. sisku. erku. muke tatakū be. dorgi harangga jurgan ci gaiḟi baitalara ci tulgiyen gūwa hacin be boigon i jurgan ci gaiḟi baitalakini sembi: amban meni cisu gamara ba waka ofi gingguleme wesimbuhe.

Hese be baimbi:

Elhe taifin i jai aniya duin biyai gūsin

*booi amban bime uju jergi hiya emu jergi nonggiha amban Fiyanggū:
amban Niyahan:*