

Contents

List of Figures.....	xv
List of Tables.....	xxv
Foreword.....	xxvi
Abstract.....	xxviii
Introduction.....	1
1. Tangut Funerary Sites	9
1.1. The Xixia Imperial Cemetery near Yinchuan, Ningxia Province	10
1.1.1. The Site	10
1.1.1.1. Geographical location and topography.....	10
1.1.1.2. Layout of the imperial cemetery	11
1.1.2. Imperial Tombs: General Features	14
1.1.2.1. Tomb layout.....	14
1.1.2.2. Construction techniques and materials.....	16
1.1.3. The Nine Imperial Tombs	18
1.1.3.1. Tombs 1 and 2	18
1.1.3.2. Tomb 3.....	18
1.1.3.3. Tomb 4.....	19
1.1.3.4. Tomb 5.....	19
1.1.3.5. Tomb 6.....	20
1.1.3.6. Tomb 7.....	20
1.1.3.7. Tombs 8 and 9	21
1.1.3.8. Precise description of imperial tomb 6.....	21
1.1.3.9. Tables and notes	28
1.1.4. Ancillary Tombs.....	30
1.1.4.1. General presentation.....	30
1.1.4.2. Distribution of ancillary tombs by zone	35
1.1.4.3. Excavated ancillary tombs: M177, M182, and M78	37
1.1.5. Other Buildings	43
1.1.5.1. Groups of buildings	43
1.1.5.2. Kilns	45
1.1.6. Decorative Elements	45
1.1.6.1. Roof ornaments	45
1.1.6.2. Decorated bricks and stone ornaments	50
1.1.6.3. Statuary	51
1.2. Minningcun Cemetery, South of Yinchuan: The Final Resting Place of Tangut Nobility and Senior Officials.....	52
1.2.1. The Site	52
1.2.1.1. Geographical and topographical location.....	52
1.2.1.2. Layout of the Minningcun cemetery	53
1.2.2. General Features of Graves.....	54
1.2.2.1. The layout of the tombs.....	54
1.2.2.2. Construction techniques and materials	55
1.2.3. Description of the Tombs	55
1.2.3.1. Detailed description of Tomb M4.....	55
1.2.3.2. Special features and archaeological material of other tombs	58
1.2.4. The Stelae Pavilions.....	63
1.2.5. Dating the Cemetery and Identifying its Occupants	63
1.2.5.1. Dating	63
1.2.5.2. Identification.....	66
1.3. Tombs from the Tangut Period in the Western Suburbs of Wuwei, Gansu Province	66
1.3.1. The Liu Family Tombs on the Forestry Site	66
1.3.1.1. The Tombs	66
1.3.1.2. Artefacts.....	67
1.3.1.3. Inscriptions	69

1.3.2. The Tomb on the Campus of the School of Physical Education.....	74
1.3.2.1. The tomb.....	74
1.3.2.2. Artefacts.....	74
1.3.3. The Tomb at the Crossroad	74
1.3.3.1. The tomb.....	74
1.3.3.2. Artefacts.....	74
1.3.4. The Tomb in Xiguan	75
1.3.4.1. The tomb.....	76
1.3.4.2. Artefacts.....	76
1.3.5. The Tomb at Xiangshuihe	79
1.3.5.1. The tomb.....	79
1.3.5.2. Artefacts.....	79
1.3.6. The Cremation Tomb on the Site of the Cantonal Office for Business Development	80
1.4. Burials of Ordinary People from the Tangut Period, Western Suburb of Wuwei and Xinshi 新市 District in Yinchuan, Ningxia Province	81
1.4.1. The Funerary Urn of the Tangut Tombs Area Near Wuwei	81
1.4.2. Tombs in the Xinshi District	81
1.4.2.1. The tombs	81
1.4.2.2. Archaeological material.....	81
1.5. Tombs of Religious in the Helan Mountains near Baisikou 拜寺口, Ningxia Province	82
1.5.1. The Baisikou Stūpa Forest	82
1.5.2. The Square Pagoda of Baisigou	82
1.5.3. The Tomb on Zigeda Hill	86
1.6. Tangut Funerary Remains from Inner Mongolia	86
1.6.1. Wuhai Funerary Stele.....	86
1.6.2. Zhungeerqi mural tombs dating from the early Tangut empire	87
1.6.2.1. The tombs	87
1.6.2.2. Artefacts.....	88
1.6.2.3. Wall paintings.....	88
1.6.2.4. Tangut tombs?	89
1.6.3. Funerary Finds at Khara-Khoto	89
1.6.3.1. The ‘illustrious suburgan’ of Khara-Khoto	89
1.6.3.2. The rampart alcoves	90
2. Tangut Funerary Practices and Their Sociocultural Context, Based on Textual Sources and Archaeological Excavations	93
2.1. Tangut Funerary Culture and Society in the Light of Legal Texts Related to Death.....	93
2.1.1. Mourning and Certain Noteworthy Funeral Practices	93
2.1.1.1. The duration of mourning.....	93
2.1.1.2. Behaviour and rituals during mourning.....	94
2.1.1.3. Chinese influences and Tangut specificities in Tangut funerary rites.....	95
2.1.1.4. What Tangut funerary texts reveal about Tangut society	100
2.1.2. The Protection of Tombs and Corpses	100
2.1.2.1. The tombs	100
2.1.2.2. Corpses	101
2.2. Tangut Funerals.....	101
2.2.1. Water Funeral	102
2.2.2. Celestial Funeral	103
2.2.3. Cremation.....	105
2.2.3.1. Tangut and Chinese textual sources	105
2.2.3.2. Archaeological observations.....	106
2.2.3.3. Other written sources concerning cremation among the Mi-Nia	107
2.2.3.4. Cremation practice in regions close to Tangut territory	109
2.2.3.5. Links between cremation and Buddhism among the Mi-Nia	114
2.2.3.6. Treatment of cremation residues	115
2.2.3.7. An established burial method for the Tangut.....	117
2.2.4. Interment	118
2.2.4.1. The choice of plain interment.....	118
2.2.4.2. Historical background of interment in China	119

2.2.4.3. Remains	120
2.2.4.4. Coffins	120
2.3. Specific Practices According to Social Class in the Tangut Empire	121
2.3.1. Destitute Populations of the Empire	121
2.3.2. Wealthier Inhabitants	121
2.3.3. Tangut Nobility	121
2.3.4. Interment: The Choice of Emperors?.....	122
3. From Death to the Afterlife: What the Particularities of Tangut Funerary Architecture	
Tell Us About the Journey of the Dead	125
3.1. Tangut Funerary Architecture: Between Influences and Specificities	125
3.1.1. The Song: Primary Source of Inspiration for the Xixia Imperial Cemetery?	125
3.1.1.1. Hu Ruli and the study of the Xixia imperial cemetery.....	125
3.1.1.2. Topography.....	126
3.1.1.3. Layout of the cemetery.....	127
3.1.1.4. Tomb layout and architectural features	128
3.1.1.5. Construction techniques, materials, and decorative elements.....	131
3.1.1.6. Conclusion.....	131
3.1.2. The Tang Model	132
3.1.2.1. The Tang imperial tombs.....	132
3.1.2.2. Tang funerary architecture as a common source for the imperial cemeteries of the Northern Song and Tangut	133
3.1.2.3. Hypotheses on how the Tang may have directly inspired Tangut funerary architecture.....	134
3.1.3. Funerary Architecture of the Liao and Jin Dynasties.....	134
3.1.3.1. Tangut, Khitan, and Jurchen	134
3.1.3.2. Liao funerary architecture	134
3.1.3.3. Two parallel processes of stylistic speciation	137
3.2. Architectural Features of Tangut Tombs: Between Traditions and Beliefs.....	137
3.2.1. The Enigmatic Layout of the Minningcun and the Imperial Cemetery Tombs	137
3.2.1.1. The location of the burial mound	138
3.2.1.2. The orientation of graves.....	139
3.2.1.3. The two axes of Minningcun	141
3.2.1.4. The position of the mortuary chamber in relation to the ramp.....	141
3.2.1.5. The position of the tumulus in relation to the underground tomb.....	144
3.2.2. The Funerary Pagodas of the Xixia Imperial Cemetery	146
3.2.3. Influence of Ancient Traditions and Beliefs.....	149
3.2.3.1. Elements of ancient beliefs still practised under the empire	149
3.2.3.2. Stele bases from the imperial cemetery.....	151
3.2.3.3. Funerary details based on ancestral traditions.....	155
3.2.4. Roof Ornamentation.....	155
3.2.4.1. The tradition of roof ornamentation in China	155
3.2.4.2. Roof ornaments at Xixia imperial cemetery.....	156
3.2.4.3. Ornament in the form of a hybrid creature with a human head and bust and the body of a bird	162
3.3. Interpretation of the Singularities of Tangut Funerary Architecture.....	181
3.3.1. Singularities as Solutions to Tensions.....	181
3.3.1.1. Stele bearers: organizing symbolic layers	181
3.3.1.2. The site of the imperial cemetery: combining heterogenous criteria	182
3.3.1.3. The imperial funerary pagoda: managing contradictory symbolisms	184
3.3.2. Singularities as the Result of Individuation.....	186
3.3.2.1. The Tangut quest for singularity.....	186
3.3.2.2. The example of tomb 3.....	187
4. Conclusion	195
4.1. Characteristics of the Four Groups of Tombs Excavated	195
4.2. Identification and Style of Tangut Tombs	196
4.2.1. Inscriptions.....	196
4.2.2. Shifts and Symmetry Breaks.....	196
4.2.3. Additional Evidence.....	196

4.3. The Tangut Empire in the Light of Its Cemetery	197
4.3.1. Genesis of an Imperial Necropolis.....	197
4.3.2. Fragile Legitimacy	198
4.3.3. A Structuring Buddhism	199
4.4. Facing Death: Some Hypotheses	200
4.4.1. Significance and Purpose of Funeral Rites	200
4.4.2. The Role of Tombs in Tangut Culture.....	200
4.4.2.1. The tomb as the final resting place	200
4.4.2.2. The portrait-tomb	201
4.4.2.3. The tomb as threshold	201
4.4.3. Childhood and Death	202
4.5. Anthropological Considerations Regarding the Mi-Nia Based on Their Funeral Customs.....	202
4.5.1. A People Struggling with Contradictory Injunctions	202
4.5.1.1. Cremation and interment.....	203
4.5.1.2. The place of animals in funerary culture.....	203
4.5.2. Idiosyncratic Elaborations	204
4.5.2.1. The creation of the imperial pagoda.....	204
4.5.2.2. The individuation of Tangut tombs	204
4.5.3. The Degree of Sinicization of the Mi-Nia	205
Appendix: Table of Tangut Emperors and Short Biographies	207
Bibliography	209
Old Sources.....	209
Modern Works.....	210