

Historic Building Appraisal

Tin Hau Temple & Man Tai Temple

Tsz Tong Tsuen, Tai Hang, Tai Po

Tin Tau Temple (天后宮) and Man Tai Temple (文帝古廟) are two connected structures situated in Tsz Tong Tsuen (祠堂村) of Tai Hang (泰亨), Tai Po. The temples were built by the Mans whose ancestors came to Tai Hang in the 14th century. Their founding ancestor Man Yam (文蔭, 1341-1425) was the descendant of Man Tin-shui (文天瑞), a blood brother of Man Tin-cheung (文天祥) (original domicile in Jian (吉安) of Jiangxi (江西) province) who was a renowned patriot fighting to protect the royal family at the end of the Southern Song (南宋, 1127-1279) dynasty. The temples were erected by the Mans respectively in the 5th year of Yongzheng (雍正, 1727) and 10th year of Guangxu (光緒, 1884) reigns, Qing (清) dynasty for the worship of Tin Hau (天后) and Man Tai (文帝). The two deities are the patron deities of the Mans. The former is not merely restricted for fishermen. The latter is built intended for students and scholars expecting their successful in literature and ranking in the Imperial Civil Service Examinations.

***Historical
Interest***

The Tin Hau Temple was first constructed and the Man Tai Temple later added to its left in Qing vernacular design. The entire temple building was renovated in 1985 with modern materials. Both temples are in the form of a two-hall-one-courtyard layout whilst the latter is around one-third narrower than the former. Between the two is a keeper's quarters of the same depth but slightly narrower than the Man Tai Temple. The building has been strengthened with concrete including its roofs, beams and walls. Its façade and roofs are dressed with glazed ceramic red and yellow tiles. Its ridges are decorated with new ceramic pearls and *aoyus* (鰲魚) and the wall friezes with mouldings of flowers-and-birds motifs.

***Architectural
Merit***

The modernized temples have their rarity diminished though they were built more than 278/121 years ago.

Rarity

The built heritage value now is low. A number of renovations must have been carried out in the past. Two renovations were in 1911 and 1985. The last one has completely stripped off its authenticity.

***Built
Heritage
Value &
Authenticity***

The temples are not as popular as before. Dim Dang (點燈) rituals will be held for new born male babies in the first lunar month of the new year. Tai Ping Ching Chiu (太平清醮) will be held every five years in the 11th month of lunar year lasting for 5 days and 6 nights. A shed will be put up in front of the temples for Cantonese opera performances and other activities.

***Social Value,
& Local
Interest***