

# **The woman Hairstyle of Koguryo appeared in wall paintings.**

**Kim, Min Sun**

Professor of Cosmetology Department in Kyung Bok College

## **I . Introduction**

Goguryeo was the most dominant country in the Northeast Asia from the early 1st century BC to the mid 7th century AD, the feudal regime that directly inherited and developed the culture and customs of Gojoseon and Buyeo. The wall paintings of the ancient tombs of Goguryeo are the precious data that identify the lifestyles and frame of mind and help in understanding the history and cultures of Goguryeo. The hairstyles or costumes embrace all the elements of history in a specific period. Since being in full dress is the etiquette for the Koreans, they trimmed their hair before wearing a full dress. The style of hair trimming was the priority compared to the costumes or accessories. The hairstyle expressed the aesthetic awareness of human beings. It is their general expression of the magic, aesthetics as well as the basic function to protect the body. The hairstyle was one of the ways to identify the social classes, the one which distinguished a person's social position, class, rank and marital status. This study examines the hairstyles by social class, position and rank between the 4th and the 5th century as seen in the genre paintings describing the life in Goguryeo

## **II . Main Body**

The hairstyles of women are classified into the various traditional up style, bun style and tied style.

The up style, which used wigs, is divided into the high up style, in which the wig was looped and put at the top of head (Hwangye, Hiljagye), and the up style, in which the true hair was looped and put at the top of head.

The big and gaudy up style that used a wig is considered as the symbol of high social position. The tied style was mainly for the unmarried girls and the bun style was for the married women

- ◆ Women's Hairstyles by Social Position as seen in Wall Paintings in the Ancient Tombs of Goguryeo between the 4th and the 5th century



〈Figure 1〉 The hwangye (hiljagyae) wig of Madame Dongsu, the Queen of King Gogukwon, (Anak Tomb No. 3) was decorated with gold and silver hairpins and Boyo. The wig formed large rings in a Tteoguji pattern



〈Figure 2〉 The Hwangye of the King's Concubines (Anak Tomb No. 3). Two women who seemed to be the King's concubines had relatively small wigs without hair accessories on both sides



〈Figure 3〉 The Hwangye of Lady Attendants (Anak Tomb No. 3). The lady attendants holding the incense burner put their hair up, which were made of 2 to 3 rings.



〈Figure 4〉 The Hwangye (Sipjagyae) of Ladies in the Kitchen (Anak Tomb No. 3). The women in the kitchen put their hair up, which formed two rings. The two rings looked like the Sipjagyae of the North Latitude.



〈Figure 5〉 Women next to the Well (Anak Tomb No. 3). Their hair formed one ring



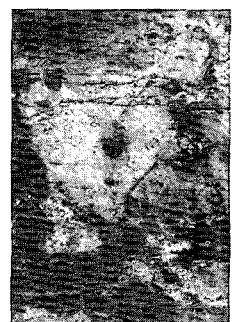
〈Figure 6〉 The Chaemeori of Lady Attendants tied their hair (Muyongchong). The hair was tied in one at the back, folded into two and tied



〈Figure 7〉 The Up style of Lady Attendants (Muyongchong). The front hair was wound up and put on top of the head



〈Figure 8〉 Lady Attendant (Samsilchong). The Pungimyeong hairstyle of lady attendants who gathered their hair with two hands and put the side hair down in an attractive way



〈Figure 9〉 Bun Style of Madame (Wall Painting of Songjukri). Bun style that put up the hair on the back up to the lower part of the back of head

### III. Conclusion

The hairstyles of women in the wall paintings of the ancient tombs of Goguryeo are very diverse. The hairstyles are largely classified into the up style and tied style. The up style is divided into two types: up style using a wig and up style using one's own hair. The hairstyle of women with high rank is the Gogye type that puts a wig on the head, while women with lower rank used only their own hair. The women (Madame Dongsu or Queen Gogukwon), the king's concubines and lady attendants in the wall paintings in the Anak Tomb No. 3 had the Gogye style or Hwangye style (Hiljagye style). The women who worked in the kitchen or next to the well also had the Hwangye style. The popularity of hairstyles requiring so much time and money suggests that Goguryeo was economically affluent and politically stable.

The popular hairstyle in Goguryeo was the Gogye style due to the influence of the Hans between the 4th and the 5th century. In the 6th century, the hairstyle changed from the decorative style to the low and simple style due to the influence of the people from the northern region. The hair was put on the head in a pigtail style or wound up and tied at the back of the head. The unique hairstyle of Goguryeo, such as tying the hair into one at the back of head and slightly raising the end or attractively dropping strands of hair on both sides of the face was expressed in the paintings. The wall paintings in the ancient tombs in Goguryeo are classified into those in Pyeongyang, the open field, and those in Jipan, which is adjacent to China. The wall paintings in Pyeongyang showed the hairstyles in the period that was economically affluent and peaceful (Anak Tomb No. 3). On the other hand, the wall paintings in Jipan (Muyongchong, Samsilchong) showed that the simple hairstyles were more useful because Jipan was at the entrance to the northern region where hunting and leading a nomadic life were the main trends rather than farming. Moreover, the hairstyles of the women in Goguryeo suggested their social positions, economic affluence, and the influence of foreign cultures, nomadic life, regional characteristics, periodic characteristics, religion and traditional thoughts as well as its trade with adjacent countries

### References

- Wall Paintings in Ancient Tombs of Goguryeo, Chosun Daily. 1985
- Special Goguryeo Exhibition for Wall Paintings in Ancient Tombs of Goguryeo, KBS, 1994
- Costumes on Wall Paintings of Goguryeo, thesis by Bak Seon-Hui, 2004
- Hair Styles and Make-up Culture on Wall Paintings of Goguryeo, thesis by Kim Yong-Mun, 2004.