

5 more Tusi chieftain tombs discovered in Guizhou

Archaeologists have discovered five more tombs belonging to the Tusi chieftains in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

The Tusi system was an ancient chieftain system adopted by feudal Chinese emperors to govern ethnic minorities in the southwest from the 13th to the early 20th century. "Tusi" refers to a tribal leader appointed as an imperial official by the central government.

The tombs were found in Zunyi City. Of the newly found tombs of the Yang family, three belong to Tusi chieftains of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 A.D.). Nine Yang family tombs had already been discovered, according to the Guizhou Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology.

Zunyi was historically called Bozhou. The Yang family was one of the major four chieftain families in Guizhou. The family governed Bozhou for 725 years until 1601, when the last chieftain Yang Yinglong died in a failed rebellion.

The tombs will provide rich material for research about the Tusi chieftain system and culture, according to the institute.