

CULTURAL HERITAGE ON THE SILK ROADS | 2021 REPORT



Institute for Intercultural Dialogue on the Silk Roads (IIDOS)

Hangzhou • 2021

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Preface

Another year has passed since the outbreak of COVID-19, and the work related to Silk Road cultural heritage in 2021, such as archaeology, exhibitions and activities, is greatly affected. Apart from academic works, there are still many achievements. Therefore, in the annual report of "Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021 " we compiled this year, there is still a shortcoming.

The framework of the annual report has not changed, and it still revolves around the cultural heritage on the Silk Roads. It is divided into four sections: Archaeological discoveries, that took place in the time and space of the Silk Road and reflected the cultural interaction on the Silk Roads. Thematic exhibitions, which refers to special exhibitions on related topics such as the Silk Road cultural heritage curated by museums, held in museums or similar cultural spaces, and even held online. Academic achievements in the form of monographs and important papers in the field of Silk Road cultural heritage. And the last one cultural events, including various international events led by the government or private sector. Our cooperation is the same as last year. We mainly cooperate with professional institutions and expert teams, and are divided into four groups to carry out collection.

In terms of archaeological discoveries, we have received strong support from the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Under quite difficult circumstances, a certain amount of foreign Silk Road archaeological data was contacted and collected. Judging from the situation in various places, archaeologists are still carrying out a number of important projects. In particular, China's Silk Road archaeology discoveries has basically recovered to its pre-epidemic level.

In terms of exhibitions, we have collected nearly 100 pieces of information through our own efforts and the support of professionals in the foreign museums. We can see that the number of Silk Road exhibitions is still strong in general, especially the number of online, restored, and touring exhibitions has greatly increased, reflecting the new trend of museum exhibitions today.

Academic achievements may be relatively small fluctuations. The publications of the Silk Road cultural heritage theme are still fruitful. About a hundred academic works have come into our attention. There are a large number of instrumental, informative and innovative works in French, German, Russian, Japanese and other languages.

In terms of cultural events, we mainly collected a batch of data from our own center. It can be seen that Silk Road activities around the world are still being carried out, especially in China, and many forms of activities are also constantly innovating and developing, gaining greater voice and showing greater influence.

After the primary selection, we still invited a professional team of Chinese and foreign scholars for voting. This team is basically similar to that in 2019 and 2020. These experts and scholars recommended and selected “Top 10” in each section. At the same time, we also invited a very dedicated professional academic team to write a review in those sections, which will be edited and translated and officially released at Silk Road Week 2022.

The “Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021” is the third annual report launched to the public. Despite the epidemic, we still try our best to continue our work. I would like to thank all the cooperating experts for their strong support, and I hope to receive criticism and correction from the vast number of colleagues in the cultural heritage circle of the Silk Road. Looking forward to the end of the epidemic, we can do a better annual report in the near future.

Feng Zhao
China National Silk Museum
June 8th, 2022

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Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2021
REPORT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DISCOVERIES**



Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries on Silk Roads in 2021

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In 2021, the archaeology work in the countries along the Silk Roads will continue to be carried out on the basis of the previous year and new discoveries keeps emerging. Phased results are also achieved in the various branches of the Silk Road, adding new materials to make up for the missing links on the route, and to explore the cultural connotation of the Silk Road and the cultural exchanges between the East and the West in different periods.

I. Discoveries related to the Land (desert-oasis) Silk Road

1.Domestic part

As the eastern starting point of the land Silk Road, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province has carried out a series of archaeological excavations in the past year and achieved remarkable results, adding new materials for understanding the evolution of ancient culture in Xi'an and its role in cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

Since March 2021, the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, together with several units, has excavated and explored the Taiping Ruins located on the east side of Taiping Village, Xixian New District, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province. A total of 2,600 square meters were excavated, and 164 ash pits, 7 ash ditches, 4 water wells, 2 house sites and 4 tombs in different periods were cleaned. The results show that the ruins are a newly discovered large-scale settlement site surrounded by ditches in the second period of the Keshengzhuang culture in the Guanzhong Basin, dating back 4150-3700 years. In the cleaned ash pits and trenches, a wealth of pottery, stone tools, horn implements, mussel-made tools and jades, with unique characteristics of the times were unearthed, providing a scientific reference for understanding the time of the Ruins. The production of jade tools and the existence of fortune-telling bones, pottery plaques and pottery bells indicate that the Ruins has the necessary elements of a high-level central settlement site. It is an important site for understanding the origin and early development of Chinese civilization. It also lays the prehistoric foundation of the capital culture represented by Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang dynasties in the central part of the Guanzhong Basin.

Since May 2020, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology has excavated the Dabaozi Cemetery in Gaozhuang Town, Qinhan New City (formerly Jingyang County), Xi'an City. The large cemetery is dominated by tombs of the early Western Han Dynasty. The excavation area is located north of the area excavated in 2017. A total of more than 400 tombs have been cleaned. There are two types of tombs, namely, shaft pit cave tombs with passages and earthen shaft pit tombs. The cemetery is orderly arranged, and is divided by square ditch into several parts , which may represent different family units. Nearly 2,000 pieces (groups) of various

relics such as pottery, copper, jade and iron have been unearthed. The M68 earthen shaft pit tomb with passages is most completely preserved. It has the largest quantity of, the most abundant types of, and the most complete combination of artifacts excavated in the Dabaozi Cemetery. A house-shaped pottery granary was found in the west niche of the tomb, which is full of millet. There are two bronze mirrors in the bamboo-made container in front of the head of the tomb owner, one of which is wrapped in paper. In the tomb were also unearthed a set of pottery figures of a dancer or a music player with more than 100 combinations, which completely reproduce the music and dance scenes of the Western Han Dynasty. The excavation of the tomb is of great value for studying the funeral customs, burial system and lifestyle of the early Western Han residents in the Guanzhong area (located in the middle of the Shaanxi Province, between the Loess Plateau and the Qinling Mountains, China). Meanwhile, it also provides complete materials for a glimpse into the life picture of the middle and upper classes in the early Western Han Dynasty.

From August to September 2021, in order to cooperate with the construction of the shed renovation project of Ta'erpo Village, the Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology of Xianyang City has excavated 6 ancient tombs found in the construction site, including 3 tombs of the Qin Dynasty, 1 tomb of the Western Han Dynasty, and 2 tombs of the Eastern Han Dynasty. 89 cultural relics (groups) were unearthed. The three Qin tombs are located at the western edge of the tomb area of the Qin Xianyang City site, among which gold ornaments, bronze cocoon-shaped pots (Funeral objects) and bronze toads unearthed from M5 are relatively rare. The unearthed gold jewelry with gold wire and beads, which are small yet elaborately produced, shows that the Qin people may have mastered the production technology of this kind of gold artifact during the Warring States Period. In addition, the welding bead technique originated in West Asia, which is of great significance to explore the cultural exchanges between the East and the West before the opening of the Silk Road. From June 2020 to November 2021, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology has excavated 3,648 tombs of the Warring States Period, the Two Han Dynasties, the Western Jin Dynasty, the Sixteen Kingdoms, the Northern Dynasties, the Sui, Tang, Song, Ming and Qing Dynasties in Hongduyuan in Xianyang City. The tombs have lasted for more than 2,200 years. There are 16,000 pieces (groups). The excavation site is located in the Hongduyuan Cemetery in the north of Chang'an City in the Han and Tang Dynasties. It was the highest-level cemetery in this period except for the emperor's mausoleum. Most of the buried tomb owners are imperial relatives, high officials and dignitaries. The major achievement is to discover ground structures such as trenches, sealing soils, and stone carvings of mid-to-high-grade tombs in the Northern Dynasties, Sui and Tang Dynasties, and confirm the layout and development of the cemetery. So far, a total of 77 tombs in the Sui, Tang and the Northern Dynasties have been found, including 23 dated, showing the important position of the tombs divided by surrounding ditches and the family cemetery in the high-level tombs of the period. These cemeteries, which are typically divided by surrounding ditches , are neatly arranged and non-interfered. From single tomb, couples buried in the same cave, or couples buried in different caves, they develop into joint burials for children and fathers, and at last joint burials for grandchildren and ancestors. It spanned different dynasties and lasted for hundreds of years.

In May 2021, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology excavated a group of ancient tombs of the Han and Tang Dynasties at the Chengren Cemetery in Hongduyuan, Xianyang city. 6 tombs of the late Eastern Han Dynasty are complete in shape and arranged from south to north, all with tomb ramps with one or two stair(s). The southernmost tomb is a single-chamber earthen cave tomb, and the rest are multi-chamber tombs with large rear chambers, which were common tombs in the middle and late Eastern Han Dynasty. Similar arrangements of family tombs in the Han Dynasty are common. There are fixed combinations of burial utensils, and most of the buried metal ones are copper coins, bronze mirrors and iron utensils. A pottery pot with red inscriptions unearthed in M3019 is clearly dated to the first year of Yanxi (158), and it can be seen that these tombs belong to the late Eastern Han Dynasty. Two gold and bronze Buddha statues were unearthed in M3015. According to the shape, the preliminary production analysis and metal composition detection, the excavators speculated that the statues were made in the late Eastern Han Dynasty, and they are the earliest of all gold and bronze Buddha statues excavated by Chinese archaeologists. In addition, It can be determined that it is a gold and bronze Buddha statue with Gandhara style made locally. This discovery has important academic value for studying Buddhism's initial spread in the central plains of China and its sinicization.

Luoyang, the capital of the Eastern Han Dynasty, was the starting point of the Land Silk Road in the Eastern Han Dynasty, and was also where high-grade tombs were concentrated at that time. In February 2021, more than 110 tombs of various types (under the water surface) were discovered when the Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute of Luoyang cleaned a group of ancient tombs along the section of the Yellow River in Huimeng town, Mengjin district. A total of 39 hollow brick tombs and 18 small ones

were excavated and cleaned. More than 200 cultural relics were unearthed, mainly including pottery pots, pottery tripods, pottery figurines of women, pottery horses, pottery chickens, pottery dogs, etc. This is the first time that complete Western Han pottery figurines and pottery horses have been discovered in Luoyang. The area where the tomb group is located is located at the northern foot of Mangshan Mountain and the south bank of the Yellow River. The terrain is flat and open. Mengjin Pass, one of the eight passes in Luoyang in the Han Dynasty, is also in this area. The large number of Han Dynasty tombs and other archaeological remains discovered this time provide important clues for locating Pingyin County and Ping County, and grasping the specific location and historical changes of Mengjin Pass.

During the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, the Land Silk Road was mainly controlled by the regimes established by the Xianbei people, especially the Northern Wei regime. After the Northern Wei Dynasty moved the capital to Pingcheng (Datong) from Shengle (Horing in Inner Mongolia) in 398, the trade with the tribes in the Western Regions followed the tradition originating from the Wei and Jin Dynasties, and were mainly concentrated in the commercial cities along the Hexi Corridor and the Silk Road in Longxi county. Guzang in Liangzhou (present Liangzhou district, Wuwei city, Gansu province) was a transit point for trade between the Northern Wei Dynasty and the countries of the Western Regions. In August 2021, in cooperation with the capital construction, the Datong Institute of Archaeology discovered a Northern Wei Dynasty tomb group in Yudong New District, Datong City. 44 tombs in the Northern Wei Dynasty were cleaned. M13, unique in shape, is the vaulted square tomb with single chamber, four pointed corners and long ramps. It is clearly dated -that is, the "First Year of Taihe" (477 BC) of the Northern Wei Dynasty. The owners of the tomb are Jia Bao and his wife from Guzang County, Wuwei Prefectures, Liangzhou. A wooden hut was built in the middle of the tomb, in which there was a wooden bed. The unearthed burial utensils are rich and distinctive, and some of them can be used as the standard for the dating and analogy of the unearthed utensils from similar tombs. The wooden warrior figurines and tomb beasts were discovered for the first time in the tombs of the Northern Wei Dynasty. The excavation of the tomb provides materials for further understanding the integration of ethnic groups and the migration of people along the Silk Road during the Pingcheng period (398-494 AD) of the Northern Wei Dynasty.

In 2021, the Datong Institute of Archaeology excavated the construction project site in the northwest of Zhijiabao village, Datong city, and cleaned up a total of 67 tombs during the Northern Wei Dynasty. A relief and painted stone coffin tomb of Lv Xu in Northern Wei Dynasty -the only one in Datong city, was discovered. The inscription on a west corridor column provides the exact year for the tomb -the second year of Tai'an in the Northern Wei Dynasty (456 AD). The inscription records that the owner of the tomb, Lv Xu, is a citizen of Fufeng County. The pictures of the tomb owner's ascension to the immortal, the guide map, the four gods, etc. carved in the coffin are characteristic of the Han Dynasty and have religious features. The image of tomb warriors carved outside the southern wall is similar to that of the Hu people, and they are thought to be the guardian deities from Buddhism. Some sitting Buddha statues are also randomly carved outside the west wall of the stone coffin. The Northern Wei Dynasty was a critical period for the Sinicization of Buddhism. The Buddhist elements in this tomb may be related to the excavation of the Yungang Grottoes. The Liangzhou system of Buddhism spreaded into Datong during this period. However, from the large number of images of two human heads facing each other or creatures with beast heads and bird bodies, it can be seen that they were influenced by Zoroastrianism and its specific religious attributes require further study.

There are two main achievements in religious archaeology along the Silk Roads in 2021. One is the excavation of the Qianfo Cliff Statue and Cave Front Site in Huozhou City, Shanxi Province. The project is jointly carried out by the Shanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology and Peking University. According to preliminary statistics, there are more than 70 niches and about 300 statues on the cliff. The themes of the statues are mostly one Buddha and two Bodhisattvas or one Buddha, two Bodhisattvas and two disciples. The cave niches are mainly pointed-arch and round-arch shaped. It was found that there are five eleven-faced Avalokitesvaras with esoteric themes, which is a characteristic of the Qianfo cliff statues. A total of nearly 20 inscriptions were found, covering several categories such as chronology, place names, person names, and official names. The results of investigation and excavation show that the Buddhist remains were excavated in the Gaowu period of the Tang Dynasty (660 -684 AD), mainly after the Kaiyuan period (713-741 AD). They are the important group of medium-sized statues in the Tang Dynasty in Shanxi. They are influenced by the Tang Dynasty statues both in the Tianlongshan Grottoes in Taiyuan, and in the Longmen and Guanzhong areas of Luoyang. They provides important materials for studying the evolution of statue styles and types in the transition from the prosperous Tang to the middle and late stages. The inscriptions discovered are of great value to the study of the history and geography of the Tang Dynasty, the mansion

army system of the government, etc.

The other is the excavation of a Chenghuang temple in the Ming Dynasty, named "Xianying Palace", in Jingbian County, Yulin City. Since May 2020, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology has carried out rescue excavations on the suspected relic sites in the county, and discovered a large number of architectural remains and clay sculptures. The architectural relics belong to two courtyards, of which the southern part is larger, and with well-preserved walls, houses, and brick floors. A stone tablet was unearthed in the courtyard, and the inscription records that the courtyard is a Chenghuang temple named "Xianying Palace". There are more than 30 well-preserved painted clay statues found in most of the buildings. According to the shape of the statue, it is judged to be a town god, a judge, a ghost, etc., which is consistent with the inscription. These statues are close to life size, with bright colors and lifelike shapes, showing a very high artistic level. In the "Xianying Palace", relics such as gilt bronze statues and iron incense burners were also unearthed. On the east side of the "Palace", a large-scale building site remains -Qingpingbao Fort Ruins was found. According to the inscriptions and county records, this place may be the site of the central building in the city. Clearing out the opening of the building site and the south side of the building foundation is helpful to understand its overall structural layout. The site is currently the most complete and preserved Ming Dynasty Great Wall castle in the forts of northern Shaanxi.

In the Sui and Tang Dynasties, the state of war and separatism, characteristic of the Five Hus and Sixteen States period, came to an end in the Hexi Corridor. Due to the unified regime, it became the most important and stable channel for trade and cultural exchanges between the Central Plains of China and the Western Regions, displaying diverse and prosperous cultures. The Tuyuhun Kingdom, which had been established in Qinghai for more than 300 years and made outstanding contributions to the prosperity of the Qinghai Silk Road, was conquered by the gradually powerful Tubo in the second half of the 7th century. The descendants of the royal family were buried in the Tang-Fan border between the Qilian Mountains. The epitaphs unearthed from the Tuyuhun Tombs are expected to help identify the "Mausoleum of the Great Khan" (new discovery) in 2021, with the main goal of identifying the specific location and layout of the mausoleum and enriching the cultural connotation of the Tuyuhun Tombs. Changling Tomb No. 1 in Tianzhu County, Wuwei City (No. 2021TQCM1, hereinafter referred to as Changling M1) and Macangtan Tomb No.1 and No.2 (No. 2021TQMM1, 2021TQMM2, hereinafter referred to as Macangtan M1, M2) were excavated, and more than 290 pieces of funerary objects were unearthed. According to the "Epitaph of the Lady of Fengyi County" in the 27th year of Kaiyuan (739) unearthed at Machangtan M2, it can be seen that the tomb here is the cemetery of the Tuyuhun Pengzi clan in the early and middle Tang Dynasty. The three tombs of Changling M1, Macangtan M1 and M2 are important archaeological discoveries of the Tuyuhun royal family tombs after the Tomb of Murongzhi in the Tang Dynasty in Wuwei city, providing evidence for studying the history, genealogy and burial of the family. It also provides an important reference for studying and restoring high-level tombs in the Tang Dynasty and their burial customs. Therefore, it is an important archaeological discovery of Tuyuhun tombs. The excavation of the three tombs has also enriched and expanded the material and culture evidence of the Silk Road, promoting the research on the history of the relationship between the Tang Dynasty and the ethnic groups along the Silk Roads, transportation, material culture, and arts and crafts.

Archaeologists have also achieved important results along the Plateau Silk Road, which passes through the heartland of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. From 2018 to 2021, Tibet Autonomous Region Cultural Relics Institute and Zanda County Cultural Relics Bureau of Tibet Autonomous Region formed a joint archaeological team to excavate the Sangmda Lungga Tomb in Zanda County, Ngari Prefecture. The east and west areas of the cemetery have a total length of 4 kilometers, and dozens of tombs are distributed. They include tombs with single chamber, double chambers, or single or double tomb passage(s). The most striking discovery is a number of gold and silver ornaments of different sizes. In addition, 5 wooden figurines were unearthed. This type of wooden figurines was first discovered in a tomb of the same period in Tibet, providing important evidence for studying the function of gold and silver veneers and its cultural exchanges with Xinjiang and North India. In addition, silk fabrics from the Central Plains, and copper and iron products influenced by Han culture were also found in the tombs. The Tomb has been in use for nearly a thousand years (300 BC to 650 AD), with a large number of well-preserved tombs, providing important information for exploring the early funeral customs in western Tibet, the route of the Silk Road on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and the cultural exchanges between western Tibet and surrounding areas.

2. Overseas part

The followings are the four archaeological discoveries related to the Silk Road in Asia, Africa and Europe in 2021:

1. A food pantry measuring some 37 feet long and 10 feet wide has been found at Kafir Kala, an eighth-century fortress on the path of the ancient Silk Road in what is now Uzbekistan. Researchers from Tezukayama University and Uzbekistan's Institute of Archaeology said that the contents of the pantry, which was situated next to a throne room, suggest that an eighth-century Sogdian king ate foods from eastern and western food traditions. The foodstuffs include charred grains of foxtail millet, which is eaten in East Asia, and a carbonized substance thought to be honey, widely used in Greek dishes. Takao Uno of Tezukayama University said the millet may have been served as a porridge, or made into dumplings served with honey. People in Uzbekistan today eat foxtail millet porridge with garlic and beans, which were also recovered from the pantry. Thirteen large pots are thought to have held wine and olive oil. A decorated wooden bowl may have held nuts. The pantry is thought to have burned when the Umayyad dynasty attacked Central Asia.

2. Archeologists have discovered a 1,600-year-old weaving workshop along with weight stones used to turn wool into rope during excavation work in Perrhe, an ancient city in the kingdom of Commagene, the remains of which are located in the Turkish city of Adiyaman. Digging at the ancient site has been ongoing since the early 2000s, and a variety of items have been unearthed this year alone, including a historical Roman fountain, various architectural structures and several aqueducts. In one of the ruins of a 1600-year-old textile workshop, a stone spinning wheel used to twist wool into rope was unearthed. A small-scale grain production area was also revealed, with cisterns, smashing implements, and Pompeii-style stone millstones found. By analyzing the remains, it can be seen that the earthquake that occurred in the 6th and 7th centuries caused damage to the city site.

3. Researchers from the Archaeological Survey of India have discovered a 10th-century building on the Hazaribagh plateau in northeastern India. The site is adjacent to the ancient road on three mounds, connecting Sarnath to Bihar, and is thought to be the remains of a Buddhist monastery. Excavations of the first mound in 2020 uncovered a temple with doorways and steps. In a second mound about 130 feet from the first, excavators found the remains of a small monastery with 3 rooms. In these rooms were found 5 sitting Buddha statues, and a statue of Tara in meditation. Based on the an inscription found in the ruins, the time of the site can be estimated to be the 10th century.

4. The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has discovered the remains of an important city more than 3,000 years ago in the southern Egyptian city of Luxor. According to archaeologists, this is the largest ancient city site of Aten discovered in Egypt. It is well-preserved and a large number of daily necessities have been unearthed. It can be called the ancient Egyptian version of "Pompeii", known as the "lost city of gold". The site is located in Luxor, the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile River. When archaeologists were looking for the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun (about 1336-1327 BC), they found this city site buried in yellow sand for thousands of years. The ruins of the city are well preserved, with houses, streets, walls, etc. found. The best preserved wall is 3 meters high, and the room is full of daily necessities of the ancient Egyptians. Hieroglyphic inscriptions indicate that the city was called tehn Aten, and it was founded by Tutankhamun's grandfather, Amenhotep III (c. 1390-1352 BC). Aten was then the main administrative and industrial center of Egypt. The complete state of preservation of the city site has provided researchers with an unprecedented glimpse of life more than 3,000 years ago. Although only about a third of the site has been excavated so far, archaeologists have uncovered houses containing everyday objects, including ceramic utensils, children's dolls and limestone play pieces. They also found bakeries, kitchens and other areas associated with food production, as well as a container containing more than 20 pounds of jerky. There are also workshops for making mud bricks and decorative amulets, as well as a residential and administrative area surrounded by unique sawtooth walls. The time of the city's decline is unclear, but Aten, the son of Amenhotep III (c. 1349-1336 BC), moved the Egyptian capital from Luxor to Amarna, 250 miles away. It may have been abandoned.

2. Discoveries on the Prairie Silk Road

There is no more significant discovery along the Prairie Silk Road in 2021 than the excavation of the Scythian Burial Ground in Russia. This burial ground was discovered in 2000 on a massif on the right bank of the Devitsa River in central Russia, with 19 burial mounds in two parallel rows from west to east, but most of them had been destroyed by agricultural activities. Since 2010, Middle Don River Archaeological Survey Mission, organized by the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IA RAS), has been carrying out systematic excavation and research to this burial, making some major discoveries. In 2021, the Mission excavated Tomb 7, located in the center of the burial ground Devitsa V, in the vicinity of Tomb 9, which was excavated in 2019. The excavations revealed that Tomb 7 was one of the largest burials, with a depth of 1.3 meters and a diameter of 40 meters.

The oak-constructed burial chamber was located in the center of the mound with a length of 7.5 meters and a width of 5 meters. The skeleton of a man aged between 40 and 49 was placed the inside the burial chamber, and many small hemispherical gold ornamental pieces were found next to the skull, which should be ornaments from the burial clothes. A knife and a horse rib (probably the remains of ritual food), a spearhead, and three short swords were found on either side of the human skeleton. In the southeast corner of the chamber, there were three remnants of horse harnesses, including a horse bit, horse bride and leather belt buckle, and iron halter, as well as bronze, iron and bone ornaments of Scythian. Archaeologists also found 6 pieces of bronze horse bride plates, each decorated with an image of two wolves with their mouth wide open. The jaw of a young bear was placed next to the harnesses, which was analyzed to be related to the Bear-Worship in the Middle Don. In addition, a moulded goblet and a large black glazed earthenware jar were found in different positions of the burial chamber.

In the northeast of the burial chamber, a piece of rectangular silver plate with numerous small silver nails around the edge, was found pinned to a decayed wooden base. The piece is 34.7 cm long and 7.5 cm wide in the middle. A figure with wings on her shoulders is depicted in the center of the silver plate, facing Argimpase, i.e. Cybele, the goddess of fertility for animals and human beings. The goodness is topless, wearing a crown with horns, and flanked by Griffin figures. This type of images is an integration of the iconographic traditions of Asia Minor and ancient Greece, and is very common in Scythian burial mounds in the North Sea, the Dnieper Steppe, and the North Caucasus regions. The left end of the silver piece is made up of two square plates decorated with two groups of monsters standing facing each other. The right end is fixed with two circular buckles, each depicting a standing figure wearing a crown with two griffins on either side. There is no doubt that the silver plate provides important material for understanding the religious belief system of the Scythian despite its unknown functional use. The Scythian Burial Ground is dated to the 4th century AD.

3. Discoveries on the Maritime Silk Road

On July 2021, the World Heritage Committee made the decision to inscribe “Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China” onto the World Heritage List, which was the 56th World Heritage Site in China and a testament to the universal recognition of China’s key port cities for trade along the Maritime Silk Road. To support the work for heritage declaration, the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Fujian Museum, and the Quanzhou City Culture and Tourism Bureau continued to carry out archaeological surveys and excavations of the Quanzhou Maritime Trade Office Site in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The excavations continued in 2021 on the basis of the previous two years. The rammed earth stylobate of Song and Yuan Dynasties as well as its foundation ditch for wrapping edges, wall foundation trench, stone or brick pavements, drainage facility, stone steps and its sidewall road, remnants of buildings reconstructed in the Ming Dynasty, and other site relics were uncovered through the excavations in 2021; the rammed earth remains covered with brick walls of the south side of the Wall Ruins of Luo City in Quanzhou were discovered, and the unearthed bricks were stamped with the words “Official Bricks for City Repairing in the 2nd Year of Jia Ding”, “Official Bricks for City Repairing in (Tong’an) County During the 3rd Year of Jia Ding”, etc. Combined with the literature, it was presumed that the rammed earth remains may be the remnants of the west end of the south wall of Luo City in Quanzhou during the Tang and Song Dynasties. The relevant work of archaeological survey, excavation and research basically confirmed the location of Quanzhou Maritime Trade Office Site, providing significant empirical data for the study of politics, culture, transportation and trade of Quanzhou during the Song and Yuan Dynasties.

4. Conclusion

The new archaeological discoveries of the Silk Road in 2021 continue to be dominated by the results of excavations in China, in which the remains of a large number of tombs found in Shannxi Province are the most important. The long-lasting and well-preserved remains of the tombs provide an intuitive and clear understanding of the far-reaching effect of the Silk Road, and its location in the ancient capital of Xi’an is the evidence of the sky-high acceptance of “Exotic Customs” by the people in that capital city from the Western Han Dynasty onward. In addition, the Northern Wei Burial Ground in Datong, Shanxi Province, reflects the prosperity of the Silk Road that facilitated the spread of Buddhism, which provides many inspirations into the question of the stylistic origins of the Yun Gang Grottoes’ first phrase. The archaeological excavation of the sites of maritime trade office in major port cities along the Maritime Silk Road proves the prosperity of maritime trade at that time, which reflects economic gravity's southward shifting and

the land-based Silk Road’s gradual decline in the Tang Dynasty before the increasing importance attached to it by the Central Plains Dynasty. It also reflects the fact that Chinese people have been exploring and seeking cultural exchanges with the West through different means over a long period of history.

With the increasingly intensified research to the archaeology of the Tibetan Plateau in recent years, new discoveries in this region are of particular attention in this year. The excavation of early burial grounds in Western Tibet has provided more new material to explore the formation process and historical influence of the Plateau Silk Road. The excavation and research on the Tuyuhun Royal Tombs between Hexi Corridor and the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau furnished a rich source of information to clarify the archaeological and cultural landscape of Tuyuhun, an ethnic group that had been active on the Silk Road for centuries.

Archaeological excavation in the Silk Road-related regions of Asia, Africa, and Europe is carried out normally, but with a limited number of projects this year. Uzbekistan, Turkey, and Egypt, major nodes and endpoints on the Land Silk Road, have achieved a variety of results in the excavation to castles and ancient city sites. The excavation of the important burial mounds of Scythian people on the regions along the Prairie Silk Road in Russia provides new information for gaining insight into the material and spiritual world of this steppe ethnic group and its role in the cultural exchange between East and West.

1

The Ruins of Kafir Kala

Time: April, 2021
Location: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Introduction:

A food pantry measuring some 37 feet long and 10 feet wide has been found at Kafir Kala, an eighth-century fortress on the path of the ancient Silk Road in what is now Uzbekistan. Researchers from Tezukayama University and Uzbekistan's Institute of Archaeology said that the contents of the pantry, which was situated next to a throne room, suggest that an eighth-century Sogdian king ate foods from eastern and western food traditions. The foodstuffs include charred grains of foxtail millet, which is eaten in East Asia, and a carbonized substance thought to be honey, widely used in Greek dishes. Takao Uno of Tezukayama University said the millet may have been served as a porridge, or made into dumplings served with honey. People in Uzbekistan today eat foxtail millet porridge with garlic and beans, which were also recovered from the pantry. Thirteen large pots are thought to have held wine and olive oil. A decorated wooden bowl may have held nuts. The pantry is thought to have burned when the Umayyad dynasty attacked Central Asia.



2 Aten Ancient City

Time: April, 2021

Location: Luxor, Egypt

Introduction:

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has discovered the remains of an important city more than 3,000 years ago in the southern Egyptian city of Luxor. According to archaeologists, this is the largest ancient city site of Aten discovered in Egypt. It is well-preserved and a large number of daily necessities have been unearthed. It can be called the ancient Egyptian version of "Pompeii", known as the "lost city of gold". The site is located in Luxor, the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of the Nile River. When archaeologists were looking for the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun (about 1336-1327 BC), they found this city site buried in yellow sand for thousands of years. The ruins of the city are well preserved, with houses, streets, walls, etc. found. The best preserved wall is 3 meters high, and the room is full of daily necessities of the ancient Egyptians. Hieroglyphic inscriptions indicate that the city was called tehn Aten, and it was founded by Tutankhamun's grandfather, Amenhotep III (c. 1390-1352 BC). Aten was then the main administrative and industrial center of Egypt. The complete state of preservation of the city site has provided researchers with an unprecedented glimpse of life more than 3,000 years ago. Although only about a third of the site has been excavated so far, archaeologists have uncovered houses containing everyday objects, including ceramic utensils, children's dolls and limestone play pieces. They also found bakeries, kitchens and other areas associated with food production, as well as a container containing more than 20 pounds of jerky. There are also workshops for making mud bricks and decorative amulets, as well as a residential and administrative area surrounded by unique sawtooth walls. The time of the city's decline is unclear, but Aten, the son of Amenhotep III (c. 1349-1336 BC), moved the Egyptian capital from Luxor to Amarna, 250 miles away. It may have been abandoned.



3 The Ruins of Barikot Buddhist Temple

Time: 2021

Location: Barikot, Pakistan

Introduction:

An ancient temple dating from the early centuries of Buddhism has been unearthed in the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan-part of the ancient Gandhara region that was conquered by Alexander the Great and gave rise to a mixing of Buddhist belief and Greek art. Archaeologists think that the temple dates from about the middle of the second century B.C., at a time when Gandhara was ruled by the Indo-Greek kingdom of northern India, and that it was built above an earlier Buddhist temple that may have dated from as early as the third century B.C.

The excavated remains of the temple found so far, near the center of the modern town of Barikot, are over 10 feet (3 meters) tall and consist of a ceremonial platform topped by a cylindrical structure that housed a conical or dome-shaped Buddhist monument called a stupa. The temple complex, which was built and reconstructed several times, also included a smaller stupa, a cell or room for monks, a staircase, the podium of a monumental pillar or column, vestibule rooms and a public courtyard that looked out onto an ancient road. Archaeologists have discovered more than 2,000 artifacts at the site, including coins, jewels, seals, pottery pieces, stonework and statues, some of which bear ancient inscriptions that can be used to date them.

Swat also has a temperate microclimate, which allows two harvests every year-in spring and late summer-so ancient Barikot was an important center for the management of the region's agricultural surplus. As a result, Alexander probably used the region as a "breadbasket" to provision his armies before continuing their military campaign south to India, according to a statement from Ca' Foscari University of Venice.



The Scythian Burial Ground

Time: 2021

Location: Voronezh Oblast, Russia

Introduction:

Expedition members of IA RAS have found a unique plate depicting winged Scythian gods surrounded by griffons during their excavations of the burial ground Devitsa V in Ostrogozhsky District of Voronezh region. This is the first case of such a finding in the Scythian barrows on Middle Don. No other items depicting gods from the Scythian pantheon have been found in this area.

In the central part of the plate is a winged figure facing a Goddess of animal and human fertility. The Goddess is known as Argimpasa, Cybele. The upper part of her body is stripped, and there is headwear, likely a crown with horns, on her head. The Goddess is surrounded on both sides with the figures of winged eagle-headed griffons. Depictions of this type, where the traditions of Asia Minor and ancient Greek are mixed, are often found in excavations of the Scythian barrows of the Northern Sea region, the Dnieper forest-steppe region, and the Northern Caucasus.

The left side of the plate is formed by two square plates decorated with the depictions of syncretic creatures standing in a so-called heraldic pose (in front of each other, close to each other with their paws). From the right side, two round buckles are attached to the plate on each of which one anthropomorphic character with a crown on his head standing surrounded by two griffons is depicted. Who those characters are and which item was decorated by this plate remains an open issue.

The finding has made an important contribution to our concepts of Scythian beliefs. Firstly, a particular number of gods are depicted at once on one item. Secondly, it has never happened before that an item with depicted gods has been found so far from the north-east of the main Scythian centers.



Ruins of Buddhist Monasteries in Jharkhand

Time: 2021

Location: Jharkhand, India

Introduction:

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has unearthed a Buddhist monastery, believed to be at least 900 years old, buried under a mound in a village situated in a hilly area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. The finding comes two months after discovery of an ancient Buddhist shrine, buried under a similar mound, barely 100 metres away.

The mounds are situated along an ancient road that connected Sarnath, a city near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers where Gautama Buddha once taught, and Bihar, where he later attained enlightenment in the village of Bodh Gaya. Excavation of the first mound last year revealed a temple with an entry gate and stairs. In the second mound, located about 130 feet away from the first, team member Neeraj Mishra said the researchers uncovered traces of a small, three-roomed monastery. Five sculptures of the seated Gautama Buddha, and a sculpture of Tara, a female meditation deity, were found in the rooms. An inscription at the site helped researchers to date the structure to the tenth century.

Archaeologists said the findings were significant since the monastery is on the old route to Varanasi, 10 km from Sarnath, where the Buddha gave his first sermon. They said the presence of statues of deity Tara shows possible proliferation of Vajrayana form of Buddhism in this region.



Time: 2021

Location: Adiyaman, Turkey

Introduction:

Archeologists have discovered a 1,600-year-old weaving workshop along with weight stones used to turn wool into rope during excavation work in Perrhe, an ancient city in the kingdom of Commagene, the remains of which are located in the Turkish city of Adiyaman. Digging at the ancient site has been ongoing since the early 2000s, and a variety of items have been unearthed this year alone, including a historical Roman fountain, various architectural structures and several aqueducts.

Adiyaman Museum Director Mehmet Alkan said excavation work slowed with the arrival of winter. "In the excavations we've been carrying out in a field of some 1,000 square meters, we've identified residential architecture and buildings of civil architecture. Based on these structures, we think that the earthquakes that occurred from the sixth to seventh centuries damaged the residential architecture of Perrhe," Alkan said. He further noted that the findings indicated that there was small-scale grain production in the area and related items such as cisterns and crushing vessels as well as Pompeiian-type millstones were found.



Time: August to September, 2021

Location: Shaanxi, China

Introduction:

In order to cooperate with the construction of the shed renovation project of Ta'erpo Village, the archaeologists have excavated 6 ancient tombs found in the construction site, including 3 tombs of the Qin Dynasty, 1 tomb of the Western Han Dynasty, and 2 tombs of the Eastern Han Dynasty. 89 cultural relics (groups) were unearthed. Based on the shape of the tombs and the burial objects, these three Qin tombs could be dated from the late Warring States period to the Qin period. Gold ornaments, bright bronze cocoon-shaped pots and bronze toads unearthed from one of the Qin tombs are relatively rare. In particular, the archaeological significance reflected by the production method of gold jewelry is more important. There are 9 small gold ornaments in this group, which were made of pure gold and were rarely found in previous Qin tombs. There were many welded rope patterns and gold beads on the surface of the gold ornaments. The rope patterns often appeared on the borders of the gold and silver buckles of the grassland culture. The craft of welding gold beads first appeared in the two river basins and the Mediterranean coast, and became popular in the nomadic areas of northwest China in the middle and late Warring States Period and the welding bead technology appeared in the Central Plains during the Western Han Dynasty. In terms of use and craftsmanship, this group of small gold ornaments has a typical northern grassland culture style.

The unearthed gold jewelry with gold wire and beads shows that the Qin people may have mastered the production technology of this kind of gold artifact during the Warring States Period. In addition, the welding bead technique originated in West Asia and later spread to Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia in China through the Central Asian grasslands. The unearthed gold artifacts from Qin tombs indicate that the Qin people had indirect or direct contacts with Central Asia and West Asia very early. It has empirical significance for exploring the communication and dissemination paths of Chinese and Western cultures during the "Pre-Silk Road" period.



8 Tuyuhun Tombs

Time: 2021

Location: Gansu, China

Introduction:

The epitaphs unearthed from the Tuyuhun Tombs are expected to help identify the "Mausoleum of the Great Khan" (new discovery) in 2021, with the main goal of identifying the specific location and layout of the mausoleum and enriching the cultural connotation of the Tuyuhun Tombs. Changling Tomb No. 1 in Tianzhu County, Wuwei City (No. 2021TQCM1, hereinafter referred to as Changling M1) and Macangtan Tomb No.1 and No.2 (No. 2021TQMM1, 2021TQMM2, hereinafter referred to as Macangtan M1, M2) were excavated, and more than 290 pieces of funerary objects were unearthed. According to the "Epitaph of the Lady of Fengyi County" in the 27th year of Kaiyuan (739) unearthed at Machangtan M2, it can be seen that the tomb here is the cemetery of the Tuyuhun Pengzi clan in the early and middle Tang Dynasty.

The three tombs of Changling M1, Macangtan M1 and M2 are important archaeological discoveries of the Tuyuhun royal family tombs in the Tang Dynasty in Wuwei city, providing evidence for studying the history, genealogy and burial of the family. It also provides an important reference for the study and restoration of high-level tombs in the Tang Dynasty and their burial customs. Therefore, it is an important archaeological discovery of Tang tombs and Tuyuhun tombs. The excavation of the three tombs has also enriched and expanded the material and culture evidence of the Silk Road, which is of great value in promoting the research on the history of the relationship between the Tang Dynasty and the ethnic groups along the Silk Roads, the history of transportation, the history of material culture, and the history of arts and crafts.



9 The Damxung Cemetery

Time: 2021

Location: Tibet, China

Introduction:

In order to cooperate with the capital construction project, in 2020 and 2021, the Tibet Autonomous Region Institute of Cultural Relics Conservation and the Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology have carried out rescue archaeological excavations on the cemetery. A total of 6 large and 30 small sealed tombs have been cleared. Cooperate with the Tourism Bureau throughout the process.

The tomb is basically composed of the ground cover and the lower tomb structure. Large-scale tombs are mainly composed of two types of tombs with vertical pits, earthen pits, and stone chambers with circular domes. The small tombs are mainly in the form of vertical pit and stone chamber tombs and vertical pit tombs. There is basically a trapezoidal wall structure on the periphery of the tomb. Large-scale tombs unearthed gold and silverware, various bead ornaments, pottery (pottery pieces), bronzes, iron relics, wipes, fabrics, and stone black and white Go pieces. Small tombs basically have no funerary objects, only a small amount of bronze, iron, pottery, beadwork and leather products have been unearthed.

The Damxung cemetery dates from the 7th to the 9th century AD and belongs to the cultural relics of the Tang (Tubo) period. The archaeological and cultural aspects of the Danxiong cemetery show its correlation with the Central Plains culture and the archaeological and cultural characteristics of other surrounding areas, showing the exchange and integration of early cultures. At the same time, it provides important material materials for further understanding of the archaeological and cultural aspects and funeral system of Tibet during the Tang (Tubo) period.



10

The Keyakekuduke Watchtower Site

Time: 2021
Location: Xinjiang, China

Introduction:

The Keyakekuduke Watchtower Site, located in the desert 90 km southeast of Yuli County, Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture of Bayingolin, dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), said the site excavation project's team leader Hu Xingjun from the regional institute of cultural relics and archaeology. The institute carried out an archaeological excavation on an area of 2,300 square meters from 2019 to 2021 and unearthed dwellings, a wooden fence, steps, ash piles, ponds and over 1,400 cultural relics including paper documents.

The documents are rich in content, involving military, political, economic, cultural, legal, transportation, social life and religious beliefs and it demonstrates effective administration of the western regions by the central government in the Tang Dynasty.

The excavation helps reveal a whole picture of the watchtower and provides abundant first-hand materials for the study of frontier military garrisons in ancient China.



Archaeology Discovery List

No.	Title	Excavation Time	Place and Country
1	Barikot Buddhist Temple	1984 -onwards	Barikot, Pakistan
2	Ruins of Perrhe in Turkey	2000 -onwards	Turkey
3	The Scythian Burial Mound	2010 -onwards	Voronezh Oblast, Russia
4	Ancient Celtic Gold Coin Hoard Site	2017 -onwards	Brandenburg, Germany
5	The Grand Tomb in Jiangcun Village	2017 -onwards	Shaanxi, China
6	Dun Ancient City Ruins of the Tang Dynasty	2018-2021	Xinjiang, China
7	Sangmda Lungga Tomb	2018 -onwards	Tibet, China
8	Ruins of the Ancient City of Ushtur	2019-2021	Xinjiang, China
9	Tuyuhun Tombs	2019-2021	Gansu, China
10	The Shibosi (Maritime Trade Supervisory) Site in Quanzhou	2019 -onwards	Fujian, China
11	Hongduyuan Cemetery	2020/6 -2021/11	Shaanxi, China
12	The Damxung Cemetery	2020-2021	Tibet, China
13	Ruins of Buddhist Monasteries in Jharkhand	2020 -onwards	India
14	The Dabaozi Cemetery	2020 -onwards	Shaanxi, China
15	Group of Ancient tombs along the Section of the Yellow River in Huimeng Town, Mengjin District	2021/2/1	Henan, China
16	Taiping Ruins	2021/3/1	Shaanxi, China
17	Aten Ancient City	2021/4/1	Luxor, Egypt
18	Kafir Kala	2021/4/1	Uzbekistan
19	Chengren Cemetery in the Eastern Han Dynasty	2021/5/1	Shaanxi, China
20	The Qingpingbao Fort	2021/5 -onwards	Shaanxi, China
21	The Ruins of the Golden Horde Uvek Settlement	2021/7/1	Saratov Oblast, Russia
22	Jikulangtu Huns Tomb Group	2021/7-2021/10	Inner Mongolia, China
23	Single Chamber Brick Tomb from Late Liao Dynasty in Gu'an City	2021/8/23	Hebei, China
24	Tombs of the Northern Wei Dynasty in Datong City	2021/8/26	Shanxi, China

25	The Qin Tomb of the Warring States Period in Ta'erpo	2021/8 -2021/9	Shaanxi, China
26	The Nestorian Church Site of Xipang	2021/9- 2021/11	Xinjiang, China
27	Półwieś Coin Hoard Site	2021/12/1	Poland
28	Leather Scale Armor Made During the Assyrian Empire	2021/12/8	Xinjiang, China
29	Relief and Painted Stone Coffin Tomb of Lv Xu in Northern Wei Dynasty	2021	Shanxi, China
30	The Qianfo Cliff Statue and the Cave Front Site	2021	Shanxi, China
31	The Keyakekuduke Watchtower Site	2021	Xinjiang, China
32	The Beiting City Ruins	2021	Xinjiang, China



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2021
REPORT

THEMATIC EXHIBITIONS



Annual Review of Thematic Exhibitions on Silk Roads in 2021

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By comprehensively searching preparatory materials for this new edition of “Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads”, our team found in total 86 exhibitions held in 2021 that are concerned with the Silk Roads. In terms of format, there are among these displays one permanent display and 4 online shows.

As for their geographical distribution, 73 events were held in China (including 5 in Hong Kong, one in Macau and one in Taiwan) while 13 shows were international (there were 28 international events in the 2020 report). Among the latter events, two were organised in the United States of America, Canada and Italy respectively while one single display was held in each of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Belgium, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Iran, Austria and Turkey. Like what has been shown in previous editions, China is still the major country to organise silk-road-related exhibitions as those organised in the country represent 84.9% of all the identified shows (they represented 65.9% of the studied shows in 2020). The increasingly dominant proportion of exhibitions held in China is attributed to both a rise in China and a sharp fall of relevant events in the rest of the world very likely due to the pandemic.

It is not easy to classify these 86 shows according to their content in a clear-cut manner. Some of them could actually be categorised with one of the six qualifiers of which the definitions will be laid out in their respective sections: comprehensive, historical, geographical, thematic, case-based or creative. They may be considered “displays of primary categories”. There are 3 comprehensive exhibitions, 2 historical exhibitions, 19 geographical exhibitions, 18 thematic exhibitions, 16 case-based exhibitions and 9 creative exhibitions. Meanwhile a great number of exhibitions organised in 2021 are “composite” or “multidimensional” for one single qualifier is not enough to convey their approach. Historio-thematic (9), geo-historical (3), geo-thematic (3), thema-creative (1) or even geo-historio-thematic exhibitions (3) are commonplace in this year’s edition and represent 22.1% of the population. It seems that curators strive to be original by making display subjects increasingly precise, since vague topics were already explored in projects undertaken in the previous years. This trend is also confirmed by the decline of comprehensive installations (3 instead of 11 in the previous edition). Nevertheless creative shows haven’t repeated their impressive success since they comprise only 10.5% of the population (instead of 15.9% in 2020).

1.Comprehensive Exhibitions

Comprehensive exhibitions are those presenting the Silk Roads as a whole or a concept without defining historical, geographical, thematic or other scopes. The following examples illustrate better the category.

“Silk Road Objects in the Collection of Hirayama Ikuo”, Shanxi Museum (Shanxi, China), from November 2021 onwards

The exhibition displayed 192 objects (sets) from the collection of Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum including some of the sketches Hirayama Ikuo made in Dunhuang. Master of contemporary Japanese painting, Hirayama (1930-2009) distinguished himself on the country’s art scene through paintings related to Buddhism and made outstanding contributions to the preservation and scholarly research of Dunhuang artefacts and to cultural exchanges between China and Japan. Most of which dating back to 2000 BC until the 8th century AD, the works on view cover the major civilisations along the overland silk roads from the central Mediterranean basin to Central Asia and India. They comprehensively demonstrate the exchanges and mutual inspirations between different civilisations on the Eurasian continent while profoundly revealing how the humanity has become a “Community of Common Destiny” following combinations, clashes and interactions.

“Beyond High Mountains and Long Rivers There Are Myriad Objects: Cultures and Exchanges along the Silk Roads”, Sichuan Museum (Sichuan, China), 29 Dec 2020-20 Mar 2021

The Sichuan Museum and the Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum jointly organised the exhibition to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the friendly relations between Sichuan province and Yamanashi prefecture, Japan. The 294 exquisite items (sets) on view include not only works from the collection of Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum but also those from major Chinese museums along the Silk Roads such as Shaanxi History Museum, Gansu Provincial Museum, Qinghai Museum, Xi’an Museum, Turpan Museum and Sichuan Museum. They celebrate the glorious history of the Silk Roads more completely, more multi-dimensionally and more interestingly while featuring customs and trade connections along the roads as well as cultural exchanges and integrations between the East and the West

2.Historical Exhibitions

Historical exhibitions refer to those dedicated to a historical period. In the Chinese context, the period could typically be a dynasty or a more extensive yet distinct era. The “Golden Ages” attract naturally more attention than the other periods. The following shows exemplify this category.

“In Search of Traces along the Silk Roads: Masterpieces of Western Xia”, Yangzhou Museum (Yangzhou, China), 1 Oct 2020-5 Jan 2021

When the regime of Western Xia collapsed, relics, archives and books were all devastated and buried in dust. As archaeological researches have brought increasingly in-depth findings over the last years, the unearthed objects and a widen research scope have provided opportunities and evidence to recover the dynasty’s history. Its writing system, architecture and relics have loyally and multi-dimensionally revealed from various perspectives the state’s social and cultural context, economy, culture and art. The mysterious culture has been increasingly unveiled before the public. The show has brought together more than 100 exquisite Western Xia archaeological objects uncovered in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region since the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The distinct Western Xia characters, fine ceramics and copperware, eclectic Buddhist artworks, and monumental architectural stone carvings all testify to the state’s glory of the past.

“The Treasures of Prosperity – Murals of Tang Dynasty”, Macau University of Science and Technology (Macau, China), from 29 Oct 2021 onwards

The exhibition provides an insight into the cultural exchanges along the Silk Roads and gives the participants a glimpse into the visual impact brought by the murals of Tang Dynasty, as well as the era’s brilliance, from politics, economy, art and culture, to social ambiance. It was a period in which China had entered a new era of prosperity.

3.Geographical Exhibitions

Geographical exhibitions refer to those that highlight a certain geographical zone’s history, culture and links with the silk roads. The geographical zone could be a continent, a region, a country, a province or a city, a set of transportation paths or several regions connected by trade, or even a geographical type. The following examples illustrate this category better.

“A Port Open to the World: Ningbo, the Port and the City”, China Port Museum (Ningbo, China), 8 Sep-28 Nov 2021

Addressing the evolution of Ningbo’s port and city, this special exhibition comprehensively showcases and traces the city’s historical path, from the origins to prosperous eras, vicissitudes in the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties until the modern conversion and the contemporary rebirth. Archives, diagrams, artefacts, models, reproductions and dioramas are among the various exhibits.

A selection of more than 100 items (sets) relating to the port city’s history are on view in five sections: “At the Crossroads of Rivers and Seas, a Port City was Founded (Warring States to the Tang dynasty)”, “Rushing Merchants and Boats Brought Prosperity (Five Dynasties to the Yuan dynasty)”, “Benefiting from both Internal and External Trades (Ming dynasty to 1840)”, “Conversion at a Historic Turning Point (1840-1949)” and “Connected to the World in a New Era (Modern History)”. They trace the changes the port city underwent, highlight outstanding achievements in an ever-changing new era and comprise a historical landscape spanning both the past and the present. Various public programmes including a series of lectures given by experts were organised by the museum as well as innovative experiences like virtual museum or smart guided tours. Viewers enjoyed these visiting formats that were original, unique and combined tradition and technology.

“An Imperishable Legend: Masterpieces of Ancient Syria”, Nanshan Museum, Shenzhen (Shenzhen, China), 4 Aug-7 Nov 2021

The Shenzhen show was the first step in China of a travelling exhibition. Featuring 198 items (sets) including 195 Syrian objects and 3 Chinese exhibits, the exhibition is divided into five sections: “First Voices and Twilight”, “Belief and Eternity”, “Collapse and Opportunities”, “Antiquity and Trials” and “Silk Roads and Legacies”. In addition to artefacts from the collections of 9 Syrian institutions including National Museum of Damascus, National Museum of Aleppo and Deir ez-Zor Museum, the exhibition also selected the rubbing of the Nestorian Stele from Xi’an Beilin Museum, stone steles with carved patterns from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum and the reproduction of Psalms in Syrian from Dunhuang Academy to complement the display.

The multi-year war and hardship are not able to cause the county’s glorious culture to vanish for its heritage is still stunning. The exhibition spans its prehistoric period, historic period, antiquity until Islamic period, making viewers perceive the culture’s beauty and complexity in a more profound way.

“Dragon and Phoenix: Centuries of Exchange between Chinese and Islamic Worlds”, Louvre Abu Dhabi (Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi), 2021.10.06 - 2022.02.12

The exhibition focuses on the little-known cultural communication between China and the Arabic world from the 8th to 18th centuries. The exhibition presents 250 artefacts from 12 international museums and collections, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Guimet Museum in Paris. It brings together to the public two civilisations rich in culture, arts and sciences. One of the highlights on display is the cup with dragon-shaped handle, which may have been used by a nomadic Mongol dignitary journeying from China.

Artefacts shown in the exhibition date back to the 8th century, as the first Arab businessmen arrived at Guangdong Province in China. In the next over 800 years, the Silk Road passing through central Asia and maritime trade route passing through the Indian Ocean developed and flourished. Both parties exchanged in physical and virtual ways and facilitated friendly cooperation, mutually bringing profound impact on art and culture.

The exhibition is divided into five sections. The first four parts follow the historical timeline, presenting objects such as silver wares, ceramics, glass wares, luxurious fabrics with Arabic inscriptions, Chinese traditional patterns, patterns of dragons and phoenixes, etc. The fifth part focuses on calligraphy, poetries and paintings. A lot of sketches, manuscripts and ink paintings are selected to fully reveal the spiritual values and similarity of the two cultures.

“Leading Westwards from the South China Sea: Riverbanks and Maritime Civilisations along the Silk Roads”, Guangzhou Maritime Museum (Guangdong, China), from 29 Jun 2021 onwards

The themed exhibition “Leading Westwards from the South China Sea: Riverbanks and Maritime Civilisations along the Silk Roads” invites visitors to discover nearly 200 works spanning stone carving, Buddhist statue, bronzeware, glassware, ceramic and gold and silver jewellery. They were made before the 9th century in the basins of Amu Darya, Indus, Euphrates and Tigris, Persian

Gulf and Mediterranean. The installation features characteristics of river valley and maritime civilisations to bring to life lasting exchanges and mutual integrations between different Eurasian civilisations.

“We Asians: Ancient Civilisations in Asia”, Hunan Museum (Hunan, China), 8 Jul-8 Oct 2021

Asian countries made glorious cultural achievements over millennia. The mankind’s first writing systems, cities and primitive agriculture all came into being on the continent, to mention just a few examples. The Asian people’s exceptional contributions made by means of wisdom and labour have made their way into history. The exhibition aims to make visitors perceive the charming cultural diversity of Asian countries and understand the long-lasting spirit of sharing nurtured by the historic Silk Roads.

The show is divided into three sections: “The Simultaneously Rising Civilisations”, “Evolutions Triggered by Encounters between the East and the West” and “Ever-lasting Thoughts and Wisdom”. Through more than 220 items (sets), the exhibition brings to life Asia’s history of more than 10,000 years. Visitors may explore the origins and development of the continent’s civilisations and more visually understand how they connected the East to the West by means of overland and maritime silk roads and how they influenced and encountered each other. The show reflects the exceptional vitality of Asia’s civilisations

4. Thematic Exhibitions

Thematic exhibitions refer to those dedicated to a specific theme without other defined parameters like geographical scopes. The theme could be a sort of objects, a belief system, a kind of stories, a commercial activity, an aspect of nature, a material, a craftsmanship or an artistic genre. The following cases illustrate the category better.

“Myriad Creatures: Fauna and Flora along the Silk Roads”, China National Silk Museum (Hangzhou, China), 18 Jun-5 Sep 2021

Along the Silk Roads, animals and plants spread across countries and regions in different manners. While some species naturally spread because of geographical nearness, others were taken as tributes or gifts from one place to another by ambassadors or transported by merchants, to mention just a few ways. Some spreads were military while others were of economical nature or witness friendly relations between countries and places.

These species’ spread along the Silk Roads has diversified not only each place’s ecosystem but also local inhabitants’ food structure, making impact on various aspects of life including garments, travels and entertainment; diverse imported animal and plant species have made people more inclusive as well for they understand and accept “exotic cultures” more easily. Cultures have become more diverse while the species represent the harmonious integration of different countries, peoples and civilisations.

Through the lens of silk-road animals and plants, the exhibition attempts to interpret a multi-dimensional culture melting environment shaped by imported fauna and flora and involving daily enjoyment, material culture and spiritual culture. Based on archival accounts along with archaeological objects and natural history specimens, the installation embodies the theme “Silk Roads Changing Life”.

“HIDDEN STORIES: BOOKS ALONG THE SILK ROADS”, AGA KHAN Museum, Toronto, Canada, 2021.10.09-2022.02.27

By exploring the exhibition, visitors will encounter books, scrolls, manuscript paintings, and textiles that shaped-not just documented-life along one of history’s most important trade networks and beyond. Like a spellbinding tale, the artefacts on display will fire imagination, transporting viewers to far-away lands and times.

From a 1,000-year-old prayer sheet from north-western China to a five-metre-long Iranian scroll of the Qur’an, or a richly coloured Jewish marriage contract from 19th-century Greece, each of these artistic marvels tells a story about the community where it originated as well as their links with other cultures.

Visitors may also glimpse into the lives of craftspeople behind the making of books along the Silk Roads. Tools of the bookmaking trade-from a silver-inlaid bronze inkwell from 12th-century Iran to wooden moveable type from 18th-century Korea-reveal how ideas were physically recorded so they could travel across space and time.

“Neglected Treasures of Silk Roads: Ancient Coins along the Silk Roads”, Confucius Museum (Shandong, China), 1 May-30 Aug 2021

Co-organised by the Confucius Museum and the Akesu Museum, the display is divided into 3 parts: Han dynasties’ coins, Western Regions’ local coins, and foreign ancient states’ coins. Regarding the Western Regions as the middle section of silk roads

and the crossroads of different silk paths, the exhibition covers all the coins cast by dynasties and city states along the Silk Roads in different periods.

The 6,440 km-long ancient Silk Roads started in the east at Chang’an and Luoyang in China and travelled through the Hexi Corridor before leading to Rome through Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Over the past nearly one hundred years, coins used along the roads were unearthed and include those of Han dynasties, Sasanian Empire and Kushan Empire as well as Byzantine gold coins. Spanning all the eras from the Han to Qing dynasties, the countless coins constitute a continuous history. They witness Chinese nation’s earliest links with the rest of the world and the first clashes and combinations between the country and the West. Evoking Silk Roads’ adventures and prosperity, the coins also provide first-hand evidence for studies of the disciplines examining the roads such as archaeology, linguistics, ethnology, religious studies, mythology, craftsmanship, history of China’s external relations, and art history.

“Mannerheim's Silk Road photos”, CerModern arts center, Ankara, Turkey, 2021.10.12-11.14
The photos taken in the early 1900s draw the visitors’ attention due to their extraordinary vividness, detail and stories. Mannerheim, who was a lieutenant colonel at the time, used a heavy 9x12 centimetre field camera, difficult to use and carry on horseback, and took 1,200 negatives in total. Some of the photos were taken for military purposes while others were for anthropologic records. As a result, we can see photos taken of the same person from the front as well as the side.

The natural life, expressions, feelings of locals and their culture can be seen in detail in Mannerheim’s photos as some of the local people he met had their photo taken for the first time and saw a camera for the first time. Some of the people he met along the route included Uyghurs, Kalmyks, Torghuts, Yugurs, Kyrgyz and the Tangut people.

Life, as it was more than 100 years ago, is depicted in these photos, from everyday drudgery to festive occasions. Mannerheim met with haughty Mandarins, beggars, opium smokers, soldiers, tribe leaders, as well as nomads.

The photos come together with a photo diary that documented every shot, amounting to a colourful reportage of a bygone world. In the spring of 1906, 39-year-old Mannerheim from the Grand Duchy of Finland, then an autonomous part of the Russian Empire, received a task from the army. Assigned to gather up-to-date political and military intelligence for the Russian army, he posed as an explorer throughout his undercover adventure.

During the two-year journey, Mannerheim travelled around 14,000 kilometres, mostly on a horse, under various circumstances as is being depicted in the photos he took. We see many photos of his caravan travelling through rivers, steep mountains, steppes and deserts while engaging with the local people.

“Stunning Glass: Ancient Glassware Masterpieces in the Collection of Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum”, Dunhuang Academy (Gansu, China), 8 Aug-10 Nov 2021

The show was co-organised by the Dunhuang Academy and Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum in association with the KOUZAN Fine-arts Company, Japan. Showcasing 325 ancient glass objects from the vast region starting in the west in Rome and ending in the east in Japan and including European, Western Asian and Central Asian countries and territories, the exhibition fully showcases the wisdom and creativity of countries and peoples along the Silk Roads.

Divided into three sections – “Origins of Glass”, “Spread of Glass” and “Glass, from the West to the East”, the exhibition shows in chronological order the origins, manufacturing techniques, popular forms of glass and the diversity of glass ornaments in the context of Silk Roads and from the perspective of the material’s uses. The medium’s developing patterns in civilisations such as Persia, Byzantium and Islam are demonstrated as well as their respective preferred forms and colours. Glassware’s historical paths in different silk-road civilisations are combined to tell a history of mutual inspiration. Meanwhile, images of glass pieces held by Buddhist figures and patrons in Dunhuang murals and spanning a range of types – bowl, cup, goblet, pātra and vase – are also on view to celebrate the compelling cultural diversity of Dunhuang, the crossroads of Silk Roads.

5.Case-based Exhibitions

Case-based exhibitions refer to those allowing visitors to know more about the silk roads through one or several cases. The case could be a collection of objects, an archaeological discovery or an institution that played an important role. The following examples illustrate this category.

“Treasures of Maritime Trade: Export Goods of Qing Dynasty’s Canton Factories”, Shanghai History Museum (Shanghai, China), 27 Aug-7 Nov 2021

The exhibition shows more than 110 objects among which more than 50 are shown for the first time. The exhibits include artefacts acquired over the past years by the Guangzhou Museum and demonstrate the museum’s latest research findings. A selection of export goods including Canton porcelain pieces, ivory carvings, shell carvings, silver objects, broidery works, Shiwan ceramics and export paintings made by Guangzhou’s artisans in the Qing dynasty and era of Republic of China reveal the city’s central position in the “Maritime Silk Roads”. Having travelled across China, the exhibition was reshaped and improved by the Shanghai History Museum for its iteration in the city. The show was thus divided into two parts – “The Only Foreign Trade Port and Its Merchants and Tycoons” and “Fine Export Goods” – to tell three stories – “Canton System Merchants”, “An American Captain’s Home Full of Canton Goods” and “Studio of Export Paintings”. Various export merchandises are thus linked to represent the spread and impact of Chinese culture as well as the combination of Chinese and foreign elements.

“On the Way Home: Artefacts Recovered from the ‘Taixing’ Shipwreck”, China Maritime Museum (Shanghai, China), 24 Aug 2021-3 Jan 2022

On the 200th anniversary of *Taixing* shipwreck, China Maritime Museum held this exhibition in partnership with the Dehua Ceramics Museum and Waterside Culture to feature more than 400 recovered artefacts.

Also known as the “Titanic of the East”, *Taixing* left Xiamen, China, in January 1822 and unfortunately sank after hitting rocks in present-day Indonesia. The wreck was raised in May 1999 with more than 350 000 recovered porcelain pieces, which has made it the largest Chinese wooden sailing boat discovered in marine archaeology and the raised wreck with the most well preserved artefacts.

The first major exhibition in China dedicated to *Taixing*, the installation shows more than 400 porcelain objects spanning categories such as blue-and-white, white-glaze, five-colour, celadon-brown-glaze as well as more than 10 forms such as bowl, dish, plate, cup, pātra, vase, box, and sculpture. A panorama of the Dehua ware porcelain pieces recovered from *Taixing* was presented before the public. More than 100 fine Dehua ware pieces made in the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties and the contemporary era were also on view to celebrate the millennial history of Dehua ware, which played a central role in porcelain exportation.

“Treasures from an Underground Palace: The Masterpieces of Tang Dynasty Courtly Treasures from the Famen Monastery”, Changsha Museum (Hunan, China), 16 Jul-17 Oct 2021

The exhibition shows 57 items (sets) of fine objects including 30 Grade-1 artefacts (sets). This is the first major touring exhibition of artefacts unearthed at the Famen Monastery’s underground palace and an unprecedented show of national treasures stemming from Tang dynasty’s court.

One of China’s greatest archaeological discoveries in the 20th century, the underground palace offered more than 2,000 Tang dynasty treasures including Buddha’s finger bone. Among the recovered objects are a great number of gold and silver pieces, glazed pieces, porcelains, jewellery and silk works which were all offered by the imperial court to Buddha. The exceptionally fine objects witness the material strength of the Tang Empire while being valuable for researches on the dynasty’s social life and religious beliefs.

Divided into three sections – “A Millennial Monastery with a Mysterious Underground Palace”, “A Religious Realm and a Sacred Place for Buddhism” and “Treasures Offered to Buddha for Good Fortune”, the exhibition showcases the monastery’s history, Chinese Esoteric Buddhism and Tang dynasty nobility’s lifestyle. Gold and silver pieces including a gilded copper Buddha statue, gold and silver reliquary boxes, a Buddhist staff and an incense burner with bird patterns witness the dynasty’s skilful craftsmanship and material culture. A well preserved blue glass dish with eight-petal flower patterns in an early Islamic style evokes the dynasty’s close economical and cultural relations with the West. The eight-edge “clean water” “secret colour” porcelain vase and the five-petal “secret colour” porcelain cup in the form of a sunflower have solved the millennial mystery of “secret colour” porcelain and allow visitors to see with their own eyes the vessels of “thousands of mountains’ green”. The underground palace’s artefacts present to today’s world Chinese civilisation’s grace of one thousand years ago with an entire set of Tang dynasty imperial offerings.

“Millennial Dunhuang: The Architectural Beauty in Grotto Murals”, Museum of Chinese Gardens and Landscape Architecture (Beijing, China), 16 May-31 Aug 2021

The show was divided into four parts – “Silk Road Dunhuang”, “Pure Land in Thousand Murals”, “Architectural Genius” and “Voiceless Beauty” – of which each is dominated by one of the four main colours of Dunhuang grottoes, namely earth yellow, earth red, stone green and stone celadon. Building on the grotto cliff’s structure and the grottoes’ spatial structure, the installation features

the most monumental architectural images, celadon and green natural landscapes, courtyards and plants in the Dunhuang murals to allow viewers to understand Chinese architecture’s plainness, inclusivity and profound wisdom. Visitors may also capture the underlying harmonious philosophy of ancient Chinese architectural system while exploring Dunhuang’s architectural culture, and the building wisdom and gardening aesthetics of the East.

6.Creative Exhibitions

Creative exhibitions refer to those featuring contemporary artworks dedicated to the silk roads. These works are often specifically created for the exhibitions before their opening or made by artists over a longer period of time. The following examples illustrate this sort of exhibitions.

“Thematic Cultural Exhibition Series ‘Back to Dunhuang’”, Graphics Gallery at the Li Keran Academy of Painting (Beijing, China), from 28 Jun 2021 onwards

Co-organised by the Li Keran Academy of Painting, Belt and Road Initiative Institute at the China Overseas-Educated Scholars Development Foundation and Dunhuang Painting Academy, the exhibition is divided into two parts: Part I “Representing Dunhuang Art” scrupulously copies murals of the Dunhuang Grottoes 3 and 57 and the Yulin Grotto 25 using reproduction on mud so as to represent the original works as much as possible; Part II “Paying Tribute to Dunhuang Culture” features copies or original creations by contemporary artists. With its profound tradition, complex cultural meanings and beautiful images, the Dunhuang art has made positive and in-depth impact on the development of 20th-century Chinese fine arts. Since the beginning of this century, it has provided once again resources and coordinates allowing Chinese art to search for its national cultural roots. This exhibition aims to uncover the underlying philosophy, humanist spirit, values and moral norms of Dunhuang culture and history to foster a constructive transformation and innovative development of Chinese traditional culture’s quintessence. It also reveals Chinese nation’s cultural spirit, inclusivity and confidence embedded in Dunhuang art to promote international exchanges and partnerships, uphold the “spirit of Mogao” and contribute to the “Belt and Road Initiative”.

“THE SILK ROAD: A LIVING HISTORY”, Lewis Cubitt Square, King’s Cross (London, United Kingdom), 2021.4.8-8.22

In 2019, photographer Christopher Wilton-Steer travelled along the historic trade route known as The Silk Road, capturing a series of breathtaking images along the way.

Over a period of four months, he travelled the 40,000 km by car, bus, train, ferry, horse and camel from King’s Cross to Beijing, through a total of sixteen countries. Comprised of over 160 photographs, the exhibition invites viewers to take the journey encountering fascinating people, places and cultures along the way.

The show aims to celebrate the diversity of cultural expressions found along the route, highlight examples of how historical practices, rituals and customs live on today, and also reveal some of the connections between what appear at first glance to be very different cultures. It also seeks to engender interest and understanding between distant cultures and challenge perceptions of less well known and understood parts of the world. Photographs from Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India, China and elsewhere will feature. Additionally, the exhibition aims to raise awareness about AKDN’s contributions to improving the quality of life across social, economic and cultural spheres in Central and South Asia as well as the Middle East.

“Silk”, Museo Salvatore Ferragamo, Florence, Italy, 2021.3.25-2022.4.18

The exhibition aims to illustrate, through the maison’s archive, the long creative process behind the silk prints, in particular scarves, which by its nature as a painting experiences the perfect union between creative intuition and high-end industrial craftsmanship.

Fundamental for the realization of the exhibition path, from a curatorial point of view for the set-up project, is the way in which inspirations and ideas behind each drawing have been developed, as multiple collages of different references: a mood board that allows to reconstruct the creative and cultural itinerary at the origin of each silk prints. Salvatore’s dream, the company’s founder, was to turn his internationally renowned brand into a fashion label that dressed from head to toe. It was from the 1970s that this dream became true thanks to one of his daughters, Fulvia, who launched the continuous production of silk accessories. The magic of silk came over in the Ferragamo’ world becoming a sign of great distinction of the brand thanks also to the subjects of its silk prints

inspired by nature and the animals that populate exotic landscapes, jungles and fantastic savannahs.

The museum intends to promote the dialogue between art and fashion involving contemporary artists. The exhibition begins with a site-specific installation by two Chinese artists, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, entitled “Were creatures born celestial?”, which conceptually exemplifies how the Silk Road has long been a fertile ground for encounters and exchange between East and West.

In support of the exhibition and to break down any obstacle to the on site visit experience, an exclusive virtual tour available in both Italian and English, reachable from all over the world, will lead visitors inside the museum.

“GREGOR SAILER THE POLAR SILK ROAD”, LUMEN Museum of Mountain Photography, Bruneck, Italy, 2021.8.29-2022.4.24

Over the course of four years, the Austrian photographer Gregor Sailer undertook several journeys to the human outposts of the North, enduring temperatures of up to 55 degrees below zero Celsius, visiting military exclusion zones, conducting extensive research, working with an analogue view camera, and navigating the unpredictability of the Arctic—all experiences that have shaped these impressive visual worlds beyond the ordinary.

The Polar Silk Road deals with the economic exploitation of the Arctic regions, as well as the territorial claims of the respective neighbouring states, and shows their consequences: geopolitical tensions, expansion and reactivation of military structures, and exposed research stations.

7.“Composite” Exhibitions

•Historio-thematic

“Products Linking the East to the West: Objects Made in China along the 18th to 19th century Maritime Silk Roads”, Liaoning Provincial Museum (Liaoning, China), 31 Dec 2020-5 Apr 2021

The exhibition gathers 243 various and exquisite items (sets) from Chinese and international institutions including UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology, Liaoning Provincial Museum, Guangdong Folk Art Museum, China Maritime Museum in Shanghai, Liaoning Provincial Library and International Museum Exhibition Research Base. Divided into four parts – “Divided by Seas: the Origins and Evolution of China’s Export Artworks”, “Fine Chinese Products: Oriental Luxury Products along the Maritime Silk Roads”, “Combining Eastern and Western Styles: Chinese Export Products that Were Customised to Europeans’ Taste According to Samples” and “Beyond Images: Daily Life Scenes on China’s Export Goods”, the show celebrates the prosperity of Maritime Silk Roads and a social landscape of East-West cultural exchanges in the Qing dynasty by means of a readable narrative to interpret the most powerful embodiment of “Made in China”.

“Green Gold: the Maritime Tea Trade between China and Europe from the 17th to 19th Centuries”, China National Tea Museum (Zhejiang, China), 11 Jun-17 Oct 2021

Divided into 3 parts – “Navigation Endeavours”, “A Business of the Empire” and “The Starting Point of the Destination”, the exhibition explains from the perspectives of production, sale and cultural exchange the process whereby tea leaves were transported from Chinese production areas to the West through maritime routes. Beginning with the shipwreck of Götheborg, a Swedish East Indiaman that sank in 1745, the show displays a replica of the ship, tea samples from the wreck, a tea transport form of “Jixingxiang” company in the late Qing dynasty and tea boxes of Qing dynasty “Tongwen” Company.

“Images Conveying Peace and Prosperity: Music and Dance in the Han and Tang Dynasties”, Zhengzhou Elephant Porcelain Museum (Henan, China), 8 Mar-31 Aug 2021

Showcasing more than 100 Han and Tang dynasty ceramics associated with dance and music, the exhibition vividly represents exchanges between China and the West in the two dynasties.

Taking as theme “Images Conveying Peace and Prosperity”, the show represents the glorious Han and Tang dynasty music and dance through dynamic ceramic figures that witness exchanges and mutual inspirations between China and the West. On view are exquisite ceramics such as dancer figures, musician figures on horse, nomad musician figures among which some are playing the aulos, a typical ancient Greek instrument, some are playing the sornā while others are dancing a Huteng. The works are compelling while the facial expressions are vivid.

He Fei, the museum’s Director, explains that Tang dynasty music and dance were among the earliest art forms embodying

external cultural exchanges. The frequent exchanges in the field also promoted other cultural integrations while making people’s spiritual life more diverse.

Furthermore, the lecture “In Search of the Tang: Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Embodied in Ceramic Figures” was also held to accompany the show and make more people understand China’s external music exchanges. The event tried to reveal the real face of the era’s music and dance through the lens of four sets of Tang musician figures in the museum’s collection.

•Geo-historical
“One Under Heaven: Exhibition of Guangzhou Archaeological Discoveries from the Qin-Han Dynasties”, National Museum of China (Beijing, China), 10 Aug-9 Nov 2021

The show was hosted by the National Museum of China and the Guangzhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau, together with other organisations. On display are over 330 precious cultural relics unearthed from the tomb of the Nanyue King, the site of the Nanyue palace, and other Qin and Han archaeological sites in Guangzhou. They come from the collections of the Western Han Nanyue King’s Tomb Museum, the Guangzhou Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, and the Archaeological Site Museum of Nanyue Palace. Among the relics, representative remains such as a jade suit sewn with silk threads, clay impressions of imperial seals, the bronze musical instrument Goudiao, and jade pendants mark the identity, rank, and status of the highest level nobles in the Nanyue State. Building components, coins, and inscribed wooden slips unearthed from the archaeological site of the Nanyue Palace reveal the specifications of prestigious buildings and the lavish lives of the nobles at the time. Combined with other material and cultural relics, they showcase the integration of family and country, and the political and cultural climate of the Lingnan region during the Qin and Han dynasties.

This exhibition is divided into four parts, namely, “Pearl of the South,” “Glory over the World,” “Utensils of Beauty,” and “Prologue to the Silk Road.” The exhibition, through the latest archaeological excavations in Guangzhou, strives to display the glorious historical and cultural features of Lingnan from the perspective of civilisation creation, cultural inheritance, and integration and exchange.

“Sailing All Seas: Guangzhou and the Maritime Silk Roads in the Tang and Song Dynasties”, Guangzhou Maritime Museum (Guangdong, China), from 29 Jun 2021 onwards

As the inaugural and permanent display of the Guangzhou Maritime Museum, the show brings to life the historical scene of Guangzhou’s maritime silk roads in the Tang and Song dynasties from various perspectives such as maritime routes between China and the rest of the world, shipbuilding, navigation, port cities, porcelain export, incense and medication import, the state rituals at South China Sea God’s temples, customs institutions, Buddhism’s maritime spread, and foreign merchants and foreigners’ neighbourhoods. Viewers may see a prosperous city of one thousand years ago where business thrive and cultures merged.

•Geo-thematic
“White Gold | The Porcelain Capital of both the East and the West: Porcelain from Jingdezhen to Meissen”, Jiangxi Provincial Museum (Jiangxi, China), 15 Jan-20 Apr 2021

The show was jointly organised by the Shanghai History Museum, Jiangxi Provincial Museum, Guangzhou Museum, Zhengzhou Museum, Dalian Museum, Porzellanikon, Meissen Porzellan-Museum and Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka.

The exhibition selects the finest porcelain pieces in the collections of several museums in China, Germany and Japan and showcases 87 items (sets) spanning Jingdezhen ware, China’s export porcelain, Japanese porcelain and German Meissen porcelain. From Jingdezhen in China to Meissen in Germany, the show represents the historical process of porcelain evolution and trade and outlines how cultures clashed, mutually influenced and merged through maritime silk roads over the past 300 years.

“Beyond Boundaries: Buddhist Art of Gandhara”, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) (California, USA), 2021.04.30 - 2022.03.13

The Gandharan region of northern India served as a crossroads of power, culture, and Buddhist art from the second to ninth centuries CE. Presenting rare images of the Buddha and his life story, this exhibition demonstrates through thirty-six sculptural examples from public and private collections the important cultural exchanges between the Hellenistic world of Greek and Roman art and the native artistic traditions of India. Artisans of this region took a new, humanistic approach to depicting the Buddha in clothing and settings drawn from the West and combined them with descriptive tales of the life and teachings of the Buddha. This is the first substantial exhibition focusing on Gandharan Buddhist art in an American museum in ten years and, as such, brings new scholarship

and understanding to the field.

•Thema-creative
“Dust & Silk: Steppe and Silk Roads”, Weltmuseum Wien, Vienna, Austria, 2021.12.16-2022.5.3

Silk textiles and ikat fabrics, tea, and “wild apples” made their way to Europe along these legendary historical trade routes. Today, these transport- and trade links are of interest for different reasons. Large-scale infrastructure projects dominate the regions along the old steppe and silk roads, producing not only dust but also mining raw materials. But rarely have the places, people and paths between the eastern and western ends of the Eurasian continent been the focus of attention. The exhibition Dust & Silk directs our focus to these spaces in between.

The exhibition juxtaposes more than 200 historical objects, artworks and photographs with contemporary artistic positions and multi-voiced commentaries. The exhibits include outstanding collection pieces from the Weltmuseum Wien as well as outstanding international loans.

The organisers have invited artists to create works that focus on subjects including infrastructure, speed, distance and connectedness, globalisation, colonialism, nomadism, and the mining of resources. Connecting modern perspectives with historical material allows us to tell surprising and often overlooked stories.

•Geo-historio-thematic
“Across Seas and Waves: Porcelain Trade in the 9th Century in which Guangzhou Played a Central Role”, Nanyue King Museum (Guangdong, China), 26 Jan-5 May 2021

Co-organised by the Nanyue King Museum, Changsha Tongguan Kiln Museum, Guangzhou Heritage and Archaeology Institute (Southern Han Tombs Museum) and Guangzhou Hao Pu Art Museum, the exhibition displays more than 200 items (sets) including 68 objects (sets) recovered from the Belitung Shipwreck, 47 Tongguan ware items (sets) as well as 86 objects (sets) unearthed in the region of Guangzhou or in local museums’ collections. Consisting of four parts and focusing on trade ceramics, the exhibition features the 9th-century maritime trade where Guangzhou played a key role, Chinese porcelain pieces discovered in the stunning Belitung Shipwreck and the historical process whereby porcelains from different kilns gathered in Guangzhou before being sold to overseas markets.

“A Tale of Three Cities: The Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area and Silk Export in the Ming and Qing Dynasties”, Guangdong Museum (Guangdong, China), 4 Dec 2020-11 Apr 2021

Co-organised by Guangdong Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Hong Kong SAR’s Home Affairs Bureau and Macau SAR’s Instituto Cultural, the exhibition was first shown from 4 December 2020 to 11 April 2021 at the Guangdong Museum before travelling to Hong Kong and Macau.

Viewers may understand the importance of Ming and Qing dynasties’ export silk through 166 sets (211 items) spanning export paintings, silk cloth, hand-painted silk, daily life devices and garments. They will discover how Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau were connected with the rest of the world by maritime silk roads and explore the impact of Chinese culture and art on the world.

Located at a strategic spot of international sea roads, the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area was a sea trade hub linking Eastern and Western civilisations and allowing the rest of the world to better know China from the Qin and Han until the Ming and Qing dynasties. The export silk not only testifies to the glorious history of China’s external trade and relations but also embodies the bay area’s prosperous foreign trade and shared roots.

“Navigating Northern Seas: Trade Porcelain in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Areas in the Yuan Dynasty”, Lüshun Museum (Liaoning, China), 18 Dec 2020-14 Mar 2021

The exhibition’s three sections are respectively dedicated to a boat (the Suizhong Wreck), a kiln (Cizhou Kiln) and a route (the Yuan dynasty maritime silk road). The 266 items (sets) on view include 199 from the Huludao Museum and 67 from the Lüshun Museum. Most of them are Yuan dynasty Cizhou ware porcelain pieces and come from either the Suizhong Wreck or archaeological sites in Liaodong Peninsula. The installation aims to discuss Yuan dyansty’s porcelain trade in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea areas to reveal the maritime silk roads’ impact on the economy and trade both inside and outside China in that era. The scholarly forum “The Porcelain Trade and Maritime Silk Roads in Northern China’s Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea Areas” was also held at the museum to accompany the exhibition and allowed to further explore the development of Yuan dynasty’s maritime silk roads.

1

Islamic Arts: A Past for a Present

Dates: November 20, 2021 - March 27, 2022

Venue: 18 French Cities

Overview:

Co-produced by La Réunion des musées nationaux- Grand Palais, the Louvre Museum and several regional museums, the exhibition was inaugurated at the same time in 18 cities in France on November 20, 2021. Through a selection of works from the French national and territorial collections, these exhibitions testify to the cultural richness of Islam for thirteen centuries, recalling that it can be Arab, Iranian, Indian, Asian or African.

The multiple forms (religious, civil and military), the decorative motifs, the materials of manufacture which testify to the movement of men and ideas in the Islamic civilization are highlighted, which draws its source both in the historical capitals of Islam (Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Cordoba, Tunis) and in the later capitals (Samarkand, Bukhara, Istanbul, Isfahan, Agra, Fatehpur-Sikri or Lahore). Through architecture, the arts of fire, metal, hard stones and ivory, fabrics and leather, reveal the heritages and know-how of the Byzantine, Armenian, Visigothic, Persian and Indian cultures.

Already rich in the influences and resources available on its immense territories, populated by Muslims and non-Muslims, Islamic civilization is further enriched by exchanges on its margins with the Christian West but also with China.



2

Splendor of the Sunset: Iran of the Qajar Era (late 18th century - 1925)

Dates: May 15, 2021- July 25, 2021

Venue: Museum of the Oriental Art, Moscow, Russia

Overview:

The exhibition introduces to the public a little-known page of the Persian art and history. The rulers of Qajar dynasty came to power in the last quarter of the 18th century after a long and bloody internecine struggle. By the middle of the 19th century, they completed the reunification of the country but were unable to overcome its economic backwardness and failed in the resistance against European colonial expansion.

European influence, technical innovations, reformist ideas and modern tastes penetrated the country and stimulated the urgent need of the local people for change and education. However, the country's national spirit and people's loyalty to traditional culture were preserved against the external influence. Two main trends in the culture of the Qajar era – one was the interest in modernization and European achievements; the other was the worship of one's own history, the glory of kings and mythological heroes of the past. These two pursuits created a new cultural model.

The exhibition showcases more than 300 items from the richest Iranian collection of the Museum of Oriental Art, including paintings, ceramics, weapons, carpets and manuscripts, historical documents and photographs. Most of the objects are exhibited for the first time. The exhibition is divided into a number of thematic sections and reveals different aspects of life in Iranian society from the 19th century to the early 20th century: politics and art, war and hunting, religion and everyday life. The Qajar art, whether naive or charming, colorful or life-asserting, casts a gleam of astonishing splendor and fabulous fantasy at the sunset period of the Iranian Middle Ages.



3 Dragon and Phoenix: Centuries of Exchange between Chinese and Islamic Worlds

Dates: October 6, 2021 - February 12, 2022

Venue: Louvre Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Overview:

The exhibition focuses on the little-known cultural communication between China and the Arabic world from the 8th to 18th century. The exhibition presents 250 artifacts from 12 international museums and collection organizations, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Guimet Museum in Paris. It brings China, and the Islamic world rich in culture, arts and sciences together to the public. One of the highlights on display is the cup with dragon-shaped handle, which may have been used by a nomadic Mongol dignitary journeying from China.

Artifacts shown in the exhibition dates back to the 8th century, as the first Arab businessmen arrived at Guangdong Province in China. In the next over 800 years, the Silk Road passing through central Asia and maritime trade route passing through the Indian Ocean developed and flourished, which witnessed remarkable and little-known stories in the cultural exchange between China and Arabic world. Both parties exchanged in physical and virtual ways and facilitated friendly cooperation, bringing profound effect on the art and culture of each other.

The exhibition is divided into five exhibition areas. The first four parts follow the historical timeline, presenting silver wares, ceramics, glass wares, luxurious fabrics, etc. with a large number of Arabic inscriptions, Chinese traditional patterns, patterns of dragons and phoenixes, etc. The fifth part focuses on calligraphy, poetries and paintings. A lot of sketches, manuscripts and ink paintings are selected to fully present the spiritual value and resemblance of two cultures.



4 Beyond Boundaries: Buddhist Art of Gandhara

Dates: April 30, 2021 - March 13, 2022

Venue: UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, California, USA

Overview:

Beyond Boundaries: Gandharan Buddhist Art is organized by Osmund Bopearachchi, adjunct professor of Central and South Asian Art, Archaeology, and Numismatics in the Group in Buddhist Studies UC Berkeley, and Julia M. White, senior curator for Asian art, with Lucia Olubunmi Momoh, curatorial assistant. The exhibition is supported in part by the Asian Art Endowment Fund.

The Gandharan region of northern India served as a crossroads of power, culture, and Buddhist art from the second to ninth centuries CE. Presenting rare images of the Buddha and his life story, this exhibition demonstrates through thirty-six sculptural examples from public and private collections the important cultural exchanges between the Hellenistic world of Greek and Roman art and the native artistic traditions of India. Artisans of this region took a new, humanistic approach to depicting the Buddha in clothing and settings drawn from the West and combined them with descriptive tales of the life and teachings of the Buddha. This is the first substantial exhibition focusing on Gandharan Buddhist art in an American museum in ten years and, as such, brings new scholarship and understanding to the field.



Silk Road Calligraphy Exhibition

Dates: January 20, 2021 - January 23, 2021

Venue: Mashhad, Iran (Online)

Overview:

The First Raqs-e Qalam International Exhibition and Conference of the Silk Road Calligraphy will kick off on January 20, 2021 in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad. The exhibition is organized by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and sees collaboration with the Iran Calligraphers Association.

The exhibition is reportedly to be hosted both online and onsite. From January 20 to 23, calligraphy works by 203 artists from 30 countries will be showcased virtually on the event's official website every night. A selection of 204 works are expected to be shown later in an exhibition to open in the Iranian Academy of Arts in Tehran from January 24 to 28.

The ancient Silk Road has existed for thousands of years, passing through different countries and regions throughout history. It not only boosted trade and economy, but united countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions and languages to societies across Europe, Asia and Africa and leading to common prosperity. The exhibition aims to promote mutual understanding and ideological and cultural exchanges among countries by showcasing the wonderful calligraphy art of countries along the Silk Road.



Creation from Creatures: Plants and Animals on the Silk Roads

Dates: June 18, 2021 - September 5, 2021

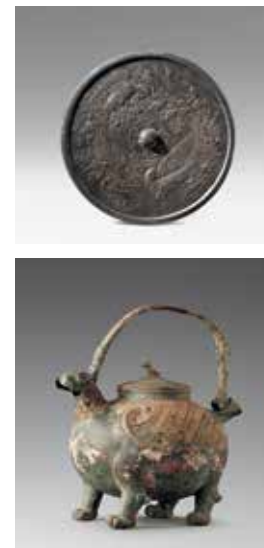
Venue: China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou, China

Overview:

China National Silk Museum opened a fascinating new Silk Road themed exhibition entitled, Creation from Creature: Plants and Animals on the Silk Roads. Based on two scholarly masterpieces, Sino-Iranica and The Golden Peaches of Samarkand, the exhibition is divided into a preface and four major units, systematically showcasing the communication and dissemination of animal and plant species along the Silk Road.

The exhibition echoes the theme of this year's Silk Road Week: Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development and features natural specimens, cultural relics such as figurines or animal-pattern bronze mirrors and murals of ancient royal gardens. The space feels authentic creating a genuine feeling of home for the Silk Road animals. With solid support from the Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, the royal zoo of the ancient emperors is also successfully displayed.

The prologue explains the crops and livestock most familiar to us nowadays traveled through the Silk Road during earlier cultural transmission and exchanges. Unit One, From Nature to Divinity, talks about ancient animal worship from primitive tribal life. Unit Two, Countless Camel Bells Jingle across the Desert, introduces the history of well-known pack animals of the Silk Road. Unit Three, The Shanglin Park for Exotic Goods from Foreign Lands, presents a wealth of exotic goods from foreign lands presented in imperial palaces. Unit Four, The Silk Road Changes Lives, an ancient fair similar to the Tang Dynasty West Market or a border bazaar, it displays numerous foods, spices, and medicines from across the world that spread along the expanding Silk Roads.



7 West Encounters East: A Cultural Conversation between Chinese and European Ceramics

Dates: October 29, 2021 - January 16, 2022

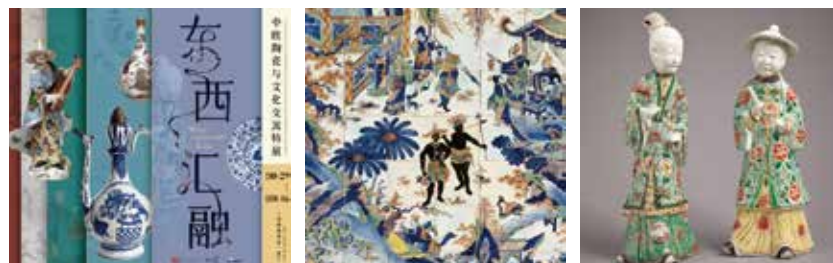
Venue: Shanghai Museum, Shanghai, China

Overview:

The theme of the exhibition is the integration of East and West in an early phase of the globalisation. The exhibition itself is also the result from the integration of efforts made by museums around the globe. As the COVID-19 pandemic is going on, more than ten institutions in seven countries, namely, France, Portugal, the UK, the Netherlands, the US, Switzerland, and China have worked hard with the Shanghai Museum to overcome barriers so that art can hold our world together and that this remarkable achievement of global integration has been made possible.

The exhibition consists of three chapters. In “Transportation between China and the West,” the exported porcelain outlines, temporally, the trade and exchanges between China and Europe from the 16th to the 18th century and, spatially, the development of sea routes and traffic networks. “Fusion between China and the West” shows in detail how Chinese porcelain integrated into and helped to shape European daily life, aesthetic and taste, decoration and design, and fashion trends through paintings and porcelain that was painted, mounted, modified, or intended as furnishings in Europe so that today, we may know more about the contact and combination between China and the West in pragmatic needs, aesthetic, and design. In “Encounter between China and the West” is found the integration of art and craft brought about by the trade and exchanges. With carefully curated overseas imitations of Chinese porcelain or porcelain made in China with inspirations from overseas, the cross-fertilisation is illustrated of kiln technologies between East and West: China’s craftsmanship has contributed substantially to the world’s material civilisation. Meanwhile, the concepts and thoughts behind the images are explored through the exotic imaginings from the porcelain on display.

This exhibition has been the most inclusive and complicated project ever executed since the outbreak of the pandemic, and it has turned out to be the fine fruit of international cooperation among a galaxy of museums the world over.



8 A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong- Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in Ming and Qing Dynasties

Dates: December 4, 2020 - April 11, 2021

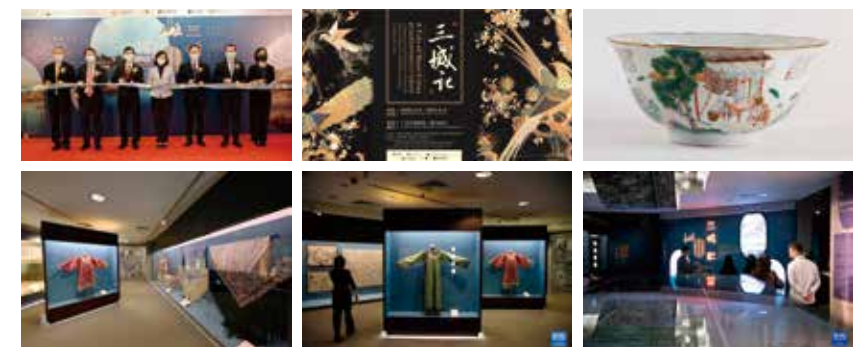
Venue: Guangdong Museum, Guangdong, China

Overview:

The exhibition A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in Ming and Qing Dynasties is on show at Guangdong Museum for its first stop from December 4, 2020 to April 11, 2021, after which it will travel to Hong Kong and Macau. It is jointly organized by Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province, Home Affairs Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government.

Through 166 sets/211 pieces of exhibits including exported paintings, silk cloths, hand-painted silks, housewares, clothing and accessories, visitors can learn about the importance of exported silk in the Ming and Qing dynasties, understand how Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao connect the world through the Maritime Silk Road and discuss the influence of Chinese culture and art on the world.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is located at the forefront of international routes. From the Qin and Han dynasties to the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Greater Bay Area served as a maritime trade hub where Eastern and Western civilizations encountered and became a window for the world to understand China. The export of silk products has not only witnessed the glorious history in foreign trade and exchanges of China as well as the Greater Bay Area, but also reflected the shared origin and development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.



9 Enchanting Expeditions: Chinese Trade Porcelains across the Globe

Dates: September 5, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Venue: Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum, Hong Kong, China

Overview:

Very much a specialty of the Ming, porcelain took the Europeans by storm as soon as it arrived on the continent. Translucent and shiny, light and durable against wear and erosion, the exotic pieces with a mysterious oriental style were zealously coveted by royalty, aristocrats, and even religious leaders. To make the most of the drastically expanding global market, merchants from various countries became actively involved in the design, manufacture, shipment, and sale of Chinese porcelain, resulting in diversification of production centres as well as an amazing array of types and decorations for this vibrant Chinaware. The Chinese trade porcelain thus entered its golden age and caused marvellous ebb and flow in the globalised commercial world.

The present exhibition provides an overview of the Sino-European maritime trade in porcelain during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Integrating object display with textual records as well as images from history, it features over 400 pieces (sets) of trade porcelains and related objects from the Art Museum, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and other public and private collections. We aim to reconstruct the design, manufacture, transport, and sale processes of Chinese export porcelain and their use and impact in overseas markets, and we invite visitors to travel with us back in time and across the globe to see how Ming and Qing porcelain came to dominate the international market and how it profoundly impacted the porcelain industry of the world. The exhibition is organised in six sections: Encountering Oriental Wonders, Thriving Country of China, Manufacture and Transport of Porcelain, Braving the Ocean Waves, International Fashions, and Profound Impact of Chinaware.



10 Dazzling Glow: Hirayama Ikou's World Silk Road II: Ancient Glassware Selections from Hirayama Ikou Silk Road Museum Collections

Dates: August 8, 2021 - November 10, 2021

Venue: Dunhuang Academy, Gansu, China

Overview:

The exhibition Ancient Glassware Selections from Hirayama Ikou Silk Road Museum Collections, which is co-hosted by Dunhuang Academy and Hirayama Ikou Silk Road Museum and supported by Kouzan Fine-arts Company, was inaugurated at Dunhuang Academy on August 8, 2021. The exhibition features 325 ancient glassware produced by countries and regions alongside the Silk Road from Rome in the west to Japan in the east. The whole route covers an extensive area including Europe, west Asia and central Asia. These exhibits provide a panorama of the wisdom and creativity embodied by different nations along the ancient Silk Road.

The exhibition is organized into three thematic units, namely “Origin of the Glass”, “Spreading of the Glass” and “Glass from the West to the East”. Based on the context of the Silk Road, the exhibition examines the origin, manufacture techniques, styles and diversified decorative products following the clues of its functions in a chronological order, showcases the evolution and transition of glass in regions such as Persia, Byzantium and Islam, providing a comprehensive elucidation of diverse aesthetics reflected through the choice of glass shapes and colors in different regions. The history of the glassware from different civilization alongside the ancient Silk Road is able to be connected throughout the storyline so as to embody the exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Of particular note are multi-types of glassware including bowls, cups, handleless cups, alms bowls and bottles held by Buddhist statues and benefactors, revealing the wealth and splendor of cultural diversity in Dunhuang, an indispensable component of the Silk Road.



Thematic Exhibition List

No.	Exhibition Title	Duration	Venue	Organizer(s)
1	The Baoli Era: Treasures from the Tang Shipwreck Collection	2020/9/15 - 2021/1/10	Shanghai, China	Shanghai Museum
2	Tracing the Silk Road: Exhibition of Tangut Cultural Relics	2020/10/1 - 2021/1/5	Jiangsu, China	Yangzhou Museum
3	Treasures of the Maritime Silk Road	2020/10/29 - 2021/1/17	Jilin, China	Yannian Museum
4	Tang-Tibet Ancient Path: Joint Exhibition of Excellent Cultural Relics from 7 Provinces and Regions	2020/11/6 - 2021/2/28	Guangdong, China	Guangdong Museum
5	Vibrant Lifestyle in Prosperity Period: An Cultural Efflorescence Exhibition of Chang'an, Capital of Tang Dynasty	2020/12/1 - 2021/4/20	Zhejiang, China	Zhejiang University Museum of Art and Archaeology
6	Be Together in the East: Special Exhibition on the Civilization of Ancient Asia	2020/12/4 - 2021/2/28	Hebei, China	Hebei Museum
7	A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in Ming and Qing Dynasties	2020/12/4 - 2021/4/11	Guangdong, China	Guangdong Museum
8	Colors of Dunhuang: Art Exhibition of Dunhuang Grottoes	2020/12/10 - 2021/2/28	Hainan, China	Hainan Museum
9	Amazing Silver: Trade and Social Changes in Late Qing Dynasty and Early Republic of China with Export Silver	2020/12/10 - 2021/3/28	Ningbo, China	China Port Museum
10	Archaeological Discoveries on the Silk Road (Uzbekistan)	2020/12/16 - 2021/2/14	Beijing, China	The Palace Museum
11	Belarusian Costume: Past and Modern Design	2020/12/17 - 2021/4/25	Moscow, Russia	National Historical Museum of the Republic of Belarus
12	Cloud-white Sailing the Liaohai: Yellow and Bohai Sea Trade Porcelain Exhibition of Yuan Dynasty	2020/12/18 - 2021/3/14	Liaoning, China	Lushun Museum
13	Weaving in East and West: A Splendid Life is Embroidered: Chinese and Western Silk Relics	2020/12/25 - onwards	Shanghai, China	Shanghai History Museum
14	Ode to Great Beauty: Memories and Dialogues with Yungang Grottoes	2020/12/26 - 2021/3/28	Shanghai, China	Powerlong Museum
15	Exhibition of Foreign Artefacts from the Palace Museum Collection	2020/12/27 onward	Xiamen, China	Kulangsu Gallery of Foreign Artefacts from the Palace Museum Collection
16	The Sea is Right There	2020/12/28 - 2021/4/28	Shanghai, China	China Maritime Museum
17	To the World to Find Dunhuang: Dunhuang Overseas Relics Replica Exhibition	2020/12/29 - 2021/2/28	Inner Mongolia, China	Alashan Museum
18	The Lasting Charm of Cultural Relics: An Exhibition of Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Road	2020/12/29 - 2021/3/20	Sichuan, China	Sichuan Museum
19	Reflecting East and West: Things Made in China along Maritime Silk Road from 18th to 19th Century	2020/12/31 - 2021/4/5	Liaoning, China	Liaoning Provincial Museum
20	Online Exhibition of Millennium Civilization from Dunhuang	2021/1/1 - 2021/5/1	Shanghai, China	Fengxian Museum
21	Be Marco Polo for One Day: Discover the Wisdom of the Silk Road	2021/1/9 - 2021/5/20	Chongqing, China	Chongqing Science and Technology Museum
22	Relics of the West Market in Chang'an City: City Life in The Silk Road Trade in Tang Dynasty	2021/1/10 - 2021/5/10	Guangdong, China	Zhuhai Museum
23	White Gold: East and West Porcelain Capital: Jingdezhen to Meissen Porcelain Exhibition	2021/1/15 - 2021/4/20	Jiangxi, China	Jiangxi Provincial Museum
24	Prairie Kingdom: Selected Collection of Liao Dynasty	2021/1/16 - 2021/3/28	Fujian, China	Fujian Museum

25	Silk Road Calligraphy Exhibition	2021/1/20 - 2021/1/23	The northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad	Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Iranian Calligraphers Association
26	Watching Ebbs on Boat: History and Culture of the Maritime Silk Road	2021/1/20 - onwards	Fujian, China	Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum of Fujian
27	Delicate Porcelain in Fuliang: Exhibition of Porcelain Antiques Collected in the Palace Museum	2021/1/20 - onwards	Fujian, China	Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum of Fujian
28	A Journey Through the Silk Road: The Silk Road Landscape Map Digital Art Exhibition	2021/1/20 - onwards	Fujian, China	Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum of Fujian
29	Color and Style of the Tang Dynasty: Exhibition of Masterpiece Ceramics from Changsha Kiln	2021/1/23 - onwards	Guangdong, China	Dongguan Museum
30	Across Waves and Waters: Guangzhou-centered Ceramic Trade in 9th Century	2021/1/26 - 2021/5/5	Guangdong, China	Archaeological Site Museum of Nanyue Palace
31	Gleanings of Ceramic Road: Ceramic Collection Exhibition	2021/2/5 - 2021/4/5	Jiangxi, China	Ji'an Museum
32	May All Sentient Beings Be Blessed in the Same Happiness: Tianlong Mountain Grotto National Treasure Returning and Digital Restoration Special Exhibition	2021/2/12 - 2021/3/14	Beijing, China	Beijing Luxun Museum
33	Treasures of the Silk Road: Selected Exhibition of Dunhuang Historical Relics	2021/3/3 - 2021/5/22	Guangdong, China	Dong Guan Yuan Chonghuan Memorial Park
34	Simple Things: Teapots	2021/3/5 - onwards	Moscow, Russia	National Historical Museum of the Republic of Belarus
35	Peace and Prosperity: Music and Dance in Han and Tang Dynasties	2021/3/8 - 2021/8/31	Henan, China	Zhengzhou Daxiang Ceramics Museum
36	Atlas of Maritime Buddhism	2021/3/10- 2021/7/7	Hong Kong, China	Indra and Harry Banga Gallery, City University of Hong Kong
37	Glory of Silk Road: Dunhuang, Maiji Mountain Grotto Art Exhibition	2021/3/20 - 2021/6/20	Henan, China	Anyang Museum
38	A World in a Grain of Sand: Special Exhibition of Dunhuang Culture	2021/3/20 - onwards	Fujian, China	Putian Museum
39	Thousands of Boats with the Rising Tide: the Exhibition of the Underwater Cultural Heritage from the South China Sea	2021/3/31 - 2021/6/6	Shandong, China	Qingdao Museum
40	Boundless Silk Road: From the Mediterranean to China: Selections from Japanese Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum Collections	2021/4/1 - 2021/5/28	Zhejiang, China	Ningbo Museum
41	Handicrafts: Carrier of Intellectual Values: Virtual Exhibition of Intangible Cultural Heritage of China and Kuwait	2021/4/8 - 2021/7/8	Foshan, China	Zhicheng Western Art Museum, Dali Town, Nanhai District, Foshan City
42	Qinghai in the Belt and Road	2021/4/9 - 2021/6/10	Shenzhen, China	Shenzhen Museum of Ancient Art
43	The National Museum in 100 Years	2021/4/13 - onwards	Cambodia	National Museum of Cambodia
44	Legacy of Longmen: Archaeological Finds from Kilns in Hejin, Shanxi Province	2021/4/21 - 2021/7/21	Beijing, China	National Museum of China
45	Silk Road Fortress, Majestic West Frontier: Special Exhibition of Jiuquan Great Wall	2021/4/25 - 2021/6/15	Gansu, China	Jiuquan Museum
46	Unbounded: The Story of the Maritime Silk Road: Exhibition of Selected Armorial Porcelain Exported from China to Europe	2021/4/25 - 2021/7/24	Tianjin, China	National Maritime Museum of China
47	Silk from Dunhuang	2021/4/29 - onwards	Gansu, China	Dunhuang Academy
48	Impression of Dunhuang Immersion Digital Image Interactive Exhibition	2021/4/30 - 2021/5/20	Shanghai, China	Fengxian Museum
49	Beyond Boundaries: Buddhist Art of Gandhara	2021/4/30 - 2022/3/13	California, USA	UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)

50	Lost Treasures: Currency on the Ancient Silk Road	2021/5/1 - 2021/8/30	Shandong, China	Confucius Museum
51	Pearl Chains on the Silk Road	2021/5/11 - 2021/5/15	Beijing, China	Chinese National Academy of Arts
52	Pearl Chains on the Silk Road: Exhibition of the Achievements of Historical Mural Copying Project of the Gongbi Institute of the China Academy of Arts	2021/5/11 - onwards	Beijing, China	Chinese National Academy of Arts
53	Splendor of the Sunset: Iran of the Qajar Era (late 18th century - 1925)	2021/5/15 - 2021/7/25	Moscow, Russia	Museum of the Oriental Art
54	Millennium Dunhuang: The Beauty of Creation in Grotto Murals	2021/5/16 - 2021/8/31	Beijing, China	The Museum of Chinese Gardens and Landscape Architecture
55	Exhibition on Remains of Maritime Silk Road in Quanzhou	2021/5/18 - onwards	Gansu, China	Dunhuang Museum
56	Picturing All Beings: Life of the Ancients on the Brick Reliefs from Hexi Corridor	2021/5/21 - 2021/8/21	Beijing, China	National Museum of China
57	Wonders: The Ancient Andean Civilization in Peru	2021/5/21 - onwards	Beijing, China	Capital Museum
58	The Vast Nanhai (China Southern Sea): Guangzhou and the Ancient Maritime Silk Road: Collection from the Archaeological Site Museum of Nanyue Palace	2021/5/27 - 2021/9/1	Xi'an, China	Xi'an Tang Imperial City Hanguang Gate Site Museum
59	Grand View of Nature along the Silk Road	2021/6/1 - 2021/9	Jilin, China	Changchun Museum
60	Maritime Crossroads: Millennia of Global Trade in Hong Kong	2021/6/3 - 2021/8/12	Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong Maritime Museum
61	Qatar Between Land and Sea: Art and Legacy	2021/6/5 - 2021/8/22	Saint-Petersburg, Russia	Russian Museum of Ethnography
62	Green Gold: Maritime Tea Trade between China and Europe from 17th to 19th Century	2021/6/11 - 2021/10/17	Zhejiang, China	China National Tea Museum
63	Creation from Creatures: Plants and Animals on the Silk Roads	2021/6/18 - 2021/9/5	Zhejiang, China	China National Silk Museum
64	Gathering in the Galaxy	2021/6/18 - onwards	Online	47 Museums around the World
65	The Silk Road: A Living History	2021/6/19 - 2021/8/22	London, United Kingdom	Lewis Cubitt Square, King's Cross
66	Return to Dunhuang	2021/6/28 - onwards	Beijing, China	Li Keran Academy of Painting in Beijing
67	Civilization alongside Riverbank and the Sea	2021/6/29 - onward	Guangdong, China	Guangzhou Maritime Museum
68	Sailing Across the Seven Seas: Guangzhou and the Maritime Silk Road in the Tang and Song Dynasties	2021/6/29 - onward	Guangdong, China	Guangzhou Maritime Museum
69	Atlas of Maritime Buddhism	2021/7/7 - 2021/10/14	Hong Kong, China	Indra and Harry Banga Gallery in City University of Hong Kong
70	Our Asia: Ancient Asian Civilizations Exhibition	2021/7/8 - 2021/10/8	Hunan, China	Hunan Museum
71	Exhibition on Gandharan artworks from Lushun Museum	2021/7/13 - 2021/10/7	Liaoning, China	Lushun Museum
72	Erythrina Sailing Shadow: Quanzhou "Maritime Silk Road" Relics Exhibition	2021/7/14 - 2021/9/13	Ningxia, China	Ningxia Museum
73	Temple of Buddhism, Silk Road and the Yangtze River: Dunhuang Fresco Artworks	2021/7/15 - 2021/8/15	Chongqing, China	Three Gorges Museum
74	Treasures Underground: Selected Cultural Relics of Tang Court in Famen Temple	2021/7/16 - 2021/10/17	Hunan, China	Changsha Museum
75	Across Thousands of Miles: Chinese Export Porcelain of the Ming and Qing Dynasties	2021/7/20 - onwards	Fujian, China	Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum of Fujian

76	Meet Dunhuang Digital Immersive Exhibition	2021/7/23 - 2021/8/20	Beijing, China	Bloomage Live Square
77	Memories of Chang'an: Treasures of the Tang Dynasty from Shannxi	2021/7/30 - 2021/11/28	Chengdu, China	Jinsha Site Museum
78	Incredible Syria: An Exhibition of Antiquities from Ancient Syria	2021/8/4 - 2021/11/7	Shenzhen, China	Nanshan Museum
79	Dazzling Glow·Hirayama Ikou's World Silk Road II: Ancient Glassware Selections from Hirayama Ikou Silk Road Museum Collections	2021/8/8 - 2021/11/10	Gansu, China	Dunhuang Academy
80	One Under Heaven: Exhibition of Guangzhou Archaeological Discoveries from the Qin-Han Dynasties	2021/8/10 - 2021/11/9	Beijing, China	National Museum of China
81	Atlas of Maritime Buddhism	2021/8/21 - 2021/10/20	Hong Kong, China	Hanart HZ Gallery
82	Homeward Voyage: Special Exhibition of Recovered Cultural Relics of the Tek Sing	2021/8/24 - 2022/1/3	Shanghai, China	China Maritime Museum
83	Treasures Left by Foreign Trade: An Exhibition of Products Exported by the Thirteen Hongs of Canton	2021/8/27 - 2021/11/7	Shanghai, Chna	Shanghai History Museum
84	Flying Apsaras Verve and Mogao Spirit: Dunhuang Grottoes Culture and Art Exhibition	2021/9/8 - 2021/10/8	Ningxia, China	Museum of Lin Xia Hui Autonomous Prefecture
85	Port Leading to the World: Port and City of Ningbo	2021/9/8 - 2021/11/28	Ningbo, China	China Port Museum
86	Journey through Asia at the Tokyo National Museum: Mythical Animal Wonderland	2021/9/14 - 2021/10/17	Tokyo, Japan	Tokyo National Museum
87	Beyond the Bounds of History: A Collaborative Exhibition Between the Palace Museum and Dunhuang Academy	2021/9/17 - 2021/11/18	Beijing, China	The Palace Museum
88	Remarkable and Graceful: Special Exhibition of Dazu Rock Carvings	2021/9/17 - onwards	Beijing, China	National Museum of China
89	Enchanting Expeditions: Chinese Trade Porcelains across the Globe	2021/9/25 - 2022/1/2	Hong Kong, China	The Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum
90	Sailing the Seas: The Maritime Silk Road (Chinese Section) Relics Joint Exhibition	2021/9/27 - 2022/1/10	Guangdong, China	The Museum of the Nanyue King of Western Han Dynasty
91	From Silk to Silk Road	2021/9/29 - 2021/10/15	West Flanders, Belgium	West Flanders University of Applied Technology
92	Dragon and Phoenix: Centuries of Exchange between Chinese and Islamic Worlds	2021/10/6 - 2022/2/12	Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi	Louvre Abu Dhabi
93	Relics of the West Market in Chang'an City: City Life in the Silk Road Trade in Tang Dynasty	2021/10/15 - 2021/12/19	Guangdong, China	Zhongshan Museum
94	Bei Wei: Footsteps of the Scholar's Charity Department	2021/10/19 - 2021/11/18	Buyeo, Korea	Korean Buyeo National Museum
95	Crossroads: Exploring the Silk Road	2021/10/22 - onwards	California, USA	USC Pacific Asia Museum
96	West Encounters East: A Cultural Conversation between Chinese and European Ceramics	2021/10/29 - 2022/1/16	Shanghai, China	Shanghai Museum
97	World Maritime Quincentenary: A Special Exhibition of Maritime Relics In the 15th-19th Century	2021/11/5 - 2022/2/20	Shanghai, China	China Maritime Museum
98	Islamic Arts: A Past for a Present	2021/11/20 - 2022/3/27	18 French cities	French Ministry of Culture, Louvre Museum
99	Hirayama Ikuo Tibetan Silk Road Cultural Relics Exhibition	2021/11 - onwards	Shanxi, China	Shanxi Museum



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2021
REPORT

ACADEMIC RESEARCHES



Annual Review of Research Works on Silk Roads in 2021

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In 2021, more than 200 books (monographs, proceedings, reports, catalogues, etc.) as well as more than 600 papers on the Silk Road studies were published. The following is a review and introduction of the important works in three aspects, i.e. original materials, period studies, and monographic studies.

I. Original Materials & Reference books

1. Unearthed documents

The achievements of literature arrangement in the last year focused on the unearthed documents. The second volume of *Han Dynasty Bamboo Slips from Xuanquan Site, Dunhuang*, compiled by Zhang Defang's team, were published by Zhongxi Book Company¹. *Epitaphs of the Silk Road People*, edited with notes by Shi Jiazhen, includes 300 epitaphs of the Silk Road People from Northern Dynasties to Yuan Dynasty². *Corpus of Scattered Turfan Documents*, edited by professor Rong Xinjiang and Shi Rui, contains 372 non-Buddhist literatures from Turfan which now preserved in different museums all over the world³. *Manuscripts from Khotan kept in the Museum of Renmin University of China: Buddhist Fragments in Brāhmī Script: Sanskrit and Khotanese* by Zhang Lixiang, devotes to the Sanskrit and Khotanese texts in the materials collected by the Museum of Renmin University of China. It interprets and compares the documents, reflecting the characteristics of the ancient Mahayana Buddhism in Khotan⁴. The first volume of *Catalogue of the Old Uyghur Manuscripts and Blockprints in the Serindia Collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS*, edited by Olga Lundysheva, Anna Turanskaya and Hiroshi Umemura, presents the fragments of the Serindia collection that were published since the early days of Wilhelm Radloff up to now⁵. *Varia Buddhica: Buddhistische Gedichte und kleinere Sutra-Texte* by Zekine Özertural, contains the descriptions of fragments from almost all areas of Buddhist-Uyghur literature and also fragments from various genres of folk literature⁶. V. P. Zaytsev and O. M. Chunakova's paper "Sogdian Manuscript Fragments from the Collection of S. F. Oldenburg (The Serindia Collection of the IOM, RAS) Part 1," presents the results of joint work on several Sogdian fragments recently discovered in the Serindia Collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IOM, RAS), written on scrolls with Chinese texts on the back, as is the case with most similar texts⁷. "What is the Proper

and the Improper”: *Traditions and Customs of the Late Zoroastrianism, introduction, commented Russian translation of the Persian text* by Aliy Ivanovich Kolesnikov, presents the research and the commented Russian translation of the 16th-17th-century New-Persian composition entitled “Šāyast - nā šāyast” (“What is the Proper and the Improper”)⁸.

2. Archaeological reports

There were several reports on the sites along the Silk Road or the Maritime Silk Road published last year. *Archaeological Report on the Xiacaopu Site, Anxi County, Fujian Province, 2019-2020*, introduces the site and cultural relics of Xiacaopu in the 2019-2020 season’s excavation⁹. Archaeological Report on St. Paul’s College Site, Macau, 2010-2012, reveals large number of export porcelain fragments unearthed from the St. Paul’s College site, which provides evidence to the histories of China’s export porcelain as well as the commerce between China and Portugal¹⁰. Moreover, preliminary reports on the sites along the Silk Road in Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region were published by the Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the School of Archaeology and Museology, etc.

3. Catalogues of cultural relics

Several catalogues of important silk art were published last year. A 10-volume-set of the *Art of Chinese Silks*, edited by professor Zhao Feng, selects excellent silk cultural relics and silk patterns from museums all over the world¹¹. Another 10-volume-set by the same chief-editor is *Textiles from Dunhuang*, which shows pictures of textiles from Dunhuang that all taken on the spot or provided by the other party, including pictures of textiles and their corresponding research¹². The third catalogue is *Byzantine Silk on the Silk Roads: Journeys between East and West, Past and Present*, edited by Sarah E. Braddock Clark and Ryoko Yamanaka Kondo. It includes over 200 color illustrations, examines in detail the eclectic iconography of the Byzantine period and its impact on design and creativity today. Through an examination of the extraordinary variety of designs in these captivating silks, an international team of experts reveal that Byzantine culture was ever-moving and open to diverse influences across the length of the Silk Road¹³.

There are also several kinds of the exhibition catalogues. The catalogue of the exhibition held by the China Maritime Museum about the ancient Chinese maritime relics, reveals the history of the ancient Chinese maritime technology, exotic goods, figures, overseas trade, religions, etc.¹⁴. Nanshan Museum of Shenzhen published the exhibition catalogue about the ancient Syriac cultural relics, showing the history of Syria from the prehistory to the Islamic period¹⁵. The Eodos Bronze Museum published two exhibition catalogues, one is on the stone reliefs and murals from the Han Dynasty tombs, the other is on the cultural relics of Yuan Dynasty along the Silk Road in Inner Mongolia¹⁶. The catalogue on the ancient Silk Road Money exhibition held by the Confucius Museum, includes a variety of moneys issued by the counties and dynasties along the Silk Road¹⁷. Quanzhou Maritime Museum published the catalogue on the museum’s religious sculpture collection, reveals materials about the ancient foreign religions of Christian, Hinduism, Islamic, etc.¹⁸. The catalogue edited by Chen Lin on Chinese script materials from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, collects the bamboo slips, paper documents, steles and sculptures from the Han to Tang period¹⁹.

4. Reference books

Jens Wilkens published two dictionaries on the old Uyghur language. One is the *Handheld Dictionary of Old Uyghur*, which is the first inventory of the entire vocabulary of old Uyghur texts (manuscripts, block prints, inscriptions) found in the oasis cities of the ancient Silk Road (Turfan, Dunhuang, etc.)²⁰. The other is *Uyghur Dictionary: Linguistic material of the pre-Islamic Turkic texts from Central Asia. III, Foreign Elements Volume 1: eč – bodis(a)ν(a)tv.*, which records the loan and foreign words from the contact languages of Uyghur in the literature of the first Turkish-speaking high culture²¹. Li Guo and Shi Junjie edit an index of works on the Dunhuang documents preserved in Gansu Province, which records the detailed information of the studies of every Dunhuang document in the museums of Gansu²². Zhang Anfu and Tian Haifeng’s book *Archaeological Sites in the Tarim Basin from the Han to Tang Period*, records the information of the type, layout, stage, structure, situation of the sites²³.

II. Period Studies

1. Early period (before the 2nd century)

1) Studies focus on the overall outlook of the Silk Road and the long-distance cultural exchange. M. Lebeau edits a volume

which presents peer-reviewed contributions based on papers first presented at the biennial International Congress ‘The East’ (ICE). Dedicated to the archaeology and history of a region that spans from the Southern Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, via the Near and Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and the Caucasus, across to Central Asia, Pakistan, and Xinjiang, the ICE series encourages the publication of research that cuts across not just geographical and chronological boundaries, but also the borders that exist between disciplines²⁴. M. Y. Treister presents an overview of jewellery from precious coral (*Corallium rubrum*) in Eurasia in the early Iron Age. Particular attention is paid to the finds of coral jewellery in the burials of the Eurasian nomads. The earliest finds of coral beads in the South Urals are more likely to be explained by the contacts with Achaemenid Iran, where coral was used to make beads and pendants. The author considers possible ways of the distribution of coral in Eurasia in the subsequent period, which probably depended on the changing political circumstances²⁵.

2) Studies on the western part of the Silk Road, concentrating on the Achaemenid Persia and the Roman east. Rubina Raja and J. Steding edit a volume which offers a unique insight into a trade and economy of vital importance, namely that of stone, in the important urban center of Palmyra in the Roman period. The site of Palmyra, an oasis city in the Syrian desert located at a cultural and geographical crossroads, was a major trading center in the first three centuries AD²⁶. Vladimir Dabrowski et al. identified the Asian rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) among other plant remains, from several contexts in a fortified elite residence at the site of Mleiha (United Arab Emirates) that was partially destroyed by fire in the third century AD. These remains, present both as isolated grains and as clusters of rice, constitute the earliest example of the species in the Arabian Peninsula and raise numerous questions on the role of rice in local economies during the Late Pre-Islamic period . Wu Xin points out that Central Asia was well integrated into the vast administrative system of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. The peculiar patterns, internal structures, and occupation history of the settlements, and the distribution of ritual and religious structures, all indicate that the Empire actively exercised its domination over Central Asia²⁸. Johanna Lhuillier edits a volume that gathers contributions presented during the workshop “Archaeology of Central Asia during the 1st millennium BC” at the 10th ICAANE in Vienna in 2016. Designed to treat both the Iron Age and the Hellenistic period, it aims to embrace the diversity of current archaeological work led on the 1st millennium BC in Central Asia²⁹.

3) Studies on the eastern part of the Silk Road, mainly discussing the frontier governance of Han Dynasty, as well as the relationships and cultural exchanges between the West Regions and the Han Dynasty, Xiongnu and Kushans. Lots of works give comprehensive studies on the early Silk Road and the cultural exchanges. Xin Yitian’s monograph focuses on the bamboo slips and portraits in the Qin and Han Dynasties. It is divided into three parts to investigate the cultural spread, interpretation of bamboo slips and mutual evidence of bamboo slips and portraits in the Qin and Han Dynasties³⁰. Wang Zijin published a volume attempting to explain the level of understanding, degree of development and utilization of the oceans in the Qin and Han Dynasties through multi perspective and multi-directional investigation. It is also expected to explore the contributions of the people of the Qin and Han Dynasties in the history of ancient Chinese ocean exploration and the history of ancient Chinese oceanography³¹. Frederick Shih-Chung Chen proposed a different opinion to Lukas Nickel’s article “The First Emperor and Sculpture in China” in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (2013) which has drawn significant attention to the issue of Hellenistic influence on the making of the terracotta warriors excavated from the mausoleum of the First Emperor of China³².

A group of papers focus on Han Dynasty’s policy to the Western Region published on the first issue of *The Western Regions Studies*. Wang Zijin pointed out that in the management of frontier affairs in the Han dynasty, the “Northern Front” was prioritized concerned due to the strong pressure from Huns. After successfully controlled Hexi ,the Han culture expanded into the Western Region, and the demand for expansion of the “Northwestern Front” received unprecedented attention³³. Sun Wenbo claimed that along with the battles between Han and Huns and the expansion of the Han Dynasty to the northwest, Chan-Yu(Huns) moved to the further northwest. In order to prevent Huns from taking over the kingdoms within the Western Region, Emperor Wu insisted to use troops for the Western Region³⁴. Li Si pointed out that in the historical process of the Han dynasty who tried to implement diversified administrations with ethnic interactions and regional governance in the Western Region, the important role that the envoys had played should not be overlooked³⁵. Wang Hai and Xu Nan discussed the acknowledge “cut the right arm off Huns”, which was considered to be the national strategy of the Han Dynasty. However, it does not mean the realization of the strategy³⁶. Wicky W.K. Tse examines the career of a contingent of action-prone mid-level military officers and diplomats, and aims to explore how opportunism functioned in foreign affairs during the last decades of the Former Han dynasty³⁷.

Another group of works devote to the bamboo slips of Han Dynasty from Northwest China. Zhang Junmin published a volume

on the bamboo slips of Han Dynasty from Xuanquan site. It sorts out academic works on the distribution of the slips in villages and the names and identities of characters, and also studies the village system, village functions, and basic-level official positions³⁸. Su Haiyang studies on the detailed rendering of the spatio-temporal framework of the southern route of Chang'an-Guzang Road in the late Western Han dynasty which has been established based on information recorded in the Han dynasty wooden slips V1611(3):39 A-B from the Xuanquan site³⁹. Yuan Yingsheng reveals that in the diplomatic exchanges recorded in the Xuanquan Bamboo Slips of Han Dynasty, there were many upper class women of the Western Region, who played an important role in the development of friendly relations between the Han Dynasty in the Central Plains and the Western Region⁴⁰.

Scholars also paid attention to the local history of the Western Region and their relationships with surrounding regions. Zhang Chi published a monograph on the early Iron Age tomb shapes and types of artifacts in the Ili River Valley of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and combines the unearthed situations to study the burial customs, economic activities, and burial customs of local nomads⁴¹. Li Yuqi et al. released the result of recent investigations at the Haermodun site in central Xinjiang, which supplied new evidence of the influence of western Central Asia on the construction of fortifications in China during the early first millennium AD⁴². Zhu Lishuang and Rong Xinjiang propose that the development of the Khotan Regime was connected with the rise and decline of the great powers in the Western Region, including Xiongnu, Han and Kushan. By the period of the Three Kingdoms, Khotan was already one of the centers for Buddhism in the Western Region, suggesting its prosperity in economy. During the period between the end of Han and Jin, Khotan was developing in a relatively safe environment and became a local power in the Western Region⁴³. Luo Shuai reexamined the Sino-Kharosthi coins, which is a unique series of coins issued by the Kingdom of Khotan, and could be seen as symbols of interaction between cultures. The design of these coins implies the political background that the Khotan kingdom submitted itself to the rule of the Han dynasty, but not to the Kushan Empire⁴⁴.

2. Middle period (3rd-12th centuries)

1) Studies on the role of the Southern and Northern Dynasties played in the Silk Road world network. Jörg H. Hüsemann offered a sweeping re-assessment of Li Daoyuan's *Shuijing zhu*, analysing which sources he used for editing the geography of India and how he integrated this new knowledge into his commentary while still remaining faithful to the framework of the *Shuijing*⁴⁵. Robert Joe Cutter devotes to the preface Xiao Yi (508-555) wrote to accompany his scroll painting of foreign envoys to the Liang court, claims that it relies heavily on quotation and paraphrase of much earlier works⁴⁶. Lu Bo figures out a magnificent historical picture of cultural exchanges and trade contacts across the Eurasian continent from the stories and historical facts in *Biographies of Four Old Men in Liang*⁴⁷.

2) Studies on the relationship between the Sui-Tang Empire and the Silk Road. Yoichiro Hirata insists that the power of the Hu power brought from China was the power of the split and unification of the Wei Dynasty, the northern and Southern Dynasties, and the Sui and Tang Dynasties. However, there is always a strong change in strength, and it is a bidirectional one with a variety of vectors⁴⁸. Liu Zifan studies on the imperial edict enacted in the 1st year of Chuigong which was compiled in S.1344 named the *Order of the Board of Revenue*. It shows that the Tang Dynasty had to resolve the contradiction between trade openness and border control in wartime⁴⁹. Rong Xinjiang focuses on the three printed images of Buddha on the precept certificate from the Dayun Monastery of Dunhuang preserved in St. Petersburg (Jx.02881+Jx.02882). It is the earliest extant example of woodblock printing, with a definite date the 9th day of the 2nd month of the 29th year of Kaiyuan (A.D. 741), which has long been ignored by the specialists on the history of printing⁵⁰. Shi Yanxin and Zhang Jianlin appraise the Por-Bajin site which is located in the southeast of the Republic of Tuva, propose that it should be a Khagan's summer palace, which was modeled after the design and construction of the Imperial City of the Tang's twin capitals and could be called the Emperor's Temporary Dwelling Palace .

3) Studies on the Sogdian immigrants and their cultures in China. Nicolas Sims-Williams provides some corrections to the previous editions of the Sogdian version of the epitaph of Wirkak, alias Shi Jun "Mr Shi", and his wife Wiyusi, who were buried in 580 CE in Chang'an, the capital of the Northern Zhou⁵². Ge Chengyong states that the ancient people's hairstyle is always the concern of the scholars, for it is considered as the symbol of the fashion of the times as well as the logo of the tribes to embody their feature and spiritual outlook different from other ethnic groups. The image of the young Hu people with short hair cut to the ears, vividly like half a watermelon upside down on the head, are often depicted in the cultural heritages of the mediaeval society from the Northern Dynasty to the Sui-Tang Dynasties⁵³.

4) Studies on the cultural exchanges along the western section of the Silk Road. M. B. Vosoughi explores the story of Hafvād's worm in Iranian myths and historical literature, and intends to locate Kajārān where the tale came out and demonstrates the historical remains and their ages of civilizations in Lashtān Castle Town from an archaeological perspective, thus finding that the silkworm breeding technology was introduced from China to Iran as early as in the Parthian era via two routes⁵⁴. Fereshteh Azarkhordad emphasised that despite the conducted research on religious spaces of caravanserais along the Silk Road in Khorasan, the religious spaces of Khorasan section of the Silk Road are less than the ones in caravanserais of central Iran. This is probably a sign of the economic importance of these transportation hubs in relation with their religious significance⁵⁵. Paul D. Wordsworth explores species introduction in the early Islamic world, presenting the first archaeological evidence for domestic water buffalo in the Caucasus, which is identified using zooarchaeological and ZooMS methods on material from the historical site of Bardha'a in Azerbaijan⁵⁶. Paul Wexler demonstrates that Yiddish is a Slavic language largely relexified to genuine and artificial German and Hebrew, as a cryptic language of trade in the Khazar Empire in the 9-10th centuries for the use of multilingual Jewish merchants, who enjoyed special privileges on the Afro-Eurasian Silk Roads until the 13th century⁵⁷.

5) Studies on the cultural exchanges along the middle section of the Silk Road. Matteo Compareti published a volume focusing on various aspects of the art of Persia and Central Asia in the pre-Islamic era that the author has published over the last fifteen years. The period examined goes from the reign of the Sasanian dynasty to the arrival of the Arabs in the seventh century, and the consequent process of Islamization of the entire territory between the eastern borders of the Roman Empire and China⁵⁸. Alison Vacca explores the medieval Armenian understanding of the city of Balkh as a capital of the Arsacid Empire. Medieval Armenian sources employ four strategies of remembrance: scriptural geography, genealogy, folk etymology, and origin stories. These strategies invest the city of Balkh as the source of power of both Armenian royalty and nobility, through their connections to the Great Arsacids⁵⁹. Elizabeth Baker Brite et al. examines the archaeological remains at a religious site dedicated to a Yasawiyya Sufi saint reveal a possible center of iron production along the trade routes connecting the medieval urban centers of Central Asia⁶⁰. Fu Ma surveys the so-called "Mongolian Landscape Map" which reveals the route and geographic information between Jiayu Guan pass and the Asia Minor in the 16th century. It demonstrates several newly emerged cities in the Turfan basin, which are not recorded in earlier or contemporary Chinese literature sources. Since the West Uighur time, the communication through Turfan-Hami route was further prospered, leading to the oases along this route further developed and new cities emerged on them⁶¹.

6) Studies on the cultural exchanges along the east section of the Silk Road. Nobuyuki Shimizu and Yasutami Suzuki edited a volume which points out that from the end of the 7th century to the first half of the 10th century, Bohai developed across northeastern China, the Primorsky Territory of Russia, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. It prospered through trade with neighboring countries such as Tang and Japan, and was an ancient nation that was called "the prosperous country of the Haidong" in the situation in East Asia at that time⁶². Peng Shanguo and Wang Anqi propose that the unearthed ceramic products objectively evidenced the link between the Bohai Kingdom and the Maritime Silk Road. The shipment of the Tang ceramic products possibly started from Dengzhou along the tribute route into Bohai Kingdom via Bohai strait, or else they were transported from Japan to Bohai Kingdom across Japan Sea owing to Bohai-Japan close commercial relations⁶³. Kwon Deok-young investigates and systematically and comprehensively researches 32 Korean tombs that have been discovered in the name of people and their descendants who crossed over to China from the three kingdoms of the Korean Peninsula during the Tang dynasty⁶⁴. Fei Yong systematically studies the relationship between the Buddhist statues in China and the Haidong area, focusing on the style and characteristics of Buddhist statues in the Eastern Jin and Southern Dynasties, as well as their influence and dissemination paths on the statues of the Three Kingdoms Period on the Korean Peninsula and the Asuka and Hakuho Periods of Japan⁶⁵. Liang Wenli reveals the fact that they set off from Suzhou in a merchant ship highlights the important position of Suzhou in overseas transportation during the Tang Dynasty. By the mid-9th century, with the development of economy and the growth of immigration, Suzhou's overseas trade became increasingly frequent, and monks were able to set off from Suzhou to Japan in merchant ships⁶⁶.

3. Late period (after the 13th century)

1) Studies on the Mongolian Conquest and its influence on the cultural exchanges between the East and the West. Liu Yingsheng reveals the details of the history of Mongolia and Yuan Dynasty, and has made careful research on the topics of four groups: the current major joints and important figures of Mongolian and Yuan politics, the material culture research in the social and economic

life of the Mongolian and Yuan Dynasty, the research on the historical language “Xiaoerjin”, and the research on the Silk Road⁶⁷. Satomi Sakurai et al. investigates the Great Mongol Empire, which was established by the coronation of Genghis Khan in 1206, spread its prints throughout the Eurasian continent by its successors⁶⁸. Emmanuel Lincot explores the relations between China and the Muslim world, points out that they are at the origin of imperial constructions and acculturation phenomena that have shaped Eurasia and the Middle East. Their exchanges developed in the 13th and 14th centuries under the impetus of Mongol dynasties⁶⁹. Lorenzo Publici focuses on the Mongol conquest and domination of Caucasia in the 13th century, from the Sea of Azov in the north to present-day Georgia and Armenia. The Mongols made Caucasia into a coherent power based on both European and Asian experiences and traditions⁷⁰. Hyunhee Park offers the first global historical study of *soju*, the distinctive distilled drink of Korea. Searching for soju’s origins, Park leads us into the vast, complex world of premodern Eurasia. She demonstrates how the Mongol conquests of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries wove together hemispheric flows of trade, empire, scientific and technological transfer and created the conditions for the development of a singularly Korean drink⁷¹. Matthieu Chochoy describes how the writing of the history of Tamerlane by French scholars between the 16th and 18th c. led to a reinterpretation of the history of Genghis Khan. Based on a supposed common origin of these two emperors, the idea of a “Tartar empire” structured the perception of the history of the Orient until the 19th century⁷². A group of papers were published on issue 1, volume 74 of the journal *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, which devotes to the relations between the Mongolian Empire and the Silk Road⁷³.

2) Studies on Zayton (Quanzhou) and the Maritime Silk Road. Satoshi Endō explored the relationship between the Song Dynasty and the “Southern Sea World” including Southeast Asia, focusing on the act of “translation” of the above table submitted at the time of tribute⁷⁴. Sun Bo claims that a large number of porcelain vessels with inscriptions were excavated from the Southern Song shipwreck “Nanhai I”, among which seven were inscribed in Arabic, mainly with the name of the owner and the praise of Allah⁷⁵. Dang Baohai inspects the relationship between ancient China and Yemen, which reflects the level of economic, trade, political and cultural exchanges between China and the Indian Ocean region⁷⁶. Wang Bo and Liang Yuan discusses the vertical line, linking the center of Daxiongbaodian, Kaiyuan Temple of Quanzhou and the midpoint of the East Pagoda (also known as Zhenguo Pagoda) and the West Pagoda (i.e., Renshou Pago-da), coincides with the geomantic line “tianpan fengzhen” (literally the needle on the Heaven Plate that falls rightly into the seam between *ren* and *zi*)⁷⁷. Yang Bin reinterprets the relevant archaeological analyses and discusses the following five aspects, namely, spices, cargo shells and ring-shaped cargo shells discovered on the shipwreck, the geographical distribution of hull attachments, historical records about the sailing of Chinese ships in the Indian Ocean during the Song and Yuan Dynasties, as well as another two Song shipwrecks discovered in South China Sea. It concludes that this junk must have returned from the Indian Ocean⁷⁸.

3) Studies on the cultural exchanges between Ming Dynasty and the foreign countries. Ge Zhaoguang attempts to point out that as part of world history/global history, the period between 1368 and 1420 was a pivotal historical period worth more attention. In this period, the Mongol Empire, which once dominated Europe and Asia, gradually declined in East Asia. This was a period of international reordering in East Asia, or perhaps we may call it the post-Mongol age or after the Mongol-rule. The East Asian sea gradually became a new historical world through tribute and trade⁷⁹. Ye Shaofei insist that from the 16th to the 17th century, Vietnam and Japan had flourishing marine trade. Besides, Nguyen regime helped Koreans who met marine perils, and sent document which had reign title of Annam to Korea. Under the influence of Chinese Tributary System, neighbouring countries outside China achieved equality in foreign affairs through these documents with the title of emperor, showing the East Asian reginal order at that time⁸⁰. Yuanfei Wang connects Chinese literary production to emerging discourses of pirates and the sea. In the late Ming dynasty, so-called “Japanese pirates” raided southeast coastal China, shows that the late Ming discourses of pirates and the sea were fluid, ambivalent, and dialogical; they simultaneously entailed imperialistic and personal narratives of the “other”: foreigners, renegades, migrants, and marginalized authors⁸¹.

4. Trans-period studies

1) Comprehensive studies on the Maritime Silk Road. Li Bozhong and Dong Jingsheng edited a volume with essays on the Maritime Silk Road, covering a wide range of time and regions, with topics related to overseas trade, geopolitics, etc. It presents a global historical perspective and provides a model for the new research field of Maritime Silk Road research⁸². Geoffrey C. Gunn expounds the history and geography of the pre-1800 world, argues that different regions astride the maritime silk roads were not

merely interconnected waterways, but also “imagined geographies.” He examines five such geographic imaginaries, specifically Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and European including an imagined Great South Land⁸³. Song-nai Rhee et al. explore the fundamental role in the history of the Japanese archipelago played by Toraijin, who were immigrants mainly from the Korean Peninsula during this formative period⁸⁴. Zheng Xuemeng researches on economic history based on Turfan documents and an important topic in the research on the history of the Silk Road. The research is based on the documents unearthed in Dunhuang and Turfan, adopts a global perspective and cutting-edge methods, and has high academic value⁸⁵. Jiehua Cai and Marc Nüernerberger edited a volume of the commemorative publication for Roderich Ptak. The numerous contributions follow the traces of his research trips between the seas and deal with very different topics⁸⁶. Bérénice Bellina et al. insist that sea nomads have been part of the economic and political landscape of Southeast Asia for millennia. They have played many roles over the longue-durée: in certain periods proving central to the ability of land-based polities to generate wealth, by providing valuable maritime commodities, facilitating trade, forming a naval force to secure and protect vital sea lanes and providing crucial connectivity⁸⁷.

2) Studies on the branches and the routes of the Silk Road. Hou Yangfang tries to achieve accurate restoration of the route in a complex geographical environment on the basis of on-the-spot investigation and in combination with documentary materials⁸⁸. Su Haiyang comprehensively uses traditional methods such as historical philology, archaeology, field investigation, as well as new methods such as satellite image survey and analysis, and Google Earth path simulation measurement to investigate the South Qinlong Route the Silk Road⁸⁹. Tong Tao published a monograph which is the crystallization of the research results of a series of field archaeological innovative engineering projects carried out by the author on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from 2010 to 2020. It systematically analyzes and deeply interprets a large number of new archaeological materials on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in the past ten years, and proposes and proves “The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Silk Road” concept⁹⁰.

3) Studies on the mobility of the ethnics along the Silk Road. Persis B. Clarkson, Calogero M. Santoro provide a fresh and unique global perspective on the study of caravans by bringing together a wealth of up-to-date research that explores the similarities and divergences of caravan lifeways in Africa, Eurasia, the Near East, Southwest Asia, Mesoamerica, and the Andes. They present theoretical frameworks for caravan assessment and intercultural caravan crossings, pushing the boundaries of caravan route history and archaeology to consider the emergence, evolution, maintenance, and adaptations of caravans⁹¹. Svetlana Pankova and St John Simpson edited a volume that consists of 45 papers presented at a major international conference held at the British Museum in 2017. The papers range from new archaeological discoveries, results of scientific research and studies of museum collections to reconstructions of social elites, the phenomenon of monumental tomb construction, and “Animal Style” art⁹². Kate Franklin takes the highlands of medieval Armenia as a compelling case study for examining how early globalization and everyday life intertwined along the Silk Road. She argues that Armenia and the Silk Road itself consisted of the overlapping worlds created by a diverse assortment of people: not only long-distance travelers but also the local rulers and subjects who lived in Armenia’s mountain valleys and along its highways⁹³.

4) Studies on the Silk Road philology and literature. Johannes Reckel and Merle Schatz edited a volume which claims that Central Asia has been dominated by Mongolian and Turkic speaking nations for the past 1300 years. Uyghurs and Uzbeks were the most important traders on the Central Asian Silk Roads. Earlier Sogdians and Tokharians and other ethnic groups speaking Indo-Germanic (Indo-Iranian) languages were active on these ancient trade routes. In the 18th and 19th century a Tungus language, Manchu, became important for Sinkiang, Mongolia and the whole of China⁹⁴. Wang Qitao researches on the language and writing of Silk Road documents represented by Turfan documents. He summarizes the methods and functions of the ancient Silk Road literature language research⁹⁵. Nahid Norozi edited a volume that contains the articles presented at the “V Convegno Bolognese diIranistica (V CoBIran)” dedicated to the forms and motives of narration in Iran, from the origins to the contemporary era⁹⁶.

5) Studies on the cultural and material exchanges along the Silk Road. Qi Dongfang conducts comprehensive research on ancient Chinese foreign cultures or artifacts and images related to foreign cultures. He treats the Silk Road as the macro background and the individual cultural relics found scattered as the starting point, to deeply explore the exchanges and interactions between Chinese and foreign trade and culture⁹⁷. Li Shuicheng sorts out the scepters found all over the world, and makes an interesting analysis of the origin, evolution, function evolution, diffusion, and fate of the mace scepter in China, and analyzes the mace scepter as a power object⁹⁸. David Gordon White recovers the trajectories of both the “inner demons” cohabiting the bodies of their human hosts and the “outer dæmons” that those same humans recognized each time they encountered them in their enchanted haunts: sylvan

pools, sites of geothermal eruptions, and dark forest groves. Along the way, he invites his readers to reconsider the potential and promise of the historical method in religious studies, suggesting that a “connected histories” approach to Eurasian dæmonology may serve as a model for restoring history to its proper place at the heart of the discipline of the history of religions⁹⁹.

6) Studies on the particular areas of the Silk Road. Wu Hong’s new work, mobilizes the reader’s own experience, from Dunhuang City all the way west to Mingsha Mountain, where thousands of caves have been carved, and unfolds historical imagination in the face of the cliffs that come to the face¹⁰⁰. Maxim Korolkov examines the emergence of imperial state in East Asia during the period ca. 400 BCE–200 CE as a network-based process, showing how the geography of early interregional contacts south of the Yangzi River informed the directions of Sinitic state expansion¹⁰¹. Yang Juping edited a volume which proposes that the establishment of the Alexander Empire and the formation of the Hellenistic world connected the vast area between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Indus River into one, laying the foundation for the comprehensive opening and expansion of the Western Silk Road in the future¹⁰².

III. Monographic Studies

1. Spread of religions

1) Buddhism. Ghani-ur-Rahman intends to describe the prodigious episodes represented in Gandhāra sculpture as an instrument for narrating and propagating the worldly mission of the Great Being (Buddha Śākyamuni)¹⁰³. Doris Meth Srinivasan gives an assessment of the different sources and shapes in a selection of Gandhāran furniture. Two main types of furniture legs are discussed. These are thought to be originally wooden legs attached to chairs, stools, and beds that are depicted in Kushan sculpture from Gandhāran¹⁰⁴. Li Xiao and Liao Zhitang focus on the development of the layouts of Buddhist monasteries in Gandhāra and the Tarim Basin, two areas along the Silk Road that were significant for the propagation of Buddhism since the 3rd century BCE¹⁰⁵. Shang Yongqi investigates the history of cultural exchanges on the Silk Road and the history of early Buddhist dissemination by not only examining the Dunhuang literature, but also exploring the archaeological materials and historical iconographic materials of the early Buddhist history¹⁰⁶. Brandon Dotson and his colleagues track the specific method of dice divination across the Silk Road and into ancient India through a detailed study of the material culture, poetics, and ritual processes of dice divination in Chinese, Tibetan, and Indian contexts. The result is an extended meditation on the unpredictable movements of gods, dice, divination books, and divination users across the various languages, cultures, and religions of the Silk Road¹⁰⁷. Arzu Kaygusuz follows numerous examples of the imagery in the Old Turkic Buddhist texts and treats their various semantic and syntactic peculiarities. The literary and philological analysis examines the specific imagery of the texts, shows their individual motifs and presents the main elements of the imagery according to their meaning¹⁰⁸. Peter Zieme offers the edition of SI 4485 and SI 4958, two manuscripts of the Old Uighur section of the Serindia Collection of the IOM written in alliterating verses. Their contents are praises on Maitreya, the future Buddha¹⁰⁹.

2) Zoroastrianism, Manicheanism and Christian. Zhang Xiaogui notes that Vayu, the god of wind in the Iranian text Avesta, represents both the wind of nature and the life-breath of all living things. After Vayu entered Central Asia he came to be represented using features borrowed from images of Shiva and eventually became Oeso, the Kushan variant of the Zoroastrian wind god. After the Sassanids conquered the Bactrian region, they made a series of changes to Oeso’s image that endowed him with characteristics closer to those of the Zoroastrian version of Vayu¹¹⁰. Li Sifei aims at discussing the possible origin and meaning of winged fantastic creatures, which appear quite often in the 6th century A.D. Sogdian funerary monuments in China. The impact of Chinese cultural elements on this little investigated group of funerary monuments contributed to create a long forgotten unique and still enigmatic artistic production that scholars called “Sino-Sogdian”¹¹¹. Christian C. Sahrer explores three important Zoroastrian legal texts from the Abbasid period, consisting of questions and answers to high-ranking priests. The texts contain a wellspring of information about the social history of Zoroastrianism under Islamic rule, especially the formative encounter between Zoroastrians and Muslims¹¹². Christine Chaillot points out that from the very beginnings of Christianity until the fourteenth century, this Church experienced a remarkable expansion in Asia, its missionaries carrying the Gospel from Persia to India, via the Persian Gulf, and even as far as China. The Church of the East reached China as early as the seventh century via Central Asia and the celebrated Silk Road that linked China to the Mediterranean world¹¹³. Mark Dickens researches on the Assyrian Church of the East in Central Asia, along with a new article on Mar Yahbalaha III, the only Turkic patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. Most articles deal with the textual evidence

for Syriac Christianity in Central Asia, including six on Christian manuscript fragments from Turfan (China) and two on gravestone inscriptions from Semirechye¹¹⁴. Chen Ming takes Mani’s tales in the book *Manaqib-i Hunar-waran* (Epic Deeds of Artists) as an example, further explores the reconstruction of the image of a religious leader and art master in the context of multi-religious culture and the cultural changes it reflects, hoping to deepen the understanding of religious figures from abroad¹¹⁵.

2. Medical history of the Silk Road

Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim Uses manuscripts found in key Eurasian nodes of the medieval world of Dunhuang, Kucha, the Cairo Genizah and Tabriz, analyses a number of case-studies of Eurasian medical encounters, giving a voice to places, languages, people and narratives which were once prominent but have gone silent¹¹⁶. William A. McGrath uses Tibetan-, Chinese-, and Khotanese-language sources to tell a history of the bubonic plague in Central Asia between the seventh and ninth centuries, give an integrated account of the bubonic plague in Central Asia based on Tibetan and Khotanese explanations of epidemics¹¹⁷. Federico Dragoni introduces the material and examines possible scenarios for historical transmission and contact between the North and the South of the Tarim Basin. He analyses the vocabulary of medical texts represents an important field of enquiry. Most terms come from Middle Indian, but a significant number are of Middle Iranian origin¹¹⁸. Paul David Buell and Eugene N. Anderson extensively introduce the translation with introductions situating it within the history of western and Chinese medicine, and provide critical apparatus for understanding of *The Huihui Yaofang* which was an encyclopedia of Near Eastern medicine compiled under the Mongol Yuan Dynasty for the benefit of themselves and the then Chinese medical establishments .

3. Paleoclimate and paleoenvironment of the Silk Road

Liangcheng Tan et al. focus on the Arid Central Asia (ACA), with its diverse landscapes of high mountains, oases, and deserts, hosted the central routes of the Silk Roads that linked trade centers from East Asia to the eastern Mediterranean¹²⁰. Ping Che et al. analyses the records of climate change along the Silk Road covering key periods in the late Holocene, based on multiproxy from various archives including lake sediments, shorelines/beach ridges, peatlands, ice cores, tree rings, aeolian sediments, moraines, and historical documents, assesses the influence of climate on development and expansion of representative pastoral nomadism¹²¹. Kangkang Li et al. argue that the burial practice of the ancient Loulan kingdom was influenced by the yardang’s location high above the wetland/flooded area. People would generally prefer cemeteries in the area to avoid disturbance to the bodies from the fluctuating water table¹²². Marek A. Woźniak and James A. Harrell analyse the evidence from a newly discovered well at Berenike, a Hellenistic port on Egypt’s Red Sea coast, which suggests that the late third-century BC hiatus in occupation may have resulted from a multi-year drought that caused the city’s freshwater source to run dry. This climatic shift was probably triggered by a volcanic eruption in 209 BC¹²³.

4. Astronomy and divination along the Silk Road

Guo Jinsong devotes to the Gengwu-Epoch Calendar and the Daming Calendar’s vicissitude of fortune under the Mongol regime are revealing about how knowledge changed and how men of knowledge adapted in a peculiar historical context full of uncertainties¹²⁴. Ondřej Srba introduces three Mongolian texts of various genres linked together by their frame narratives which all refer to Mongolian notions regarding the Chinese origin of divination, geomancy and related rituals. The frame narratives represent a rare component of Mongolian texts of these genres. The texts are published in transcription, with a translation, and compared to the corresponding textual tradition as well as to wider cultural context illustrated by instances from oral tradition¹²⁵. Song Shenmi points out that from the Three Kingdoms Times to the Ming dynasty, the twelve signs of the zodiac spread widely in the Medieval China, and left many records in images and words. The various literature includes scriptures and figures of Buddhism and Taoism, diagrams and texts of divination, medical texts, astronomical and calendrical books, and encyclopedias and poetry¹²⁶. Zhuang Huichih intends to consider the proper positioning of the two mural tombs and star maps of the early 8th century which were discovered in Asuka Village from the background of political, scientific, and religious of Northeast Asia by comparing with the other star maps and celestial images in the late Asuka period¹²⁷.

5. Textile, pigment, and decorative pattern

1) Studies on ancient loom and pigment. Long Bo and Zhao Feng explore multi-heddle looms from historical texts and ethnographic field investigations. They review the development of multi-heddle looms and put them in the context of the remarkable examples discovered in the Han Dynasty tomb at Laoguanshan, summarize their historical status and significance. The conclusion is that the multiple heddle pattern loom was a necessary first step for the large scale production of patterned fabrics. Such looms established a technical foundation for the later technology of patterned silks that were traded along the Silk Road, as well as a gorgeous cultural heritage¹²⁸. Jian Liu, Wenying Li, Feng Zhao et al. examine large number of well-preserved textiles unearthed from archaeological sites to understand systematically the use of natural dyes in Northwest China. Dye analyses of about 400 samples from archaeological textiles dating from the 17th century BCE to the 10th century CE were carried out by high performance liquid chromatography coupled with a diode array detector and a mass spectrometric detector (HPLC-DAD-MSD), revealing a 2500-year history of natural dyes in Northwest China¹²⁹.

2) Studies on textiles from the sites along the Silk Road. Zhao Feng, Wang Shujuan and Wang Le concentrate on more than 10 pieces of textiles unearthed from the Cave B121 at the northern area of Mogao. The textiles are made of silk, cotton, and gold thread and are embroidered with various patterns. The quality of the cloth and fashionable designs used to make these textiles provide clues as to the family background of the young lady buried in the cave, and moreover indicate that Dunhuang during the Yuan dynasty was an important location for silk trade where fashionable costumes were popular¹³⁰. Wan Jie explore a large number of belts, caps, boots, face coverings, gloves, socks, jaw guards, clothes, trousers, skirts, silk birds, silk pants, pendants, felt socks, felt tubes, shoes, trousers, mirror bags, sachets, flocked blankets, cosmetic bags, pillows, silk fans, silk books and many other textiles unearthed from the Sampula cemetery¹³¹. Zhu Lishuang discusses the word *Pemīnai thau*, which is commonly found in the Khotanese secular documents of the 8th and 9th centuries unearthed in Khotan. It can be concluded that the word means woolen cloth, as explained earlier by Bailey¹³². Susanna Harris et al. edited a volume that provides an ambitious synopsis of the complex, colourful world of textiles in ancient Mediterranean iconography. Through examining the durable evidence, this anthology reveals the ephemeral world of textiles and their integral role in the daily life, cult and economy of the ancient Mediterranean¹³³. Roya Deyjoo et al. examine the fibers and dyes in four Coptic textiles preserved at the Moghadam Museum in Tehran, Iran. The results shows that natural plant dyes including madder, indigo/woad and tannins were used to dye wool and linen fibers with different size and quality. Furthermore, the beige colour was identified to have been achieved by plants from a *Rhamnus* specie (Persian berries) rarely reported from Coptic textiles¹³⁴.

3) Studies on decorative patterns on the murals and textiles from the sites along the Silk Road. Li Qihong devotes to the floral flat knot designs in the Western Regions found in both the north and south routes of the Silk Road during the 3rd to 7th centuries. In the Western Regions, the flat knots of the design of intertwined or disconnected sprays in the shape of the wave or ring were spread from ancient Greece and Rome through Gandharan regions. The image of floral flat knot in the Western Regions vividly reflects the cultural exchange and integration between the East and the West¹³⁵. Li Xizhen and Sun Zhiqin focus on the winged horse pattern, a typical fabric pattern in the Sui and Tang dynasties, which is of high research value for it not only reflects the aesthetic taste and ideological interest of the society at that time, but also is a typical example of cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries when the Silk Road was unobstructed¹³⁶. Miao Huicui and Zhao Feng explore the inscription-brocade that is the most characteristic textile in the Han dynasty. They sort out the inscription-brocades unearthed from several major Han dynasty tombs in the northwestern region, find that there exists certain regularity in the themes of the inscription-brocades of the Han dynasty, which can be mainly divided into several types: auspicious, narrative and pattern¹³⁷.

6. Ancient glass along the Silk Road

Alok Kumar Kanungo and Laure Dussubieux edited a volume which provides a comprehensive research on Ancient Indian glass. It is comprised of five sections, and each section discusses different aspects of glass study: the origin of glass and its evolution, its scientific study and its care, ancient glass in literature and glass ethnography, glass in South Asia and the diffusion of glass in different parts of the world¹³⁸. Xu Siwen et al. comprehensively analyse the types and composition of Indo-Pacific beads before the 2nd century AD, and outline the complex trade networks among South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. At the same time, with Indo-Pacific beads as the starting point, the trade, political and cultural impacts of exchanges on the coast of early

Maritime Silk Road are discussed¹³⁹. Florian Klimscha et al. insist that decisive breakthroughs in the history of glass are the invention of glass blowing in the 1st century AD, which, in combination with the logistics of the Roman Empire, allowed glass to penetrate everyday culture, as well as the development of new glass recipes, which made it possible from late antiquity made it possible to produce raw glass outside of the eastern Mediterranean for the first time¹⁴⁰. Guo Sike et al. analyse seven glass eye beads unearthed in ancient Qufu City of the State of Lu, Shandong Province. The chemical compositions, mineral phases, surface physical structures and microstructures, glass types, manufacturing techniques, provenances and functions of the glass eye beads were determined. The results obtained show that they were made in the state of Chu and then transported to the State of Lu as luxury goods. These eye beads are physical evidence of exchanges and contacts between the States of Lu and Chu¹⁴¹.

7. Porcelain, Shipwreck, and the Maritime Silk Road

1) Studies on the Shipwrecks in South China Sea and Southeast Asia. Song Jianzhong gives a systematic review and study of the current archaeological discoveries of shipwrecks in important sea areas in China, which will help Chinese and foreign scholars to understand the achievements and research status of shipwreck archaeological discoveries in China¹⁴². Qin Dashu et al. analyse two pieces of ceramics from the Ba Ria Wreck which is the latest Tang Dynasty Wreck found in Vietnam, but has not been officially excavated. The ceramics have distinctive Islamic style on the decorative motifs, suggesting its target markets could be Islamic region¹⁴³. Paul J. Grote et al. investigate the ropes from the Phanom-Surin shipwreck which were found in a shrimp farm in Samut Sakhon Province, central Thailand. Two types of rope were shown to be made from bundles of fiber cells surrounded by files of stegmatal cells containing silica bodies. A third type of rope was made from a rattan palm¹⁴⁴.

2) Studies on the ceramic trade in Europe and Indian Ocean. Alejandra Gutiérrez analyse a unique group of Chinese ceramic sherds from archaeological contexts in Spain dated to between the ninth and eleventh centuries, which represents the earliest Chinese wares identified in Europe. Such an unexpectedly early presence on high-status sites in Western Europe probably reflects changing patterns of commerce in the Indian Ocean and the giving of prestigious gifts at the very highest levels of social and political power across the Islamic Mediterranean world¹⁴⁵. Seth M. N. Priestman conducts a comprehensive studies to date in the emerging field of ceramic quantification in Indian Ocean archaeology, presenting archaeological data from thirteen sites distributed across the western Indian Ocean, including Siraf (Iran), Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka) and Manda (Kenya). He also discusses how this data can be used to address the broader issues of long-term economic change and the relationship between state power in the Middle East and the commercial networks of the Indian Ocean operating via the Persian Gulf¹⁴⁶.

3) Other studies on ceramic trade and the maritime cultural exchanges. Liu Wei points out that the ceramic trade overseas was never suspended but advancing steadily in the Northern-Song dynasty, during which trading ceramics of the early-middle period was developing in a gradual way based on the Five Dynasties and the early Song Dynasty, with the Yue Kilns’ green-glazed wares and the Jingdezhen Kilns’ white-glazed wares making the major goods for export¹⁴⁷. Seiichi Kikuchi et al. edited a collection of papers commemorating the retirement of professors Seiichi Kikuchi and Takashi Sakai in Southeast Asian Archeology. The papers are specialized in each region will trace the exchanges centered on ceramics from Southeast Asia to China, the Korean Peninsula, and Japan based on the latest knowledge¹⁴⁸. Xie Mingliang focuses on the communication and mutual influence of Chinese ceramics in the world, including the observation of ceramic modeling and decoration, as well as the discussion of cultural history and art history¹⁴⁹. Catherine Klesner et al. examine a representative collection of Early Islamic glazed ceramics from eleven sites in southern Kazakhstan, find that their ore sources were local and suggest that potters were obtaining lead for glaze production from within larger acquisition networks. One cluster of samples had a distinct isotopic signature that matched a unique deposit in Xinjiang, China, which indicates craftsmen were not strictly using local sources, but also obtaining lead through long-distance trade networks¹⁵⁰.

8. Culture heritage along the Silk Road

Zhao Yun and Yan Haiming review the knowledge production of the Maritime Silk Road as a concept in cultural heritage dimension and examines its characteristics as well. As a cultural heritage knowledge system in the process of conceptualization, Maritime Silk Road has been shaped by the existing historiography of the Silk Road. The concept is simultaneously constituted with World Heritage practices and mutually influenced by cognitive differences generated in geopolitical factors¹⁵¹. Song Shilei investigates the three aspects of historical studies on the concept of the ancient tea-horse road before it was born, which is the history

of Sino-Tibetan relations, the history of exchanges and traffic, the history of Sino-Tibetan trade, and the Southern Silk Road¹⁵². Shigeo Aoki et al. edited a volume which introduces the presents recent research on ancient Silk Road wall paintings, providing an up-to-date analysis of their coloring materials and techniques, and of developments in efforts to preserve them. It offers insights obtained from conservation projects and ongoing research, that encompass the geographical regions and periods related to the Silk Road, including from Japan, China, Korea, India and Afghanistan, and countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region. It also discusses the current issues and future challenges in the field¹⁵³.

9. Academic history of the Silk Road

1) Studies on the Silk Road expeditions by Chinese scholars in the first half of the 20th century. School of Cultural Heritage of Northwest University et al. compile a volume including a large number of historical photos, as well as photos of cultural relics and archival materials, which show the life history and main achievements of Huang Wenbi, a famous Chinese archaeologist and an important pioneer of Silk Road archaeology. From 1927 to 1958, Huang Wenbi made four investigations along the Silk Road in northwest China, with a total travel distance of more than 38,000 kilometers¹⁵⁴. The Commercial Press published another works about the Sino-Swedish Northwest Expedition, which is based on the 11 volumes of Northwest Expedition Diaries written by Liu Yanhuai, a meteorological student of the scientific expedition team. precious diary is the observation record of the Northwest Meteorological Expedition more than 90 years ago¹⁵⁵. Zhao Dawang focuses on Xiang Da and Xia Nai, who were two authoritative scholars of history and archaeology during the New China Era. They held each other’s scholarly knowledge in high esteem, on which their friendship was founded. They enacted a collaborative division of labor and got well along with each other during the Dunhuang survey project¹⁵⁶. Besides, Dr. Zhao Dawang also analyses the relationship between Xiang Da and his colleagues Lao Gan and Shi Zhangru. Two newly discovered letters sent to Chen Pan by Lao Gan while the latter was conducting the expeditions contain important details about the relationship between the writer and his fellow archaeologists. Information regarding the division of work among the expedition team can provide valuable insight into the relations of the crew, as well as a new perspective for understanding the conflicts between the prominent members of the team¹⁵⁷. Shen Weirong reveals Prof. Tschen Yin Koh’s corpus of scholarly output. What Tshen Yin Koh retained from his Western academic background was his research focus on Central Asian and Buddhist philology¹⁵⁸.

2) Studies on the history of the western archaeological and geographical explorers in the last quarter of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Li Jinping gathers various works of the exploration and investigation of foreigners, sorts out the exploration and investigation activities of foreigners in the Pamir region from the late 19th century to the early 20th century in chronological order, focuses on the important people with outstanding investigation results, and gives a brief evaluation of their exploration and investigation results¹⁵⁹. Li Meijing analyses over 50 correspondences between Sergey Oldenburg and the Russian consul Krotkov stationed in U-rumqi in the years between 1908 and 1911. These letters reveal the details of how Oldenburg acquired cultural relics during his Xinjiang expedition in 1909-1910 and show that he was in contact with Krotkov in Urumqi, another correspondent named Ak-sakar and various cultural relics peddlers¹⁶⁰. Zhang Jiuchen discusses *Sven Hedin Central Asia Atlas*, which is based on Hedin’s eight-year field investigation in Northwest China from 1927 to 1935 in cooperation with Chinese scholars. Due to the wartime conditions, the Atlas was not published until the late 1960s. By that time, the new China had completed the surveying and mapping work in the northwest region, but because of the geopolitical influence, the survey data of the Chinese people were not in the hands of Westerners. As a result, when the Atlas was published, it reflected the Western world’s understanding of China’s western region at that time, but it had become history for the Chinese scholars¹⁶¹.

10. Silk Road theories

A group of papers by several famous Chinese scholars specialised in Silk Road theories were published on the journal *Social Sciences in China* last year. Zhang Defang points out that in the eastern section of the Silk Road, from Chang’an to Dunhuang, continuous relay stations were set up as stopping points on a fixed route; in the north and south of the Western Regions, the Western Region governorship was set up and troops were stationed in Yixun in the south and Cheshi in the north, to ensure that the oasis countries fulfilled their obligations as stopping points for traffic between China and the Western Regions in a relatively stable environment. Without the court’s provision of security and supply guarantees along the route, a normal passage along the Silk Road would not have been possible¹⁶². Wang Zijin proposes that most of the materials from archeological finds contain information

reflecting the history of social communication in the Hexi region at the time. It can be seen that the interaction of different ethnic groups, urban and rural dwellers, and the military and civilians were unprecedentedly vigorous, as were regional and social intercourse at different levels. Discovering, understanding and interpreting the relevant materials will help deepen our study of the history and culture of this period and enrich our understanding of the history of the Silk Road¹⁶³. Li Bozhong analyses the concept of “the Silk Road” which has been generalised greatly, and has caused many misunderstandings. Basically, “the Silk Road” is a subject of historical research, in which there are two major concepts of “the Silk Road” in use: the Richthofen’s and the Hedin’s. The two concepts derive from two approaches respectively: the approach of global history and the approach of regional history. Each of the approaches has its own strengths and weaknesses¹⁶⁴. Prof. Li Bozhong also make a conclusion in another paper that Chinese overseas trade has been an integral part of the world trade, whose spatio, temporal context has been in a constant state of change. During the two millennia between the 2ndcentury BC and the 17thcentury AD, four great temporal cycles took place in the world trade, which ushered in substantial changes in the spatial range of the world trade. Under such contexts, significant changes were brought about in Chinese overseas trade¹⁶⁵. Huo Wei claims that for a long time, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has not been included in the Silk Road discussions. However, from prehistoric times, the ancestors of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau began to communicate with the outside world in various forms. No later than Han and Jin dynasties, the traditional land Silk Road had expanded into the plateau area. During the Tang Dynasty, as ancient Tubo Kingdom expanded, it formed a relatively stable transportation and road network connecting South Asia, Central Asia and East Asia¹⁶⁶.

Notes

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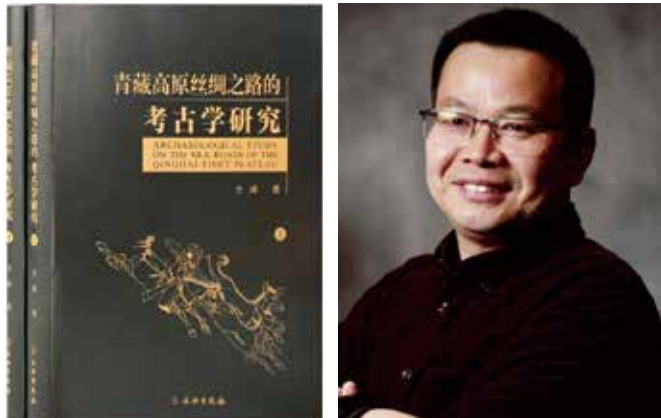
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1 *Archaeological Study on the Silk Roads of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau* Author: Jianhua Yang, Huiqiu Shao, Ling Pan

Author: Tong Tao
Press: Cultural Relics Press
Time: April 2021
Language: Chinese

Overview:

This volume is the crystallization of the research results of a series of field archaeological innovative engineering projects carried out by the author on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from 2010 to 2020. It systematically analyzes and deeply interprets a large number of new archaeological materials on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in the past ten years, and proposes and proves that "The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Silk Road" concept. It is of great value and significance for improving the chronology of ancient archaeological culture on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, discussing the evolution of Sino-Tibetan relations in history, and the current application for the South Asia Corridor.



2 *Textiles from Dunhuang in the Dunhuang Academy*

Author: Zhao Feng ed.
Press: Donghua University Press
Time: October 2021
Language: Chinese/English

Overview:

The contents of this book mainly include four parts. The first part of the thesis: including the collection process, general introduction, technical and artistic characteristics, invited researchers from the Dunhuang Academy to conduct an overall introduction and research on the Dunhuang fabrics in their collections, and professors and scholars from Donghua University will discuss the collections of various countries. The Dunhuang textiles were studied in terms of age, variety, technical style, and textiles in Dunhuang documents. The second part of the catalogue: The pictures of textiles are included, which are all taken on the spot or provided by the other party, including pictures of textiles and their corresponding research. The third part is the general table: contains all the catalogues and basic information and technical analysis of Dunhuang textiles in the Dunhuang collection; the fourth part appendix: including textile vocabulary, numbering system comparison, literature, index and so on.



3 *Ceramic Exchange and the Indian Ocean Economy (AD 400–1275)*

Author: Seth M. N. Priestman

Press: British Museum Press

Time: August 2021

Language: English

Overview:

The volume is one of the largest and most comprehensive studies undertaken to date in the emerging field of ceramic quantification in Indian Ocean archaeology. From AD 500–1000, the Indian Ocean emerged as a global commercial centre, and by around 750–800 a sophisticated trade network had been established involving the movement of goods from Japan and China in the east, to southern Africa and Spain in the west. The publication presents archaeological data from thirteen sites distributed across the western Indian Ocean, including Siraf (Iran), Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka) and Manda (Kenya). The volume concludes with a discussion of how this data can be used to address the broader issues of long-term economic change and the relationship between state power in the Middle East and the commercial networks of the Indian Ocean operating via the Persian Gulf.



4 *Reorienting Histories of Medicine: Encounters along the Silk Roads*

Author: Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim

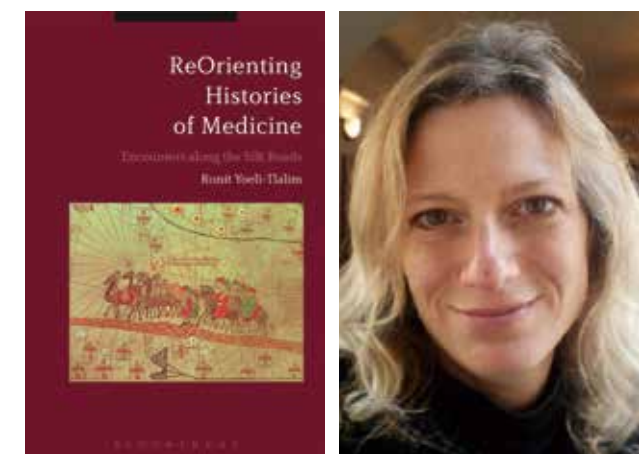
Press: Bloomsbury Academic

Time: January 2021

Language: English

Overview:

It is rarely appreciated how much of the history of Eurasian medicine in the premodern period hinges on cross-cultural interactions and knowledge transmissions. Using manuscripts found in key Eurasian nodes of the medieval world – Dunhuang, Kucha, the Cairo Genizah and Tabriz – the book analyses a number of case-studies of Eurasian medical encounters, giving a voice to places, languages, people and narratives which were once prominent but have gone silent. This is an important book for those interested in the history of medicine and the transmissions of knowledge that have taken place over the course of global history.



5 *Conservation and Painting Techniques of Wall Paintings on the Ancient Silk Road*

Author: William A. McGrath

Press: Springer

Time: March 2021

Language: English

Overview:

This book presents recent research on ancient Silk Road wall paintings, providing an up-to-date analysis of their coloring materials and techniques, and of developments in efforts to preserve them. The book offers insights obtained from conservation projects and ongoing research, that encompass the geographical regions and periods related to the Silk Road, including from Japan, China, Korea, India and Afghanistan, and countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region. It also discusses the current issues and future challenges in the field. Featuring concise chapters, the book is a valuable resource for students and professionals in the field of cultural heritage preservation, as well as those who are not familiar with the fascinating topic of Silk Road wall painting research.



6 *Echoes of a Forgotten Presence: Reconstructing the History of the Church of the East in Central Asia*

Author: Mark Dickens

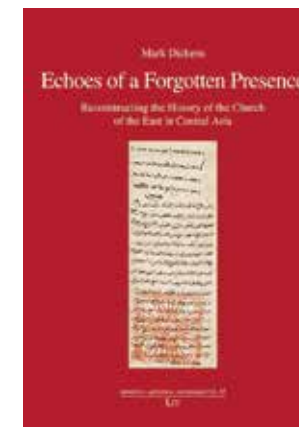
Press: LIT Verlag

Time: January 2021

Language: English

Overview:

This volume is a collection of ten articles published between 2009 and 2016 by Mark Dickens on the Assyrian Church of the East in Central Asia, along with a new article on Mar Yahbalaha III, the only Turkic patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. Most articles deal with the textual evidence for Syriac Christianity in Central Asia, including six on Christian manuscript fragments from Turfan (China) and two on gravestone inscriptions from Semirechye (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan). As the volume title indicates, these articles remind us of the centuries-long presence of the Assyrian Church of the East at the centre of the Asian continent, now all but forgotten due to the general scarcity of sources from which this history can be reconstructed.



7 *Archaeological Discovery and Research of Shipwrecks in China*

Author: Song Jianzhong

Press: Science Press

Time: September 2021

Language: Chinese

Overview:

Since the 1950s, with the development of large-scale capital construction and the establishment of the national cultural relics protection system, my country's archaeological work has entered a period of rapid development. Archaeologists have discovered more than 40 ancient shipwrecks in ancient shoals and ancient river channels. Archaeological research followed. In 1987, with the entry of underwater archaeology into China, up to now, more than 110 remains of underwater shipwrecks and more than 90 underwater cultural relics related to shipwrecks have been discovered, which greatly expanded the scope and depth of shipwreck archaeological research and opened up the country. A new chapter in shipwreck archaeology. This book is a systematic review and study of the current archaeological discoveries of shipwrecks in important sea areas in my country, and will help Chinese and foreign scholars to understand the achievements and research status of shipwreck archaeological discoveries in my country.



8 *Sino-Persian Cultural Exchanges in the Axial Age*

Author: Lin Meicun

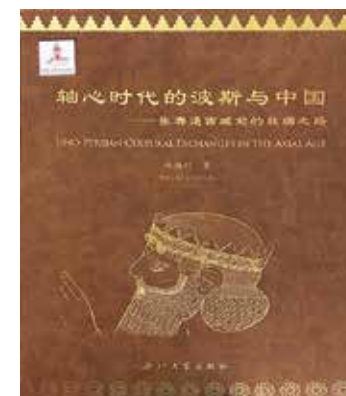
Press: Northwest University Press

Time: September 2021

Language: Chinese

Overview:

This book combines pictures and texts with more than 400 high-definition photos and hand-drawn line drawings with bilingual explanations in Chinese and English. Through the reading of Achaemenid emperors, capital ruins, mausoleum sites and unearthed cultural relics, it shows Persia, which spanned Europe, Asia and Africa. The history of the expansion and integration of the "First Empire"; combined with the research results of Chinese and foreign scholars to identify and confirm the relief sculptures of tribute envoys in the counties and states of the Persian Empire, to provide exact physical evidence for the early exchanges between Eastern and Western civilizations; to compare Chinese and foreign unearthed cultural relics and collections of cultural relics, To sort out the trajectories of Eastern and Western civilization exchanges on the Silk Road before Zhang Qian connected to the Western Regions, to provide first-hand cultural relics for the study of the exchanges between world civilizations in the 6th to 3rd centuries BCE.



9 *The Development of Khotan Regime during the Former and Later Han Periods and Its Relationship with China Proper*

Author: Zhu Lishuang, Rong Xinjiang
Press: China's Borderland History and Geography Studies 4, 2021
Time: 2021
Language: Chinese

Overview:

Due to the lack of literary records, the early history of Khotan is unclear. Although the Tibetan source Li yul lung bstan pa reveals some new information, it should not be considered as historical. As both literary and archaeological evidences indicate, the development of the Khotan Regime was connected with the rise and decline of the great powers in the Western Region, including Xiongnu, Han and Kushan. By the period of the Three Kingdoms, Khotan was already one of the centers for Buddhism in the Western Region, suggesting its prosperity in economy. During the period between the end of Han and Jin, Khotan was developing in a relatively safe environment and became a local power in the Western Region.



10 *The Princess and the Plague: Explaining Epidemics in Imperial Tibet, Khotan, and Central Asia*

Author: William A. McGrath
Press: Journal of the American Oriental Society 141/3
Time: 2021
Language: English

Overview:

This article uses Tibetan-, Chinese-, and Khotanese-language sources to tell a history of the bubonic plague in Central Asia between the seventh and ninth centuries. From official Tibetan histories, we learn of human and animal plagues at the turn of the eighth century. From the prophetic narratives of Khotan, we learn of an unnamed Chinese princess who died in Tibet with a black pox on her chest. Finally, interpreting Tibetan and Khotanese translations of an Āyurvedic medical text in light of bioarchaeological data, we can begin to retrospectively diagnose the plagues of Central Asia. More than just the documentary history of a specific plague outbreak, these sources demonstrate the variegated responses to centuries of plague in Central Asia, including narrative description, scapegoating, ritual protection, humoral diagnosis, and pharmacological and surgical therapies. The end result is an integrated account of the bubonic plague in Central Asia based on Tibetan and Khotanese explanations of epidemics.



Academic Research List

No.	The Title	Author	Publisher	Language
1	Tribute and Translation during the Sung Period: With a Focus on the Maritime World to the South	Satoshi Endō	Eastern Studies	Japanese
2	A High Point in the Development of Ancient Chinese Pattern Looms: The Multiple Heddle Pattern Device	Bo Long, Feng Zhao	Fiber, Loom and Technique	English
3	The Earliest Extant Example of Woodblock Printing: The Precept Certificate of the 29th Year of Kaiyuan (741 A.D.)	Xinjiang Rong	Written monuments of the East	English
4	A Sogdian Medical Text from Turfan	Bo Bi	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society	English
5	A Study on the Etymology of Tianzhu	Takahiko Ishizaki	Journal of Indian and Buddhist Studies	Japanese
6	In Vino Veritas: Wine and its Context in the Uyghur Society- an Insight to the Economic Life of the Silk Roads	Márton Vér	Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae	English
7	Coral Jewellery and Decoration Elements Among Items of Jewellery and Toreutics from the Burials of Nomads of Asian Sarmatia in the Context of Trade in Exotic Materials in Europe	Mikhail Yurievich Treister	Bulletin of ancient history	Russian
8	Materia Medica Tocharo-Hvatanica	Federico Dragoni	Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies	English
9	The Sogdian Epitaph of Shi Jun and His Wife	Nicholas Sims-Williams	Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies	English
10	The Princess and the Plague: Explaining Epidemics in Imperial Tibet, Khotan, and Central Asia	William A. McGrath	Journal of the American Oriental Society	English
11	Profiling by HPLC-DAD-MSD Reveals a 2500-year History of the Use of Natural Dyes in Northwest China	Jian Liu, Wenying Li, Feng Zhao et al.	Dyes and Pigments	English
12	The Earliest Attestation of Paykand	Sören Stark	Journal Asiatique	English
13	Iconographic Symbolism and Socio-Religious Background of the Worldly Mission of Buddha Siddhartha as Represented in Gandhara Sculptures	Ghani-ur-Rahman	IICAS	English
14	Masters of the Steppe: The Impact of the Scythians and Later Nomad Societies of Eurasia: Proceedings of a Conference Held at the British Museum, 27-29 October 2017	Svetlana Pankova and St John Simpson (eds.)	Archaeopress	English
15	Reorienting Histories of Medicine: Encounters along the Silk Roads	Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim	London: Bloomsbury Academic	English
16	Demons are Forever: Contacts and Exchanges in the Eurasian Pandemonium	David Gordon White	Chicago: The University of Chicago Press	English
17	Uighurs Before 840	A. Taşağıl	İstanbul: Bilge Kültür Sanat Yayınları	Turkish
18	Military and Diplomacy during the Formation Period of the Sui and Tang Dynasties	Yoichiro Hirata	Kyuko Sosho	Japanese
19	Echoes of a Forgotten Presence: Reconstructing the History of the Church of the East in Central Asia	Mark Dickens	LIT Verlag	English
20	Biographies of Four Old Men in Liang and Cultural Exchanges during the Reign of Emperor Wu of Liang	Bo Lyu	Historical Research	Chinese

21	The Chinese Calendar in Samarkand: Reexamining Yeltü Chucai's "Gengwu-Epoch Calendar for the Westward March" and Method of Licha	Jinsong Guo	Journal of Chinese Literature and History	Chinese
22	A Preliminary Opinion on the Theories and Methods of Chinese Silk Road Studies	Weizhou Zhou	The Western Regions Studies	Chinese
23	The Han Dynasty's Development and Management of the Silk Road as Seen in Excavated Han Bamboo Slips	Defang Zhang	Social Sciences in China	Chinese
24	Manuscripts from Khotan Kept in the Museum of Renmin University of China: Buddhist Fragments in Brāhmī Sript: Sanskrit and Khotanese	Lixiang Zhang	Zhongxi Book Company	Chinese
25	Soju: A Global History	Hyunhee Park	Cambridge University Press	English
26	Buddhist Imagery in Ancient Turkic texts: A Literary and Philological Analysis	Arzu Kaygusuz	Harrassowitz	German
27	Ancient Bohai City and the International Exchange	Nobuyuki Shimizu and Yasutami Suzuki	Benseisha Publishing	Japanese
28	Studies on the Economic Documents from Dunhuang & Turfan and the Maritime Silk Road	Xuemeng Zheng	Zhejiang University Press	Chinese
29	Ancient Texts and Languages of Ethnic Groups along the Silk Road	Johannes Reckel and Merle Schatz (eds.)	Göttingen: Universitätsverlag Göttingen	English
30	Archaeological Discovery and Research of Por-Bajin Site in Tuva, Russia	Shi Yanxin and Zhang Jianlin	Archaeology and Cultural Relics	Chinese
31	The Assyrian Church of the East: History and Geography	Christine Chaillot	Oxford: Peter Lang	English
32	Imagining the Divine: Art in Religions of Late Antiquity across Eurasia	Jaś Elsner and Rachel Wood (eds.)	British Museum Press	English
33	Conservation and Painting Techniques of Wall Paintings on the Ancient Silk Road	Shigeo Aoki et al. (eds.)	Springer	English
34	Ports, Exchanges, and Ceramics: Archaeological Research in Southeast Asia	Seiichi Kikuchi et al.	Yuzankaku	Japanese
35	Multiethnic China and the Ancient World	Yingsheng Liu	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
36	Bamboo Slips of Han Dynasty from Xuanquan Site: Society and Institution	Junmin Zhang	Gansu Culture Press	Chinese
37	Ceramic Studies 4: Exchange and Influence between Regions	Mingliang Xie	Shanghai calligraphy and painting Publishing House	Chinese
38	Byzantine Silk on the Silk Roads: Journeys between East and West, Past and Present	Sarah E. Braddock Clark and Ryoko Yamanaka Kondo (eds.)	London: Bloomsbury Visual Art	English
39	Handbook of Old Uighur: Old Uighur -German -Turkish	Jens Wilkens	Universitätsverlag Göttingen	German & Turkish
40	From Sasanian Persia to the Tarim Basin: Pre-islamic Iranian Art and Culture Along the Silk Road	Matteo Compareti	WriteUp Books	English
41	Archaeological Study on the Silk Roads of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau	Tao Tong	Cultural Relics Press	Chinese
42	The Maritime Silk Road: An Investigation from the Perspective of Global History	Bozhong Li & Jingsheng Dong eds.	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
43	The Development of Khotan Regime during the Former and Later Han Periods and Its Relationship with China Proper	Lishuang Zhu& Xinjiang Rong	China's Borderland History and Geography Studies	Chinese
44	A Study on the Yuan Dynasty Silk Textiles Excavated from Cave B121 at Mogao	Feng Zhao, Shujuan Wang and Le Wang	Dunhuang Research	Chinese
45	Hu People on the Gate: Different Art on the Stone Gate of Early Medieval Tombs	Chengyong Ge	Art Research	Chinese

46	The Origin and Dispersal of Mace Scepters	Shuicheng Li	Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House	Chinese
47	Silk Road Linguistics: The Birth of Yiddish and the Multiethnic Jewish Peoples on the Silk Roads, 9-13th Centuries. The Indispensable Role of the Arabs, Chinese, Germans, Iranians, Slavs and Turks	Paul Wexler	Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag	English
48	Rome and China: Points of Contact	Kim Hyun Jin, Samuel N. C. Lieu, Raoul McLaughlin	Routledge	English
49	Production Economy in Greater Roman Syria: Trade Networks and Production Processes	Rubina Raja and Julia Steding (eds.)	Brepols	English
50	Catalogue of the Old Uyghur Manuscripts and Blockprints in the Serindia Collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS, Volume 1	Olga Lundysheva, Anna Turanskaya, Hiroshi Umemura	Tokyo: Toyo Bunko	English & Russian
51	Collection of Today's Dust: Bamboo Slips, Images and Cultural Spread in the Qin and Han Dynasties	Yitian Xing	Linking Publishing	Chinese
52	Historical Geographical Study on the South Qinlong Route of the Silk Road	Haiyang Su	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
53	Corpus of Scattered Turfan Documents	Xinjiang Rong & Rui Shi eds.	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
54	The Influence of Buddhist Statues in the Six Dynasties on the Korean Peninsula and Japan	Yong Fei	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
55	Study on Marine Culture in Qin and Han Dynasties	Zijin Wang	Beijing Normal University Press	Chinese
56	Arabic Medicine in China: Tradition, Innovation, and Change	Paul David Buell and Eugene N. Anderson	Brill	English
57	A History of the Second Türk Empire (ca. 682-745 AD)	Hao Chen	Brill	English
58	Dice and Gods on the Silk Road: Chinese Buddhist Dice Divination in Transcultural Context	Brandon Dotson, Constance A. Cook , and Lu Zhao	Brill	English
59	Identity, Diversity & Contact: From the Southern Balkans to Xinjiang, from the Upper Palaeolithic to Alexander	M. Lebeau (ed.)	Brepols	English
60	Writing Pirates: Vernacular Fiction and Oceans in Late Ming China	Yuanfei Wang	University of Michigan Press	English
61	Yuan Dynasty History: East Eurasia during the Mongol Empire	Satomi Sakurai et al. eds.	Benseisha Publishing	Japanese
62	An Archaeological Study on the Tombs of the Ili River Valley in Xinjiang in the 1st millennium BC	Chi Zhang	Science Press	Chinese
63	Ancient Civilization and the Silk Road	Juping Yang ed.	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
64	Return to Pamir: Tracing Xuanzang's Footsteps and the Silk Road	Yangfang Hou	Shanghai Translation Publishing House	Chinese
65	From Artificial Stone to Transparent Mass Product: Innovations in Glass Technology and Their Social Consequences between the Bronze Age and Antiquity	Florian Klimscha (ed.)	Berlin: Edition Topoi	German
66	Collision and Blending: Archaeological Discoveries and Foreign Cultures	Dongfang Qi	Science Press	Chinese
67	Studies on the Preservation of Textiles Unearthed from the Sampula Cemetery in Xinjiang	Jie Wan	Cultural Relics Press	Chinese
68	The Silken Thread: Five Insects and Their Impacts on Human History	Robert N. Wiedenmann, J. Ray Fisher	New York: Oxford University Press	English
69	Ceramic Exchange and the Indian Ocean Economy (AD 400–1275). Volume I: analysis	Seth M. N. Priestman	British Museum Press	English
70	Ancient Glass of South Asia: Archaeology, Ethnography and Global Connections	Alok Kumar Kanungo and Laure Dussubieux (eds.)	Springer	English

71	Experience along the Silk Road: Liu Yanhuai's Diary about the Northwest China Expedition (1927-1930)	Yanhuai Liu	The Commercial Press	Chinese
72	On the History and Culture of the Silk Road in the Han and Tang Dynasties	Yuntao Shi	People's Publishing House	Chinese
73	Archaeology and History of Toraijin: Human, Technological, and Cultural Flow from the Korean Peninsula to the Japanese Archipelago c. 800 BC–AD 600	Song-nai Rhee and C. Melvin Aikens with Gina L. Barnes	Archaeopress	English
74	Between the Seas	Jiehua Cai and Marc Nüernerberger (eds.)	Harrassowitz	German
75	Imagined Geographies: The Maritime Silk Roads in World History, 100-1800	Geoffrey C. Gunn	Hong Kong University Press	English
76	Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia	Kate Franklin	University of California Press	English
77	Studies on the Korean Epitaphs in Tang Dynasty	Kwon Deok-young	The Academy of Korean Studies Press	Korean
78	Report of Bamboo Slips of Han Dynasty from Xuanquan Site, Vol. 2	Gansu Bamboo Slips Museum et al. eds.	Zhongxi Book Company	Chinese
79	The Diversitied Study on Iranian Culture	Mu Hongyan	People's Publishing House	Chinese
80	Archaeological Discovery and Research of Shipwrecks in China	Jianzhong Song	Science Press	Chinese
81	Sino-Persian Cultural Exchanges in the Axial Age	Meicun Lin	Northwest University Press	Chinese
82	Sea Nomads of Southeast Asia: From the Past to the Present	Bérénice Bellina et al. (eds.)	National University of Singapore Press	English
83	Exploring Written Artefacts: Objects, Methods, and Concepts	Jörg B. Quenzer (ed.)	De Gruyter	English & German
84	Like Ārash's arrow: "The long journey of narration in Iran" Forms and Motifs from Origins to the Contemporary Era (Proceedings of V CoBIran, 22-23 October 2020)	Nahid Norozi (ed.)	Mimesis Edizioni	Italian
85	China and Islamic lands: A millennium of Geopolitics	Emmanuel Lincot	Presses Universitaires de France	French
86	Deer Stone Culture of Mongolia and Neighboring Regions	Tsagaan Torbat and Damdinsuren Tseveendorj	Munkhiin Useg	Mongolian
87	From Sogdiana to China: Studies on the Silk Road History	Xinjiang Rong	Kyuko Sosho	Japanese
88	Huang Wenbi and the Silk Road	School of Cultural Heritage of Northwest University et al. eds.	Science Press	Chinese
89	Dunhuang Documents and Interpretation of Buddhist Texts and Images	Yongqi Shang	Zhejiang University Press	Chinese
90	Textiles from Dunhuang in the Dunhuang Academy	Feng Zhao ed.	Donghua University Press	Chinese & English
91	The Art of Chinese Silks: Sui and Tang Dynasties	Zheng Xū	Zhejiang University Press	Chinese
92	From Tamerlane to Genghis Khan: Construction and Deconstruction of the Idea of Tartar Empire in France from the 16th to the End of the 18th Century	Matthieu Chochoy	Brill	French
93	Caravans in Global Perspective: Contexts and Boundaries	Persis B. Clarkson, Calogero M. Santoro	Routledge	English
94	The Imperial Network in Ancient China: The Foundation of Sinitic Empire in Southern East Asia	Maxim Korolkov	Routledge	English
95	Introduction to the History of Civilization Exchanges along the Silk Road	Park Cheon Soo	Chininjin	Korean
96	Spatial Dunhuang: Approching the Mogao Caves	Hong Wu	SDJ Joint Publishing Company	Chinese

97	A New Survey to the Languages on the Silk Roads	Qitao Wang	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
98	Mongol Caucasias: Invasions, Conquest, and Government of a Frontier Region in Thirteenth-Century Eurasia (1204-1295)	Lorenzo Publici	Brill	English
99	Textiles in Ancient Mediterranean Iconography	Susanna Harris et al. (eds.)	Oxford: Oxbow	English
100	Archaeology of Central Asia during the 1st millennium BC, from the Beginning of the Iron Age to the Hellenistic Period: Proceedings from the Workshop Held at 10th ICAANE	Johanna Lhuillier (ed.)	VÖAW	English



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2021
REPORT

CULTURAL EVENTS



Annual review of cultural events on Silk Roads in 2021

Yang Hanlin

China National Silk Museum

Exchanges enrich cultures and mutual learning colors civilizations. Following the cooperation of last year and with the support of the International Conservation Centre -Xi'an (IICC-X), China National Silk Museum (NSM) works together with researchers in the fields related to cultural events of Silk Road. Being committed to the spirit of dedication and collaboration, they take a global view, brave the difficulties and create opportunities. For the cultural events in the Annual Reports of Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021, the staff effectively filter and estimate the collected information and a total of 61 cultural events at home and abroad were screened out (except for archaeological discoveries, thematic exhibitions and academic achievements).

Affected by the continuous pandemic, most of the cultural events selected in the field of Silk Road heritage research in 2021 took place in China while the overseas part has also achieved considerable results. Foreign cultural events are more concentrated in Europe, the Middle East, and extend to West and Central Asia, including France, Italy, Russia, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, etc. 24 cultural events occurred in countries along the Silk Roads, accounting for 39% of the total. By analyzing different types of cultural events, they were sorted out according to media exposure and industry influence and other factors. As a result, they were described and introduced in four categories: conference activities, cultural heritage cooperation, Silk Road digital network and catastrophic events.

1. Enrich the theme of conferences and innovate the carrier of activities

Despite the tremendous changes and uncertainties in the world occasioned by the pandemic, various conferences and events have been successfully hosted and achieved fruitful results, writing a glorious chapter in building a community with a shared future for mankind. Conferences, including forums, summits, seminars, lectures, video conferences and online conferences, are held in various forms based on the philosophy of "Disseminating the Silk Road spirit and promoting mutual learning among civilizations". Statistically speaking, 38 out of 61 cultural events are held in the form of conferences, accounting for 67% of the total. Of these, 19 are with international conferences, making up half of the total conferences. Under the influence of the global epidemic, countries and regions have strongly and actively advocated for cloud conferences to reduce people gatherings. To the end, 25 online "cloud conferences" have been launched. However, some meetings have been cancelled or postponed and the details need to be notified

separately by the conference organizer depending on the situation of epidemic prevention and control. For example, the 2021 Xi'an Silk Road International Tourism Exposition, which is scheduled to be held from March 26 to 28, 2021, has been postponed; the 2021 "Silk Road" Ningxia Yinchuan Marathon, originally scheduled for May 23, has been delayed; the second Annual Meeting of China Sericulture Silk Weaving Skills Protection Alliance, originally scheduled to be held in Suzhou in November 2021, has been deferred.

For successful conferences, our attention should be given to not only its achievements but also its great significance. These conferences themed "anniversary" aim to better inherit and conserve the cultural heritage of mankind, enhance national unity and maintain the world cultural diversity. The typical examples are the followings:

On July 20, "the 31st Anniversary of the UNESCO Silk Road Project and the Opening of Silk Road Project Digital Archive Network" was held through online video. Zhao Feng, the director of China National Silk Museum, organized and invited relevant experts, including Jing Feng, director of the Asia-Pacific Department of the UNESCO World Heritage Center to attend the meeting. Nearly 100 pieces of information about investigation files and the Silk Road's documents were provided by experts such as Liu Yingsheng, Jing Feng, and Li Xiguang, and related Silk Road literature information. The project is designed to collect and collate the data of UNESCO's five Silk Road investigations, and review the work of archive collection, digital collation and DAS website establishment in the past years. In the future, more papers, books and videos will be digitized and uploaded to the website.

On October 25, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech in Beijing at the "Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Legal Seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations". Xi Jinping stressed that the past 50 years since the People's Republic of China regained its legitimate seat in the United Nations is the 50 years of China's peaceful development and the benefit of mankind. China will adhere to the path of peaceful development and always be a builder of world peace; adhere to the path of reform and opening up, and always be a contributor to global development; China is willing to work with other countries to uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, carry forward the common values of mankind, and make unremitting efforts to achieve sustainable and peaceful development of the world and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

On November 18, 2019, the International Day of Islamic Art was proclaimed at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference. The Day aims to raise public awareness of past and present artistic expressions of Islam and to demonstrate the contribution of Islamic art to human civilization. The worldwide celebration of the International Day of Islamic Art not only encourages the appreciation of Islamic art, which has inspired other artistic movements, but also contributes to cultural diversity, freedom of expression, protection of cultural heritage and inter-cultural dialogue. Marking the Day is also a way to foster tolerance between peoples and support cultural rapprochement, both of which are possible through the power of art.

There are also some conferences focusing on "social education", "technical research", "academic alliance work" and other themes. As an effective way of social education in present-day learning society, public lecture is gradually given widespread attention and welcome. On July 3, Invited by Dunhuang Literature Research Institute, Professor Shen Weirong, Changjiang Scholar of the Ministry of Education, the professor at Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences (TIAS) and the Head of Department of Chinese Language and Literature, made a speech entitled "Harmony in Buddhism: Xixia Buddhism in the Context of Han and Tibetan Buddhism exchanges". A total of more than 30, including experts and scholars from Dunhuang Research Academy, professors, doctors and postgraduates from Lanzhou University, Northwest Normal University, Northwest Minzu University, Lanzhou City University and Lanzhou University of Arts and Science, and literature and history lovers from Ningxia, Lanzhou among other places, attended the lecture in the reading room on the 1st floor of the Literature Research Institute. More than 300 people participated in the academic activity online through Tencent Meeting. The activity serves as an important guide for Tunhuangology and Tangutology, especially for the study of period in Heishui City documents and of late Dunhuang grottoes, undoubtedly provides new ideas for the future studies.

In the digital era, as knowledge carriers, major cultural and museum institutions jointly explore digital protection technologies for cultural relics, actively opening up new paths for the conservation, research and dissemination of cultural heritage. On May 18, the 45th International Museum Day, Dunhuang Research Institute and The Gillemile Museum of Asian Arts in France jointly held an online seminar titled "Dunhuang Studies: Trans-temporal Communication and Digital Conservation Exploration". Centering on the cultural exchanges between the East and the West along the Silk Roads, experts from Dunhuang, Paris and Shenzhen shared the latest academic research and discussed new paths of digital protection and innovative dissemination of cultural relics through Tencent

Meeting. The project of Sino-French "Digital Cave 17", launched by the three parties, is designed to explore new way, new mode and new method for the digital protection and propagation of the Dunhuang cultural relics preserved in France, and use digital technology to achieve complete data collection. Each cultural relics is matched with an online model to realize its three-dimensional display so that more people will appreciate digitized Dunhuang cultural relics and treasures, feel the beauty of Dunhuang culture, and obtain spiritual and cultural satisfaction.

Relevant Silk Road research alliances are also actively providing a variety of platforms for academic exchange and summarizing the important roles played by each member on the Silk Road in the form of conference reports. On November 15th, the 6th IASSRT (International Association for the Study of Silk Road Textiles) board meeting was successfully held online in Hangzhou, with more than 20 representatives of institutional members and expert members of the IASSRT participating from all over the world. Participants made speeches on the work of the Association, affirmed the work done by it in 2019-2021, and made the following plans for the next year: the alliance secretariat should strengthen the construction of its website, edit and publish academic journals, and recruit new members; the members of the alliance should continue to strengthen cooperation with each other and carry out several cooperative projects, including the World Silk Road Interactive Map, Silk Road Digital Museum, Annual Report of Cultural Heritage on the Silk Road, Silk Road Week, and the joint publication of "the Great Series of Chinese Silk Art and World Silk Art". As of the date of the meeting, the alliance has 35 institutional members and 6 experts. The meeting shows that the alliance is a dynamic and sustainable academic alliance, which plays an important role cultural cooperation of the Belt and Road in the future.

Besides, cultural and museum institutions along the Silk Roads carried out fantastic thematic activities in various forms, such as the 5th Lei Zu Cultural Exchange across the Taiwan Straits (Lei Zu, the goddess of silk) from March 21 to 22, the 3rd Photography Competition organized by the UNESCO Silk Road project from May 24 to August 24, the "Belt and Road" 2021 Great Wall International Folk Culture and Art Festival from September 15 to 17, the 8th Silk Road International Film Festival from December 8 to 12 and etc. Reviewing these activities, they are so-called "Contrasting colors creates beauty and concerting tones brings harmony". Different from previous years, the number of events about film festivals, arts festivals and cultural exchanges held in 2021 increased by 25% compared with last year, which also marks the increasing popularity of activities based on parties, films and pictures.

2.Revive the Silk Road cultural heritage and seek international cooperation

Silk Road heritage, the precious heritage of human civilization, is now witnessing the history and spirit of the Silk Road. Under the new concept, new vision and new needs of Silk Road cultural heritage protection, it has become increasingly clear that diverse cultures and civilizations can interact with and learn from each other, and that win-win cooperation holds brighter prospects. We see that in an era when the world is actively seeking international cooperation, countries are constantly expanding cultural exchange and cooperation with other countries, strengthening in-depth cooperation with UNESCO, and improving their capacity to participate in the international participation, so as to convey the voice of cultural heritage protection to the world. A series of fruitful international exchanges and cooperations on cultural heritage should be carried out through international application for UNESCO World Heritage List, cultural relics outreach, restoration assistance and joint archaeology, enabling different civilizations to flourish and coexist in harmony and bask in the light of inclusiveness, openness and integrity.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, international exchanges and cooperations in 2021 were dominated by conferences and forums, focusing on the three major sections namely, "cultural heritage protection", "Maritime Silk Road protection and research" and "Silk Road Application for World Heritage List".

On May 22, Li Qun, Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism of China and Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and Mohammad Hassan Talebian, Vice Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran, signed the "Joint Statement on Coordinating the Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Action" via video. China and Iran would carry out practical cooperation in joint archaeology, protection and restoration of cultural heritage, world heritage, exchange of museum exhibitions, prevention of illegal trafficking of cultural relics and personnel training under the framework of the "Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Action".

On July 18, a side event on the theme of "Maritime Silk Road Heritage Protection and Research" was held. A discussion was made among representatives of various national committees of ICOMOS, representatives of countries along the Maritime Silk Roads, as well as expert Lee Ho-jong (South Korea), dedicated to domestic and foreign Maritime Silk-related research, Jun Kimura (Japan),

Nia Naelul Hasanah Ridwan (Indonesia), and Shikha Jain (India). The attendees, online and offline, exchanged thoughts on the protection and utilization of the Maritime Silk Road heritage.

On July 25, the project of "Quanzhou: Song Yuan China's World Ocean Trade Center" joined the World cultural heritage rankings in the 44th Session of the World Heritage Conference, bringing the total number of World heritage sites in China to 56. At the same time, the Trans-Iranian Railway was included in the World Heritage List, becoming the 25th World Heritage site in Iran.

On October 27, the dialogue on Asian cultural heritage protection opened in Beijing. Centering on the theme "Enchancing dialogue among civilizations and shaping the future of Asia", the dialogue continued to promote Asian culture heritage protection. Experts and scholars from 18 countries in Asia delivered 26 keynote speeches on "Cultural Heritage Promotes Sustainable Development in Asia", "Cultural Heritage Helps Exchange and Mutual Learning among Asian Civilizations", and "Cultural Heritage Addresses Future Challenges in Asia",and etc, writing a new chapter for Asia in promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

The Silk Road opened the door to trade and commerce between Eurasia and Africa, enabling different civilizations to understand each other and achieve common development. The international cooperation is based on different aspects of the cultural heritage of the Silk Road, encouraging the world to jointly protect the precious heritage left by our ancestors and better practice the spirit of the Silk Road.

3.Upgrade online Silk Road and empower digital construction

Nowadays, technology drives us to make continuous progress. Especially under the global spread of COVID-19, digitalization is an even more imminent and important factor for the development of museums. People establish a sharing platform that integrates different functions such as "digital collections", "digital exhibitions", "digital knowledge", "online curating", etc. By doing so, people in every corner of the world are able to appreciate and learn about cultural relics through the internet without causing damages to the antiques itself, so as to give full play to the greater value of cultural heritage. At the same time, there are a great number of world heritage sites along the Silk Roads, and with the erosion of time, the integrity of many grottoes has been destroyed to some extent. To preserve the cultural heritage of the Silk Road for a long time, major cultural and museum research institutions have launched digital protection projects along the Silk Roads, mainly by adopting the technologies including digital collection, digital storage records, digital restoration, and etc. With the power of science and technology, the traditional heritage treasures deposited from long history are guarded, so as to make contributions to the protection and research of cultural relics and call for more social forces to pay attention to and participate in the protection of cultural heritage

On May 18, Dunhuang Research Institute and The Gillemile Museum of Asian Arts in France jointly held an online seminar titled "Dunhuang Studies: Trans-temporal Communication and Digital Conservation Exploration". Centering on the cultural exchanges between the East and the West along the Silk Roads, experts from Dunhuang, Paris and Shenzhen shared the latest academic research and discussed new paths of digital protection and innovative dissemination of cultural relics through Tencent Meeting. The project of Sino-French "Digital Cave 17", launched by the three parties, is designed to explore new way, new mode and new method for the digital protection and propagation of the Dunhuang cultural relics preserved in France, and use digital technology to achieve complete data collection. The online digitized model of cultural relics enables people appreciate the beauty of Dunhuang culture without leaving home.

On November 17, the 2nd Conference of the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road (IAMS) was held by video through the internet. There were representatives of 22 state-level museums and institutions from 15 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania who attended the conference and delivered speeches. During the conference, the participants had a heated discussion on the theme of "Digitalization and Innovation: Museums in the Post COVID-19 Era". Participants shared valuable practices of their museums in online exhibitions, live events, museum digitization, and social media interactions and offered suggestions for the new development of museums in the post COVID-19 era. During the special period, the holding of the IAMS played a positive role in promoting the development of culture along the Silk Roads and the mutual learning and exchanges among the different civilizations.

On November 17, 2021, "Digital Exhibition and Exchange Platform of World Cultural Heritage in China Section of the Silk Road" was officially launched. It was based on the digital research achievements of Dunhuang Academy on the cultural heritage along the Silk Roads, with a total of 40 digitized items. By using the internet, the accumulated digital resources of cultural relics

and academic research results are displayed in a centralized manner for the first time, through a cross-regional digital display and exchange platform. It helps the users to understand the historical evolution of the cultural heritage sites of the Silk Road and the major historical events behind them from multiple dimensions such as geographical distribution, cultural relics attributes, timeline and etc. In a word, this new platform is a new attempt to the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, which can make the displayed heritage sites “live”, meanwhile providing rich historical and cultural nourishment for the public as well as providing strong support for carrying forward the excellent traditional culture and realizing our national cultural self-confidence.

4.Cherish World Heritage and Safeguard Mankind’s Homeland

The world heritage of the Silk Road is a great carrier of civilization inheritance and bears the heavy responsibility of carrying forward the ancient Silk Road culture. With the rapid development of urban modernization, "overwhelming" has unfortunately become the common voice of many cultural heritages. In addition to irresistible natural factors, the deliberate destruction to cultural heritage by man-made factors often brings devastating consequences, and it is the most terrifying enemy of nature and cultural heritage. Those who steal and destroy historical heritage for private benefit are even more despised. Fortunately, some of the immovable damaged cultural relics can be repaired through modern technology by using raw materials and original craftsmanship to ensure their “authenticity”. Compared with 2020, the number of catastrophic events on the Silk Road heritage in 2021 was on a downward trend. Commemorative activities with the theme of “Anniversary of Cultural Heritage Disaster” have become a prominent feature of that year, in order to further arouse the awareness of people around the world to cherish and love, awareness of the protection of cultural heritage.

On March 8 to 9, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the Buddha of Bamiyang, the local people launched an activity named “Night of Dancing with Buddha”. During the ceremony, hundreds of local people gathered at the foot of the Buddhist grotto with lanterns to commemorate the destroyed Buddha. On the night of March, the Salsal Buddha is back to life as a 3D projection, gleaming on the cliff where it once stood. There are more than 3,000 Buddhist grottos In the Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan, all of which was built in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. In 2003, it was listed as a world endangered cultural heritage site by UNESCO as a whole.

A year ago, on August 4, the Beirut port exploded, killing at least 200 people and affecting more than 8,000 buildings. Eight museums were damaged in the explosion, including the Sursock Museum, the National Museum of Beirut, etc. One year later, the staff of the Sursock Museum raised funds on their own, while the museum received 1 million euros grant from the Italian government through UNESCO to fund a massive renovation and reconstruction effort. Some areas of the museum have been opened to the public. For the ornate building that houses the museum, it will be a new phase in one-century-old relationship with the Beirut port.

On December 23, 2021, Parco Archeologico del Colosseo, the Italian Independent Antiquities Restoration Agency, announced that the Temple of Venus and Rome, the largest temple in Ancient Roma, had completed its restoration, representing one of the iconic monuments of the Roma Empire restored to its former glory. In A.D. 283, a fire destroyed some parts of that building. In the summer of 2019, Parco Archeologico del Colosseo and the Fendi, Italian fashion group, jointly announced the launch of a major restoration project of Venus and the Temple of Roma, mainly on the inner area of the temple where the Roman goddess is located, the area outside the Temple of Venus, and Building and decorative complexes such as floors, walls and ceilings are repaired, refurbished and strengthened. This project, officially started in September 2020, and ended in July 2021, was completed on time by more than 60 professionals confronting the challenge of COVID-19 with an entire coast about 2.5 million euros. To celebrate this event, Italian publishing house Electa would publish a commemorative book, which was scheduled to be published in January next year, with the collection of precious archival images of the temple, as well as the restoration process recorded by photographer Stefano Castellani.

For the relationship between disasters and cultural heritage, the research systems at home and abroad have been increasingly improved. What can we learn form is that, through favorable infrastructure and supervision equipment, laws can be used by local areas to make clear regulations to make practical protection to cultural heritage. Meanwhile, governments should strengthen the publicity and education to citizens on the protection of cultural heritage, cultivate their awareness of protecting the heritage, and guide and encourage them to make their own contributions to the protection of cultural heritage.

5.Conclusion

Whether it is the inheritance of craftsmanship, technical research or digitized protection, the future destiny of the Silk Road cultural heritage falls on the head of “protection”. Therefore, we must make great protection and utilization of the cultural heritage of the Silk Road and continue to carry it forward. This will also enhance the friendly feelings between people of different countries and regions along the Silk Roads, and at the same time maintain the diversity and creativity of the world cultural heritage, and promote the common development of mankind. In closing, what I want to say is that on the path of Silk Road cultural heritage, we have a long way to go. Looking forward to the future, we will fight out our way through all the obstacles. We will stay true to our original aspiration, keep mission firmly in mind, carry forward the past and move forward bravely.

1 The 31st Anniversary Network Commemorative Meeting of the UNESCO Silk Roads Project

Time: July 20, 2021
Venue: Hangzhou, China

Overview:

On the afternoon of July 20, 2021, the China National Silk Museum organized to invite relevant experts, including Jing Feng, Director of the Asia-Pacific Department of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, Li Jianchao, a professor at Northwestern University, Guo Zhan, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, and a professor at Tsinghua University. Li Xiguang, Professor Lin Meicun of Peking University, and Ding Yuling, Director of Quanzhou Overseas Transportation History Museum participated in the online video conference of "The 31st Anniversary of the UNESCO Silk Road Project and the Opening of the Silk Road Project Digital Archives Network". The meeting was held on the basis of the 30th anniversary meeting held on the same day of the previous year under the initiative of establishing the Digital Archive of the Silk Roads Project (DAS: Digital Archive of the Silk Roads Project).

At present, the content of the website includes the background information of the archives, the overview of the five Silk Road inspection routes, the basic information of the Silk Road application, and the related news and academic information of the Silk Road. In the future, more papers, books and images will be digitized and uploaded to the website.



2 Launching Silk Roads Living Heritage Network

Time: October 28, 2021
Venue: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Overview:

ICHCAP, with cooperation with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) and Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum Secretariat, co-hosted launching events on 28-29 October 2021 at Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP) in Seoul and online during Korean Foundation's "Public Diplomacy Week".

On October 28, Silk Roads countries' diplomatic missions (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) participated in gracing the opening ceremony as founding members of the network. Following, under the theme of "Promoting a Culture of Peace and Facilitating Sustainable Development along the Silk Roads", Living Heritage Forum was held to report case studies with experts from nine Member States: Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The Forum was moderated by Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis, representative of UNESCO.

After the public event, next day, the first meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, governing board of the network, was held in private online. The Coordinating Bureau, consisting of representatives from 9 countries and international organizations such as ICHCAP and IICAS, adopted the Statute of the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network and the membership list of Silk Roads ICH festivals. Representatives from Azerbaijan and ICHCAP were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Bureau, respectively.

The network launch that aims to strengthen the capacity to safeguard ICH and share ICH information along the Silk Roads is expected to foster sustainable development by raising international awareness. Network is open for membership of all countries, situated along historical Silk Roads.



3 Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Dossier

Time: January 20, 2021

Venue: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Overview:

IICAS has the honor to announce the submission of the Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination dossier "Silk Road: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor" (Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan).

During the 5th meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial Transnational Nomination of the Silk Road World Heritage, which took place on the 4-5 December 2018 in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), a continuation of the Silk Roads nomination for the Corridor located along the Penjikent-Samarkand-Poikend section was agreed. The meeting attended by the presence of the representatives of UNESCO, 11 Member State of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee on the Silk Road World Heritage, 2 Partner States, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), University College London (UCL) and IICAS. As an outcome of the meeting of the Member States of the Silk Road Coordinating Committee it was agreed that Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will continue their work and Turkmenistan rejoined the initiative and IICAS was elected as the Secretariat of the serial transnational World Heritage nomination "Silk Road: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor".

The preparation of scientific documentation for the Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination dossier "Silk Road: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor" was carried out by IICAS as the Secretariat of the nomination with the full support of UCL.

The completed nomination dossier, as well as annexes to it in 3 (three) copies, have already been sent by the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO to Paris, to the office of the UNESCO World Heritage Center.



4 The 2nd Conference of the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road (IAMS)

Time: November 17, 2021

Venue: Online

Overview:

The 2nd Conference of the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road (IAMS) was held on November 17, 2021. Due to the COVID-19, the conference was held online hosted by the National Museum of China.

Dr. ZHAO Feng, Vice President of IAMS and Director of China National Silk Museum (NSM), attended the zoom meeting and mainly introduced the Silk Road Online Museum (SROM) project initiated by NSM during his presentation.

SROM plans to cooperate with museums along/relevant to the Silk Roads worldwide to put together a platform with four distinctive contents, which are Digital Collection, Digital Exhibition, Digital Knowledge, and Online-Curating. There are two main missions for building the SROM. The first, to better facilitate the cooperation and mutual learning among the silk roads relevant museums, break the limitations of physical space, pool digital information and resources worldwide together, and promote the Silk Road spirit. Secondly, to provide online research and hands-on curating platform for museum and university education, create opportunities for students to learn the whole process and techniques of curating and designing exhibitions. So far the SROM project has recruited 41 museums among 18 countries, and the list of SROM project partners is still constantly growing.

The International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road (IAMS) was founded on May 18, 2017. It is a non-governmental, non-profit and open international cooperation mechanism and communication platform in the field of museums for countries and regions along the Silk Road. The IAMS Executive Council consists of the President, the Secretary General and Vice Presidents. The National Museum of China is the President unit. NSM is one of the eight Vice-President units.



5 Quanzhou Succeeded in the 44th World Heritage Conference

Time: July 25, 2021

Venue: Fuzhou, China

Overview:

On July 25, at the 44th World Heritage Conference, the serial heritage "Quanzhou: The World Marine Commerce and Trade Center of Song and Yuan China" was submitted to the conference for deliberation and officially approved, becoming a new world cultural heritage. So far, a bright pearl has been added to China's list of world heritage sites, with a total of 56 world heritage sites.

It is reported that the serial heritage "Quanzhou: The World Marine Commerce and Trade Center of China in Song and Yuan Dynasties" has been applied for the second time. The number of heritage sites applied for heritage has increased from 16 to 22. The total area of the heritage area is 536.08 hectares, and the buffer area is 11,126.02 hectares. It is distributed in the vast space from the seaport, through the Jiangkou Plain and extending to the hinterland mountains, which fully reflects the Song and Yuan Dynasties. Quanzhou's distinctive overseas trade system and diverse social structure support the value theme of "China's World Marine Commerce and Trade Center in Song and Yuan Dynasties" in multiple dimensions.



6 16 Elements Nominated as National Files by States Parties along the Silk Roads Inscribed on UNESCO's Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Time: December 13, 2021- December 18, 2021

Venue: Online

Overview:

The 16th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was held online from December 13th to 18th. During the session, the Committee inscribed four elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and 39 elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the later included those nominated as national files by 12 States Parties along the Silk Roads. The Committee also selected 4 programmes, projects and activities for selection to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, all from States Parties along the Silk Roads.

In addition to the above-mentioned results, the Committee approved the allocation of funds from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to safeguarding projects requested by Mongolia (\$172,000), Djibouti (\$116,400) and Timor-Leste (\$266,000) respectively.

During its session, the Committee inscribed for the first time ICH elements from Congo, Denmark, Haiti, Iceland, Micronesia, Montenegro, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Seychelles and Timor-Leste on the Representative List. As of December 16, 2022, the UNESCO Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage includes 630 elements of intangible cultural heritage from 140 countries.



7 Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Destruction Buddhas of Bamiyan

Time: March 8, 2021- March 9, 2021

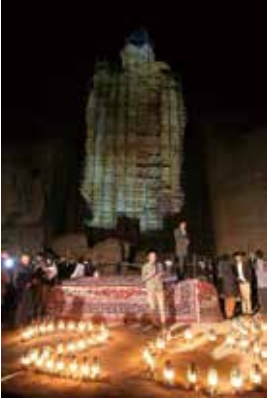
Venue: Bamiyan, Afghanistan

Overview:

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan, from March 8 to March 9, the local people launched an event called "Dancing with Buddha Night". Zahra Hussaini, one of the organizers of the event, said: " We don't want people to forget the horrific crimes committed here."

During the commemorative ceremony, hundreds of local people gathered at the foot of the Buddhist cave including boys and girls held a lantern-lit procession, which led to the front of destroyed Buddhas cliff on Tuesday evening. The participants at the procession also arranged a 3D projector to return the destroyed Buddha to the spectators and those gathered to denounce the monuments' destruction.

To express their dismay over Buddhas' demolition, the participants in a ceremony held on Tuesday night to commemorate Buddhas' destruction called upon Taliban to preserve cultural heritages, besides urging the government and world community to help rebuild the hurt Buddhas.



8 China and Iran Signed the "Joint Statement on Coordinating the Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Action"

Time: May 22, 2021

Venue: Iran, China

Overview:

On May 22, Li Qun, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and Mohammad Hassan Talbian, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft of Iran, jointly signed the "Joint Statement on Coordinating Actions for the Protection of Asian Cultural Heritage" (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Statement").

The signing of the "Joint Statement" between China and Iran is an important measure to promote the implementation of the "Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Action" proposed by President Xi Jinping in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in May 2019.



9 UNESCO Silk Roads Youth Research Grant – Reinforcing the Capacity and Contribution of Young Researchers to the Silk Roads

Time: October 28, 2021

Venue: Paris, France (online)

Overview:

UNESCO is delighted to announce the awardees of this year's Silk Roads Youth Research Grant. The call for proposals ran from January to May 2021 and was open to postgraduate researchers aged 35 and younger working individually or within a group. In total, nearly 800 research proposals covering a diverse array of topics were received from all over the world. These were assessed by a Scientific Panel comprised of 9 renowned international academics and experts from various disciplines related to the study of the Silk Roads, who awarded 12 grants valued at 10,000 USD.

Organized with the support of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, the Silk Roads Youth Research Grant aims to mobilize young researchers for further study of the Silk Roads shared heritage. This initiative is part of the Silk Roads and MOST Programme's ongoing efforts to better understand the rich history, shared legacy, and spirit of the Silk Roads. Applicants were required to submit proposals detailing research into cultural interactions and exchanges, and the concrete resulting elements, be they tangible or intangible, as identifiable in two or more cultures along the Silk Roads and beyond.

After careful consideration by the Scientific Panel, the 2021 UNESCO Silk Roads Youth Research Grant is awarded to 12 applicants from countries around the world.



10 Symposium on “Cross-Space Communication and Digital Protection Exploration of Dunhuang Studies”

Time: May 18, 2021

Venue: France, China

Overview:

On May 18, the 45th International Museum Day, Dunhuang Research Institute and The Gillemile Museum of Asian Arts in France jointly held an online seminar titled "Dunhuang Studies: Trans-temporal Communication and Digital Conservation Exploration". Centering on the cultural exchanges between the East and the West along the Silk Roads, experts from Dunhuang, Paris and Shenzhen shared the latest academic research and discussed new paths of digital protection and innovative dissemination of cultural relics through Tencent Meeting. The project of Sino-French "Digital Cave 17", launched by the three parties, is designed to explore new way, new mode and new method for the digital protection and propagation of the Dunhuang cultural relics preserved in France, and use digital technology to achieve complete data collection. Each cultural relics is matched with an online model to realize its three-dimensional display so that more people will appreciate digitized Dunhuang cultural relics and treasures, feel the beauty of Dunhuang culture, and obtain spiritual and cultural satisfaction.



Cultural Event List

No.	Event Title	Date	Venue
1	The Politecnico di Milano Presented a Strategic Action Plan for Strengthening the International Cooperation of the University Alliance on the Silk Roads	2021/1/16	Milan, Italy
2	The 3rd "Belt and Road" Construction Symposium	2021/1/19	Beijing, China
3	Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Dossier	2021/1/20	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
4	2021 Silk Road Carnival · Covenant of Harmony -- Silk Road Cloud Spring Festival Gala	2021/2/4	Online
5	Four Cocoon Silk Standards are Included in the First Batch of Foreign Language Version Project Plans of Industry Standards in 2021	2021/2/8	Hanghou, China
6	Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Destruction Buddhas of Bamiyan	2021/3/8 -3/9	Bamiyan, Afghanistan
7	UNESCO Forum on Biodiversity: On the Road to Kunming	2021/3/24	Paris, France (Online)
8	The Silk Road International Tourism University Library was Opened	2021/4/1	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
9	The 3D Virtual Website of the Sarazm Site in Tajikistan was Officially Launched	2021/4/20	Pinchiken, Tajikistan
10	Symposium on "Cross-Space Communication and Digital Protection Exploration of Dunhuang Studies"	2021/5/18	France, China
11	Peking University - SISU Youth Forum on Silk Road Studies	2021/5/21 -5/23	Shanghai, China
12	China and Iran Signed the "Joint Statement on Coordinating the Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Action"	2021/5/22	Iran, China
13	Discover the Winners of the 3rd edition of the UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest	2021/5/24 -8/31	Online
14	2021 International Silk Union Chairman Meeting & International Think Tanks Forum on Silk Sustainable Development	2021/6/10	Hanghou, China
15	The 3rd International Conference on "Information and Communication in the Digital Age: Overt and Implicit Impacts"	2021/6/17 -6/18	Khant-Mansiysk, Russia
16	2021 Silk Road Week	2021/6/18 -6/24	Hanghou, China
17	Webinars for the World Heritage Managers in Central Asia	2021/7/1	Online
18	"Silk Road and Dunhuang Studies" Series of Public Welfare Academic Lectures	2021/7/3	Lanzhou, China
19	New Knowledge on Ancient Road: Academic Exchange Conference on Silk Road and Hexi Corridor	2021/7/16 -7/18	Zhangye, China
20	2021 Xi'an Silk Road International Tourism Expo	2021/6/18 -7/16	Xi'an, China
21	The 44th World Heritage Conference "Protection and Research on the Heritage of the Maritime Silk Road" Side Meeting	2021/7/18	Fuzhou, China
22	The 31st Anniversary Network Commemorative Meeting of the UNESCO Silk Roads Project	2021/7/20	Hanghou, China
23	The 1st Abraseda International Congress	2021/7/22	Brazil
24	Quanzhou Succeeded in the 44th World Heritage Conference	2021/7/25	Fuzhou, China

25	Trans-iran Railway Added to World Heritage List	2021/7/25	Fuzhou, China
26	Dunhuang Art Dictionary was Nominated for the Fifth Chinese Publishing Government Award	2021/7/29	Beijing, China
27	The Sursok Museum was Rebuilt One Year after the Beirut Bombing	2021/8/4	Beirut, Lebanon
28	2021 Online Silk Road Conference	2021/8/19	Yinchuan, China
29	2021 "Silk Road Shipping" International Cooperation Forum	2021/9/8	Xiamen, China
30	The "Chinese Sericulture and Silk Weaving Skills" Project Participated in the 2021 "Belt and Road" Great Wall International Folk Culture and Art Festival	2021/9/15 -9/17	Langfang, China Qinhuangdao, China
31	The 9th Silk Road Forum and the "Silk Road Connected China and the World" Symposium	2021/9/18	Shanghai, China
32	The Silk Road Network Information Archive Management Platform was Successfully Selected for the 2021 World Internet Conference "Practice Case of Building a Community of Shared Future in Cyberspace"	2021/9/25	Wuzhen, China
33	“Make the Label Count”Meeting	2021/9/30	Online
34	Silk Road East ·2021 China International Silk Fair	2021/10/16	Beijing, China
35	The 3rd Chinese Archaeology Conference	2021/10/18	Sanmenxia, China
36	A Visiting Expert Meeting was Held at the Ancient Settlement Site of Penjikent in Tajikistan	2021/10/23	Penjikent, Tajikistan
37	Dialogue on Asian Cultural Heritage Conservation	2021/10/27 -10/28	Beijing, China
38	Launching Silk Roads Living Heritage Network	2021/10/28	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
39	UNESCO Silk Roads Youth Research Grant – Reinforcing the Capacity and Contribution of Young Researchers to the Silk Roads	2021/10/28	Paris, France (Online)
40	Shaanxi Provincial Department of Commerce Announced the 2021 Cocoon Silk Project	2021/10/29	Xi'an, China
41	Online Meeting of the Maritime Silk Road Protection and the Alliance of Jointly-listed Cities	2021/11/12	Online
42	The 6th Council of the International Silk Road Research Alliance was Successfully Held	2021/11/15	Italy, China
43	"Textiles on the Silk Roads: from Medieval to Industrial Periods 5th Symposium of the International Association for the Study of Silk Road Textiles (IASSRT)"	2021/11/15 -11/16	Italy, China (Online)
44	The 2nd Conference of the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road (IAMS)	2021/11/17	Online
45	"The World Cultural Heritage Digital Display and Exchange Platform along the Silk Roads in China" was Launched	2021/11/17	Dunhuang, China
46	The International Day of Islamic Art	2021/11/18	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
47	The 2021 International Network of Silk Cities and Metropolises	2021/11/19	Lyon, France (Online)
48	"Tourism Development and Cultural Heritage Protection: From Theory to Practice" China-Uzbekistan Cultural Tourism Cooperation and Development Forum	2021/11/24 -11/25	Online
49	Action for Cultural Heritage Conservation in Asia: International Symposium on Conservation and Management of Historic Towns along the Silk Roads	2021/11/27	Beijing, China (Online)
50	Dunhuang Academy and Tokyo University of the Arts Hold Online Exchange Activities	2021/12/6	Online

51	International Co-sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage& Climate Change	2021/12/6 -12/10	Online
52	The 8th Silk Road International Film Festival	2021/12/8 -12/12	Fuzhou, China
53	The 15th Session of the General Assembly of International Institute for Central Asian Studies	2021/12/10	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
54	New Elements in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and Register for Good Safeguarding Practices	2021/12/13 -12/18	Online
55	The 5th Ancient Civilizations Forum	2021/12/16	Online
56	The 2021 Special Dialogue of International Youth Forum Successfully Held on 17 December 2021	2021/12/17	Online (Beijing, Changsha, Nanjing)
57	"Nanhai I" International Symposium on Dialogue with the World	2021/12/18	Yangjiang, China
58	Ancient Rome's Largest Temple Completes Restoration	2021/12/23	Rome, Italy

Appendix

Archaeological Discoveries

- 1.Archaeology: Royal Pantry Discovered in Silk Road Fortress
<https://www.archaeology.org/news/9577-210406-uzbekistan-royal-pantry>
- 2.亚洲考古：2021年度世界十大考古发现揭晓
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/n0KZYaJ5kjMCmZChwS160A>
- 3.Livescience: This may be one of the oldest Buddhist temples ever discovered
<https://www.livescience.com/early-buddist-temple-pakistan>
- 4.Phys: Winged Gods and walking griffons: A plate with a depiction of Scythian Gods has been found in Middle Don
<https://phys.org/news/2021-11-winged-gods-griffons-plate-depiction.html>
- 5.The Indian Express: Ancient Buddhist monastery found in Jharkhand
<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ancient-buddhist-monastery-found-in-jharkhand-7205094/>
- 6.Archaeology: Archaeologists Unearth 1,600-Year-Old Weaving Workshop In Southeastern Turkey
<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2021/12/archaeologists-unearth-1600-year-old.html>
- 7.考古中的国：陕西战国秦墓发现金饰品，见证中西文化交流
<http://www.kgzg.cn/a/397996.html>
- 8.文博中国：甘肃唐代吐谷浑墓群考古重大成果
<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/x4sJQTmc1NsEpQwHqCgKDO>
- 9.国家文物局：当雄墓地出土遗物揭示与中原文化的密切联系，实证各民族的交往交流交融
http://www.ncha.gov.cn/art/2022/1/14/art_722_172702.html
- 10.光明日报：2021考古人在新疆有哪些新发现？
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/pWJO16AB35tDh7_tqi0VLA

Thematic Exhibitions

- 1.Ministry of Culture: 伊斯兰艺术特展
<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/en/Regions/Drac-Bretagne/Actualites/Arts-de-l-Islam-un-passe-pour-un-present>
- 2.Museum of Oriental Art: SPLENDOR OF THE SUNSET: IRAN OF THE QAJAR ERA
https://www.orientmuseum.ru/events/2021/exhibition_splendor_of_the_sunset_iran_of_the_qajar_era/index.php?lang=en
- 3.丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟：阿布扎比卢浮宫举办“龙与凤凰——中国与伊斯兰世界的世纪交流”展览
[http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=292%20\(MR\)](http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=292%20(MR))
- 4.Youtube: Virtual Tour - Beyond Boundaries: Buddhist Art of Gandhara
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pazBSBN6yk>
- 5.丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟：伊朗将举办国际丝绸之路书法展
[http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=159%20\(MR\)](http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=159%20(MR))
- 6.搜狐：万物生灵：丝绸之路上的动物与植物
<https://3g.k.sohu.com/t/n542906356>
- 7.丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟：“东西汇融——中欧陶瓷与文化交流特展” 在上海博物馆开幕
[http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=299%20\(MR\)](http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=299%20(MR))
- 8.丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟：粤港澳三地展出海丝路上的明清外销丝绸
[http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=186%20\(MR\)](http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=186%20(MR))
- 9.The Chinese University of Hong Kong Institute of Chinese Studies Art Museum: Enchanting Expeditions: Chinese Trade Porcelains across the Globe
[http://www.artmuseum.cuhk.edu.hk/en/exhibition/forthcoming/detail/61_\(OW\)](http://www.artmuseum.cuhk.edu.hk/en/exhibition/forthcoming/detail/61_(OW))
- 10.丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟：“琉光溢彩——平山郁夫丝绸之路美术馆藏古玻璃珍品展” 在敦煌莫高窟揭幕

[http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=268%20\(MR\)](http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=268%20(MR))

Cultural Events

- 1.丝绸之路世界遗产：国丝召开联合国教科文组织丝绸之路项目第三十一周年网络纪念会
<http://www.silkroads.org.cn/portal.php?mod=view&aid=48031>
- 2.International Institute for Central Asian Studies: Silk Roads Living Heritage Network
<https://unesco-icas.org/press-office/News/Silk+Roads+Living+Heritage+Network>
- 3.International Institute for Central Asian Studies: Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination dossier
<https://unesco-icas.org/press-office/News/Serial+Transnational+World+Heritage+nomination+dossier>
- 4.新华网：中国国家博物馆成功组织召开第二届丝绸之路国际博物馆联盟大会
<http://www.xinhuanet.com/culture/20211119/ea0e5a6f4a4541e2bec450e55b10d8ad/c.html>
- 5.丝绸之路世界遗产：泉州申遗成功
<http://www.silkroads.org.cn/portal.php?mod=view&aid=48074>
- 6.UNESCO：The 16th session of the Committee is now finished, here are some highlights
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/news/the-16th-session-of-the-committee-is-now-finished-here-are-some-highlights-13360>
- 7.丝绸之路世界遗产：巴米扬大佛被毁20周年，当地人用3D重现旧日辉煌
<http://www.silkroads.org.cn/portal.php?mod=view&aid=40369>
- 8.丝绸之路世界遗产：中国与伊朗签署《关于协同开展“亚洲文化遗产保护行动”的联合声明》
<http://www.silkroads.org.cn/portal.php?mod=view&aid=45073>
- 9.UNESCO：Winners of the UNESCO Silk Roads Youth Research Grant 2021
<https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/content/winners-unesco-silk-roads-youth-research-grant-2021>
- 10.丝绸之路世界遗产：“敦煌学的跨时空交流与数字保护探索”研讨会顺利举行
<http://www.silkroads.org.cn/portal.php?mod=view&aid=44713>



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads
2021
REPORT

List of Expert Teams

List of Expert Teams 2021

Archaeological Discovery Team:



Guowu (Chief Expert)
Researcher of Frontier Ethnic Archaeology Department, Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Vice Leader of Xinjiang Team



Liu Wensuo
Professor, Department of Anthropology, Sun Yat-sen University



Jianjun Mei
Director of the Needham Institute



Tong Tao
Associate Researcher, Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



Bobby Orillaneda
Senior Researcher, National Museum of the Philippines



Farhad Maskhsudov
Director of Uzbek Archaeological Institute



Svend Hansen
Director of the Eurasian Archaeological Institute of the German Archaeological Institute

Thematic Exhibition Team:



Peter Stewart (Chief Expert)
Director of Wolfson College, Oxford University, Center for Classical Art Research



Helen Wang
Curator of the British Museum



Julian Raby
Director, Freer Sackler Museum of Art, USA



Maria Menshikova
Senior Researcher, Hermitage Museum, Russia



An Laishun
Vice Chairman of International Museum Association, Professor of Shanghai University



Hang Kan
Professor of Peking University, Vice President of Shanxi University



Pan Shouyong
Distinguished Professor of Shanghai University



Pei Jitong
Director of the National Museum of Korea

Academic Research Team:



Rong Xinjiang (Chief Expert)
Boya Chair Professor of Peking University, Distinguished Professor of Changjiang Scholars of Ministry of Education



Liu Jinbao
Professor, Department of History, Zhejiang University



Saren Gaowa
Research Librarian of National Library



Zhang Baichun
Director of the Institute of Natural History of the Chinese Academy of Sciences



Dagmar Schaeffer
Director of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Mazon Center, Germany, Emeritus Professor of Technology History at the Technical University of Berlin



Daniel Waugh
Emeritus Professor, University of Washington, Seattle, USA



Luisa Mengoni
Director of Asian and African Collections, British Library, Director of the International Dunhuang Project (IDP)



Nathalie Monnet
Researcher of the French National Library

Cultural Event Team:



Jing Feng (Chief Expert)
Director of Asia-Pacific Department of UNESCO World Heritage Center



Bamoqubuqie
Researcher, Institute of Ethnic Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Director of Oral Tradition Research Center



Lv Zhou
Professor, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University, Vice Chairman of Chinese Committee for the International Council on Monuments and Sites



Sun Hua
Professor of Peking University School of Archaeology, Director of Peking University Cultural Heritage Protection Research Center



Dmitriy A. Voyakin
Official of the National Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Mehrdad Shabahang
Project Leader of UNESCO Silk Road



Susan Denyer
ICOMOS World Heritage Advisor, Secretary of ICOMOS-UK



Tim Williams
Professor of University College London UK, member of the International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM)

Epilogue

The Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021 (hereinafter referred to as “annual report”) has received resounding responses for two consecutive years at home and abroad. It has also been widely concerned and reprinted by major mainstream media. However, after the emergence of the epidemic for more than a year, the situation across the world remains tense, and even mutated virus appears as the epidemic continues. Therefore, the compilation of the annual report has also been somewhat affected by its force majeure factors. Fortunately, the persistent efforts of experts and scholars in various academic fields have created the conditions without fear of difficulties, so that the annual report can be published as scheduled.

With the same framework as last year, the annual report collected and sorted out relevant information of the Silk Road cultural heritage in 2021. Meanwhile, 31 experts in the field of cultural heritage from 9 countries were invited as international review team to vote for the “Top 10” in four sections respectively, namely archaeological discoveries, thematic exhibitions, academic achievements, and cultural events. According to the final results, the editorial team summarized the most influential events as core content of the annual report.

As it is to be released, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the editor-in-chief Zhao Feng for his overall planning and valuable suggestions in the first place, which enabled the annual report to move forward in an orderly manner despite all the hardships. Secondly, the completion of the annual report relies on the sincere cooperation of the expert reviewers. Special thanks to Director Jing Feng for his strong support, Professor Daniel Waugh of the University of Washington in Seattle for his in-depth interpretation of each book published in the 100 academic achievements, and Ms. Qubumo Bamo for her unique insights on “intangible cultural heritage” in cultural events, as well as colleagues Lu Fangfang and Wang Yilan from China National Silk Museum for their dedication to the archaeological discoveries and the pre-exhibition collection work respectively. At the same time, many thanks should also be given to Luo Shuai, Gao Zhenhua and Tong Tao for their insightful academic reviews, Zhou Yanan and Yang Sifan from Zhejiang Sci-Tech University for their selfless help in the work of annual report, and Yang Hanlin, the editor in charge, for her meticulous professionalism and her efforts made during the process of writing and editing the book.

The title of the annual report is *Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2021*, which helps to sort out the work of the cultural heritage scholarship over the years, and also provides practical reports for experts and colleagues in the field. Your advice is most welcome to improve our future annual reports.