

CULTURAL HERITAGE ON THE SILK ROADS | 2022 REPORT



Institute for Intercultural Dialogue on the Silk Roads (IIDOS)

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Director	Zhao Feng
Archeological Discovery Team	He Yun-ao (Chief Expert) Liu Wensuo Mei Jianjun Guo Wu Jiang Bo Tong Tao
Thematic Exhibition Team	Peter Stewart (Chief Expert) Francois Mairesse Maria Menshikova Bae Kidong Pan Shouyong
Academic Research Team	Rong Xinjiang (Chief Expert) Saren Gaowa Zhang Bochun Luo Shuai
Cultural Event Team	Jing Feng (Chief Expert) Dmitriy A. Voyakin Tim Williams Bamo Qubuqie
Review and Editor Team	Luo Shuai Gao Zhenhua Tong Tao Lu Fangfang
Editor	Lu Fangfang Yang Hanlin

Preface

We can finally say that 2022 should have been the last year of this three-year epidemic. When we look back at the memories related to the cultural heritage on the Silk Roads of the 2022, works on archaeology, exhibition, research, and other events are still somewhat restricted by the epidemic. The joy of achievements is also involved with a certain sense of helplessness.

Silk Road archaeology has always been a key focus of attention, as the discovery of resources provides the foundation for research, exhibition, and dissemination. But it is also difficult to search. This year, we attempted to collaborate with the editorial team of *Popular Archaeology*, Led by Prof. He Yun-ao. The team provided a large amount of information for the archaeological discovery part and also conducted preliminary sorting and translating. To some extent, the focus of the archaeology of the Overland Silk Roads turns tombs to archaeological sites, such as the excavation of the Tangchaodun City-site in Xinjiang, which includes Buddhist and Nestorian sites as well as Roman style baths. The cultural exchange between East and West is quite clear here. The Overland Silk Roads also have important discoveries along the Mediterranean coast in the west. For example, archaeologists have discovered cotton and silk fabrics that can be traced back to early Islam period, imported along the Silk Roads from India and China about 1,300 years ago at the Nahal Omer site in the Arava region of Israel. It is very rare for such textiles to be unearthed. The archaeological highlight of the Maritime Silk Roads in 2022 is the shipwreck and port site. The Shuomen Ancient Port site in Wenzhou discovered shipwrecks, tens of tons of porcelain fragments and lacquered wooden artifacts, and so forth, testifying Wenzhou's crucial role as a starting point for the large-scale export of Longquan porcelains and a key hub along the Maritime Silk Roads. Such sites also found on the east coast of Uluburun, Turkey, belonging to the Bronze Age. It is revealed that the nomadic tribes of the Uzbekistan steppe provided one-third of the bronze objects in the ancient Mediterranean region during that time.

The Silk Roads remain a focal point for all museum visitors. Exhibitions themed with the Silk Roads in China are still outstanding in terms of quantity and quality, especially “A Sense for Beauty across Two Countries: Cultural Exchanges between Japan and China during the Han and Tang Dynasties” held by the Academy of Arts at Tsinghua University, which can be said to systematically sort out the precious history of the two countries' friendship and interaction across the sea. And the exhibition “Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th-8th Centuries” was the first one briefly describing the history of the Tuyuhun Kingdom and the Tuyuhun Route from the 6th-8th centuries. While in Europe, the most striking exhibition was Uzbekistan's exhibition in Paris, France, as the epidemic eased. This exhibition was divided into two parts: the ancient part in the Louvre, and the traditional part in the Arab Center. Such exhibitions, mainly organized by the state and participated by national museums, have achieved great success in cultural diffusion and are believed to play a leading role in the cultural display and dissemination of many countries along the Silk Road.

Academic works are least affected by the epidemic. Although Rong Xinjiang's book: *From Zhang Qian to Marco Polo: Eighteen Lectures on the Silk Road* is not listed as Top 10 of 2022, which is still as important as *China and the Silk Road: Culture and History from the Early Imperial Period to the Present* by Thomas O. Höllmann. Professor Duan Qing's posthumous work *Myth and Ritual: Revealing the Civilizations of the kośava from the Ancient Khotan* studied carpets unearthed in Hotan, Xinjiang, which caused great resonance. Unfortunately, she no longer sees this work receiving our recommendation. The Black Sea and Central Asia regions have become the interests of Silk Road researchers. *Landscape and Space: Comparative Perspectives from Chinese, Mesoamerican, Ancient Greek, and Roman Art* is a new field of cultural dialogue on the Silk Roads. The volume, *Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads: Textiles and Clothing*, led by UNESCO and completed by 30 scholars from 22 countries, is the first to be published from the wider “Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads” series.

The last section is cultural events part. Most events that occurred in 2022 involve several aspects, including value recognition, cooperation and protection, platform construction, and the contribution of young people. The platform construction is extremely important, such as "Dunhuang Documents Database", SROM Online Curating Competition, and UNESCO's 2022 Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest, providing better channels and networks for spreading and promoting the Silk Road spirits.

Standing in the spring of 2023, we can finally say with confidence that 2022 must be the last year of this long three-year epidemic. So from now on, we can look forward to this year's work on the cultural heritage of the Silk Roads, in fields of archaeology,

exhibition, research, and others. We will certainly carry out fruitfully from now on!

Institute for Intercultural Dialogue on the Silk Roads (IIDOS) would like to express our deep gratitude to all experts around the world who’s involved in this project, especially the authors and editors Huang Wenhao, Tong Tao, Gao Zhenhua, Luo Shuai, and Lu Fangfang. In addition, we will continue to strengthen our cooperation with existing partners such as the Silk Road Archaeological Specialized Committee of Chinese Archaeological Society, "Popular Archaeology", "Art Museum", ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an, and School of History of Zhejiang University, and others, to continue organizing, editing, publishing and promoting. We hope that the *Annual Report Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2023* will be even better!

Feng Zhao
July 4, 2023

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Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2022
REPORT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DISCOVERIES**

Jointly released by
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Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries on Silk Roads in 2022

Li Xinchun
University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Tong Tao
Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

There were quite a fair number of striking archaeological findings on Silk Roads obtained in 2022, rich in diversity and spanning a wide range of periods, which greatly complemented and enriched our existing knowledge of the Silk Roads and related studies. Based on the characteristics of the archaeological discoveries in the year of 2022, we now sort out them into domestic and foreign two parts, and subdivide them as the Overland (desert-oasis-steppe) Silk Roads and the Maritime Silk Roads.

1. Domestic archaeological work 1.1 The Overland (desert-oasis-steppe) Silk Roads

According to present researches, the Overland Silk Roads are abundant in their courses, and those crossing the deserts in the earlier period are the research focus. Previously, it was believed that the Desert Silk Roads was a diplomatic pass opened by the Western Han Dynasty government to contact the western countries to jointly defend against the Xiongnu, and was mainly limited to the Western Han period and beyond, but archaeological discoveries over the past years have confirmed that there was more frequent interaction between the Central Plain and the Western Regions long before Zhang Qian's mission to the Western Regions.

The Zhengzhou Shang City-site are widely believed to be the location of *Bo*, the capital city of the first king of the Shang Dynasty, King *Tang*, dating back approximately 3,600 years. A high-level noble burial area from the middle period of the Baijia Village period of the Shang Dynasty was discovered by the Zhengzhou Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, located approximately 200 meters south of the city wall of the Zhengzhou Shang City-site and 450 meters east of the city wall. The burial site covers an area of approximately 10,000 square meters and contains a total of 25 tombs, including 3 tombs with bronze artifacts, 6 suspected sacrificial pits, and the remaining 16 presumed to be accompanying burials. The burial site forms a funeral system with clear-cut structures and functions, including moats, passages, burials with bronze objects, burials with other objects (Area 1), and sacrificial pits. Tomb No. 2 is the burial with the largest number, the most diverse variety, and the highest level of burial objects discovered so far in the City. Over 200 artifacts were excavated from the tomb, including bronze ritual vessels, weapons, jade objects, gold objects, cowries, and a plaque inlaid with turquoises, fully demonstrating the high-level noble status of the tomb owner. The most striking item among the burial artifacts is a gold mask that still shines brightly despite being buried for thousands of years, covering the face of the tomb owner. The gold mask is 18.3 cm long, 14.5 cm wide, weighs approximately 40 grams, and has a gold content of 88%. Due to the gold items especially gold masks were particularly prevalent among people from the West Asian and the

Eurasia areas, their emergence in the high-level noble tombs of the Shang Dynasty might indicates certain cultural links between the East and the West during the Shang period.

The Desert Silk Roads has played a crucial role during the Tang Dynasty. The Tangchaodun city-site is located on the east-west transportation artery between the Bogda Mountains and the Gurbantunggut Desert in the eastern part of the Tianshan Mountains. It's location was an key junction and transportation hub on the Silk Roads. From 2018 to 2022, the China Renmin University and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology have launched an excavation to the city-site for five years. The uncovered area totaled 3,400 square meters, which basically clarified the form and layout of the ancient city, the using age, and the cultural features of the remains in different periods. Archaeologists disclosed important architectural remains such as early Tang Dynasty courtyard sites, Buddhist temple sites, Roman-style bathhouse sites, and Nestorian Christian church sites, yielding numerous precious relics, fully demonstrating the prosperity of cultural exchanges between China and the West on the northern Silk Roads. A large area of painted murals were unearthed in the Nestorian Christian church site, some of which bearing Uighur inscriptions, including characters reading " Yeli Kewen (arkhun)". Moreover, several typical Nestorian Christian cross images were discovered, dating back to the period from the Gaochang Uyur Kingdom to the Mongol Empire. The Nestorian Christian church site contains Nestorian Christian elements, Han cultural elements, and diverse cultural factors brought together through the Silk Roads. The excavation of agate, turquoise, jade, amber and other jewelries with different textures in the church reflects the collision and integration of different aesthetics of Eastern and Western cultures. The style of the saint image with a mandorla in the murals of the church, which is plump and full-bodied, combines the painting style of Tang Dynasty figures with the characteristics of Nestorian Christianity. The site also produced Jun kiln porcelain fragments, porcelain trays with twistable glaze, and other artifacts. Twistable glaze was a new craft emerged in the Tang Dynasty ceramic industry. The western jewelries, the Chinese Central Plain porcelains simultaneously appearing in the Nestorian Christian church, verified the integration of Eastern and Western cultures.

It is generally accepted that after the Song Dynasty, the Overland Silk Roads gradually declined due to the economic gravity moving to the south and the rise of the Maritime Silk Roads. However, some important findings exhibiting the cultural exchanges along the Overland Silk Roads at that time were still in a state of prosperity and continued development. The Qingpingbao Site is one of the thirty-six bastions along the Ming Dynasty's Great Wall in Yansui Town, Shaanxi Province, located approximately 10 kilometers apart from the Great Wall. It was built during the Ming Chenghua's reign and abandoned during the Qing Kangxi period. The site has a rectangular layout measuring approximately 600 meters long from north to south, and 300 meters wide from east to west. The Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology conducted a rescue excavation to the site and uncovered the central tower, the south gate and its enclosing barbican, the Xianying Palace, residential and commercial buildings, and temples outside the bastion. The Xianying Palace consists of a courtyard wall, a stage, and a large hall, with the roofs of the buildings having collapsed but the wall remaining well-preserved. Except for the stage, all other buildings contain well-preserved color-painted clay statues, 30 statues in total. In addition, gilt copper statues and iron incense burners were also unearthed in the Xianying Palace. At the beginning of its construction, Qingpingbao was designed as both a military and commercial center. The layout of the enclosed walls, city gates, and enclosing barbicans reflects the military defensive purpose. The planning to locate a central tower at the intersection of the cross street within the fortress, suggesting to serving a commercial purpose, could be traced back to marketplaces in the Han Dynasty. The small-scale structures in the bastion, such as courtyards and facilities such as grain mills, were typical of the Central Plains' agricultural architectural style, while the fire pits were a feature of the northern frontier ethnic groups' culture. During its use, cultural exchanges and ethnic fusions that took place within and around the bastion were significant.

The Steppe Silk Roads is an important part of the Overland Silk Roads, and there have been some important discoveries in this year. Three stone-circle tombs were excavated at Xishaliang, Yijinhuoluo Banner in southwestern Inner Mongolia, which were built in the same period with consistent orientation and close arrangement. Judging from the burial methods, they were probably semi-subterranean tombs. It is inferred that they were relics left by the Eastern Turkic period, which corroborates the historical records of the southward migration of the Turks. After the excavation in 2022, the Inner Mongolia Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology mapped out the burial structure and funeral rituals of Jihulangtu Cemetery in Sunite Right Banner of Inner Mongolia. The funerary rituals were completely consistent with the features of Xiongnu burials in the north of Gobi Desert, while the bronze mirrors, lacquerware, glass ornaments, and bone chopsticks excavated from the tombs are all in Han-style, showing a very close connection with the Han culture. Religious relics were also discovered in the Steppe Silk Roads. The Alzhai Grottoes is a grotto

temple that includes temples, palaces, grotto buildings, cliff carvings, murals, sculptures, and inscriptions in various scripts including Uighur, Mongolian, Sanskrit, and Tibetan. It served functions of worshipping Buddha as well as ritual practices. In 2022, the Inner Mongolia Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology conducted an excavation to the site and uncovered three buildings, including the main building for worshipping Buddha, its attached structure, and a resting room for monks. The three buildings was constructed in the Yuan Dynasty and abandoned at the end of the Ming Dynasty. The Buddhist remains are an important example to analysis the spreading and flourishing of Buddhism during the Yuan period.

The archaeological study to the Silk Roads on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is becoming a hot issue in recent years. The proposal of the concept the Plateau Silk Roads enriched our understanding to the complex process of cultural exchanges between East and West and the formation of Tibetan culture on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in ancient times. The development of the Plateau Silk Roads reached its peak during the Tubo period, when the Tubo regime engaged in frequent political, economic, and cultural exchanges with the neighboring civilizations as the Tang, the Central Asia, and the South Asia through the heart zone of the plateau. A large number of archaeological findings in recent years have further enriched this framework system. In 2022, the Wenjiangduo site of the Tubo period has been excavated jointly by the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology and the Tibet Institute of Cultural Relics Conservation and Research. The Site has an area of approximately 70,000 square meters, with the Lhasa River 2 kilometers to the west, and surrounded by mountains to the north, east, and south. The great stupa's foundation in the southwest and the stone tortoise-shaped stele base's foundation in the middle section of the west, have been uncovered. In addition, several trial trenches has been dug at the Wuxianglakang hall's location in the middle of the site to explore the underground remains. A total of 18 relics, including foundations of houses, stone walls, stupas, and ash pits, were cleared, and more than 700 specimens were obtained. Most of them are building materials such as glazes and unglazed flat tiles, tubular tiles, tile ends, rectangular bricks and wedge-shaped bricks, which are comparable to the glazed tiles unearthed from the Daming Palace Site in Chang'an city from the Tang Dynasty. The outcomes shows the process that the site developed from a royal palace to a grand Buddhist monastery. The layout of the site, with stupas in four directions and a Buddhist hall in the center, bear resemblance to that of the Samye Monastery. The glazed tiles are mostly white, green, and blue, with a small amount of green, gray, and red. The glaze is mostly hard, smooth and glassy, with prominent ice-cracking patterns. A small amount of green glaze is in powdery state. The main part of the site belong to the Tubo period and have a high ranking. There are clear and continuous records to it in classic Tibetan literatures. The rich achievements are of great value for the study of Tubo's high-level architectures, handicrafts, Buddhism, and external cultural links in the 8th and 9th centuries AD.

1.2 The Maritime Silk Roads

In 2022 fruitful archaeological results relating to the Maritime Silk Roads have been achieved. The excavated sites, mostly ancient ports and cemeteries, concentrated in the coastal areas of mainland China.

In 2021-2022 excavations have been carried out at the Shuomen Ancient Port site, by Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology and Wenzhou Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, revealing the remains of ancient water and land city-gates structures, Song and Yuan dynasties river embankments, eight docks, two shipwrecks, a wooden plank road, some stilt style buildings and brick-and-stone structures, as well as tens of tons of porcelain fragments and lacquered wooden artifacts. The main part of the site could be dated to the Song and Yuan dynasties. The excavation area is primarily composed of three parts: the eastern water gate area, the adjacent river port area, and the southern walled city area on the western end. The site provides an authentic representation of the prosperous scene of the Wenzhou Port during the Song and Yuan dynasties, testifying Wenzhou's crucial role as a starting point for the large-scale export of Longquan porcelains and a key hub along the Maritime Silk Roads. The site, integrating an urban, a port and a navigation mark, constitutes a massive, complete, and complex system, representing a an excellent model on the Maritime Silk Roads.

The Wangniuling Han cemeteries are an important part of the Han tomb groups in Hepu County, located 2.2 kilometers northwest of the Caoxie Village site, the Hepu Prefecture of the two Han Dynasties. Within the 28,000-square-meter central area of Wangniuling, there are 78 Han and Six Dynasties tombs, the largest of which is M1. In 1971, Tomb M1 and Tomb M2 were excavated coordinating with the construction of air-raid shelters. In order to apply for entering the World Heritage list of the Maritime Silk Roads and protecting and exhibiting the Wangniuling Tombs M1, the Guangxi Institute of Cultural Relics Protection and Archaeology and Sun Yat-sen University carried out a second excavation to the Wangniuling Cemeteries from 2020 to 2022. In total, the two

excavations uncovered a burial mound of a Western Han Dynasty tomb, covering an area of 1,830 square meters, and cleared 24 Han-Jin periods tombs, including 22 Western Han Dynasty tombs, 1 Eastern Han Dynasty tomb, and 1 Jin period tomb in and around the area. The burial objects unearthed from the Wangniuling Han tombs include pottery, bronze, iron, gold, silver, lacquer, jade, glass, and bead jewelries, as well as remnants of silks, bamboo-woven objects, fruits, rice, shells, and fuel. Among them, individual beads amount to more than 3,000, made of materials such as gold, silver, glass, crystal, agate, amber, carnelian, and turquoise, and available in various shapes including bow tie, flower ball, edged ball, diamond, gourd, animals, and so on. The findings have expanded the cultural connotation of the Hepu Han tombs, especially the large number and variety of imported cultural relics and artifacts with overseas influences, highlighting Hepu's special position on the Maritime Silk Roads during the Han Dynasty. They also confirm the historical records such as the *Han Shu* (The History of the Han Dynasty) and *Shui Jing Zhu* (Commentary on the Waterways Classic) that the Han government took Hepu as a pivot point to rule over Lingnan and overseas territories, reflecting the further strengthening of the governance of the southern frontier after the Qin Dynasty unified Lingnan.

The Fuxing Road Cemetery in Liuhe District, Nanjing, are an important witness to the development of the Maritime Silk Roads during the Ming and Qing dynasties. In June 2021, the Nanjing Institute of Archaeology conducted a salvage excavation of the cemetery, and uncovered a total of 481 ancient tombs dating back to the Han, Ming, and Qing dynasties. Among them, tomb M422 from the Ming Dynasty yielded a well-preserved Japanese cast "Tenka Ichisei Chūsaku" rose-patterned mirror, which not only helps determine the age of the tomb, but also serves as tangible evidence of ancient trade exchanges between China and Japan.

2. Foreign archaeological work

2.1 The Overland Silk Roads

Archaeologists have discovered a golden bowl at a construction site of a train station in Ebreichsdorf, south of Vienna. The bowl is decorated with geometric patterns and an image of the sun with 11 rays. Residues of metal wire and fabric were found inside the bowl. Over the past two years, a team led by Polish Academy of Sciences archaeologist Michal Sip has also unearthed nearly 500 bronze artifacts at the site, including pins, daggers, and knives. Like the golden bowl, all these items are preserved in good condition. They were presumed to serve certain ritual uses. The bowl and many other artifacts belong to the Urnfield Culture, which originated in the Danube River basin in Eastern Europe between approximately 1300-750 BC and spread to Central and Western Europe from the 12th to 10th centuries BC. This is one of the "most important" archaeological finds in Austria in decades. Similar golden bowls have been discovered in several countries such as France and Germany, but this is the first time such a discovery has been made in Austria. This type of golden artifact is associated with bronze production centers in Scandinavia and provides evidence of long-distance trade networks in central Europe at the end of the 2nd millennium BC.

The discovery of the Nahal Omer site in the Arava region of Israel, a part of the Israeli-Jordanian border, has greatly extended previous knowledge of the spreading of the Overland Silk Roads. Archaeologists have discovered cotton and silk fabrics that can be traced back to early Islam period, imported along the Silk Roads from India and China about 1,300 years ago. The silk fabrics found during the excavation have maintained their colors and had a variety of shades, such as indigo blue, madder red, brown, and other hues. Some Indian cotton fabrics and other materials were intricately woven together, with patterns still used in carpet making in Iran and other Central Asian countries today. The discovery of dyed silk provides new evidence for the route of the Silk Roads. This "Israeli branch" was connected to trade routes and seaports and appears to have diverged from the traditional Silk Roads. This discovery suggests that there was an unknown Israeli Silk Roads, which branched off from the famous Silk Roads network that connected ancient China with the rest of the world.

In 2018-2022 The German Archaeological Institute launched an excavation to the circular amphitheater in the ancient city of Pergamum in western Turkey, and recently discovered inscribed names engraved on seats in five areas of the 1800-year-old amphitheater. As many as 50,000 people at a time may have been able to watch the gladiator battles, animal fights, executions, and reenactments of naval battles known to have taken place in the amphitheater's large arena. It was a replica of the ancient Colosseum in Rome, people from the upper class or important families had private seats in special sections with their names engraved on them, some of the names, although Latin, were written in Greek letters. The discovery exhibits that Pergamum was once a wealthy and powerful ancient Greek city in the northwest region of Asia Minor. Under Roman rule, Pergamum became the most important cultural and economic center in the region in the 2nd century, and a series of construction projects were undertaken, including a circular

theater, a forum, and monuments.

Bandhavgarh National Park is India's oldest national park, located at the foothills of the Vindhya mountain range and covering an area of approximately 105 square kilometers. During several months of archaeological exploration in the area, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered 26 temples, 26 grottoes, 2 votive stupas, 24 Brahmi inscriptions, 46 statues, and 19 water architectural remains. Many rare chaitya-shaped doors, coins, and other artifacts were also found. The massive spread of Buddhism in East Asia could not be separated from the important role of the Silk Roads, and the discovery of a large number of Indian Buddhist remains plays an important role in tracing the origins of early Buddhism and its developing status throughout East Asia.

The bronze cauldron was found in a mound at the Taldi Historical and Archaeological Park in the Shetsk District, Karagandy Region, Kazakhstan. The cauldron is similar to those found in Semirechye, measuring 25 kilograms in weight, 41 centimeters in diameter and 34 centimeters in height. The cauldron is heavily smoked, which means that people had cooked food in it. Curiously, there are a lot of iron and bronze items inside, mainly plaques and buttons, as well as some zoomorphic ornaments, including figures of horses and griffins. Some scholars tend to believe that these serve as horse masks.

From 2021 to 2022, Archaeologists have discovered an ornate treasure hoard in the forested area on the bend of the Oka River near Ryazan Oblast, Russia. The hoard contains 22 silver bracelets, 5 silver rings, 1 bead, and 4 grivnas (a silver currency as well as a measure of weight used in Kievan Rus' and other East Slavic countries). Ryazan Oblast was a major trading center in Eastern Europe at the time, and it was the first place besieged by the Mongol forces when it swept across the Eurasian steppe to conquer Kievan Rus. The hoard was likely hidden by the people of Ryazan Oblast before the Mongol invasion. Based on the style of the jewelry, Russian archaeologists believe it can be dated to the late 11th or the early 12th century AD.

2.2 The Maritime Silk Roads

In 2022, foreign discoveries about the Maritime Silk Roads are significant, which are mainly shipwreck and ancient city ruins.

A team of Saudi and French archaeologists have discovered several ancient artifacts on Farasan Islands dating back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries, including Roman folded armor made of copper ingots, and another type of mail armor known as lorica squamata, which was frequently used by Roman soldiers between the first and third centuries. The team also unearthed a garnet with Genos, a famous figure in the history of the eastern Roman empire, and the head of a small stone statue. The discoveries indicate the important role the southern part of the Kingdom's old marine ports and routes along the Red Sea played in trade.

The Giong Ca Vo archaeological site in southeastern Vietnam consists of a red soil mound where archaeologists have found 185 burial jars, 13 graves, and artifacts such as animal-shaped earrings and gold leaves, and other objects made of precious stones, glass, and mollusk shells. A 2,300-year-old skeleton has been uncovered, who stood about five feet, four inches tall, with two animal fangs at the neck, thought to be a man of the Dong Nai culture. According to Hsiao Chung Hung from the Australian National University, the site is located in a central position and may have supported a busy port and a concentration of craftsmen and artists.

The Kyoto City Archaeological Research Unit found possible traces of the home of the empress and her attendants in Heian-kyo. The remains include five postholes measuring 1.2-1.5 meters in diameter placed from 2.1 to 3 meters apart, running from north to south. According to historic descriptions of the palace compiled during the Edo period (1603-1867), these posts were part of the southwest section of the Tokaden pavilion within the imperial palace. The pavilion was one of the 17 that made up the emperor's private residence. The posts were not placed on foundation stones, a construction technique from China eventually adopted by Emperor Kanmu, which indicates that the structure dates back to the early days of Heiankyo.

The excavation and study of shipwrecks is the focus of archaeological work on the Maritime Silk Roads. Two shipwrecks are notable in 2022.

The Bronze Age shipwreck, discovered in 1982 on the Turkish coast, is considered one of the greatest underwater discoveries and is known as the "Wall Street of the Sea." The shipwreck is exceptionally well-preserved and is regarded as an important artifact that bears witness to the Silk Road trade. The cargo found on the ship includes pottery, ceramics, glassware, and metal objects from China, Persia, Iraq, and other regions in the Middle East. In 2022, the latest research by archaeologists revealed that the nomadic tribes of the Uzbekistan steppe provided one-third of the bronze objects in the ancient Mediterranean region during that time.

Construction workers discovered the battered remains of a 700-year-old ship under the streets of the Estonian capital of Tallinn. The location is near the former mouth of the Harju River, which no longer exists. The remnants of the ship, which are made of oak,

measures about 24 meters long with a beam, the widest point, measuring about 9 meters across. Artifacts unearthed with the ship include a couple of wooden barrels, pottery, animal bones, some leather objects, and textiles. The ship is believed to have been a trading vessel used by the Hanseatic League in the 13th century. The league was a trade guild organization that operated throughout Europe and monopolized maritime trade in the Baltic Sea from the 13th to the 15th century. Tallinn was an old merchant town. The discovery of the ship in such a well-preserved condition will help historians and archaeologists learn more about shipbuilding and the region's role in trade in the Middle Ages.

In summary, there are abundant archaeological discoveries related to the Silk Roads worldwide in 2022, covering an extremely wide range. For the Overland Silk Roads, domestic discoveries such as the Tangchaodun city-site, the Qingpingbao Site, and foreign ones such as the Nahal Omer site in Israel, have all enriched our understanding of the remains of human settlement and cultural landscape along the Silk Roads, greatly advancing archaeological research on the Silk Roads. While for the Maritime Silk Roads, port sites primarily are new breakthroughs and achievements in recent years, and have led to a clearer understanding of the specific details of the routes and commerce between different countries along the Maritime Silk Roads.

1 Roman Ruins in Saudi Arabia

Time: 2005-2022

Location: Farasan Islands, Saudi Arabia

Introduction:

A joint archaeological team from Saudi Arabia and France has discovered a Roman folding shield made of bronze ingots, the most common Roman armor used between the 1st and 3rd centuries, the head of a small stone statue, and a carnelian stone inscribed with the word "Genos" on an island about 40 kilometers from Jizan. Genos is a famous Roman figure. This discovery of Roman-era artifacts further demonstrates the important role played by the Farasan Islands in the Red Sea trade route.



2 Tangchaodun City-site

Time: 2018-2022

Location: Xinjiang, China

Introduction:

The Tangchaodun city-site is located on the east-west transportation artery between the Bogda Mountains and the Gurbantunggut Desert in the eastern part of the Tianshan Mountains. It's location was an key junction and transportation hub on the Silk Roads. From 2018 to 2022, the China Renmin University and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology have launched an excavation to the city-site for fve years. The uncovered area totaled 3,400 square meters, which basically clarified the form and layout of the ancient city, the using age, and the cultural features of the remains in different periods. Archaeologists disclosed important architectural remains such as early Tang Dynasty courtyard sites, Buddhist temple sites, Roman-style bathhouse sites, and Nestorian Christian church sites, yielding numerous precious relics, fully demonstrating the prosperity of cultural exchanges between China and the West on the northern Silk Roads. A large area of painted murals were unearthed in the Nestorian Christian church site, some of which bearing Uighur inscriptions, including characters reading " Yeli Kewen (arkhun)". Moreover, several typical Nestorian Christian cross images were discovered, dating back to the period from the Gaochang Uygur Kingdom to the Mongol Empire. The Nestorian Christian church site contains Nestorian Christian elements, Han cultural elements, and diverse cultural factors brought together through the Silk Roads. The excavation of agate, turquoise, jade, amber and other jewelries with different textures in the church reflects the collision and integration of different aesthetics of Eastern and Western cultures. The style of the saint image with a mandorla in the murals of the church, which is plump and full-bodied, combines the painting style of Tang Dynasty fgures with the characteristics of Nestorian Christianity . The site also produced Jun kiln porcelain fragments, porcelain trays with twistable glaze, and other artifacts . Twistable glaze was a new craft emerged in the Tang Dynasty ceramic industry. The western jewelries, the Chinese Central Plain porcelains simultaneously appearing in the Nestorian Christian church, verified theintegration of Eastern and Western cultures.



3 The Jirentai Goukou Site

Time:2019-2022
Location: Xinjiang, China

Introduction:

The Jirentai Goukou Site consists of a settlement area and a high platform remains. Since 2019, the Xinjiang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology has mainly excavated the high platform remains, which have been identified as a large tomb composed of above-ground stone structures and underground burial chambers. The above-ground high platform is a square with a side length of 120 meters. The edge is surrounded by stone slabs about 1.5 meters high, and the center is about 5 meters high. Radial stone strips were built from the surrounding area to the center. The underground burial chamber is semi-underground, with a plan shape resembling the Chinese character ""jia"". It is made of stone slabs and has an area of nearly 40 square meters. During the cleaning process of the stone wall strip in the northeast part of the above-ground structure, a well-preserved wooden vehicle was found in the G33 area. The massive construction, unique structure, and complex tomb form of the site reflect the supreme status of the tomb owner, and it should be a royal-level tomb of an early pastoralist group. The Jirentai Goukou Site is of great significance for studying the high-level burial system, funeral customs, social structure, and patterns of the Late Bronze Age in the Eurasian grasslands. The excavated wooden vehicles, ice skates, and other artifacts are important materials for early material and technological exchanges between the East and the West.



4 The Wangniuling Han Cemeteries

Time: 2020-2022
Location: Guangxi, China

Introduction:

The Wangniuling Han cemeteries are an important part of the Han tomb groups in Hepu County, located 2.2 kilometers northwest of the Caoxie Village site, the Hepu Prefecture of the two Han Dynasties. Within the 28,000-squaremeter central area of Wangniuling, there are 78 Han and Six Dynasties tombs, the largest of which is M1. In 1971, Tomb M1 and Tomb M2 were excavated coordinating with the construction of air-raid shelters. In order to apply for entering the World Heritage list of the Maritime Silk Roads and protecting and exhibiting the Wangniuling Tombs M1, the Guangxi Institute of Cultural Relics Protection and Archaeology and Sun Yat-sen University carried out a second excavation to the Wangniuling Cemeteries from 2020 to 2022. In total, the two excavations uncovered a burial mound of a Western Han Dynasty tomb, covering an area of 1,830 square meters, and cleared 24 Han-Jin periods tombs, including 22 Western Han Dynasty tombs, 1 Eastern Han Dynasty tomb, and 1 Jin period tomb in and around the area. The burial objects unearthed from the Wangniuling Han tombs include pottery, bronze, iron, gold, silver, lacquer, jade, glass, and bead jewelries, as well as remnants of silks, bamboo-woven objects, fruits, rice, shells, and fuel. Among them, individual beads amount to more than 3,000, made of materials such as gold, silver, glass, crystal, agate, amber, carnelian, and turquoise, and available in various shapes including bow tie, flower ball, edged ball, diamond, gourd, animals, and so on. The findings have expanded the cultural connotation of the Hepu Han tombs, especially the large number and variety of imported cultural relics and artifacts with overseas influences, highlighting Hepu's special position on the Maritime Silk Roads during the Han Dynasty. They also confirm the historical records such as the Han Shu (The History of the Han Dynasty) and Shui Jing Zhu (Commentary on the Waterways Classic) that the Han government took Hepu as a pivot point to rule over Lingnan and overseas territories, reflecting the further strengthening of the governance of the southern frontier after the Qin Dynasty unified Lingnan.



5 Wenzhou Shuomen Ancient Port Site

Time: 2021-2022

Location: Zhejiang, China

Introduction:

Excavations have been carried out at the Shuomen Ancient Port site, revealing the remains of ancient water and land city gates, Song and Yuan dynasty-era river embankments, eight docks, two sunken ships, a wooden plank road, numerous dry-column style buildings and brick-and-stone structures, as well as tens of tons of porcelain specimens and lacquered wooden artifacts. The main period of the site's existence was concentrated in the Song and Yuan dynasties, and the excavation area is primarily composed of three parts: the eastern water gate area, the adjacent river port area, and the southern walled city area on the western end. The site provides an authentic representation of the prosperous scene of Wenzhou Port during the Song and Yuan dynasties, serving as an important demonstration of Wenzhou's role as a starting point for the large-scale export of Longquan porcelain and a crucial city node along the Maritime Silk Road. The discovered ancient port remains constitute a massive, complete, and rich system, which is a unique and rare sight in China and globally, representing a perfect interpretation of the integrated system of urban, port, and navigational features, and serves as an excellent exposition of the Maritime Silk Road.



6 The Silver Hoard in Russia

Time: 2021-2022

Location: Ryazan Oblast, Russia

Introduction:

Archaeologists have discovered an ornate treasure hoard near the forested banks of the Syr Darya River in western Ryazan Oblast, Russia. The hoard consists of 22 silver bracelets, 5 silver rings, 1 bead, and 4 grivnas (a silver currency used in Kievan Rus). Liangzhou was a major trading center in Eastern Europe at the time, and it was the first place attacked by the Mongol army when it swept across the Eurasian steppe to conquer Kievan Rus. The hoard was likely hidden by the people of Ryazan Oblast before the Mongol invasion. Based on the style of the jewelry, Russian archaeologists believe it can be dated to the late 11th or early 12th century.



7

Nahal Omer Site in Israel

Time: 2021-2022

Location: Arav, Israel

Introduction:

Archaeologists have been excavating and clearing the garbage deposits in the Arava region, which is a part of the Israeli-Jordanian border. They have discovered cotton and silk fabrics that can be traced back to early Islam, imported along the Silk Road from India and China about 1,300 years ago. The silk fabrics found during the excavation have maintained their colors and have a variety of shades, such as indigo blue, madder red, brown, and other hues. Some Indian cotton fabrics and other materials are intricately woven together, with patterns still used in carpet making in Iran and other Central Asian countries today. The discovery of dyed silk provides new evidence for the route of the Silk Road. This "Israeli branch" is connected to trade routes and seaports and appears to have diverged from the traditional Silk Road. Guy Bar-Oz, a senior archaeologist at the University of Haifa who led the excavation, said, "This discovery suggests that there was an unknown Israeli Silk Road. It branched off from the famous Silk Road network that connected ancient China with the rest of the world," "Our findings seem to provide the first evidence that merchants on international trade routes also used an 'Israeli Silk Road'."



8

The Giong Ca Vo Archaeological Site in Vietnam

Time: 2022

Location: Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam

Introduction:

Vietnam Plus reports that a 2,300-year-old skeleton has been uncovered at the Giong Ca Vo archaeological site in southeastern Vietnam. The site consists of a red soil mound where archaeologists have found 185 burial jars, 13 graves, and artifacts such as animal-shaped earrings and gold leaves, and other objects made of precious stones, glass, and mollusk shells. Two animal fangs were found at the neck of the skeleton, thought to be the remains of a man of the Dong Nai culture who stood about five feet, four inches tall. Hsiao Chung Hung of Australian National University said that the site was centrally located and probably supported a busy port in addition to craftsmen and artisans. The Giong Ca Vo archaeological site is a red hill where archaeologists have discovered 185 burial altars, 13 tombs, and artifacts such as animal-shaped earrings made of precious stones, glass, and shells, as well as gold leaves. According to Hsiao, the site is located in a central position and may have supported a busy port and a concentration of craftsmen and artists.



9 The Ulugbek's Shipwreck Site

Time: 2022

Location: Turkey, close to the east shore of Uluburun

Introduction:

The Bronze Age shipwreck, discovered in 1982 on the Turkish coast, is considered one of the greatest underwater discoveries and is known as the "Wall Street of the Sea." The shipwreck is exceptionally well-preserved and is regarded as an important artifact that bears witness to the Silk Road trade. The cargo found on the ship includes pottery, ceramics, glassware, and metal objects from China, Persia, Iraq, and other regions in the Middle East.

In 2022, the latest research by archaeologists revealed that the nomadic tribes of the Uzbekistan steppe provided one-third of the bronze objects in the ancient Mediterranean region during that time.



10 The Ancient Buddhist Site Bhir Mound

Time: 2022

Location: Taxila River Valley, Pakistan

Introduction:

The Taxila civilization originated around 600 BC and was centered in the Taxila River Valley in what is now Pakistan. It is one of the most important archaeological sites in South Asia. The Taxila civilization was a multicultural and multiethnic society that included people from India, Greece, Persia, Central Asia, and other regions. At this cultural center, people created many important cultural and technological achievements, including medicine, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, and literature. In addition, the Taxila Valley civilization was known for its trade in silk, spices, and other valuable commodities. The Taxila civilization was influenced by the invasion of Alexander the Great and other political upheavals from the 2nd century BC to the 1st century AD, which eventually led to its decline and disappearance into the annals of history. It had a profound impact on the development of culture, society, religion, and politics in the South Asian subcontinent. In recent years, archaeologists have excavated cultural remains of the ancient Buddhist site of Bhir Mound, the first city of the Taxila civilization, which was abandoned by the last inhabitants, the Greeks of the Bactrian Kingdom, from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD.



Archaeological Discovery List

No.	Title	Excavation Time	Place and Country
1	Zhengzhou Shang City-site	2021-2022	Henan, China
2	Jirentai Goukou Site	2018-2022	Xinjiang, China
3	Wenjiangduo site	2021-2022	Tibet, China
4	Qingpingbao Site	2020-2022	Shaanxi, China
5	Wenzhou Shuomen Ancient Port Site	2021-2022	Zhejiang, China
6	Tangchaodun City-site	2018-2022	Xinjiang, China
7	Wangniuling Han Cemeteries	2020-2022	Guangxi, China
8	Fuxing Road Cemetery	2021-2022	Jiangsu, China
9	Xishaliang Stone-circle Cemeteries	2022	Inner Mongolia, China
10	Jihulangtu Cemetery	2022	Inner Mongolia, China
11	Alzhai Grottoes	2022	Inner Mongolia, China
12	Ornate Treasure Hoard in Russia	2021-2022	Liangzhou, Russia
13	Ebreichsdorf Site	2021-2022	Vienna, Austria
14	Shipwreck Site in Estonia	2022	Tallinn, Estonia
15	Nahal Omer Site	2021-2022	Arava, Israel
16	Circular Amphitheater of Pergamum	2018-2022	Turkey
17	Ancient Roman Ruins in Farasan Islands	2005-2022	Saudi Arabia
18	Giong Ca Vo archaeological site	2022	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
19	Heiankyō site	2022	Kyoto, Japan
20	Ulugbek's shipwreck site	2022	Turkey, close to the east shore of Uluburun
21	Bandhavgarh National Park	2022	Madhya Pradesh State, India
22	Ancient Buddhist site Bhir Mound	2022	Taxila River Valley, Pakistan
23	Taldy Historical Archaeological Park	2022	Taldy, Kazakhstan



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads
2022
REPORT

THEMATIC EXHIBITIONS

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Annual Review of Thematic Exhibitions on Silk Roads in 2022

Gao Zhenhua

Representative in Europe, *Art Museum Magazine*

Through a thorough search of materials for the 2023 edition of “Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads”, the team has in total identified 84 exhibitions held in 2022 (compared to 86 in 2021) that are dedicated to the Silk Roads. In terms of format, there are among these displays 3 online shows and a travelling exhibition offered by an Argentinian institution. It is worth noting that the search was carried out with key words in five languages: Chinese (“丝绸之路, 展览”), English (“Silk Road(s), Exhibition”), French (“Route de la Soie, Exposition”), German (“Seidenstraße, Ausstellung”), Spanish (“la ruta de la seda, Exposición”). It is the first time that the team has searched relevant exhibitions with so many languages, which are used by countries where cultural activities and services are more available and museumgoers are more numerous. As we will realize it, the search method has an impact on the exhibitions’ geographical distribution. Apart from the search, Prof Pan Shouyong, a renowned anthropologist and museologist, has kindly recommended ten exhibitions.

Among these shows forty-four were organised in China (compared to seventy-three in 2021) while forty were held outside the country (thirteen in 2021). It is the first time that the exhibitions held in China are far from being dominating and have almost been overtaken by those organised outside. Among the international exhibitions, 6 were held in France, 3 in Germany, 4 in Spain, 2 in the United States, 2 respectively in the UK, Japan, Argentina, Switzerland and Austria while each of the following countries hosted one single show: Netherlands, South Korea, Algeria, Russia, Turkey, Uruguay, Mexico, Australia, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Canada, Poland, Kenya, Italy and Peru. The fact that this year’s search used five languages has highly influenced the exhibitions’ distribution. The differences between China and the rest of the world in terms of pandemic handling policy may also partly explain the result, and especially the drastic reduction in the number of exhibitions in China, as museums in the country still followed strict anti-Covid guidelines in most part of 2022.

Like the previous edition, we have categorized the 84 shows according to content with six qualifiers: comprehensive, historical, geographical, thematic, case-based or creative. Those that can be described by a single qualifier are called “displays of primary categories”. They encompass 8 comprehensive exhibitions (3 in 2021), 12 geographical ones (19 in 2021), 5 case-based ones (16 in 2021), 24 thematic ones (18 in 2021), 25 creative ones (9 in 2021), and one single historical exhibition (2 in 2021). To our surprise,

comprehensive shows have considerably increased following the sharp fall in 2021. It is also worth noting that among these 8 comprehensive exhibitions, four shows included the Japanese artist Hirayama Ikuo’s works or collections and the Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum is still a major contributor of silk-road-related exhibitions. Meanwhile creative exhibitions have also achieved a drastic increase of 278%. However, there are much less “composite” or “multidimensional” exhibitions than in 2021 (19 in total). They only include 6 geo-historical exhibitions and 7 historio-thematic ones.

The categories will be described one by one and illustrated by representative cases.

1.Comprehensive Exhibitions

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

“The Silkroad: A Living History of Interaction”, Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum

The Silk Road once flourished as a transportation route between East and West. The name was first used in the 19th century by the German geographer Ferdinand Freiherr von Richthofen in his book "China" (vol. 1, 1877) as "Seidenstrassen," the German plural for silk road. As the name implies, it refers to a grand trade route extending from China, the silk-producing region, all the way to Rome. The world became richer through the exchange of not only cultural products, but also information, science, and people of all kinds along this route. The Silk Road reached Egypt via Rome, then China, Korea, and Japan, and became a road of culture, information, and people. Okinawa was also influenced by the trade during the Ryukyu Kingdom period.

This exhibition introduces 116 works by painter Hirayama Ikuo, who loved the Silk Road and selected treasures. In addition, as a special exhibition, we display Japanese Buddhist statues produced from the early Kamakura to Muromachi periods, which are being exhibited for the first time, as well as valuable Buddhist statues produced by the great Buddhist sculptor in Kyoto, Matsuhisa Sorin (the Great Buddhist Master of Shitennoji Temple and Narita Shinshoji Temple), and the standing Yakushi Nyorai statue housed in Toshodaiji Temple in Nara, which was created by a Buddhist statue sculptor in the Heisei period. This is an opportunity to reflect on the long history of the Silk Road, which spans over 7,000 kilometers.

“Splendor of the Silk Road: Exhibition of the Silk Road Cultural Relics”,Anhui Museum

The Silk Roads are a trade route network starting from Chang’an or Luoyang and reaching the Mediterranean Sea via the Long Mountain, Hexi Corridor, Central and Western Asia; or reaching Europe and North Africa via routes south of Qin Mountains or the Eurasian Steppe. It allows civilisations to converge. The world’s most well-known ancient civilisations were all along the roads which connected China with the Mediterranean civilisation through Mesopotamia. The network also nurtured the friendship between different countries and testifies to the solidarity between nations. It deepens exchanges on the Eurasian continent by merging into a solid community different places in Central Asia, Western Asia and the Mediterranean Basin which seemed to be segregated but were actually inseparable. It is through these connections that the human civilisation achieved prosperity thanks to interactions, intermingling and coexistence.

The exhibition selects more than 190 works (sets) in Hirayama Ikuo’s collection or silk road paintings by the Japanese artist. The artefacts on view cover the period from 2,000 BC to the 8th century AD and ancient cultures spanning from the Mediterranean basin and Mesopotamia, to Central and Western Asia. Greek painted pottery, Roman and Persian glass, Persian gold and silver ware, silk road gold and silver coins, Central Asian brocades and Indian Buddhist statues show diverse cultures, arts, religions, craftsmanships, customs and folklores of different places and represent cultural exchanges, encounters and fusions along the Silk Roads.

“Exhibition of Ancient Cultural Relics from Eurasia”,Museum of Wu

The exhibition tells stories with objects and brings to visitors a dialogue among Eurasian civilisations without time or space limits. Organised by the Museum of Wu, Hirayama Ikuo Silkroad Museum and Lüshun Museum, the show gathers more than 190 objects (sets) representing various civilisations on the Eurasian continent and covering countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Italy. These ancient artefacts from remote places illustrate cultural features formed over time of civilisations in the Mediterranean Basin, and Central and Western Asia. Visitors may experience with direct observation Eurasian civilisations’ characteristics and encounters. The civilisations are no longer abstract or confusing concepts. With physical artefacts, they show their long history, delicate art forms and vivid colours and tell you how they were shaped over time.

2. Historical Exhibitions

Historical exhibitions refer to those focusing on 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 show exemplifies this category.

“The Manila Galleon and the Maritime Silk Routes in the Wake of the Nao Victoria (El galeón de Manilay las rutas marítimas de la seda en la estela de la Nao Victoria)”, Casa de los Caracoles

This is an itinerant exhibition, organized by the Spanish Silk Institute, and with the support of the Generalitat, the Castellón City Council, the Castellón Provincial Council, Unesco and the Royal Tapestry Factory.

The exhibition tries to reflect that the adventure of Columbus's arrival in the new continent, looking for the land of spices (the Maritime Silk Road) gave rise to the Circunvalación of the Terrestrial Globe initiated by Magellan and completed by Juan Sebastián Elcano.

The exhibition allows to deepen the knowledge of both the events and the merchandise that was transported, the spices that they were looking for or the ships that they used through historical maps, navigation charts, drawings or models of caravels, galleons and xebecs. Several porcelains stand out, a facsimile of Pigaffeta's diary as well as chasubles and other items of clothing. In addition, as a central piece, the exhibition exhibits for the first time to the public the Tapestry Card ceded by the Royal Tapestry Factory, which shows Columbus before the Catholic Monarchs, a fundamental piece to understand the way in which this type of tapestries was worked.

Merchandise from America and Asia, once they arrived at the Casa de Contratación, first in Seville and then in Cádiz, were distributed by sea to the Mediterranean. Thus, their main destinations were Valencia, Castellón, Alicante and Denia. The exhibition exhibits two models of boats that are very common on the Mediterranean coast: an 18th century xebec and a lugger from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

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.

“The Splendours of Uzbekistan's Oases (SPLENDEURS DES OASIS D’OUBÉKISTAN)”, Musée du Louvre

This exhibition takes visitors on a fascinating journey to the crossroads of civilisations, in the heart of central Asia, in Uzbekistan, where Samarkand and Bokhara are household names. But many other trading posts in the region brought to light works of art that are now listed as objects of world heritage.

A large selection of these masterworks will leave Uzbekistan for the first time and undergo special conservation treatment for the exhibition, including monumental wall paintings from the Ambassadors’ Hall in Samarkand and its surroundings, the pages of one of the oldest monumental Korans from the early days of Islam from Katta Langar, in Sogdiana, and other treasures in gold from Bactria (Dalverzin Tepe), silver, silk, and fine ceramics. The exhibition also showcases several masterpieces from the famous 16th-century miniature paintings of the School of Bukhara.

Thanks to exceptional loans from Uzbekistan, and from major European museums, the exhibition encompasses nearly 130 works and invites visitors to embark on a journey through space and time. The riveting tale of 17 centuries sheds light on why this far-flung region near China and India fascinated Alexander the Great and the caliphs of Baghdad, beyond the Iranian world, further east. This hotspot of exchange and cultural flourishing provided a forum where Western and Eastern civilisations could dialogue and mingle harmoniously.

“A Durable Thread: The Silk Road from China to America”, Ben Shahn Center for the Visual Arts, William Paterson University

A new exhibition at the William Paterson University Galleries reimagines the Silk Road by connecting China to the “Silk City” of Paterson, New Jersey. "A Durable Thread: The Silk Road from China to America" unites a world of silk objects from Asia, Europe,

and North America from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

Rather than positing what silk can tell us about Paterson, this exhibition asks viewers to reconsider Paterson’s role in the global silk trade in relation to longstanding silk traditions. "A Durable Thread" positions Paterson within a global web of silk processing and production through textiles, historical dress, and drawings and documents created along the historical trade route as well as outside its typical boundaries. Together, these materials embody how silk opened up international and transnational trade, education, and industrialization, transforming the social lives of the cities it touched.

Silk became desirable for luxury goods early in history due to its unique structure and luminosity. Chinese silk arrived in Central and South Asia and as far afield as Dynastic Egypt and Imperial Rome via trade. Italy became the center of silk weaving outside of China by the 15th century, followed by France. As sericulture spread and technologies improved over the next centuries, the Silk Road extended westward to the United States. European and American manufacturers including Tassinari et Chatel, Stehli Silk Corporation, H.R. Mallinson & Company, and Warner and Sons capitalized on a growing demand for silk goods fueled by a steady supply of raw silk from China and later Japan, producing bold, fashionable fabrics for upholstery and dress. By the late 19th century, European designers, weavers, and dyers emigrated to Paterson, which earned the nicknames “Silk City” and “Lyon of America” for its dominance in silk cloth manufacturing, especially Jacquard-woven ribbons produced in mills powered by the Great Falls.

Among the exhibition highlights are two satin brocades attributed to the Baker Silk Mills in Paterson. Machine loom cards from the Pelgram and Meyer Silk and Ribbon Co., sample thread catalogues by the National Silk Dyeing Company, and drawings for silk patterns by artist William Geskes contextualize local silk production in this major American industrial center. Elaborately decorated labels from Japanese raw silk shipments at the Paterson Museum attest to the city’s longer, more dynamic relationship with silk before the arrival of artificial and synthetic fibers.

Early modern textiles in the show demonstrate how, in the two centuries before Paterson’s silk manufacture, a taste for all things Chinese—so-called “chinoiserie”—had already permeated textile production and consumption in centers like Amsterdam, London, Lyon, and even Boston. Embroidered and painted motifs imitate actual Chinese patterns, like those seen on imported silks and the embroidered Manchurian and Han Chinese robes on display. Other textiles even bore fake signatures woven in pseudo-Chinese characters intended to fool prospective buyers. Decorative silks from Mughal and modern India and Edo Japan, as well as a Uyghur girl’s etles (ikat) ensemble from the ancient Silk Road oasis of Khotan emphasize Asian silk traditions outside of China.

“On the Roads of Samarkand: Wonders of Silk and Gold (Sur les routes de Samarcande. Merveilles de soie et d’or)”, Institut du monde arabe

Shown for the first time outside Uzbek museums, a collection of unique works deserves a discovery at the Institut du Monde Arabe. Hundreds of pieces as well as exquisite objects made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries immerse us in the history and ancestral know-how of a country at the crossroads of millennial civilisations.

Emir court’s magnificent chapans and accessories embroidered with gold, painted wooden saddles, silver harnesses decorated with turquoise, precious embroidered wall-hanging “suzanis”, tapestries, silk ikats, nomadic culture’s jewellery and costumes as well as a dozen orientalist paintings: a trajectory of more than 1,100 m2 is populated by almost 300 pieces never shown before, that represent the treasures of Uzbekistan.

Artisanal treasures that shape the Uzbek identity

On the Roads of Samarkand celebrates the splendid craftsmanship’s renaissance in the 19th and early 20th centuries, which shapes the identity of Uzbekistan. Like the powers in the Islamic world, textiles play a key role there; especially the Bukhara embroidery enjoys a special status among the country’s various art forms. It was during the period of Emirate of Bukhara (1785-1920) that the gold embroidery reached its climax and gained a reputation in terms of technique, quality and above all creativity. A number of splendid and monumental products - chapans, robes, headdresses, saddle-cloth blending colours and gold - that are dedicated to the court and diplomatic gifts are exclusively manufactured at the Emir’s private workshop and testify to his luxurious lifestyle. Other works are to discover along the exhibition trajectory that bring a wider view of the society and period: the famous ikats and their vivid colours, the woven pieces made with ancestral techniques, and regional stylish products from Khorezm, the Fergana valley or Karakalpak region, where women’s wardrobes were full of jewellery.

An inspiring land for painters

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Turkestan, a region that covers the future Republic of Uzbekistan, was a favoured

destination for many artists from Central Asia and Russia. New art schools were founded in the 1920s; a Uzbek school came into being under the leadership of Alexandre Volkov (1886-1957). The painters will discover the land and find a unique inspiration in Central Asia’s richness of landscapes, forms, colours and faces. That is why we can find in the subjects that their art depicted the tapestries, suzanis, chapans and ikats displayed in the exhibition since each artist addressed the pursuit of remote places and exoticism in her or his own way.

“Brilliance of the Silk Road: the Joint Exhibition of Guangdong and Gansu”, Guangdong Museum

The Emperor Wu of Han sent Zhang Qian to make connections with Western Regions and conveyed ambassadors to states on the coast of South China Sea. From that period onwards, the East and the West frequently interacted since obstacles had been removed, which accelerated the evolution of the global civilisation. Following the fall of the Qin and Han empires, the Sui and Tang dynasties brought China into a second period of united empire. Dunhuang in Northwest China and the southern major port Guangzhou played key roles on the Silk Roads. In the Yuan dynasty, north-western peoples flourished by being intertwined with each other. Meanwhile the southern maritime trade became increasingly prosperous. From the 15th century when the Age of Discovery started, the Jiayu Pass in Gansu province and the Canton Customs became connecting points between Chinese and Western cultures and maintained increasingly close relations with the rest of the world... At key historical moments, the overland and maritime Silk Roads evolved separately while being linked to each other to bridge ancient China and the rest of the world.

Located in Northwest China, Gansu province becomes a unavoidable route on the Overland Silk Roads by connecting China’s central plains with inland Asia. Meanwhile Guangdong province in the south of the country possesses important trade ports on the Maritime Silk Roads and becomes a gateway to the vast South Pacific Ocean. Far from each other, the two regions are closely intermingled.

Drawing on fine objects from both provinces, the exhibition selects more than 500 artefacts in heritage and museum institutions’ collections to interpret the inherent connections between the two regions. The origins and history of the Hexi Corridor in Gansu and the maritime routes starting in Guangzhou are represented to demonstrate a trans-regional spread of ideas and technologies and a cultural process of mutual inspiration. The profound impact of Silk Roads’ evolution on the Chinese civilisation is revealed through an in-depth interpretation.

In terms of exhibition space design, the show uses exhibits with characteristics of Silk Roads’ each period to deepen viewers’ understanding of history in the context of the “Belt and Road” initiative and to celebrate cultures on both overland and maritime roads. Introducing visitors into the display space with two dragonfly-eye-shaped glass balls, excavated respectively in Gansu and Guangdong, the exhibition leads viewers to experience East-West cultural and artistic exchanges and social developments in the South and North. By combining real things and reconstructed scenes, the installation lets visitors cross lost relay stations in deserts, visit solemn grottoes, and climb the Great Wall. Using sound, light and electrical multi-media interactive technologies, the show creates an immersive atmosphere. In the public space between the Galleries 1 and 2, visitors may also observe the painting process of cave murals. They may gain a better understanding of cave art by returning to the historical scenes of artistic creation.

In chronological order and drawing on the latest archaeological discoveries and historical accounts, the exhibition invites you to experience the prosperity of the Silk Roads through the three sections “The Rise of the Silk Roads”, “The Prosperity of the Silk Roads” and “The Glory of the Silk Roads”.

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, a diplomatic relationship or an artistic genre. In the new edition the category is populated by 24 shows concerned with various subjects such as caravanserai (hubs on the Silk Roads), glass (5 of them are devoted to the material), bilateral relations, Dunhuang art (3 exhibitions), clothing, silk, coins, maritime culture, philosophy, and porcelain. The following cases illustrate the category better.

“Caravanserai on the Silk Road”, Portland State University

Tom Schutyser presents a multidisciplinary photography project about one of the six public building types in Islamic

Architecture, the caravanserai. For centuries, the caravanserais served as staging posts throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. They provided accommodation to traders, pilgrims, and other travelers along the Silk Road that connected China, India, and Europe. The caravanserais were vital nodes in the first globalized overland network and trading system. Thousands of these caravanserais were built and successfully operated. Time and again, they persisted, surviving empires, caliphates, wars, and natural catastrophes until the demise of the caravan trade.

Having lived, traveled, studied, and worked on every continent, Tom has always been fascinated by local history, culture, and people. During an earlier overland journey to China, Tom learned about the caravanserais of northern Iran. In 2006, he visited Egypt and was surprised to learn there had been more than three hundred caravanserais active in the city of Cairo. Living in the USA, a country deeply scarred by its adventures in the Middle East, Tom was struck at a whole different level; it became the impetus for this photographic journey.

This project takes documentary photography to its broadest, most cross-disciplinary limits. With a particular focus on the caravanserais of the Levant region of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, it is a narrative that encompasses aspects of Middle Eastern history, culture, art, and architecture. It is, at the same time, documentary photography, textual research, travel journal, multicultural dialogue, and meditation on current affairs. In the tumultuous state of relations between the Western and Muslim worlds today, caravanserais are evidence of ancient international exchange, communication, and trade. The monumental changes taking place today in the Middle East—the religious and sectarian confrontations, the Arab Spring movements, a growing youth population, and strained socio-economic conditions—represent enormous challenges for the region. From the haze of history to documentary photography and travelogue to reaching out to experts on the Middle East—from Traces to Places to Dialogue—the caravanserais provide inspiration to find new multicultural platforms for the future. Visual representation and metaphorical images have always been powerful tools for stimulating new ideas and investigating different solutions. With a message of multicultural exchange and communication, of “West meets Middle East,” the caravanserais suggest cultural diplomacy at its finest. As confrontations, wars, and conflicts continue to take their toll, dialogue threads are in dire need of exploration. The caravanserais, in operation for many centuries, are a metaphor for long-lasting multicultural dialogue.

“Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient”, State Hermitage Museum

On 20 April 2022, the exhibition “Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient”, organized as part of the Hermitage’s extensive celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Peter I (1672–1725), opens in the Moorish Hall of the Winter Palace.

The State Hermitage is home to memorial items closely connected with Peter the Great. A very special place among them is occupied by works of Chinese art that were presented to him as gifts from the Kangxi Emperor, who reigned from 1662 to 1722, or else acquired from the Celestial Empire on Peter’s instructions. The Oriental collection that was assembled in a quite purposeful manner in Saint Petersburg during the first three decades of the 18th century was unique for its time in terms of both the composition and quantity of items, and it remains highly important testimony to the history of Russia’s relations with China and the establishment of Oriental studies and museum practices in this country.

In the 17th century, the need to establish borders with China in the Far East became more pressing. A search was underway for new routes “to India” and contacts with Persia. Access to the sea in the south of the country was being actively pursued. Those factors, along with many others, prompted Russia to take an interest in the lands of the Orient.

Peter I came to the throne in 1682, and in 1689 Feodor Golovin concluded the Treaty of Nerchinsk on the caravan trade and borders. At that time, by way of diplomatic gifts, Russia’s rulers were presented with some astonishing little gold bowls decorated with the finest filigree work and precious stones.

In 1692, an embassy was dispatched from Moscow to Beijing with orders from Peter I to establish, first and foremost, trading relations with China. The mission was led by Isbrandt Ides, a Dutch merchant and traveller, who was then a resident of the “German Quarter” outside Moscow where foreigners lived. Peter the Great wrote a formal letter to the Kangxi Emperor, addressing him as follows: “To the Emperor [the word ‘Ruler’ was crossed out] of great Asiatic countries, the present Bogd [Mongol-Manchurian] and Chinese Khan, Our Friend, kind compliments...”, and signed himself “Your Majesty’s good friend Peter”.

Ides’s mission lasted three years (until 1695) and was to a large extent successful. He obtained an audience with the Kangxi Emperor, received gifts and purchased many rare items. As a result of this mission, the homes of foreigners in the German Quarter,

the private collections of the Russian nobility and, of course, the Tsars’ treasury were all enriched with a large amount of Chinese valuables in the last years of the 17th century. People at the time noted that especially great quantities of precious stones, silk, lacquer and porcelain were brought back.

A very important role in shaping Peter’s fascination with the East, and with China in particular, was played by his first journey abroad in the years 1697–98. Among other things, on Peter’s return to Moscow, the capital’s apothecaries began to use special Chinese vessels made of porcelain and decorated with overglaze painting featuring a depiction of the double-headed eagle. Examples of such articles are included in the exhibition.

From the end of the 17th century, as a result of the sweeping reforms Peter made in the state, a large amount of Chinese silk was required, and not just for “household” purposes – clothing, upholstery or interior decoration. The Tsar took the very important decision to have flags and banners made for his various regiments. Those were usually sewn from patterned Chinese silks with designs in the form of plant shoots, flowers, clouds, precious objects or ribbons.

It is telling that expensive Chinese silk was used as a material for important state documents, as a support for drawings and even for prints. The Hermitage collection includes an engraving printed on patterned Chinese silk – A Symbolic Image on the Occasion of the Coronation of Catherine I made by Ivan Zubov in 1724. We do, however, also still have some articles of silk clothing that belonged to Peter I himself. Very important among them is the dressing gown from the Emperor’s wardrobe that was made from a light blue Chinese silk with a pattern of grapevines and jerboas. The Tsar used to wear this garment in the morning as far back as the 1690s, when he was still living at Preobrazhenskoye outside Moscow.

A fascinating and very rare group of exhibits is formed by what became known as “machines on wheels”. The mechanical wind-up toys were brought back from the “Middle Kingdom” by the 1719–21 embassy headed by Captain Lev Izmailov. The Kangxi Emperor had established a clockmaking workshop within the Forbidden City, and there he showed members of the embassy a variety of mechanical curiosities and timepieces, making a gift of some of them to the Russian Tsar. These exotic wonders have a spring-driven mechanism inside that is wound up with a key. They run around on wheels and have other parts that move and rotate. For the Peter the Great anniversary year, three of the toys have been restored by the Laboratory for the Scientific Restoration of Timepieces and Musical Mechanisms and have begun to move once again.

Besides works of art, the exhibition “Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient” also features drawings of rarities from the collection of Peter I’s Kunstkammer, as well as books, prints and other items with commemorative associations that are kept in the State Hermitage.

“Meet Dunhuang: Digital Immersive Exhibition”,Meet You Museum, Jing'an, Shanghai

On 4 October, the second step of “Meet Dunhuang: Digital Immersive Exhibition”, an original show curated by the Meet You Museum, officially opened in Shanghai at its campus in Jing’an District. Focusing on the culture and art of Dunhuang, the exhibition reinterprets more than 200 paintings recreated by contemporary artists based on ancient works in the Mogao grottoes using the 3D light carving technology. Visitors may experience the attractive art of Dunhuang grottoes and deepen the understanding of traditional Chinese culture in this immersive display.

Based on the history of the Silk Roads, the exhibition reconstructs the culture of Dunhuang to a large extent. Under the leadership of Chang Shana, daughter of the former Director of Dunhuang Research Academy and former President of Central Academy of Arts and Crafts (present-day Tsinghua University’s Academy of Arts & Design), the show uses 3D light carving technology and tens of 4K high-definition devices to screen more than 200 newly reinterpreted murals by artists such as Sun Bo and Bao Ying on a surface of 1300 m2. The fine murals were brought to life in a dynamic way.

In the section “Echos of Light”, visitors may enter a time-space tunnel decorated with light and shadows through the four thematic light shows “History of Silk Roads: Blending of Different Civilisations”, “The Nine-Colour Divine Deer: Welcome to the Fantasy Forest”, “A Thousand Buddhas in Dunhuang: The Reappearance of Lying Buddha in Light” and “Dance and Music in Dunhuang: Travelling in Heaven with Apsarās”. Viewers could thus explore the Dunhuang art in an immersive environment.

First built 1,700 years ago, the Dunhuang grottoes are made as a result of efforts of countless monks, anonymous painters and workers and are made possible by encounters, fusions and innovations of different civilisations. They thus bear the aesthetic values of a cultural diversity. The grottoes demonstrate Chinese Buddhist culture and art’s finest achievements from the 4th to 14th centuries as well as the gathering and blending of China’s ethnic groups’ cultures and those of other parts of Eurasia.

To make visitors deepen their understanding of Dunhuang’s millennial culture, the exhibition’s Shanghai step has added two static displays “The Millennial Dunhuang” and “Preserving and Transmitting” while reproducing some lost murals such as Stories from the Amitāyurdhyāna Sūtra, Five Hundred Robbers Becoming Buddhas, Stories from Buddha’s Biography, Apsarās Playing a Pipa with Hands at the Back, and Buddhist Meditation.

Works by Chang Shuhong and his daughter Chang Shana, forerunners of the preservation of Dunhuang grottoes, are also displayed. Representing the construction and formats of the grottoes as well as gestures and styles in the murals, the works reveal to visitors the best kept secrets in the desert.

“Treasures Shaped by Heat: the Ancient Glass Art on the Silk Road”,Shenzhen Museum

One of the oldest artificial materials, glass was used to make the finest and most expensive luxurious goods. It was produced and used for millennia. From Mesopotamia of about 4,300 years ago, to the eastern coast of Mediterranean Sea, ancient Egypt and ancient Rome, Assyria, Persia, the Islamic world and even China, glass making techniques from different periods, places and cultures enjoyed mutual inspirations to produce masterpieces with distinctive features and incomparable quality.

It was also among the most popular trade goods in the history of exchanges between China and the rest of the world. Its evolution symbolizes the mutual inspirations between different civilisations.

Treasures Shaped by Heat: the Ancient Glass Art on the Silk Road is by now the most important travelling exhibition in China dedicated to ancient glass art and was held in Dunhuang, Beijing, Xi’an and Changsha.

The exhibits cover the major categories of glassware such as jewellery, incised pieces, fragrance and cosmetic containers, utensils, lighting devices, and building materials to demonstrate how glassware was turned from substitute goods of natural gems into multifunctional daily life tools thanks to technological innovation and diverse cultural influences. The cultural diversity of glass in the countries on the ancient Silk Roads is fully revealed.

“One Object from Each Museum: the Finest Artefacts from China's Maritime Museums”,China Port Museum

Since the launching of the project, the exhibition gained support among maritime heritage institutions and museums. 35 members of China Museums Association’s maritime committee participated in the show. Furthermore, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and the Museu Marítimo in Macau took part in the project with enthusiasm, which added two more institutions to the list of organisers. Within its framework, each institution contributed to the exhibition the most representative artefact in its collection, which allowed to display 37 fine maritime objects in total. They cover a long period of time and are various in terms of category. Among them are the world’s oldest dugout canoe, a blue glass bowl representing ancient trade and cultural exchanges, a Changshaware yellow-glaze brown-colour alcohol pot with flora patterns, a gold necklace with double top chains and a decorative rhinoceros-horn-shaped plaque, the ship’s wheel of Fujian Fleet’s training ship Tongji made in 1894 that witnesses a humiliating past, a gold cup commemorating Beiyang Fleet’s formation, a stone carving depicting a Christian four-winged angel made in the Yuan dynasty and a painted stone statue of Mazu.

The exhibition is divided into four sections. The first part focuses on boats and connects ancient ships with maritime technologies and logistics to represent China’s maritime history.

Dedicated to trade, the second part presents fine objects covering the period from the Han to Qing dynasties to illustrate connections between China and the rest of the world and represent exchanges and conflicts between different cultures.

The third part talks about resistance. In modern history, China’s maritime technologies became far inferior to those of the West. Faced with difficulties and hardship, countless forward-looking people aspired to changes in terms of national defence. Their heroic deeds aimed to turn China into a maritime power.

The fourth part is about belief. People with different cultural backgrounds have different beliefs while they all long for safety and happiness.

“The Silk Road of the Lotus Sutra: A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence (La ruta de la seda del Sutra del loto: un mensaje de Paz y Coexistencia armoniosa)”,instituto de Filosofía Oriental (IOP), la Soka Gakkai Internacional de la Argentina

This exhibition highlights the central message of peace and harmonious coexistence contained in the Lotus Sutra. It narrates the birth of Buddhism in India and how it spread widely throughout Asia, highlighting the history and importance of the Lotus Sutra.

In this exhibition we can find objects related to the history and transmission of the teachings of the Lotus Sutra, as well as facsimile and romanized reproductions of various types of manuscripts of the most important canon of Buddhism, many of

which were made jointly with the Dunhuang Academy of China, the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the International Academy of Culture of India, and the British Library. This joint endeavor enabled the reproduction and dissemination of different archived versions of the Lotus Sutra in various regions of the world over nearly two millennia. Also included among his panels are parables from the Lotus Sutra, illustrated in the Mogao Cave murals (circa 300-1300 AD), discovered in Dunhuang, China.

“Weaving the Nation: Traditional Costumes of China's Ethnic Minorities (Entramar la Nación: trajes típicos de las minorías étnicas de China)”, Museo Histórico del Norte

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Argentine Republic, the exhibition "Weaving the Nation: typical costumes of China's ethnic minorities" was presented at the Historical Museum of the North, in the city of Salta .

The exhibition was organized by the Salta museum together with the National Museum of the History of Costume. The curator of the exhibition, Ignacio Villagrán, explained that China is a multi-ethnic nation and that this exhibition seeks to convey this immense cultural diversity: "It is a nation with a thousand-year history and enormous diversity. This idea is sometimes ignored and people think of a Chinese culture, when in reality they are cultures that are intertwined to form what China is today".

For her part, the director of the Costume Museum, Vicky Salías, said that they worked on "the importance of textiles, the Chinese heritage in relation to silk, the techniques that have migrated through the different trade routes that China had with the rest of the world and that spread throughout the globe”.

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 site or an institution that played an important role. The following examples illustrate this category.

“A Heart Devoted to the Silk Road: Huang Wenbi and the Silk Road”, Northwest University Museum
A forerunner of China’s silk road and northwestern border area archaeology, Huang Wenbi also laid the foundations of the disciplines of archaeology and border politics at the Northwest University. He made tremendous contributions to the silk road archaeology and the training of researchers on border issues. After him generations of Northwest University archaeologists have continued to carry out projects regarding the Silk Roads, to train a number of dedicated researchers and to achieve a range of accomplishments.

Through myriad historical photos, archives and artefacts collected and investigation devices used by Huang Wenbi, the exhibition visually demonstrates his biography and main accomplishments. Furthermore, the show focuses on his work at the university over 10 ten years allowing to found the departments of archaeology and border politics. Also shown are the evolution of the Archaeology Department from 1956 onwards, and the achievements of the Northwest University’s Silk Road Archaeological Team led by Prof Wang Jianxin that worked in Central Asia.

The show brings to life Huang Wenbi’s life through four parts and 49 sets of archive, photo and object.
“Dulan on the Silk Road: an Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Archaeological Excavations at Reshui”, Dulan County Museum

By tracing the archaeological discovery of Reshui cemetery, and by showing the major artefacts and summarizing key findings, Dulan on the Silk Road: an Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Archaeological Excavations at Reshui reflects the team’s commitment and shows that the Reshui site is the most attractive trove in Silk Roads’ Qinghai section and a priority research subject for the international academic community. It fosters the diverse and united development of China’s ethnic groups while regaining the Qinghai section’s glory.

“Treasures of Tang Dynasty”, Dongguan Museum
The crypt of Famen Monastery symbolizes the prosperous Tang dynasty. The exhibition is an unprecedented show of Tang dynasty courtly treasures.

With immersive means, the exhibition shows comprehensively Tang dynasty’s advanced material and spiritual cultures to make visitors directly experience the prosperity and magnificence of the period. Viewers go on a time-space trip in the exhibition space to

return to the golden age of Chinese history.

The exhibition displays 60 fine objects in the collections of Famen Monastery Museum and Baoji Bronze-ware Museum which include 29 Grade I artefacts. To better show the beauty of the treasures of Famen Monastery, the exhibition design draws on the structure of Buddhist sutras to transport viewers to a period characterized by ambition, tolerance, prosperity and confidence.

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. They make up the biggest category in this year’s edition and span various media such as textile, painting on silk, oil painting, photography, drawing, print, ink painting, poster, film and video, mixed-media installation, watercolour, and sculpture. The following examples illustrate this sort of exhibitions.

“Guardians of the Silk Road's Heritage: Women of the mountains of Central Asia”, Oriental Museum, Durham University

A landscape of open plains and the highest mountains on earth, cut with deep valleys whose rivers feed most of Asia. For thousands of years this landscape witnessed processions of caravans carrying cargoes of spices and silks, along with ideas and innovations, heading along the ancient silk routes joining east and west. Cities grew up and grew rich from the trade, forts were built to defend and control it, and shrines served the spiritual needs of those undertaking the long, arduous journey.

With the rise of sea trade in the age of sail and then steam the importance of these land routes shrank. But now there is talk of the "New Silk Roads" sparked by China’s vast "Belt and Road Initiative". It aims to create transit corridors across what they call the "Eurasian land bridge" connecting China to Europe. The mountains of Central Asia will once again become a world of trade and transport.

People living along these routes fear that their way of life may be destroyed while others see opportunities to bring local arts and crafts to new audiences. It is set against this backdrop of uncertainty that the GCRF Resilient Silk Route Heritage Network aimed to foster ways for local communities to develop their cultural heritage, commercially and creatively. To make cultures move once more across the mountains, to learn from each other and work together.

This exhibition showcases the work of the professional artists and craftswomen who do so much to preserve and transfer traditional knowledge and skills, adapting them for new audiences and popularising Central Asian folk art. Alongside photographs of the women practicing a variety of traditional craft techniques will be examples of their textile work.

“Going Back in Time and the Silk Road”, Ankara CerModern
Photographer Renate Graf’s exhibition “Going Back in Time and the Silk Road” welcomed visitors at Ankara CerModern, in a joint program organized by the Institut Français Ankara, the embassies of France and Austria, and CerModern.

Graf is widely acclaimed for her powerful studies, which can be described as a poetic form of documentation in which the image wavers on the edge of language. Indeed, it was her passion for literature and poetry that prompted Graf to devote her life to photography.

Her reading of authors such as Fernando Pessoa, Rainer Maria Rilke, Tagore, T. S. Eliot, Edmond Jabès, Paul Valéry and Hermann Broch called forth images in her mind that she sought to capture through photography. Cinema also plays an important role in the artist’s work, with such directors as Wim Wenders, Jean-Luc Godard, Werner Herzog, Visconti and Andrei Tarkovsky all being important references in her bringing of images into existence through her distinctive perspective and unique style.

The artist’s camera accompanied her on her travels from a very early age, and thanks to her camera, she has documented every journey she has made, each with its own unique geography, whether in South India, Morocco, China, Alaska, Russia, Yemen, Cambodia, Italy, Germany or her homeland Austria.

She began creating travelogues with her photos to which she presented with excerpts from chosen texts, writing them out in longhand. These are the artist’s testimonies to the wonder of travel, and can be likened to the sketched notebooks of Delacroix in Morocco, or the diaries of Frieda Kahlo – being a mixture of narrative and art.

As her approach gained impetus, it gave rise to larger format books that were hand-bound by the artist herself. In time she felt

the need to create larger format images, which she developed in the darkroom using traditional techniques.

Today, Graf’s photography is recognized for its distinctive chimeric quality combined with the formal simplicity of pictorial composition that characterizes her works, examples of which can be found in the most prestigious private and public collections around the world.

"Imaginations on the Silk Road:Artworks by Ge Sha Dedicated to the Silk Road”, Xi'an Museum

Focusing on “the Silk Roads depicted by Ge Sha”, the exhibition connects art with historical subjects and shows his creations and artistic achievements as well as Silk Roads’ natural landscape, human values and spiritual pursuits through his works accompanied by a string of accessory displays.

The exhibition selects 94 works (sets) by Gesha in Changchun Museum’s collection that best capture the Silk Roads’ features. These include prints, engravings, oil and ink paintings, and drawings. Through the sections “A Wet Region along the Great Wall”, “Mutual Inspirations between the East and the West”, “Memories of the Past”, “The Limitless Silk Roads”, it leads visitors into an art world populated by stories, values and powers.

To enhance the subject and reinforce its visual expression power, the show draws on Ge Sha’s works to design decorative panels and uses Dunhuang’s three most iconic colours in the exhibition space design. Secondary exhibits like video screening bring to visitors diverse visual and audio experiences.

The exhibition also includes a rubbing experience based on Ge Sha’s prints dedicated to Silk Roads in which visitors may experience the whole print rubbing process under the guidance of interpreters.

“Davide Monteleone: Sinomocene/Fotofestival Lenzburg”, Stapferhaus

While there has been concern raised in the West, recently, regarding a possible end of Globalization as we know it, Davide Monteleone’s long-term project investigates the immense efforts by China to reshape the global movement of goods, services and capital by an infrastructure initiative known as “Belt and Road” or “New Silk Road”, and by doing so tilt the geopolitical balance towards the East. However, there is a certain break between the economic and geopolitical processes at work and how they are manifested in the real world. Much of it remains simply invisible or is too all-encompassing to be pictured, which poses a challenge to an artist working in photography and interested in presenting us with more than the facts. But Monteleone finds intriguing images that back up his extensive research and rich data that informs his stunning photographs.

Monteleone’s photographic project is realised together with the National Geographic Society. The exhibition Sinomocene at Stapferhaus is a world-premiere and it will be accompanied by the publication of the book by Artphilein Publications.

“Silk”, Goethe-Institut

The Goethe Centers in Baku and Yerevan as well as the Goethe Institute in Georgia showed the “Silk” exhibition during this year's Venice Biennale. Artists from the Caucasus, Italy and Germany make visible how the history of trade and industry has been inscribed in textiles since ancient times.

Textile art is still of great importance in many countries between the Caspian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. For centuries women in particular in the Middle East, Central Asia, the Balkans and the Caucasus have passed this tradition and art on to their children. In the Caucasus region, silk printing was primarily an important craft for a long time - the silk factory and the silk museum in Tbilisi bear witness to this.

The history of trade and industry has resonated in textiles since ancient times. But they are also their own aesthetic field with poetic claims. This is precisely what the Silk exhibition, presented by the Goethe Centers in Baku and Yerevan and the Goethe Institute Georgia with the Giudecca Art District, during this year's Venice Biennale, testifies to.

ON THE ROAD OF EXCHANGE

The western part of the old Silk Road, which began in China and ended in Venice, serves as a resonance space for the project. The mythical Silk Road is not only understood as a trade route for goods, but also as a cross-border space for the exchange of ideas and technologies.

Five artists from the Caucasus, Italy and Germany are involved. Faig Ahmed is known for conceptual works that translate traditional crafts and the imagery of carpets into contemporary sculptural artworks. Nino Kvrivishvili has made two handwoven tapestries. The titles of the works – AISI and DAISI (Georgian for sunrise/sunset) – refer to fabrics made in Georgia during the Soviet era.

OF SAND DUNES AND SILKworms

Araks Sahakyan's drawings in A4 format are based on the principle of patchwork, or fragmented tapestry. An installation by Lisa Batacchi unfolds between textile elements, symbols and colors reminiscent of ancient Persian mysticism and the different shades of sand dunes.

Finally, Olaf Nicolai did extensive research in the famous Tbilisi Silk Museum and came across a quote from a Georgian poet that serves as a central element of his poster print: "I wish you were a mulberry leaf and I was a silkworm".

“Paul Kolling: Westwards (Paul Kolling: Westwärts)”, MEWO Kunsthalle

The term "Silk Road" was first coined by the German geographer and cartographer Ferdinand von Richthofen in the late 19th century for a complex network of trade routes connecting Asia with Europe. Contrary to this precise observation of several routes, the idea of a single mysterious transport route stuck in people's minds. The so-called New Silk Road, on the other hand, arouses few romantic ideas beyond pure market interests. Financed and driven to a large extent by China, this infrastructural mega-project connects the People's Republic with its markets.

Despite technological advances in the field of logistics and the transport of goods, some mysteries seem to have survived. Apart from a few transshipment points and central transport times, almost no information is known about train routes. In joint research with the filmmaker Jack Wolf, Paul Kolling traced the actual circumstances of this elusive, cross-border flow of goods. Several works have been created based on his research into the northern transport route, including the film installation Break of Gauge, which is central to the exhibition.

The triumph of the railway and the medium of film in particular had an immense influence on people and fundamentally changed their experience of space and time and their own position in the world. So the presentation of Break of Gauge in its form of analogue film projections is only logical and the MEWO Kunsthalle with its proximity to the Memmingen train station and the parallel tracks is a suitable setting.

The works shown by Kolling open the space for questions about the very real – economic, political and social – effects such large-scale projects have on the world, the existing balance of power and the real life situations of people.

“China in the Light of Reflections, Photographs and Objects (CHINA IM LICHT DER REFLEXIONEN, Fotografien und Objekte)”, KUNSTRAUM des Konfuzius-Instituts Nürnberg-Erlangen e.V.

In 2013, as part of an artistic exchange program, Bernard Langerock traveled to China for the first time - to the metropolis of Chongqing, where he spent several months and was inspired by Chinese lacquer to take numerous photographs. In the years that followed, he visited China several times and, he used his camera and the lacquerware he found there to artistically fuse tradition and modernity, craftsmanship and technology, optics and haptics.

In the exhibition China in the Light of Reflections, our art space is showing Langerock's impressive photographs from February 11 to April 30, 2022.

In his works, Bernard Langerock tries to capture the essence of China, symbolized by the lacquer, in photographs. Just like the country it represents, lacquer is extremely versatile and can serve a variety of functions depending on its use; for example, it can refine, conserve and adapt to its environment. It can be transparent or opaque and its surface reflects what is happening around it. Langerock uses these reflections in his photographs, which seem almost like abstract paintings, in order to highlight China and thereby increasingly approximate its nature.

“*Xieyi* Chinese. Selected Works from the National Art Museum of China (Xieyi Chino. Obras Seleccionadas del Museo Nacional de Arte de China)”, Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales, Museo de Arte Precolombino e Indígena

The exhibition took place simultaneously at the National Museum of Visual Arts (MNAV), which exhibited 17 pieces at its headquarters in Parque Rodó, as well as at the Museum of Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Art (MAPI) in the Old City, where they were presented 16 other works.

The works address different techniques and formats such as oil painting, watercolor, engraving and sculpture.

They always do so within the tradition of *Xieyi* expression, which implies expressing themselves freely and with a certain speed in the execution of each work that arises from the intellectual and spiritual experience of each artist.

In the watercolor work entitled "Natural Vocation" (2020), Pang Maokun shows the commitment of a health worker in times of pandemic.

"Peking Opera Clown" (2015), the piece that heads the exhibition catalogue, is an oil painting by Wang Ke that impresses with a realistic technique showing a clown before going on stage.

7.“Composite” Exhibitions

•**Geo-historical exhibitions**
“**Nara to Norwich: Art and Belief at the Extremities of the Silk Roads, 500-1100 AD**”, **Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures**

The Silk Road is recognised internationally as perhaps the most famous ancient trade route that linked the East and West. Most studies of the Silk Roads focus on exchanges between the two continental extremes, China with Rome and then Byzantium. But in Japan the terminus of the Silk Road is Nara, and its Imperial Treasury, the Shōsōin, full of Silk Road and Buddhist treasures. If we look to the West, discoveries of silk and Buddhist images in northern Europe are testimony to the fact that the Silk Road as we know it extends further than its traditionally regarded terminus at the Mediterranean and paints a picture of a more far-reaching global network than previously thought.

Religion at these extended extremities of the Silk Road also display the remarkable similarities between Japan and Britain as both areas saw the emergence of new nations. Buddhism spread throughout the Japanese archipelago, stimulating the coalescence of indigenous practices and cult beliefs into what became known as Shinto, while at the other end of Eurasia, Christianity spread through the British Isles, absorbing many elements of local Celtic and Saxon spirituality. As ideas and commodities were exchanged along the Silk Roads, Europe and Asia became connected by both land and sea.

Inspired by several intriguing objects, such as a small bronze head of a Bodhisattva in the Sainsbury Centre, dated to the 7th century, stated to be from Japan but with clear Korean or Chinese characteristics, the online exhibition Nara to Norwich: Art and belief at the extremities of the Silk Roads, 500 – 1100 AD explores the intersection and encounters of art and religion, and how these ideas and concepts were shaped, adapted, and influenced in the context of an increasingly connected Afro-Eurasia.

“**Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th-8th Centuries**”, **China National Silk Museum**

Located in Northwest China, Qinghai is in the northeastern part of Tibetan Plateau. Home to three mountains and the sources of three major rivers in China, the province is well-known for its grand lake and wild plateau landscape. West of the basin of Yellow River, the region even covers parts of the Yangtze River Basin and is east of Xinjiang’s southern routes, south of the Hexi Corridor, north of Tibetan Plateau’s heart. It’s at the centre of a route network.

The Silk Roads’ Qinghai section was explored early while it reached its golden age in the period of Tuyuhun. In the early 4th century, Murong Tuyuhun, a member of the Xianbei ethnic group, led his tribe to move to Qinghai and founded in 313 AD the state of Tuyuhun which was conquered by Tibet in 663. The regime ruled for about 350 years.

Drawing on archaeological discoveries regarding Tuyuhun and Tibet that are west of the Qinghai Lake over the past 40 years, the exhibition provides an overview of Tuyuhun’s history and showcases its life, culture and art history from the 6th to 8th centuries (including the Tibet-ruling period) through a range of artefacts with high scholarly and aesthetic values. It aims to reveal the role played by Silk Roads’ Qinghai section in connecting the Western and Eastern cultures as well as in combining the cultures of China’s different ethnic groups.

History of Tuyuhun

Tuyuhun was part of Xianbei group’s Murong tribe in the Liaodong region and moved to Qinghai in the early 4th century to found its own state. At its climax, it ruled over a territory stretching for 4,000 lis from east to west and 2,000 lis from north to south while completely controlling present-day Qinghai. The state made outstanding contributions to the construction and maintenance of the Qinghai route section and to the trade and cultural exchanges between the East and the West. In 663, Tibet invaded Tuyuhun with prevailing troops while the King Nuohebo fled Tuyuhun with the Princess Honghua and thousands of families to move to Liangzhou. Tuyuhun was thus conquered. The pro-Tibetan powers who did not flee obeyed the Tibetan rule. Qinghai and the road section became part of the Tibetan empire.

Living of Tuyuhun

Living mainly on nomadic pastoral farming, Tuyuhun people also hunted, made artisanal products and traded. The nomadic

farming was the main economic sector by providing basic production and life materials. Hunting also played a special role in providing not only food and clothing but also entertainment and military training. Craftsmanship brought production tools, daily life devices and armouries while planting and trade comprised a small percentage of economy. Influenced by the cultures of Xianbei, Han, Qiang-Di, and Western regions, Tuyuhun’s distinctive culture was shaped over time by life and producing activities. They mainly ate meat and cheese among other ingredients. With prevailing Xianbei features, their garments nevertheless received influence from Tibet, Western regions and China’s central plains.

Treasures of the Silk Roads

As an important part of the Silk Roads, the Qinghai section was also known as Silk Roads’ southern route. It played a particularly important role from the 6th to 8th centuries. During the Wei and Jin and Southern and Northern dynasties (220-589) when the Hexi Corridor was controlled by different regimes or by the Northern dynasty, the only path allowing the Southern dynasty to engage with Western regions was the route across Tuyuhun, present-day Qinghai, which has been known as the “Tuyuhun Route” or “Henan Route”. Western states such as Yanda, Persia, Qiuci, Khotan and Rouran traded within the tributary system with the Southern dynasty through the route along which Chinese and foreign monks like Hui Lan, Fa Xian, Song Yun, Hui Sheng and Shenajueduo learned and spread Buddhist teachings. Chinese and foreign merchants trading on the route were numerous too. A group of foreign merchants might include more than 200 people, 600 camels and mules and 10,000 pis of coloured silk cloth. In the Sui and Tang dynasties the route remained important in the road network. Therefore cultural remains are everywhere along the route while precious artefacts have been excavated to represent its evolution and interactions between Chinese and Western civilisations.

Archaeology in Haixi

Archaeological researches regarding Tuyuhun and Tibet in Qinghai province’s Haixi region have been undertaken over the past 40 years and experienced three periods: accidental discoveries to early excavations from 1982 until 1999, joint excavations complemented by the World Heritage nomination proposal from 1999 to 2018, and a balance between archaeological research and the fight against illicit excavations since 2018. As long as archaeology advances and tombs are discovered continuously, new researches have deepened people’s perception. A range of outstanding discoveries have shed new light on the research in regard to the route, burial customs, coffin paintings, silk pieces, gold and silver ware and wood slips in Tibetan.

“**Life External Exchanges of the Xiang River Basin in the Han and Tang Dynasties**”, **Changsha Tongguan Kiln Museum**

The Changsha Tongguan Kiln Museum gathers more than 180 important “Maritime Silk Road” artefacts in the collections of museums in the Xiang River Basin. The exhibition represents in the wider context of Maritime Silk Road the prosperous exchanges between the basin and the rest of the world in the Han and Tang dynasties through the sections “Hunan’s external cultural exchanges in the Warring States period”, “The Xiang River Transport Network that Reaches Rivers and Seas” and “The Pearl on the Xiang River: the Changsha Kiln”.

Located at a strategic position between Northern and Southern China, Hunan also bridges the country’s eastern and western parts. Although inland, the province benefits from the Xiang River, the region’s longest river that flows from its southern extreme to its northern end, to become a major overland transfer path for the Maritime Silk Road. The Xiang River reaches other rivers and seas and allowed the maritime routes to extend to inland areas. As early as 1,200 years ago, early inhabitants of Changsha began to travel by sea. Under-glaze multi-colour ceramics from Changsha crossed oceans and seas to be exported to 29 countries and territories. After a millennium, porcelain pieces recovered through marine archaeology are still shining like new products. A great number of historical accounts, archaeological findings, sites and remains testify to the existence and evolution of this connection. The precious heritage witnesses an inland region’s explorations of marine trade and cultural exchange.

•**Historio-thematic exhibitions**

“**Travelling to Remote Places in Beautiful Clothing: the Reconstruction of Clothing on the Silk Road from the 6th to 8th Centuries**”, **China National Silk Museum**

The exhibition tells the story of silk, a material originating in China and spreading to Central Asia through the ancient Silk Roads. While spreading westwards, silk technique was learned and adapted by countries on the roads. Meanwhile, Chinese weavers also drew inspiration from Western regions’ tastes. Over millennia, the Silk Roads are not only a network of silk trade but a path facilitating cultural and artistic exchanges between countries on the roads. Like a bridge, it connects China with the other countries

and civilisations of the world.

Using modern technologies, the exhibition represents Central Asia’s distinctive textile patterns and clothing from the 6th to 8th centuries to revitalize the ancient roads. The garments and textile products on view have been jointly restored by the China National Silk Museum and Donghua University to revive the nomadic style of export silk pieces made from the 6th to 8th centuries.

East and West: East and West on the Maritime Silk Road”, Xi'an Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts

In the style of a nostalgic European elegance, the exhibition shows in chronological order 163 artefacts (sets) distributed into three sections - “An Eden in the East”, “Exquisite Chinese Products” and “A Style Blending the East and the West” - to represent real social lives in China and Britain from the 18th to 19th centuries while addressing differences and similarities between Chinese and Western societies.

Since its existence, the Maritime Silk Roads have always been important paths connecting the East with the West and had a huge impact on the process of the global civilisation. Combining Eastern and Western styles, products “made in China” crossed seas and oceans to be exported to overseas markets and to launch in the West a strong wave of “chinoiserie”. They not only witness the prosperous East-West trade but also embody the East-West cultural convergence and combination.

China and Britain on the Maritime Silk Road: from Hangzhou to London”, Hangzhou Museum

Combining Eastern and Western styles, products “made in China” crossed seas and oceans to be exported to overseas markets via the Maritime Silk Road and to launch in the West a strong wave of “chinoiserie”. They witness the prosperous maritime trade and embody the East-West cultural convergence and combination. In chronological order, the exhibition presents 162 artefacts (sets) distributed into the three parts “An Eden in the East”, “Exquisite Chinese Products” and “A Style Blending the East and the West” to represent social lives in China and Britain from the 18th to 19th centuries. The differences and similarities between China and the West in that period are also addressed.

1

The Splendours of Uzbekistan's Oases

Dates: November 23, 2022 - March 6, 2023

Venue: Louvre Museum, Paris, France

Introduction:

This exhibition takes visitors on a fascinating journey to the crossroads of civilisations, in the heart of central Asia, in Uzbekistan, where Samarkand and Bokhara are household names. But many other trading posts in the region brought to light works of art that are now listed as objects of world heritage.

A large selection of these masterworks will leave Uzbekistan for the first time and undergo special conservation treatment for the exhibition, including monumental wall paintings from the Ambassadors’ Hall in Samarkand and its surroundings, the pages of one of the oldest monumental Korans from the early days of Islam from Katta Langar, in Sogdiana, and other treasures in gold from Bactria (Dalverzin Tepe), silver, silk, and fine ceramics. The exhibition also showcases several masterpieces from the famous 16th-century miniature paintings of the School of Bukhara.

Thanks to exceptional loans from Uzbekistan, and from major European museums, the exhibition encompasses nearly 130 works and invites visitors to embark on a journey through space and time. The riveting tale of 17 centuries sheds light on why this far-flung region near China and India fascinated Alexander the Great and the caliphs of Baghdad, beyond the Iranian world, further east. This hotspot of exchange and cultural flourishing provided a forum where Western and Eastern civilisations could dialogue and mingle harmoniously.



2

Nara to Norwich: Art and Belief at the Extremities of the Silk Roads, 500-1100 AD

Dates: June 7, 2022 - now

Venue: Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, Norwich, UK

Introduction:

The Silk Road is recognised internationally as perhaps the most famous ancient trade route that linked the East and West. Most studies of the Silk Roads focus on exchanges between the two continental extremes, China with Rome and then Byzantium. But in Japan the terminus of the Silk Road is Nara, and its Imperial Treasury, the Shōsōin, full of Silk Road and Buddhist treasures. If we look to the West, discoveries of silk and Buddhist images in northern Europe are testimony to the fact that the Silk Road as we know it extends further than its traditionally regarded terminus at the Mediterranean and paints a picture of a more far-reaching global network than previously thought.

Religion at these extended extremities of the Silk Road also display the remarkable similarities between Japan and Britain as both areas saw the emergence of new nations. Buddhism spread throughout the Japanese archipelago, stimulating the coalescence of indigenous practices and cult beliefs into what became known as Shinto, while at the other end of Eurasia, Christianity spread through the British Isles, absorbing many elements of local Celtic and Saxon spirituality. As ideas and commodities were exchanged along the Silk Roads, Europe and Asia became connected by both land and sea.

Inspired by several intriguing objects, such as a small bronze head of a Bodhisattva in the Sainsbury Centre, dated to the 7th century, stated to be from Japan but with clear Korean or Chinese characteristics, the online exhibition Nara to Norwich: Art and belief at the extremities of the Silk Roads, 500 – 1100 AD explores the intersection and encounters of art and religion, and how these ideas and concepts were shaped, adapted, and influenced in the context of an increasingly connected Afro-Eurasia.



3

Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient

Dates: April 20 - June 19, 2022

Venue: State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Introduction:

The State Hermitage is home to memorial items closely connected with Peter the Great. A very special place among them is occupied by works of Chinese art that were presented to him as gifts from the *Kangxi* Emperor, who reigned from 1662 to 1722, or else acquired from the Celestial Empire on Peter's instructions. The Oriental collection that was assembled in a quite purposeful manner in Saint Petersburg during the first three decades of the 18th century was unique for its time in terms of both the composition and quantity of items, and it remains highly important testimony to the history of Russia's relations with China and the establishment of Oriental studies and museum practices in this country.

In the 17th century, the need to establish borders with China in the Far East became more pressing. A search was underway for new routes "to India" and contacts with Persia. Access to the sea in the south of the country was being actively pursued. Those factors, along with many others, prompted Russia to take an interest in the lands of the Orient.

Peter I came to the throne in 1682, and in 1689 Feodor Golovin concluded the Treaty of Nerchinsk on the caravan trade and borders. At that time, by way of diplomatic gifts, Russia's rulers were presented with some astonishing little gold bowls decorated with the finest filigree work and precious stones.

In 1692, an embassy was dispatched from Moscow to Beijing with orders from Peter I to establish, first and foremost, trading relations with China. The mission was led by Isbrandt Ides, a Dutch merchant and traveller, who was then a resident of the "German Quarter" outside Moscow where foreigners lived. Peter the Great wrote a formal letter to the *Kangxi* Emperor, addressing him as follows: "To the Emperor [the word 'Ruler' was crossed out] of great Asiatic countries, the present Bogd [Mongol-Manchurian] and Chinese Khan, Our Friend, kind compliments...", and signed himself "Your Majesty's good friend Peter".

'Ides's mission lasted three years (until 1695) and was to a large extent successful. He obtained an audience with the *Kangxi* Emperor, received gifts and purchased many rare items. As a result of this mission, the homes of foreigners in the German Quarter, the private collections of the Russian nobility and, of course, the Tsars' treasury were all enriched with a large amount of Chinese valuables in the last years of the 17th century. People at the time noted that especially great quantities of precious stones, silk, lacquer and porcelain were brought back.

'A very important role in shaping Peter's fascination with the East, and with



China in particular, was played by his first journey abroad in the years 1697–98. Among other things, on Peter’s return to Moscow, the capital’s apothecaries began to use special Chinese vessels made of porcelain and decorated with overglaze painting featuring a depiction of the double-headed eagle. Examples of such articles are included in the exhibition.

From the end of the 17th century, as a result of the sweeping reforms Peter made in the state, a large amount of Chinese silk was required, and not just for “household” purposes – clothing, upholstery or interior decoration. The Tsar took the very important decision to have flags and banners made for his various regiments. Those were usually sewn from patterned Chinese silks with designs in the form of plant shoots, flowers, clouds, precious objects or ribbons.

It is telling that expensive Chinese silk was used as a material for important state documents, as a support for drawings and even for prints. The Hermitage collection includes an engraving printed on patterned Chinese silk – A Symbolic Image on the Occasion of the Coronation of Catherine I made by Ivan Zubov in 1724. We do, however, also still have some articles of silk clothing that belonged to Peter I himself. Very important among them is the dressing gown from the Emperor’s wardrobe that was made from a light blue Chinese silk with a pattern of grapevines and jerboas. The Tsar used to wear this garment in the morning as far back as the 1690s, when he was still living at Preobrazhenskoye outside Moscow.

A fascinating and very rare group of exhibits is formed by what became known as “machines on wheels”. The mechanical wind-up toys were brought back from the “Middle Kingdom” by the 1719–21 embassy headed by Captain Lev Izmailov. The *Kangxi* Emperor had established a clockmaking workshop within the Forbidden City, and there he showed members of the embassy a variety of mechanical curiosities and timepieces, making a gift of some of them to the Russian Tsar. These exotic wonders have a spring-driven mechanism inside that is wound up with a key. They run around on wheels and have other parts that move and rotate. For the Peter the Great anniversary year, three of the toys have been restored by the Laboratory for the Scientific Restoration of Timepieces and Musical Mechanisms and have begun to move once again.

Besides works of art, the exhibition “Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient” also features drawings of rarities from the collection of Peter I’s Kunstkammer, as well as books, prints and other items with commemorative associations that are kept in the State Hermitage.



4 On the Silk Road: Fabrics, Luxury and Power

Dates: June 20 - October 2, 2022

Venue: Musée D'Art Et D'Archéologie, Cluny, France

Introduction:

It is a small exhibition about the Silk Route with a selection of textiles representing over 1000 years of textile history.

It includes Sassanian, Mongolian, Early Persian, Islamic, Safavid Persian, as well as Indian, Egyptian, Italian (Sicilian) and Spanish items, in a variety of woven forms, including compound weaves (samit), lampas, tapestry, brocades and velvet.

Some of the pieces are classic, such as Sassanian pearl roundels enclosing stylised birds, as well as a large piece of Mongolian silk lampas with a complicated interlacing design.

There was a large piece of Sicilian cloth near several Fatimid and Mamluk period silks including a piece with part of an Arabic inscription, as well as two earlier ‘Coptic’ pieces all in a tapestry weave. There were also three pieces of 13th century Persian velvets with small white spots on a red ground.

In addition, in the room next to the main hall upstairs, there were three copes, representing different periods, including a later damask example, a cope with an embroidered orphrey, and a cope in bright orange with appliqué flowers. The latter is believed to be Polish in origin.



5 The Silk Road: A Living History

Dates: October 20, 2021- April, 2022

Venue: Aga Khan Park, Toronto, Canada

Introduction:

The Museum's latest outdoor exhibition is a visual travelogue of adventurer Christopher Wilton-Steer's 2019 expedition along the Silk Road. Kicking off his journey in Venice and finishing off in Beijing, the UK-based writer and photographer traversed 40,000 kilometres over four months, documenting the architecture, the natural beauty, the history, and, most importantly, the people he encountered along the way.

The result is a stirring collection of photographs celebrating the stunning diversity of places and people that populate the Silk Road. At the same time, "The Silk Road: A Living History" is a powerful testament to the common humanity we all share and the deeply rooted connections that exist between disparate cultures.

Accompanying Wilton-Steer's gorgeous photos are first-person testimonies revealing what he heard, thought, and felt while looking through his camera's viewfinder. Through these personal stories, you will meet people and communities who left a lasting impression on Wilton-Steer. And perhaps you will be inspired to one day make a Silk Road pilgrimage of your own!



6 The History and Culture of the Maritime Silk Road

Dates: November 15, 2022-now

Venue: Fort Jesus Museum, Mombasa, Kenya

Introduction:

The digital exhibition embodies the Maritime Silk Roads' cosmopolitanism and tolerance through the route network's remains and iconic artifacts worldwide. The Fort Jesus Museum displays countless maritime silk road artifacts like Chinese porcelain pieces that witness the historical friendship between China and Kenya. The organization of the digital show revives the Maritime Silk Roads' spirit and is significant for the Sino-Kenyan cultural exchanges.

The exhibition will be displayed permanently at the Fort Jesus Museum. Local visitors may closely explore the Maritime Silk Roads through an advanced digital multi-media platform.



7 Hunters, Warriors, Spirits: Nomadic Art of North China

Dates: July 23 - October 23, 2022

Venue: City University of Hong Kong, China

Introduction:

The ancient nomads of North China were hunters, warriors, as well as traders, who facilitated the exchange of goods, technology, ideas, and the arts; most important, they were builders of empires. Living a highly mobile life, wedded to chasing game and herding flocks of animals, they left behind an expressive artistic legacy, showing men and beasts, predators and prey, culture and nature, interlocked in a perpetual cycle of life and death. Their world is vividly represented in their artistic heritage, imbued with a profound spirituality, and evoking an ideal relationship between humans and nature that is more relevant today than ever before.

This exhibition tells the story of the nomads, from their little-known origins in the early 1st millennium B.C.E. to their "golden age" between the 10th and 13th centuries C.E., with over two hundred and fifty art objects. To bring these objects to life, the narrative is presented through the diverse lenses of archaeology, art history, and anthropology, and placed within the broader context of cultural exchange across Eurasia.

In addition to the ancient objects, loaned in large part by the Mengdiexuan Collection, the exhibition includes contemporary sculptures by Buryat master Dashi Namdakov, photographs by Marc Progin, new media works by Jeffrey Shaw and Sarah Kenderdine, and animations by June Zhang.



8 Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th-8th Centuries

Dates: July 8 - September 18, 2022

Venue: China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou, China

Introduction:

Located in Northwest China, Qinghai is in the northeastern part of Tibetan Plateau. Home to three mountains and the sources of three major rivers, the province is well-known for its grand lake and wild plateau landscape. West of the basin of Yellow River, the region even covers parts of the Yangtze River Basin and is east of Xinjiang's southern routes, south of the Hexi Corridor, north of Tibetan Plateau's heart. It's at the centre of a route network.

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9 A Sense for Beauty across Two Countries: Cultural Exchanges between Japan and China during the Han and Tang Dynasties

Dates: September 24 - December 4, 2022

Venue: Tsinghua University Art Museum, Beijing, China

Introduction:

China and Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of their diplomatic relations in 2022. To show before visitors the long-lasting cultural exchange between both countries, the Tsinghua University and the government of Japan's Nara Prefecture jointly organised the special exhibition "A Sense for Beauty across Two Countries: Cultural Exchanges between Japan and China during the Han and Tang Dynasties" to showcase more than 100 China-related artefacts in the collections of Japanese institutions such as the Archaeological Institute of Kashihara as well as tens of Japan-related objects from Chinese institutions. Divided into six sections - "The Wa People's Gesture", "Wa and China", "The Founding of Japan", "Patterns of Prayer", "Buried Treasures of Yamato", and "Japan from a Chinese Perspective" - the exhibition comprises precious artefacts shown for the first time outside Japan. Embodying millennial cultures, they crossed seas to travel to China where they joined local treasures. Objects from both countries form a landscape of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange.



10 A Selection of Silk Road Artefacts from Xinjiang

Dates: November 30, 2021-February 28, 2022

Venue: Anhui Museum, Hefei, China

Introduction:

Divided into the three sections "The Embryo of Silk Roads", "Silk Roads' Golden Age" and "The Buddhist Silk Roads", the exhibition selects more than 180 fine artifacts (sets) excavated in Xinjiang and made from the pre-Qin period to the Yuan dynasty. These comprise ceramics, metal-ware, textiles, wood pieces, papers, Buddhist statues, and glassware. One of the highlights is official documents and wood and bamboo slips recording multi-language texts in the Han and Tang dynasties.



Thematic Exhibition List

No.	Exhibition Title	Duration	Venue	Organizer(s)
1	Guardians of the Silk Road's Heritage: Women of the mountains of Central Asia	2022/10/1-2023/5/21	Durham, UK	Oriental Museum, Durham University
2	The Splendours of Uzbekistan's Oases	2022/11/23-2023/3/6	Paris, France	Musée du Louvre
3	Silk Road Cities	2022/8/3-9/23	Leiden, Netherlands	Universiteit Leiden
4	Silk Road Specialty Exhibition	2022/11/1-11-4	Seoul, South Korea	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
5	A Durable Thread: The Silk Road from China to America	2022/8/29-12/2	Wayne, New Jersey, USA	Ben Shahn Center for the Visual Arts, William Paterson University
6	Nara to Norwich: Art and Belief at the Extremities of the Silk Roads, 500-1100 AD	2022/6/7-now	Norwich, UK	Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
7	The Silkroad: A Living History of Interaction	2022/4/5-5/8	Naha-shi, Okinawa, Japan	Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum
8	My Silk Road	13/02/2022	Algiers, Algeria	Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts (Musée National des Antiquités & des Arts Islamiques)
9	Caravanseraï on the Silk Road	2022/11/16-11/25	Portland, OR, USA	Portland State University
10	Silk Road ~ The Roots – Our Culture	2022/6/9-6/15	Tokyo, Japan	Art Glorieux Gallery
11	On the Roads of Samarkand: Wonders of Silk and Gold (Sur les routes de Samarcande. Merveilles de soie et d’or)	2022/11/23-2023/6/4	Paris, France	Institut du monde arabe
12	Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient	2022/4/20-6/19	Saint Petersburg, Russia	State Hermitage Museum
13	Silk Road	2022/10/19-2023/5/31	Sarasota, FL, USA	Art Ovation Hotel
14	Going Back in Time and the Silk Road	2022/1/29-3/27	Ankara, Turkey	Ankara CerModern
15	Journeys: the Silk Road and beyond	2022/2/2-3/13	Newcastle NSW, Australia	Timeless Textiles Gallery
16	On the Silk Road: Fabrics, Luxury and Power	2022/6/20-10/2	Cluny, France	MUSÉE D'ART ET D'ARCHÉOLOGIE, Cluny
17	Art and Nomads on the Silk Road	2022/12/6-12/18	Geneva, Switzerland	Humanit'Art
18	Exploring the Adventure of Silk Road	2022/11/25-12/11	Dijon, France	Médiathèque Champollion
19	The 48 Hours of Textile Creation: Returning to the Silk Road	2022/6/4-10/30	Bussièrès, France	Musée du Tissage et de la Soierie
20	Silk and the Silk Road	2022/8/19-26	Prague, Czech Republic	Chinese Embassy in Czech Republic
21	Silk and Silk Roads: from Hangzhou to Samarkand	2022/7/8-now	Samarkand, Uzbekistan	Afrasiab Museum of Samarkand
22	The Silk Road: A Living History	20/10/2021-04/2022	Toronto, Canada	Aga Khan Park

23	Uzbekiscanning: LUT’s Scientific Expeditions 2022	2022/8/24-9/8	Lublin, Poland	Gallery of the Scientific and Technical Information Center of the Lublin University of Technology
24	The History and Culture of the Maritime Silk Road	2022/11/15-now	Mombasa, Kenya	Fort Jesus Museum
25	Erich Schwam, a Life Upset by History (Erich Schwam, une vie bousculée par l'histoire)	2022/8/2-8/21	Le Chambon sur Lignon, France	MAIRIE LE CHAMBON SUR LIGNON
26	Davide Monteleone: Sinomocene/Fotofestival Lenzburg	2022/8/27-10/2	Lenzburg, Switzerland	Stapferhaus
27	Photo Exhibition: Workers' Settlements along the Silk Road (Fotoausstellung: Arbeitersiedlungen entlang der Seidenstraße)	2022/9/26-2023/3/5	Ratingen (Hösel), Germany	Oberschlesisches Landesmuseum
28	Silk	2022/4/21-7/20	Venice, Italy	Goethe-Institut
29	Modern art from the Silk Road	11/06/2022	Mürsbach, Germany	THE gallery
30	Paul Kolling: Westwards	2022/10/29-2023/3/12	Memmingen, Germany	MEWO Kunsthalle
31	Once there was and once there wasn’t...	2022/9/15-2023/1/8	Graz, Austria	Graz Museum
32	China, Photo Exhibition of Evelyn Glose	2022/11/9-12/22	Neubiberg, Germany	Haus für Weiterbildung
33	The Silk Road	2022/4/29-6/25	Berlin, Germany	KOW
34	The Silk Road dream	2022/9/20-2023/1/15	La Vila Joiosa, Spain	Vilamuseu
35	Living on the Silk Road	2021/12/18-2022/1/8	Quintanar de la Orden, Spain	Museo Casa de Piedra
36	The Manila Galleon and the Maritime Silk Routes in the Wake of the Nao Victoria	2022/2/2-2/25	Castellón, Spain	Casa de los Caracoles
37	Art: the New Polar Silk Road	2022/11/29-2023/1/17	Lima, Peru	Instituto Italiano de Cultura
38	The Silk Road of the Lotus Sutra: A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence	2022/7-now	Travelling Exhibition	instituto de Filosofia Oriental (IOP), la Soka Gakkai Internacional de la Argentina
39	The route of the FIP Guadalquivir/13th Guadalquivir International Piano Festival, “Transits” the Silk Road	2022/9/27-10/9	Córdoba, Spain	Festival Internacional de Piano Guadalquivir
40	Hunters, Warriors, Spirits: Nomadic Art of North China	2022/7/23-10/23	Hong Kong, China	City University of Hong Kong
41	Blown and Tooled: Western Asian Influences in Ancient Glass in China	2022/9/7-2023/2/26	Hong Kong, China	University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong
42	Dunhuang: Enchanting Tales for Millennium	2022/8/24-11/21	Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong Heritage Museum
43	Meet Dunhuang: Digital Immersive Exhibition	2022/10/4-2023/1/2	Shanghai, China	Meet You Museum, Jing'an, Shanghai
44	Qinghai Path: The Silk Roads in the 6th-8th Centuries	2022/7/8-9/18	Hangzhou, China	China National Silk Museum
45	Splendor of the Silk Road: Exhibition of the Silk Road Cultural Relics	2022/10/1-2023/2/19	Hefei, China	Anhui Museum
46	Digital Dunhuang	2022/3/25-12/31	Beijing, China	National Base for International Cultural Trade, Beijing
47	Imaginations on the Silk Road: Artworks by Ge Sha Dedicated to the Silk Road	2022/6/11-9/11	Xi'an, China	Xi'an Museum

48	From the Mediterranean to China: Selected Cultural Relics from the Silk Road	2021/12/14-2022/3/3	Taiyuan, China	Shanxi Museum
49	The Costume Culture along the Silk Road	2022/1/25-5/5	Chengdu, China	Chengdu Museum
50	By Boat: People's Lives in East Asia along the Maritime Silk Road during the Tang and Song Dynasties	2022/11/8-2023/1/8	Hangzhou, China	West Lake Museum
51	Treasures Shaped by Heat: the Ancient Glass Art on the Silk Road	2022/12/23-2023/4/6	Shenzhen, China	Shenzhen Museum
52	Silk Road: from Realism to Freehand Brush Work	2022/1/5-1/15	Nanning, China	Guangxi Calligraphy and Painting Academy
53	A Heart Devoted to the Silk Road: Huang Wenbi and the Silk Road	2022/5/14-now	Xi'an, China	Northwest University Museum
54	Exhibition of Ancient Cultural Relics from Eurasia	2022/6/30-9/20	Suzhou, China	Museum of Wu
55	The Ancient Glass Art from the Mediterranean Basin to Chang'an	2022/5/17-8/18	Xi'an, China	Xi'an Museum
56	Beautiful Uzbekistan: Selected Works Exhibition of Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest, UNESCO	2022/8-/9/18	Hangzhou, China	China National Silk Museum
57	Travelling to Remote Places in Beautiful Clothing: the Reconstruction of Clothing on the Silk Road from the 6th to 8th Centuries	2022/7/8-now	Hangzhou, China	China National Silk Museum
58	Dulan on the Silk Road: an Exhibition Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Archaeological Excavations at Reshui	2022/7/12-now	Dulan, China	Dulan County Museum
59	A Road Composed of Threads: the Finest Silk Road Artefact Posters	2022/6/16-9/18	Hangzhou, China	China National Silk Museum
60	Treasures Sinking into Oblivion: Ancient Coins from the Silk Road	2022/2/27-6/2	Jinhua, China	Jinhua Museum
61	Maritime Silk Road Artefacts from Guangxi in the Han Dynasty	2022/1/22-5/30	Yulin, China	Yulin Museum
62	Jin Show: Origins of Civilisation	2022/11/20-12/20	Hangzhou, China	Library of Zhejiang University City College
63	One Object from Each Museum: the Finest Artefacts from China's Maritime Museums	2022/12/20-now	Ningbo, China	China Port Museum
64	A Sense for Beauty across Two Countries: Cultural Exchanges between Japan and China during the Han and Tang Dynasties	2022/9/24-12/4	Beijing, China	Tsinghua University Art Museum
65	The Symphony of Sand and Fire: Exhibition of Glass Culture along the Silk Roads	2022/9/9-12/11	Changsha, China	Changsha Museum
66	A Symphony Combining the Maritime Silk Road and the Xiang River: Artefacts Bringing to Life External Exchanges of the Xiang River Basin in the Han and Tang Dynasties	2022/8/29-10/29	Changsha, China	Changsha Tongguan Kiln Museum
67	East and West: East and West on the Maritime Silk Road	2022/7/15-10/10	Xi'an China	Xi'an Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts
68	Treasures of Tang Dynasty	2022/5/18-8/21	Guangdong, China	Dongguan Museum
69	China and Britain on the Maritime Silk Road: from Hangzhou to London	2022/3/18-5/22	Hangzhou, China	Hangzhou Museum
70	Brilliance of the Silk Road: the Joint Exhibition of Guangdong and Gansu	2022/3/24-6/26	Guangdong, China	Guangdong Museum
71	A World of Silks, Global Silk Art	2022/1/20-4/20	Guizhou, China	Guizhou Provincial Museum
72	Qinghai in the Belt and Road	2022/2-now	Qinghai, China	Qinghai Province Museum
73	Exchanges and Mutual Learning: The Cosmopolitan Art from Dunhuang Grottoes and the Hexi Corridor	31/12/2021-20/03/2022	Shenzhen, China	Gallery of History and Folklore
74	A Selection of Silk Road Artefacts from Xinjiang	30/11/2021-28/02/2022	Anhui, China	Anhui Museum

75	Marvelous Colors,Manifold Forms:Cultural Exchanges in Glass Art among the Ancient East and West	19/04/2022-15/07/2022	Beijing, China	Tsinghua University Art Museum
76	Herbal Medicines on the Maritime Silk Road during the Tang and Song Dynasties	15/06/2022-15/09/2022	Qionghai, China	China (Hainan) Museum of the South China Sea
77	Sail to the Ocean under the Stars: A Special Exhibition of Maritime Relics in the 15th-19th Century	13/05/2022-15/08/2022	Zhongshan, China	Zhongshan Museum
78	Prosperity and the Sea 15th to 19th Century Cultural Relics of World Navigation	30/12/2021-08/05/2022	Qionghai, China	China (Hainan) Museum of the South China Sea
79	Art Exhibition of folk customs along the ancient Silk Road Qiuci Caves	28/01/2022-31/03/2022	Zhuhai, China	Zhuhai Museum
80	Suzhou Silk in the Map: Silk Road, Ancient City, and Travelogue	01/10/2022-18/12/2022	Suzhou, China	Suzhou Silk Museum
81	A kaleidoscope of Civilizations-Antiquities from Ancient Syria	30/07/2022-12/09/2022	Chengdu, China	Jinsha Site Museum
82	The Splendor of Asia: An Exhibition of Ancient Asian Civilizations	28/01/2022-31/03/2022	Chengdu, China	Sichuan Museum
83	Sailing the Seven Seas: Legend of Ming Maritime Trade during Wanli Era	01/10/2022-18/12/2022	Huzhou, China	Huzhou Museum
84	Tang Style on the Silk Road- Cultural Relics Unearthed in Luoyang	30/07/2022-12/09/2022	Huzhou, China	Huzhou Museum



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

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REPORT

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Annual Review of Research Works on Silk Roads in 2022

Luo Shuai

School of History, Zhejiang University

In 2022, more than 200 books (monographs, proceedings, reports, catalogues, etc.) as well as more than 700 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

A lot of important works on literature collation, both in Chinese and *hu* language, were published last year. Rong Xinjiang publishes a volume which devotes on the Chinese documents unearthed from Hotan are of great value for studying the history, culture, religion, language and other aspects of Khotan and other areas of the Western Regions in the Tang Dynasty. This book contains Chinese non-Buddhist documents unearthed in Hotan, which are known to be collected in China and abroad, in addition to the volumes collected by the National Library of China, the Museum of Renmin University of China and the Museum of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. There are more than 300 items in total, including the British Hoernle collection, Stein collection, Sweden's Hedin collection, Russia collection, Germany's Turfan expedition collection, Frank collection, Japan's Otani expedition collection, and China's public and private collection¹. Peter Zieme et al edit a volume which is a result of the Turfan studies carried out at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities since more than 100 years. The edition of Old Uyghur fragments that could be assigned to various texts about the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara provides an insight into the history of Central Asian Buddhism. The monograph is accompanied by commentaries to a large number of subjects related to Tantric Buddhism of the Middle Ages. Some of the manuscripts have illustrations of the 40 objects held in the hands of the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara of thousand arms and eyes well-known from statues and temple banners from Turfan, Dunhuang as well as China, Korea, and Japan. The Old Uyghur manuscripts are mainly based on Chinese originals of the Mijiao section (T. 1057, T. 1060, T. 1064 and T. 1982). One booklet was translated from a Tibetan original. The book concludes with a word index as a complement for the study of the Old Uyghur lexicon². Mehmet Olmez et al focus on the Xuanzang biography was probably published in the 10th century from Chinese into Old Turkish. It is the description of the journey that the Monch Xuanzang in the years 627 to 645 AD. through Central Asia to India to

study Buddhism in its country of origin. The Old Turkish translation is the only translation into a foreign language of this important Chinese work, which conveys first-hand knowledge of the rise of Buddhism in China during the Tang period. For ancient Turkish Buddhism this biography is interesting. In the 19th century, the main direction of ancient Turkish Buddhism was that of Xuanzang “consciousness-only doctrine”. The biography consists of ten chapters, of which only chapters three to ten are preserved in Old Turkish³.

Several archaeological reports on the sites along the Silk Road or the Maritime Silk Road were published last year. Hou Can’s posthumous work is published, which gives a detailed description of the process of the investigation and excavation and the cultural relics obtained from the archaeological excavation, and makes a detailed analysis and research on the same kind of objects excavated by the predecessors. It is illustrated with both pictures and texts, as well as a large number of line tracing and data statistics. This book is the detailed report of the only archaeological survey of Loulan Ancient Kingdom by Chinese archaeologists⁴. The first volume of Archaeological Report on the Shichengzi Site in Xinjiang, compiled by Xinjiang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, reports on the Shichengzi Site, which is located in the northeast of Magoliang Village, Banjiegou Town, Qitai County, Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. From 2014 to 2019, the Xinjiang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology carried out a continuous archaeological excavation of the Shichengzi site, clarifying the shape, layout and functional zoning of the site. The architectural construction method, hierarchical regulation, and combination characteristics of the relics of the Shichengzi Site clearly show that this site is a military fortress set up in the north of Tianshan Mountain in the Han Dynasty, and is the only ancient site of the Han Dynasty found in Xinjiang with accurate and reliable age, basically complete shape, intact preservation, and distinct cultural characteristics⁵. Archaeological Report on the Excavations of Quanzhou City Site, compiled by the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences et al, summarizes the results of the archaeological survey and excavation of the *Nanwaizongsi* Site in Quanzhou in 2020 and the *Shibosi* Site in Quanzhou from 2019 to 2021. The site of *Zongzhengsi* in Nanwai, Quanzhou is the only site of *Zongzhengsi* in the Song Dynasty that has been clearly excavated at present. The site of Boxi in Quanzhou City is the first scientific excavation of the location of the official maritime trade administration in Fujian Province. The relevant excavation results deepen the research of the relevant traditional historical culture of Quanzhou City, and enrich the connotation of the World Cultural Heritage of “Quanzhou: the World Maritime Trade Center of Song and Yuan China”, It further proves the important role of Quanzhou’s maritime trade since the Song Dynasty⁶.

Three catalogues of cultural relics on the Silk Road were published last year. Zhao Feng publishes the catalogue of the exhibition “The Silk Road: Before and After Richthofen” held by China National Silk Museum in 2020. Famous scholars in the field of Silk Road archaeology and history, such as Zhao Feng, Rong Xinjiang, Hang Kan, tell the origin and discovery process of the Silk Road. As a world heritage, the Silk Road started from 138 BC when Zhang Qian first made his first mission to the Western Regions, to 1877 when the German geographer Richthofen formally put forward the concept of “Silk Road” academically, and then to 2014 when UNESCO officially approved the Silk Road as a cultural heritage recognized by the world, which has passed 2252 years. According to this, the book is divided into three parts, covering the discovery history and academic history of the Silk Road from three perspectives: the road of Sino-Western exchange existing in historical facts, the Silk Road proposed in the Richthofen era, and the World Heritage Silk Road proposed by UNESCO⁷. Wu Huaqiang and Zhao Chao publishes the catalogue of the exhibition of Di Mensheng held at Nanshan Museum in Shenzhen. The most important cultural relics in the exhibition are “Zhai Mensheng Screen Stone Bed and Stone Gate” in the Eastern Wei Dynasty. This group of cultural relics has important cultural information, such as the only portrait of foreign scholars in the Northern Dynasty, the only epitaph of Shimen, and the only portrait of the seven sages in the northern bamboo forest. The master of the epitaph, Zhai Yu, was a disciple of *Zhai* State. He was originally “Sapu” of *Zhai* State. He stayed in Luoyang after being an “envoy” to the Northern Wei Dynasty, and was buried in the first year of *Wuding* in the Eastern Wei Dynasty (543). This book first published articles by four scholars: Zhao Chao, a researcher at the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Social Sciences, Akira Kuroda, a professor at the Japanese Buddhist University, Ren Zhilu, a researcher at the Shenzhen Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, and Zheng Yan, a professor at the School of Art of Peking University⁸. On the Road to Samarkand. *The Miracle of Silk and Gold*, published by the Institut du monde arabe, is the catalogue of the unprecedented exhibition that showcased nearly 300 works from the showcase of the Museum of Uzbekistan for the first time in Paris. On the road to Samarkand. Merveilles de soie et d’or showcases a range of textiles, jewelry, and valuables, such as luxurious velvet Chapan coats, Suzanne embroidered curtains, silk ikats, gold embroidered accessories from the Amir court, silver jewelry inlaid with turquoise, and

a range of Oriental paintings. These Uzbek jewelry creations were created from the 19th to 20th centuries, highlighting the expertise of Uzbek artists, especially Bukhara embroidery, which occupies a prominent position in the artistic form of Uzbekistan⁹.

In addition, the reference book Dictionary of Manichaeism. "Volume III, 2: Texts from Central Asia and China (Texts in Sogdian and Bactrian)", compiled by Nicholas Sims-Williams & Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst, is a revised and substantially enlarged edition of the Dictionary of Manichaeism covers the vocabulary of all Manichaeism (and anti-Manichaeism) texts in Sogdian and Bactrian (material published up to 2020, including short passages and even individual words which have been cited in print). Unlike the first edition, it also contains a substantial amount of material from texts which are still unpublished, especially unusual or otherwise unattested words and expressions. As before, the volume contains a full bibliography, references to discussions in the scholarly literature, and numerous corrections to previously published readings and interpretations. It is completed by an English index. Providing an up-to-date analysis of all published Manichaeism material in the Eastern Middle Iranian languages, the new edition of the Dictionary will continue to be an essential tool for everyone interested in Manichaeism, Iranian languages, or Central Asian history¹⁰.

II. Period Studies

1. Early period (before the 2nd century)

1) Studies focus on the western part of the Silk Road. Kenneth Lapatin and Rubina Raja seeks to address this lacuna in scholarship by offering an in-depth exploration of Palmyra’s connections with its eastern neighbours in the first three centuries. The papers gathered here examine the city’s art, architecture, and material finds, its languages and inscriptions, its political interactions, social life, and religious identity from a time when Palmyra was at the height of its powers in order to shed light on the city’s own distinctive identity, as well as its close - and often tense - relationships with Parthia and beyond. Together, these contributions offer fascinating new insights into Palmyra’s dynamic relationships with the regions to its east, as well as on how these influences underpinned and were diffused throughout Palmyrene culture¹¹. Guy Bar-Oz et al focus on long-distance trade routes criss-crossed ancient Africa and Eurasia. Archaeological research has focused on the commodities in transit and the excavation of major centers located along these routes, with less attention paid to smaller caravanserais and evidence such as rubbish middens. The “Incense Route” linked the Arabian Peninsula and Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, with activity peaking during the Nabataean and Roman periods. The authors present the results of test-pit excavations of middens at three small Nabataean-Roman desert caravanserais along the “Incense Route”. The assemblages recovered include material culture attesting to wide, inter-regional connections, combined with archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological data illuminating the subsistence basis of the caravan trade¹². Roger Matthews and Hassan Fazeli Nashli give the first modern academic study to provide a synthetic, diachronic analysis of the archaeology and early history of all of Iran from the Palaeolithic period to the end of the Achaemenid Empire at 330 BC. Drawing on the authors’ deep experience and engagement in the world of Iranian archaeology, and in particular on Iran-based academic networks and collaborations, this book situates the archaeological evidence from Iran within a framework of issues and debates of relevance today¹³. Harry Falk analyses Strabo’s *pramnai* and *garmanes* with ascetics in India. Both terms have no phonetical counterpart in Indian languages. While O. Stein traced back *garmanes* to a misread Greek form rendering śramaṇa, the term *pramnai* so far lacked a plausible explanation. A survey of the techniques to express Indic /ś/ in Greek script shows that *pramnai* can be explained by forms which started in the mid-first century bc with Greek rho and ended about a century later with the thorn-like Bactrian ša in the days of Vema Takhtu. This *ša* in turn was unknown in Greece and mistaken for *pi*. The character of the *pramnai* in Strabo can be linked to one of the social groups (merē) of the Indian state as mentioned by Megasthenes and is further proof for the veracity of his observations¹⁴.

2) Studies on the middle part of the Silk Road, mainly discussing the Hellenization and its influence. Yang Juping edits a volume which focuses on the Hellenized world, and uses Chinese and foreign classical literature, archaeology, coins, inscriptions and other materials to reveal the opening of the Silk Road from multiple angles and levels. The first part demonstrates the role of Alexander’s expedition and Hellenization of the world in the opening of the Silk Road. The second part is the core of this book, which is a case study. It discusses the spread and acceptance of Hellenistic civilization heritage in countries along the Silk Road. The third part discusses the existence and influence of Hellenistic civilization heritage in China¹⁵. Qi Xiaoyan points out that from Alexander’s Eastern Expedition to the collapse of Sassanian Persian Empire, the connection between the Hellenistic culture and the Sogdians

has not been interrupted, although the degree and way of connection will vary from time to place. Ancient documents, Greek coins, cities and murals and other archaeological discoveries have confirmed the existence of Hellenistic cultural influence in Sogdiana¹⁶. Li Jingze discusses the Hellenistic art in Central Asia and in India in three parts. The first part is mainly about Ai Khanum City, which is a case study to explore the interaction between Hellenized Far Eastern art and its cultural environment during the Greek rule. The second part is about the so-called Hellenistic Far East “dark period” under the rule of nomadic peoples. The third part turns to northwest India, which has also experienced two periods of Hellenistic multicultural blending, but is deeply influenced by Buddhism¹⁷.

3) Studies on the eastern part of the Silk Road. Jiang Hong-en makes a detailed study of the plant remains unearthed in the Yanghai cemetery in Turpan from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age (about the 13th century BC to the 2nd century AD), and discusses the ancestors’ grain planting, fruit tree cultivation, grain processing, food production, wood utilization, as well as the selection and development of aesthetics, medicine and other related plants. Finally, based on the plant remains and combined with the unearthed artifacts, the author discussed the living patterns of the ancestors of Yanghai¹⁸. Zhu Yuqi and Li Xiao edit a collection which focuses on the inscription “Liu Pingguo Carving Stone”. This book contains more than 30 papers from the participants. Scholars have made new explorations around “Liu Pingguo Carving Stone” and related issues, Western literature and Western history, cave murals and statue art, Silk Road archaeology and Western civilization, and the academic history of Silk Road research, adding many moving details to the study of Silk Road civilization¹⁹. Takamura Takeyuki focuses primarily on the “two-line” slips among the Dunhuang Han slips, unearthed in former Dunhuang Commandery in Hexi, and compare them with the “two-line” slips among the Juyan Han slips unearthed in former Zhangye Commandery, also in Hexi. By this means, the author clarifies the fact that there exist various differences, starting with the shape of slips of the same type, between regions and government offices, and also gain leads for adding further depth to research so that it extends to regional differences between slips²⁰.

4) Studies focus on the overall outlook of the Silk Road and the long-distance cultural exchange. Li Ling starts with *Suanni* (lion), *Tianma* (Akhal-Teke Horse) and *Tiaotuoying* (bracelets) to talk about the intercommunication between the late Sasanian Persian period or the Sui and Tang Dynasties of ancient China²¹. Wang Zijin claims that the role of “wine” is often seen in the practice of ethnic communication. Due to the opening of the Silk Road, the “Putao wine” in the western region is known to China. The introduction of “Putao” has also led to the expansion of the consumption level of “wine” in the mainland and the new development of the wine industry. The introduction of “Juma wine” has also enriched the types of drinks in the mainland²². U. Brosseder et al published a volume which contains the publication of a private collection of bronzes that are mostly associated with the pastoral peoples who inhabited the vast eastern Eurasian steppes, stretching from the northern Chinese grasslands in the south to southern Siberia in the north, from Manchuria in the east to the Inner Asian Mountain Corridor in the west. The majority of the artifacts represent a time period spanning more than one thousand years, from the late second millennium BCE to the second century CE. Each of the pieces is used to establish contexts in the field of steppe art and archaeology, an accurate terminology is proposed for them, and aspects of their production are discussed. In addition, essays on Qin tuning keys and on the production and distribution of Han and Xiongnu period belt plaques present new research findings²³.

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

1) Studies on the interchange between China and the foreign countries, and the political order in East Asia in the Southern and Northern Dynasties. Kong Xurong explores the dissemination of ideas and information on the early silk roads between Europe and China, through the first detailed study of the Sinicization of foreign objects in Chinese poetic writing of the third century CE. Third-century literary developments and the prevailing literary works from that era leave us with an impressive amount of information concerning exotic objects, such as plants, animals, and crafts, and record the cultural exchange between distant peoples whose goods, ideas, and technologies entered China. These hitherto-forgotten rhapsodies express the profound interest and excitement of learned men for foreign objects. They bear witness to the cultural exchanges between China and other civilizations and provide a more nuanced insight of early medieval China as an integrated society rather than an isolated one²⁴. Huo Wei points out that the Northern and Southern Dynasties is a complex and diverse period in Chinese history in terms of relations with neighboring countries and different ancient peoples within China. From the new discoveries of copies of the *Zhigongtu* (literally, ‘portraits of periodical offering of the dynasty’) of Emperor Yuan of the Liang in recent years, as well as the new archaeological discoveries of the Tuyuhu in Qinghai from the Northern and Southern Dynasties to the Tubo period of the Tang Dynasty, an important phenomenon can be observed: under

the political pattern of confrontation between the North and South Dynasties, the exchanges between the Southern Dynasty and the western regions were not interrupted. Instead, through active exchanges and interactions with the ancient peoples of the northwest Sichuan plateau and the Gansu and Qinghai areas, a silk road transportation network was established with Yizhou in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River and Jingzhou in the middle reaches of the river as the main towns²⁵. Yoshiaki Kawamoto discusses the world order of the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties and the world order of the Northern Dynasties, Sui and Tang Dynasties, and analyzes the understanding of “China” and “Margins” in ancient East Asia. The author investigated the events such as the relocation of the capital of Luoyang in the Northern Wei Dynasty and the reform of Emperor Xiaowen, as well as the diplomatic relations and rituals between the Japanese countries around East Asia, the Korean Peninsula and the Central Plains Dynasty²⁶.

2) Studies on the borderland government of the Sui-Tang Empire and the Silk Road. Zhang Chengyu and Zhang Naizhu trace back to the location selection orientation of the “four li” and “four fang” along the bank of the *yi* and *luo* River in the Northern Wei Dynasty, and actually points out that the eastern capital of the Sui-Tang dynasties inherited the hydrological tradition of the capital city of the Wei and Jin canal model²⁷. Ge Chengyong focuses on the “Byzantine Paintings”, a type of Hellenistic art reflected in the line carvings on Queen Zhenshun’s Stone Coffin dating from the 25th year of *Kaiyuan* era (737 CE) during the Tang dynasty, which were not meant to represent the realistic images of lions and people, but the divinity of the co-existence of lions and people. The scenes of a heroic warrior, an old man with whiskers or a young man with curved hair travelling with a lion in the paintings provide rich information about the origin of the images of a person leading, riding or driving a lion. Comparing the images of lion-leading, lion-rider, and lion-driving persons in the creative paintings of the High Tang period with those of *Kunlunnu* leading a lion, Manjusri Bodhisattva riding a lion and the King of Khotan driving a lion in the silk, paper and wall paintings of the Middle and Late Tang period, it can be seen that there was a close interaction between the artistic images on the route from Chang’an to Dunhuang²⁸. Yuko Nishida focuses on the basic system of the border rule of the Tang Dynasty, “Jimi”, and takes the detailed analysis of the basic historical data of the study of the history of the Tang Dynasty. “Jimi policy”, as the characteristic of the ruling system of the Tang Empire, is the slow indirect rule of the obedient alien race, and is the universal knowledge of the academic community²⁹. Kumiko Hamada raises that in Ancient China, the etiquette system, as the standard of the monarch’s moral character, also affected the diplomacy between ancient Japan and neighboring countries³⁰.

3) Studies on the literatures and history of the nomadic people along the steppe Silk Road. Bai Yudong’s monographic collation and interpretation of the unearthed documents in the Northern Dynasties in the Middle Ages, mainly in ancient Turkic languages (including Runic and Uighur), provides a new interpretation and reference materials for the study of the history and geography of the Middle Ancient frontier. The author carefully combed the ancient national epitaphs in Uighur, Runic, Turkic and other languages, reorganized and published them on the basis of the previous interpretation, explored the origin of the history of the northern minorities in the Middle Ages with unearthed documents, and revealed many details of the history of the northern minorities in the Middle Ages³¹. Yang Fuxue makes full use of the unearthed epitaphs and other new materials, combined with the historical records and specific objects of the Tang and Song dynasties found in Dunhuang, Turpan and other places, and makes full use of the various documents unearthed in Dunhuang to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the history of the Uighurs in the Tang and Song dynasties, covering mainly the specific historical facts of the Uighur ancestors before the 10th century, the Mobei Uighurs, the Uighurs who migrated to the west and their contacts with the surrounding regimes, as well as the Uighur literature, Buddhism Literary achievements, the spread of Manichaeism, Uighur culture and other issues³².

4) Studies on the cultural exchanges along the middle section of the Silk Road. Duan Qing points out that the mythical narration and the ritual of praying for rain worshipped by the people in the ancient Khotan civilization have fully presented the unique religious belief of the ancient Khotan civilization - the worship of the Sumerian goddess Inanna, highlighting the unique advantages of Xinjiang as a place where multiple civilizations gather. Anca Dan and Frantz Grenet shows that the elites of the Hunnish states, including Tokharistan (ancient Bactria) and Northwest India from the 4th century, not only appreciated Greco-Roman art, inherited or imported, but also had a good knowledge of the Hellenic mythological cycles³³. Min Xiangpeng & Chen Huaiyu proposes that in the mid-ninth century, the Central Asian political map experienced tremendous changes. Both external military invasions and internal conflicts brought up challenges to the three great powers of the time, namely the Tang, Tibetan and Uighur empires. Concurrently, the entire region experienced the significant consequences of severe climate change and environmental distress. Near the mid-ninth century, a series of natural disasters hit the eastern part of the Asian continent, verified by both Chinese and Tibetan sources.

Nevertheless, the years between 839 and 841 were the deadliest on record, a turning point for the political landscape of Central Asia³⁴. D. Duturaeva considers the diplomacy, trade and geography of transcontinental networks between Central Asia and China from the 10th to the 12th centuries and challenges the concept of “the Silk Road crisis” in the period between the fall of the Tang Dynasty and the rise of the Mongols. Utilizing a broad range of Islamic and Chinese primary sources together with archaeological data, the author demonstrates the complexity of interaction along the Silk Roads and beyond that, revolutionizes our understanding of the Qarakhanid world and Song-era China’s relations with neighboring regions³⁵.

5) Studies on the cultural exchanges along the western section of the Silk Road. St. J. Simpson points out that the Sasanian empire was one of the great powers of Late Antiquity. Classical, Armenian, Jewish and Arab written sources throw light on its history, and studies of its rock reliefs, stuccoes, silver, silks, coins and glyptic have created a picture of a rich courtly culture with a strong Iranian character. His works examine evidence for Sasanian sites, settlements and landscapes, their complex agricultural resources, and their crafts and industries³⁶. E. Sauer devotes to the recent excavations in Iran have enabled us to precision-date two of the largest fortresses of Southwest Asia, both larger than any in the Roman world. Excavations in a Gorgan Wall fort have shed much new light on frontier life, and we have unearthed a massive bridge nearby. A sonar survey has traced the terminal of the Tammisheh Wall, now submerged under the waters of the Caspian Sea. Further work has focused on a vast city and settlements in the hinterland. Persia’s Imperial Power, our previous project, had already shed much light on the Great Wall of Gorgan, but it was our recent fieldwork that has thrown the sheer magnitude of Sasanian military infrastructure into sharp relief³⁷. E. Boccaccini edited a book on the advice literature, a popular genre in both the medieval Islamic world and Christian Europe, which is eminently amenable to comparative study since interest in the mores and manners of political rule cuts across boundaries. The monograph sheds new light on this transcultural phenomenon that challenges the dichotomy of the Orient and the Occident³⁸. F. Roşu edited a volume which explores the Black Sea region as an encounter zone of cultures, legal regimes, religions, and enslavement practices. The topics discussed in the chapters include Byzantine slavery, late medieval slave trade patterns, slavery in Christian societies, Tatar and cossack raids, the position of Circassians in the slave trade, and comparisons with the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. This volume aims to stimulate a broader discussion on the patterns of unfreedom in the Black Sea area and to draw attention to the importance of this region in the broader debates on global slavery³⁹.

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. T. May and M. Hope edit a volume which documents how Mongol rule shaped the trajectory of Eurasian history from Central Europe to the Korean Peninsula, from the thirteenth century to the fifteenth century. Contributing authors consider how intercontinental environmental, economic, and intellectual trends affected the Empire as a whole and, where appropriate, situate regional political, social, and religious shifts within the context of the broader Mongol Empire. With 58 chapters written by both senior and early-career scholars, the volume is an essential resource for all students and scholars who study the Mongol Empire from its origins to its disintegration and legacy⁴⁰. A. Dumler publishes a thesis which is based on the travel reports of Marco Polo and Wilhelm von Rubruk. These describe their experiences during their travels to the Mongols and are still among the important sources about the Mongols today. The focus is on Pax Mongolica, which is criticized by many researchers. The central point of this criticism is that the Mongolian peace did not exist per se, this is due to the flourishing economy in Europe⁴¹. Tetsuo Ebisawa discusses the relations between Mongolia and Western Europe in the 13th century by using the diplomatic documents between Mongolia and Western Europe as well as the monk’s reports on Mongolia. In the 13th century, the Pope’s envoy Plan Garpini sent to Mongolia and wrote the Mongolia Report, which deeply reflected the official exchanges between Mongolia and the Holy See⁴².

2) Studies on the international order and the cultural exchanges between Ming Dynasty and the foreign countries. R. Kauz and M. Rossabi propose that Demanding and offering tribute is a most common feature in human societies and nothing special to China. In the course of the development of Neolithic and later societies social classes have developed where persons who achieved superior positions first could demand “presents” or tribute from neighboring societies they defeated and then, with the assistance of sturdy “servants” from their own people. China was certainly no exception to that principle and one of the first terms for tax was thus “gong”, tribute. In China’s early, “feudatory” social system, tribute was demanded from lower political entities, and the mutual ‘political’ relations were already highly developed during the Zhou dynasty (1045–256 BCE). This system of “inner Chinese” relations became

a sort of matrix when China expanded and achieved contact with countries which were more or less independent, and thus the “tribute system” evolved. The individual case studies in this volume focus on the latest manifestations of the tribute system in late Imperial China⁴³. Wan Ming attempts to reproduce the historical track of the evolution of the relationship between China and the world on the Silk Road and the construction of its international relations system during the period of the great turning point between China and the world from the end of the 14th century to the middle of the 17th century. She analysed the thematic argumentation and comprehensive integrated research of the relationship between China and the world in the Ming Dynasty from all channels of land and sea⁴⁴. Li Xinfeng published a paper on Zheng He’s seven voyages, of which four were to Africa, were the pinnacle of the ancient history of Sino-African exchanges⁴⁵. Tian Shu and Yang Taowei points out that Hami crisis that lasted for more than half a century escalated with the rapid rise of Turpan and the improper handling measures of the Ming after the Chenghua period. Following the settlement of the *Da Li Yi* dispute, Emperor *Shizong* appointed Wang Qiong, who was familiar with the northwest border affairs, to deal with Hami crisis with full authority. Wang Qiong believed that reconciling through paying tribute could rebuild order in the Western Regions and relieve the military threat to ensure the security and stability of the northwest frontier⁴⁶. Zou Zhenhuan’s book shows the spread of western geography and animal and plant knowledge in China since the Ming and Qing dynasties and the efforts made by Chinese intellectuals to understand China and the West through a detailed study of Matteo Ricci’s World Map, and other Chinese and Western geographical documents in the Ming and Qing dynasties. This book pays special attention to putting these issues into the coordinate between China and the world in the context of global history, and tries to sort out the complex aspects of the fierce collision and integration of Chinese and Western cultures around the geographical documents of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the grand and magnificent historical picture of the spread of Western learning to the east⁴⁷.

3) Studies on the Maritime Silk Road and the contact among the east Asian sea. Yokouchi Hiroto edited a volume on the tripitaka of Tsushima where is about 50 kilometers from the Korean peninsula, has played an important role as the frontline base for Japan to accept foreign culture since ancient times. There are many cultural relics from the Korean Peninsula circulating in the island. These cultural relics reveal the history of cultural exchange and deserve attention. One of them is the printed Buddhist scriptures, known as the Buddhist scriptures, from the Korean peninsula, which is a rare relic in the world. Through a comprehensive investigation for ten years, the author puts forward new opinions on the editions of classics handed down by Ma. This book with more than 100 illustrations, is a landmark in the study of the exchange between the Malaysian version and East Asian culture⁴⁸. Shang Zhonglan examines the *Min* language of Tokyo and its influence on Japan and the *Min* dialect region in terms of vocabulary, literature, and economy during the Edo period. Ships connected the Tang dialect with the *Min* language, and the Maritime Silk Road connected Europe and Asia, making them one. By looking back at the Maritime Silk Road, the author find new ways to look at modern globalism from another perspective⁴⁹.

4. Trans-period studies

1) Studies on the Silk Road and cross-cultural exchanges from a macro perspective. Rong Xinjiang published a volume which comprehensively uses rare historical documents, the latest archaeological data and authoritative scientific research achievements at home and abroad, and through in-depth analysis of 18 chapters such as the direction of the Silk Road, towns, wars, material exchanges, population movements, political power and settlements, archaeological excavations and cultural relics, expounds the glorious history of the Silk Road in the exchange and mutual learning of Chinese and foreign civilizations, and presents the profound connotation of Chinese culture, It has excavated the rich connotation and era value of the Silk Road, which is elegant and profound, and plays a very important and positive role in our understanding of the world significance of the Belt and Road initiative⁵⁰. W. Pohl and V. Wieser compare the ways in which new powers arose in the shadows of the Roman Empire and its Byzantine and Carolingian successors, of Iran, the Caliphate and China in the first millennium CE. These new powers were often established by external military elites who had served the empire. They remained in an uneasy balance with the remaining empire, could eventually replace it, or be drawn into the imperial sphere again. Some relied on dynastic legitimacy, others on ethnic identification, while most of them sought imperial legitimation. Across Eurasia, their dynamic was similar in many respects⁵¹. S. Brentjes disentangles histories of translations from their treatment in specialized intellectual fields, making the point that histories of translations are not merely sub-categories of the histories of pre-modern sciences, religion, law, or literature but are in fact histories of cultural practices that cut synchronically and diachronically through the entire textual fabric of the investigated societies⁵².

2) Studies on the western part of the Silk Road in long-term perspective. Guo Yunyan explains the micro coin information in the macro historical development context, and explains that the activities and influence of the Roman - Byzantine Empire on the Silk Road have changed with the development of the times: the early Roman Empire's communication with the East was mainly by sea, and India was the important transit station for its connection with East Asia; In the early Byzantine era, the main way to connect with the East was changed to land, especially with the rise of Tada and Turks in Central Asia, a large number of gold coins poured into Central Asia, and with the migration, trade and imitation activities of different ethnic groups in Central Asia, they were introduced into all parts of East Asia; From the middle of the Byzantine Empire, with the expansion of the Arabs and the gradual change of the political situation in Eurasia, the Byzantine coin culture on the Silk Road was replaced, and the influence of the Empire contracted sharply and finally disappeared⁵³. Zhang Shuang and Xue Haibo point out that the early Silk Road trade commodities were numerous, among which the long-distance and trans-regional silk trade and transshipment were the landmark trade activities that formed economic links between Rome, China, Persia, India and other countries in the western region of Central Asia. The military and political activities of China's frontier management in the Han Dynasty were important factors that contributed to the formation of the Eurasian land and sea silk trade system⁵⁴.

3) Studies on the ethnic groups, culture and trade along the middle part of the Silk Road in long-term perspective. C. Baumer edits a richly illustrated book reflects the contributions of a conference that took place in Bern in 2020 and includes 32 contributions from 56 authors from 18 countries. The conference evaluated the supra-, inter-, and intraregional modes of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer like trade, migration, missionary activities or military encounters. This exchange occurred within Central Asia, from the outside into Central Asia or conversely out of Central Asia to neighboring cultures. The timeframe considered was from the Early Bronze Age to the period of Amir Timur (end of the 14th century CE) and the geographic scope stretched from the eastern Caucasus in the west till Xinjiang in the east and from southern Siberia in the north till Baluchistan in the south. All papers presented were based upon new archaeological investigations, surveys and discoveries.⁵⁵. A. Doniyorov provides a historical analysis of a wide range of literature, covering the history of the Central Asian people from ancient times to the Middle Ages (the 12th century). Describing themes in logical order creates certain concepts for the generation of scientific knowledge and the development of historical thinking. In addition, the role of historical research centers and research institutes in the study of Central Asian history was also emphasized⁵⁶. D. G. Tor and Minoru Inaba edit a volume which examines the major cultural, religious, political, and urban changes that took place in the Iranian world of Inner and Central Asia in the transition from the pre-Islamic to the Islamic periods. One of the major civilizations of the first millennium was that of the Iranian linguistic and cultural world, which stretched from today's Iraq to what is now the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China. No other region of the world underwent such radical transformation, which fundamentally altered the course of world history, as this area did during the centuries of transition from the pre-Islamic to the Islamic period⁵⁷.

4) Systematic studies on the relationship between China and the Silk Road. Rong Xinjiang edits a volume which focuses on the western transmission of Chinese culture along the Silk Road between the Han and Tang Dynasties. The content is roughly divided into three aspects: First, from the perspective of archaeology, it studies the connotation of the western transmission of Chinese culture in the cultural relics and documents unearthed along the Silk Road, including the latest archaeological discoveries in Central Asia and Uzbekistan, as well as the research results of Chinese scholars in Central Asia in recent years, as well as the study of bamboo slips, lacquerware and paper. The second is to study the spread of Chinese, Chinese documents, and the laws and regulations of the Central Plains along the Silk Road to the East and the West from the perspective of documents, including the latest interpretation of the new Khotan language book. Third, from the perspective of academic history, we will explore the study of stone carvings, coins and other Chinese cultural relics preserved on the Silk Road, and fully explore the data from the exploration of the ancient and modern Silk Road⁵⁸. Sinologist Thomas O. Höllmann looks from China at the legendary route network. It vividly describes how people travelled and how goods and ideas were passed on. The author explores the economic fundamentals, political motives and cultural framework conditions of the exchange and shows in a fascinating concrete way what globalization meant in a period of about two millennia⁵⁹. Li Dalong points out that ancient Chinese vassal and tribute are two concepts with strong relevance, which are of great significance to the study of the history of China's territory, the formation of the Chinese national community, the history of China's ancient foreign relations, and the history of East Asia⁶⁰.

5) Comprehensive studies on the Maritime Silk Road. F. Billé edits a volume on the Maritime Silk Road which foregrounds the

numerous networks that have been woven across oceanic geographies, tying world regions together often far more extensively than land-based routes. On the strength of the new data which has emerged in the last two decades in the form of archaeological findings, as well as new techniques such as GIS modelling, the authors collectively demonstrate the existence of a very early global maritime trade. From architecture to cuisine, and language to clothing, evidence points to early connections both within Asia and between Asia and other continents—well before European explorations of the Global South. The human stories presented here offer insights into both the extent and limits of this global exchange, showing how goods and people travelled vast distances, how they were embedded in regional networks, and how local cultures were shaped as a result⁶¹. Chen Fenglin proposes that over the past hundred years, Japanese scholars have carried out creative and fruitful research on the Maritime Silk Road, which spans several centuries of Eastern history, and launched many valuable works, summarizing the historical experience and methods of human communication, and establishing a rigorous and open ocean knowledge system. The Maritime Silk Road opened by the East has a long history and covers a wide range of areas, connecting the East and the West, ancient and modern times, and bringing about significant social changes. It is of great significance to place the Maritime Silk Road in the overall coordinate of the whole eastern history and to consider its space-time position, role and value⁶².

III. Monographic Studies

1. Studies on Gandhara

Gandhara Buddhist art and the spread of early Buddhism was a hot issue discussed this year. W. Rienjang and P. Stewart edit a volume which shows the most recent research on the factors that mediate our encounter with Gandharan art. The study of Gandharan archaeology often involves the evaluation and piecing together of fragmentary clues⁶³. L. Morgan and L. M. Oliveri present an edition with introductions and extensive commentary of a manuscript, discovered in the fort at Malakand, Swat, Pakistan, of a seminal and pioneering account of the antiquities of Swat and Peshawar by Harold Deane. This manuscript is an earlier draft, the first significant contribution to the archaeology of Swat, was published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society (1896), and the manuscript contains interesting additional information that did not make the final text⁶⁴. W. Ziad relates both the remarkable story of these coins and the sacred sites, and introduces the obscured history of the most neglected yet formative 500 years of Pakistan and Afghanistan's history. It also offers new paradigms for conceptualizing local currency, the making of religious imagery, and the process of transculturation. Importantly, the Sakra coins issued under Ghaznavid rule overturn popular misconceptions about early Hindu-Muslim encounters, suggesting instead that the Ghaznavids pursued a flexible, negotiated policy with regard to Hindu sacred sites⁶⁵. R. Schulz suggests identifying two scenes on a Gandhara slab from Karamar with plays written by Āśvaghoṣa. One, preserved in the Berlin Turfan collection, is among the oldest known Indian theatre plays (Śāriputraprakaraṇa) focusing on the conversion of Śāriputra and Maudgalyāyana, two of the most important Buddhist monks certainly belonging to the 2nd century. The second scene shows the conversion of Nanda, the half-brother of the Buddha as described in the Saundarananda attributed to the same author. Attempts shall be made to identify the art historical templates and at the same time to trace its subtle iconography⁶⁶.

2. Studies on Biographies of Eminent Buddhism Monks

M. W. King offers a groundbreaking account of the transnational literary, social, and political history of the circulation, translation, and interpretation of Faxian's Record. He reads its many journeys at multiple levels, contrasting the textual and interpretative traditions of the European academy and the Inner Asian monastery. King shows how the text provided Inner Asian readers with new historical resources to make sense of their histories as well as their own times, in the process developing an Asian historiography independently of Western influence. Reconstructing this circulatory history and featuring annotated translations, In the Forest of the Blind models decolonizing methods and approaches for Buddhist studies and Asian humanities⁶⁷. S. Wriggins published a volume on the saga of the seventh-century Chinese monk Xuanzang, who completed an epic sixteen-year journey to discover the heart of Buddhism at its source in India, is a splendid story of human struggle and triumph. One of China's great heroes, Xuanzang is introduced here for the first time to Western readers in this richly illustrated book. Wriggins gives us vivid descriptions of the perils Xuanzang faced, the monasteries he visited (many still standing today), and the eight places of Buddhist pilgrimage in India. Detailed maps and color photographs provide striking evidence of the vast distances involved and the appalling dangers Xuanzang

endured; reproductions of Buddhist art from museums around the world capture the glories of this world religion while revealing a cosmopolitan era in which pilgrims were both adventurers and ambassadors of goodwill⁶⁸. Minoru Inaba publishes a book covers everything of Xuanzang, Huichao and Wukong. The Tang Dynasty extended its power to the west, while the Arab Muslims extended its power to the east. Based on the latest research results of archaeology, currency and linguistics, this book outlines the history of conflicts, exchanges and integration between Central Asia and East and West Eurasia in the 7-8 centuries⁶⁹.

3. Studies on Zoroastrianism, Manicheism and Christianity

A. Cantera edits a volume which is dedicated to Almut Hintze, one of the foremost scholars in the field of Zoroastrian and Iranian Studies, reflecting the broad range of scholarly interests and research work of the dedicatee. The volume contains thirty-four contributions written by renowned specialists in their fields. These cover a wide range of topics, stretching from antiquity to the present, and offer many new insights and original perspectives on religious, linguistic and historical problems⁷⁰. Zhang Xiaogui publishes a book which extensively absorbs the relevant research results of the international Iranian academic community, pays attention to the analysis of the Zoroastrian canon of Persia, and tries to combine the literature and archaeological data in the specific research process. This book particularly emphasizes the use of the theory and method of the study of the history of Sino-foreign relations, and makes a detailed analysis of the process of Zoroastrianism's eastward transmission and its Chinese expression from the aspects of the religious leader's Chinese name, Zoroastrianism temple and fire altar, god worship, marriage and funeral customs, and Chinese expression, and puts forward new ideas on the basis of previous studies⁷¹. M. Nicolini-Zani offers a comprehensive survey of the historical, literary, epigraphic, and archaeological sources of the first stage of the Christian mission to China, explores the complex and multifaceted process of the interaction with the different cultural and religious milieu that the Church of the East experienced in its diffusion throughout Central Asia and into China during the first millennium. He provides an overview of the Christian presence in China during the Tang dynasty (618-907) by reconstructing the composition and organization of Christian communities, the geographical location of Christian monasteries, and the related historical events attested by the sources⁷². K. Parry and G. Mikkelsen edit a collection of papers reflects the interests and influence of Samuel N. C. Lieu on scholars and students during his academic career. It demonstrates not only the importance of his work on Manichaeism, but his broader intellectual contribution to early Christian, Roman, Byzantine, and comparative historical studies. His impact on Manichaean studies has been unparalleled resulting in several prestigious book series devoted to the linguistic and historical study of Mani and his religion⁷³.

4. Studies on the textiles unearthed from the Silk Road

Zhao Feng et al edit a volume, which was developed by UNESCO and the China National Silk Museum features contributions from internationally renowned scholars and experts in the field of textiles, clothing and Silk Roads exchanges. Aimed at a broad general audience, this volume takes the reader around the world, from Java to West Africa, Scandinavia to the Philippines. It charts a fascinating history, from the ways in which patterns and dyes were elements of cultural imitation, hybridization and exchange, to how particular motifs and symbols were adopted across cultures and used as means to influence. Historically, the cross-border fluidity of textiles, ideas, and design motifs moving along the Silk Roads resulted in highly cosmopolitan workshops producing fabrics and textiles which incorporated stylistic elements, materials, and designs from various regions. Explored within these chapters, these cross-cultural influences are an outstanding feature of the legacy of the Silk Roads. This volume is the first to be published from the wider "Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads" which is a new multi-volume series⁷⁴. Lu Zhiyong et al conduct a examination on the Silk fabrics decorated with silver threads unearthed from the Tang Dynasty underground chamber at the Famen Temple in Fufeng, Shaanxi. Through morphological investigation and material analysis of a tiny amount of the surviving sample, this study confirms that the silver threads had a paper-backed layer, suggesting that a rather sophisticated technique of manufacturing paper-backed metal threads had already appeared in China no later than 874 AD⁷⁵. A. Dickey et al edit a collection, in which the papers highlight how researchers have been challenged to adapt or modify these traditional and more recently developed analytical methods to enable extraction of comparable data from often recalcitrant assemblages. Furthermore, they have applied new perspectives and approaches to extend the focus on less investigated aspects and artefacts. The chapters embrace a broad geographical and chronological area, ranging from South America and Europe to Africa, and from the 11th millennium BC to the 1st millennium AD. Methodological considerations are explored through the medium of three different themes focusing on tools, textiles and fibers,

and culture and identity. This volume constitutes a reflection on the status of current methodology and its applicability within the wider textile field. Moreover, it drives forward the methodological debates around textile research to generate new and stimulating conversations about the future of textile archaeology⁷⁶. C. Mühlemann explores into a small Arabic inscription on a fragment of an early lampas woven silk, today preserved in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (inv. no. 33.371), states that it was made in the city of Baghdad. But an orthographic error within the Arabic inscription reveals the actual place of manufacture: al-Andalus. The author analyze this fragment together with a passage from the hisba manual of al-Saqati. Hisba manuals contain rules composed by the muhtasib, the market inspector. Abu ' Abdallah Muhammad Ibn Abu Muhammad al-Saqati was the market inspector of Malaga in Spain, and his work, the Kitab fi adab al-hisba, was compiled at the close of the eleventh and opening of the twelfth centuries, at the same time that the new lampas weaving technology arrived in al-Andalus⁷⁷.

5. Studies on the Cultural Heritage and the Silk Road

S. Jamburia publishes an article which examines the evidence for the trade route coming into and passing through the South Caucasus in antiquity. The synthesis is undertaken in view of ancient literary sources, historical research and new archaeological evidence. The outcome reasserts the existence of the cross-border route in the South Caucasus. Further work should be undertaken to throw more light on the extent of this route and the role it played in ancient Eurasian society⁷⁸. J. Elsner publishes a volume on the Landscape which has been a key theme in world archaeology and trans-cultural art history over the last half century, particularly in the study of painting in art history and in all questions of human intervention and the placement of monuments in the natural world within archaeology. However, the representation of landscape has been rather less addressed in the scholarship of the archaeologically-accessed visual cultures of the ancient world. The kinds of reliefs, objects, and paintings discussed here have a significant purchase on matters concerned with landscape and space in the visual sphere, but were discovered within archaeological contexts and by means of excavation. Through case studies focused on the invention of wilderness imagery in ancient China, the relation of monuments to landscape in ancient Greece, the place of landscape painting in Mesoamerican Maya art, and the construction of sacred landscape across Eurasia between Stonehenge and the Silk Road via Pompeii, this book emphasises the importance of thinking about models of landscape in ancient art, as well as the value of comparative approaches in underlining core aspects of the topic. Notably, it explores questions of space, both actual and conceptual, including how space is configured through form and representation⁷⁹. G. Sigley publishes a volume which examines the creation, development and proliferation of the route heritage discourse of the Ancient Tea Horse Road in China. Examining the formation of the tea-horse road as a concept, its development as a platform for cultural branding, and its most recent interactions with the policy of the Belt and Road Initiative and the revival of the discourse on the Silk Roads, the book demonstrates that the Tea-Horse Road is an important part of the discourse on Chinese modernity. Describing the route heritage of the Tea-Horse Road as a 'mobility narrative', whereby an ancient route is used to form a narrative of ethnic unity and cooperation, the book demonstrates that the study of such heritage offers unique insights into issues that are of concern to the wider field of critical heritage studies⁸⁰.

Notes

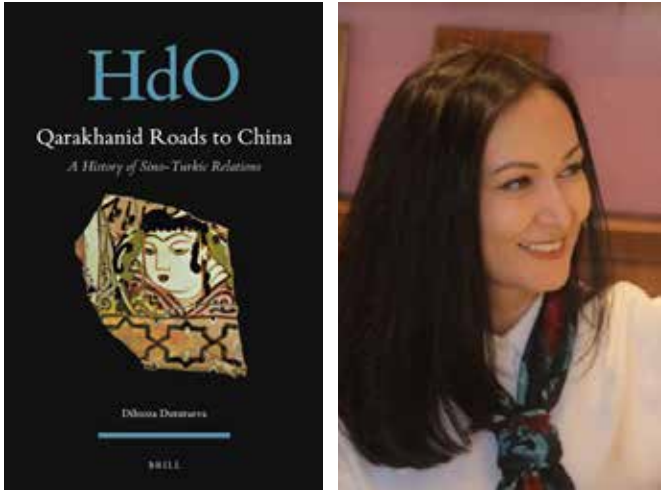
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1 *Qarakhanid Roads to China: A History of Sino-Turkic Relations*

Author: Dilnoza Duturaeva
Press: Brill
Time: March, 2022
Language: English

Overview:

The work considers the diplomacy, trade and geography of transcontinental networks between Central Asia and China from the 10th to the 12th centuries and challenges the concept of "the Silk Road crisis" in the period between the fall of the Tang Dynasty and the rise of the Mongols. Utilizing a broad range of Islamic and Chinese primary sources together with archaeological data, Dilnoza Duturaeva demonstrates the complexity of interaction along the Silk Roads and beyond that, revolutionizes our understanding of the Qarakhanid world and Song-era China's relations with neighboring regions.

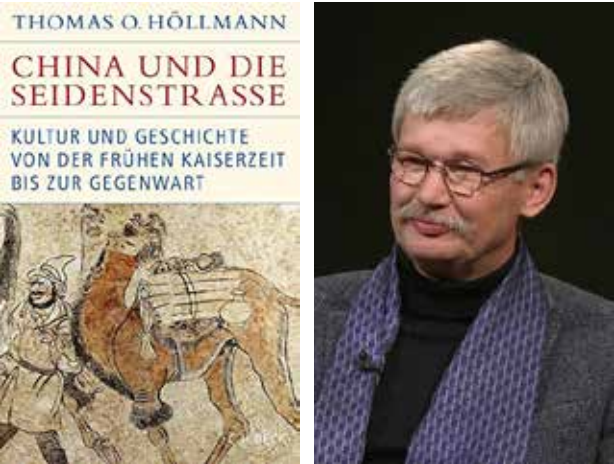


2 *China and the Silk Road: Culture and History from the Early Imperial Period to the Present*

Author: Thomas O. Höllmann
Press: München: C.H. Beck
Time: February, 2022
Language: German

Overview:

The Silk Road connecting East Asia with the Mediterranean has become the epitome of early globalisation. Sinologist Thomas O. Höllmann looks from China at the legendary route network. It vividly describes how people travelled and how goods and ideas were passed on. Thomas O. Höllmann uses her help as well as historiographic sources, captivating travel descriptions and life-like poems to reconstruct which goods arrived in China, how Buddhism and other religions were received in the Middle Kingdom and which key technologies, especially paper and printing, began their triumphant march all over the world from there. The book explores the economic fundamentals, political motives and cultural framework conditions of the exchange and shows in a fascinating concrete way what globalization meant in a period of about two millennia.



3 *Landscape and Space: Comparative Perspectives from Chinese, Mesoamerican, Ancient Greek, and Roman Art*

Author:Jaś Elsner
Press: Oxford University Press
Time: March, 2022
Language: English

Overview:

Landscape has been a key theme in world archaeology and trans-cultural art history over the last half century, particularly in the study of painting in art history and in all questions of human intervention and the placement of monuments in the natural world within archaeology. However, the representation of landscape has been rather less addressed in the scholarship of the archaeologically-accessed visual cultures of the ancient world. The kinds of reliefs, objects, and paintings discussed here have a significant purchase on matters concerned with landscape and space in the visual sphere, but were discovered within archaeological contexts and by means of excavation. Through case studies focused on the invention of wilderness imagery in ancient China, the relation of monuments to landscape in ancient Greece, the place of landscape painting in Mesoamerican Maya art, and the construction of sacred landscape across Eurasia between Stonehenge and the Silk Road via Pompeii, this book emphasises the importance of thinking about models of landscape in ancient art, as well as the value of comparative approaches in underlining core aspects of the topic. Notably, it explores questions of space, both actual and conceptual, including how space is configured through form and representation.



4 *Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads: Textiles and Clothing*

Author:Zhao Feng and Marie-Louise Nosch
Press: UNESCO
Time: November, 2022
Language: English

Overview:

This volume, which was developed by UNESCO and the China National Silk Museum features contributions from internationally renowned scholars and experts in the field of textiles, clothing and Silk Roads exchanges. Aimed at a broad general audience, this volume takes the reader around the world, from Java to West Africa, Scandinavia to the Philippines. It charts a fascinating history, from the ways in which patterns and dyes were elements of cultural imitation, hybridization and exchange, to how particular motifs and symbols were adopted across cultures and used as means to influence. Historically, the cross-border fluidity of textiles, ideas, and design motifs moving along the Silk Roads resulted in highly cosmopolitan workshops producing fabrics and textiles which incorporated stylistic elements, materials, and designs from various regions. Explored within these chapters, these cross-cultural influences are an outstanding feature of the legacy of the Silk Roads. This volume is the first to be published from the wider "Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads" a new multi-volume series UNESCO is developing which promotes a better understanding of the rich history of the Silk Roads and its contemporary legacy and relevance.



5 *Islam's East Regions and China's West Regions: Travels in Central Asia in the 7-8 Centuries*

Author: Minoru Inaba

Press: Risen Shoten

Time: April, 2022

Language: Japanese

Overview:

This book covers everything from Xuanzang's quest for Dharma to Huichao's journey to Wukong's return to Beijing; The Tang Dynasty, which extended its power to the west, and Arab Muslims, which extended its power to the east. Based on the latest research results of archaeology, currency and linguistics, this book outlines the history of conflicts, exchanges and integration between Central Asia and East and West Eurasia in the 7-8 centuries. This book focuses on the west side of Pamir and tracks the footprints of people who have traveled over mountains.



6 *Imagination of the World: The Eastward Reflections of Western Learning and Chinese Geographical Documents in the Ming and Qing Dynasty*

Author: Zou Zhenhuan

Press: Zhonghua Book Company

Time: November

Language: Chinese

Overview:

This book shows the spread of western geography and animal and plant knowledge in China since the Ming and Qing dynasties and the efforts made by Chinese intellectuals to understand China and the West through a detailed study of Matteo Ricci's World Map, Eliot's "The Book of Emperors" and other Chinese and Western geographical documents in the Ming and Qing dynasties. This book pays special attention to putting these issues into the coordinate between China and the world in the context of global history, and tries to sort out the complex aspects of the fierce collision and integration of Chinese and Western cultures around the geographical documents of the Ming and Qing dynasties in the grand and magnificent historical picture of the spread of Western learning to the east.



7 *Myth and Ritual: Revealing the Civilizations of the Khotan from the Ancient Khotan*

Author: Duan Qin
Press: SDJ Joint Publishing Company
Time: September, 2022
Language: Chinese

Overview:

This book is Duan Qing, a professor of the South Asia Department of the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University, who launched a decryption trip against the unearthed bamboo in Hotan. By using the methods of historical linguistics and image analysis, the author has cracked the meaning of Khotan words on Khotan, interpreted the Sumerian and Greek myths on Khotan patterns, thus revealing the theme of Khotan's "rising from death to rebirth", and combined it with the "dragon drum legend" in Xuanzang's "Records of the Western Regions of the Tang Dynasty". The mythical narration and the ritual of praying for rain worshipped by the people in the ancient Khotan civilization have fully presented the unique religious belief of the ancient Khotan civilization - the worship of the Sumerian goddess Inanna, highlighting the unique advantages of Xinjiang as a place where multiple civilizations gather.



8 *China and the World in the Ming Dynasty on the Silk Road*

Author: Wan Ming
Press: China Social Sciences Press
Time: March, 2022
Language: Chinese

Overview:

This book is a history of the Silk Road of the Ming Dynasty, which is considered and demonstrated from the perspective of the history of Sino-foreign relations with the dual vision of the whole world and the dual mainline of the state-society. It attempts to reproduce the historical track of the evolution of the relationship between China and the world on the Silk Road and the construction of its international relations system during the period of the great turning point between China and the world from the end of the 14th century to the middle of the 17th century. The whole book is composed of the whole part, the sea part and the culture part. It inherits the historical characteristics of combining the textual research of Chinese and foreign documents. It focuses on the thematic argumentation and comprehensive integrated research of the relationship between China and the world in the Ming Dynasty from all channels of land and sea. It focuses on exploring the internal logic of the development of Chinese history in the Ming Dynasty and the interaction and mutual learning of historical facts between Chinese and foreign relations. It summarizes the historical positioning of the overall Silk Road in Chinese history and even global history, It clarifies the historical contribution made by China in the Ming Dynasty to the global community of human destiny.



9 *Suanni (lion) · Tianma (Akhal-Teke Horse) · Tiaotuoying (bracelets) as Witnesses to Sino-Iran Cultural Exchanges of Ancient Times*

Author: Li Ling
Journal: Palace Museum Journal
Time: March, 2022
Language: Chinese

Overview:

Since the previous studies on the Sino-Iran cultural exchanges were mostly based on historical records in association with the era of the late Sasanian Persian period or the Sui and Tang Dynasties of ancient China, this thesis starts with *Suanni* (lion), *Tianma* (Akhal-Teke Horse) and *Tiaotuoying* (bracelets) to talk about the intercommunication between the two countries of earlier times. As is witnessed by archaeological discoveries, a lion’s image was introduced to China in the Warring States Period, then widely adopted into the artistic works ever since the Han Dynasty. There were many common features in the artistic harness and ornaments for both the Han-Jin dynasty and the Sassanian Persian times, for instance, the forehead mane and the tassel after the saddle. In addition, the Iranian artistic style can also be seen in China’s jewelry like agate beads, carnelian beads and glass eye beads.



10 *Caravanserai middens on desert roads: a new perspective on the Nabataean–Roman trade network across the Negev*

Author: Guy Bar-Oz et al
Journal: Antiquity
Time: April 2022
Language: English

Overview:

Long-distance trade routes criss-crossed ancient Africa and Eurasia. Archaeological research has focused on the commodities in transit and the excavation of major centres located along these routes, with less attention paid to smaller caravanserai and evidence such as rubbish middens. The "Incense Route" linked the Arabian Peninsula and Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, with activity peaking during the Nabataean and Roman periods. The authors present the results of test-pit excavations of middens at three small Nabataean–Roman desert caravanserai along the "Incense Route". The assemblages recovered include material culture attesting to wide, inter-regional connections, combined with archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological data illuminating the subsistence basis of the caravan trade.



Academic Research List

No.	The Title	Author	Publisher	Language
1	The Rediscovery and Reception of Gandhāran Art: Proceedings of the Fourth International Workshop of the Gandhāra Connections Project	Wannaporn Rienjang & Peter Stewart (eds.)	Archaeopress	English
2	The View from Malakand: Harold Deane’s ‘Note on Udyana and Gandhara’	Llewelyn Morgan & Luca Maria Oliveri	Archaeopress	English
3	Sasanian Archaeology: Settlements, Environment and Material Culture	St John Simpson (ed.)	Archaeopress	English
4	Reflecting Mirrors, East and West: Transcultural Comparisons of Advice Literature for Rulers (8th–13th Century)	Enrico Boccaccini	Brill	English
5	Slavery in the Black Sea Region, c.900-1900: Forms of Unfreedom at the Intersection between Christianity and Islam	Felicia Roşu ed.	Brill	English
6	Qarakhanid Roads to China: A History of Sino-Turkic Relations	Dilnoza Duturaeva	Brill	English
7	Emerging Powers in Eurasian Comparison, 200–1100: Shadows of Empire	Walter Pohl & Veronika Wieser eds.	Brill	English
8	Byzantium to China: Religion, History and Culture on the Silk Roads: Studies in Honour of Samuel N.C. Lieu	Ken Parry & Gunner Mikkelsen	Brill	English
9	Avalokiteśvara-Sūtras: Edition of altuiguric translations after fragments from Turfan and Dunhuang	Peter Zieme et al	Brepols	German
10	Dictionary of Manichaean Texts. Volume III, 2: Texts from Central Asia and China (Texts in Sogdian and Bactrian): Second, Revised and Enlarged Edition	Nicholas Sims-Williams & Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst	Brepols	English
11	In the Treasure Room of the Sakra King: Votive Coinage from Gandhāran Shrines	Waleed Ziad	Brepols	English
12	Narratives on Translation across Eurasia and Africa: From Babylonia to Colonial India	Sonja Brentjes et al eds.	Brepols	English
13	Palmyra and the East	Kenneth Lapatin & Rubina Raja (eds)	Brepols	English
14	Xuanzang's Life And Work: The Old Turkic Xuanzang Biography IV. Based on the manuscript of Paris and the transcript of Annemarie V. Gabain	Mehmet Olmez et al	Harrassowitz	German
15	The Reward of the Righteous: Festschrift in Honour of Almut Hintze (Iranica, 30)	Alberto Cantera et al eds.	Harrassowitz	English
16	Cultures in Contact: Central Asia As Focus of Trade, Cultural Exchange and Knowledge Transmission	Christoph Baumer et al eds.	Harrassowitz	English
17	The Guyuan Mizong Collection: A Study of Inner Asian Steppe Bronzes	Ursula Brosseder et al	Harrassowitz	English
18	Connecting the Ancient West and East: Studies Presented to Prof. Gocha R. Tsetskhladze	J. Boardman et al eds.	Peeters	English
19	China and the Silk Road: Culture and History from the Early Imperial Period to the Present	Thomas O. Höllmann	München: C.H. Beck	German
20	Swat through the Millennia: From Pre-history to the Early Twentieth Century	Sultan-i-Rome	Oxford University Press	English
21	Landscape and Space: Comparative Perspectives from Chinese, Mesoamerican, Ancient Greek, and Roman Art	Jaś Elsner	Oxford University Press	English
22	The Luminous Way to the East: Texts and History of the First Encounter of Christianity with China	Matteo Nicolini-Zani	Oxford University Press	English

23	Exploring Ancient Textiles: Pushing the Boundaries of Established Methodologies	Alistair Dickey et al eds.	Oxbow	English
24	Secret Stories on the Silk Road: Symbols, Architectures and Myths between Italy, the Middle East and China	Alessandro Coscia and Sergio Coppola	Oxbow	English
25	Ancient Arms Race: Antiquity's Largest Fortresses and Sasanian Military Networks of Northern Iran	Eberhard Sauer et al	Oxbow	English
26	Cultural Histories of Central Asia	Rashmi Doraiswamy ed.	Routledge	English
27	China's Route Heritage: Mobility Narratives, Modernity and the Ancient Tea Horse Road	Gary Sigley	Routledge	English
28	The Mongol World	Timothy May & Michael Hope eds.	Routledge	English
29	The Archaeology of Iran: From the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire	Roger Matthews & Hassan Fazeli Nashli	Routledge	English
30	The World of the Ancient Silk Road	Xinru Liu ed.	Routledge	English
31	Xuanzang. A Buddhist Pilgrim on the Silk Road	Sally Wriggins	Routledge	English
32	On the Road to Samarkand. The Miracle of Silk and Gold	COLLECTIF	BEAUX ARTS	French
33	In the Forest of the Blind: The Eurasian Journey of Faxian's Record of Buddhist Kingdoms	Matthew W. King	Columbia University Press	English
34	In the Treasure Room of the Sakra King: The Native Copper Coinage of Northern Gandhara (ca. 550–1100 CE)	Waleed Ziad	American Numismatic Society	English
35	Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads: Textiles and Clothing	Zhao Feng et al eds.	UNESCO	English
36	Fu Poetry Along the Silk Roads: Third-Century Chinese Writings on Exotica	Xurong Kong	Arc Humanities Press	English
37	Religion and State in the Altaic World: Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC), Friedensau, Germany, August 18-23, 2019	Oliver Corff ed.	De Gruyter	English
38	The History and Culture of Iran and Central Asia: From the Pre-Islamic to the Islamic Period	D. G. Tor & Minoru Inaba eds.	University of Notre Dame Press	English
39	The Pax Mongolica. To What Extent Was Safety OF Travelers on the Medieval Silk Road Really Guaranteed?	Anastasia Dumler	Grin Verlag	German
40	The Maritime Silk Road: Global Connectivities, Regional Nodes, Localities	Franck Billé et al eds.	Amsterdam University Press	English
41	Tribute System and Rulership in Late Imperial China	Ralph Kauz & Morris Rossabi	Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht	English
42	Central Asian National History	Alisher Doniyorov	Sciencia Scripts	Russian
43	Islam's East Rigions and China's West Rigions: Travels in Central Asia in the 7-8 Centuries	Minoru Inaba	Risen Shoten	Japanese
44	The Tripitaka of Tsushima: A Treasure in East Asia	Yokouchi Hiroto ed.	Benseisha Publishing	Japanese
45	A Study of the History of East-West Exchanges in the 13th Century	Tetsuo Ebisawa	Kaibunsha	Japanese
46	Changes of the World Order and East Asia	Yoshiaki Kawamoto	Kyuko Sosho	Japanese
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50	Diplomacy and Retribution in Ancient Japan	Kumiko Hamada	Yoshikawa	Japanese
51	From Zhang Qian to Marco Polo: Eighteen Lectures on the Silk Road	Rong Xinjiang	Jiangxi People's Publishing House	Chinese
52	Chinese Documents Concerned Khotan in Tang Dynasty Unearched from Hotan	Rong Xinjiang	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
53	A History of Landscape Paintings from Dunhuang	Zhao Shenliang	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
54	Interaction and Exchange: A Study on the Relationship between the Hellenized World and the Silk Road	Yang Juping	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
55	Imagination of the World: The Eastward Reflections of Western Learning and Chinese Geographical Documents in the Ming and Qing Dynasty	Zou Zhenhuan	Zhonghua Book Company	Chinese
56	The Silk Road: Before and After Richthofen	Zhao Feng ed.	The Commercial Press	Chinese
57	Chinese Civilisation along the Silk Road	Rong Xinjiang ed.	The Commercial Press	Chinese
58	Eassays on Xinjiang Archaeology	Liu Wensuo	The Commercial Press	Chinese
59	Myth and Ritual: Revealing the Civilizations of the košava from the Ancient Khotan	Duan Qing	SDJ Joint Publishing Company	Chinese
60	Archaeological Report on the Excavations of Quanzhou City Site	The Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences et al	Science Press	Chinese
61	A Study on the History of Uighur in Tang and Song Dynasties	Yang Fuxue	Science Press	Chinese
62	Agricultural Activities and Plant Utilization of the Ancieng Yanghai People, Turpan of Xinjiang, China	Jiang Hong-en	Science Press	Chinese
63	Archaeological Report on the Shichengzi Site in Xinjiang, Vol. 1	Xinjiang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology	Science Press	Chinese
64	Human Activities in China's Deserts and Adjacent Areas from the Perspective of Environmental Archaeology	An Chengbang	Science Press	Chinese
65	Di Mensheng's World: Messenger of the Silk Road	Wu Huaqiang & Zhao Chao	Cultural Relics Press	Chinese
66	The Hu Tribes on Both Sides of the Eastern Canal of Luoyang in the Sui and Tang Dynasties and the Eastern Starting Point of the Silk Road	Zhang Chengyu & Zhang Naizhu	Cultural Relics Press	Chinese
67	A Study on the Silk Road and the Historical Changes of Ancient Guyuan	Li Shirong	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
68	A Study of the Relationship between Byzantine, Intermediary Nationalities and China from the Perspective of the Silk Road	Zhang Shuang & Xue Haibo	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
69	From Macedonia to Maracanda: The Study of Hellenism in Sogdiana	Qi Xiaoyan	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
70	China and the World in the Ming Dynasty on the Silk Road	Wan Ming	China Social Sciences Press	Chinese
71	China and the World in Eurasian Space-time	Huang Dayuan	Social Sciences Academic Press	Chinese
72	The Moon beyond Passes and Mountains: Historical and Philoloical Studies on Old Turkic and Uighur Inscriptions and Manuscripts	Bai Yudong	Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House	Chinese
73	Studies on the Spread of Zoroastria in Medieval China	Zhang Xiaogui	Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House	Chinese

74	The Localization of Manichaeism and the Folk Religions in Fujian	You Xiaoyu	Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House	Chinese/English
75	Proceedings of the Symposium on Liu Pingguo's Carving and Civilizations of the West Regions	Zhu Yuqi & Li Xiao ed.	Phoenix Publishing	Chinese
76	Detailed Report of Archaeological survey and excavation on Loulan	Hou Can	Phoenix Publishing	Chinese
77	The Roman-Byzantine Empire along the Silk Road: Based on the Coin Research	Guo Yunyan	Central Compilation & Translation Press	Chinese
78	Choice and Loss: The Cultural Consciousness and Interaction in the Hellenistic Art of Bactria-Indus Valley	Li Jingze	China China University of Political Science and Law Press	Chinese
79	Investigation and Research on the Ancient Turpan Road in the East Tianshan Mountains	Wu Xinhua	Guangxi Normal University Press	Chinese
80	Study on the Vassal and Tribute in Ancient China	Li Dalong ed.	Huaxia Publishing House	Chinese
81	Zheng He's Voyage to Africa and the Mutual Appreciation of Chinese and African Civilizations	Li Xinfeng	Social Sciences in China	Chinese
82	Bilingual Epitaph Writing and Zoroastrian Funeral Culture of Hu People in Medieval China	Dawulijiang	Historical Research	Chinese
83	The“Zhigongtu”of Emperor Yuan of the Liang and the“Western Rongs”	Huo Wei	Ethno-National Studies	Chinese
84	Wine and ethnic exchanges along the Silk Road in the Han Dynasty	Wang Zijin	The Western Regions Studies	Chinese
85	From the Lion-leading Person and Lion Rider to the Lion Driver: A New Study on the Origin of the New Styled Image of Manjusri Bodhisattva at Dunhuang	Ge Chengyong	Dunhang Research	Chinese
86	The Maritime Silk Road from the Perspective of the Oriental History: An Investigation Focus on the Study of Japanese Scholars	Chen Fenglin	Social Science Front	Chinese
87	Suanni (lion) · Tianma (Akhal-Teke Horse) · Tiaotuoying (bracelets) as Witnesses to Sino-Iran Cultural Exchanges of Ancient Times	Li Ling	Palace Museum Journal	Chinese
88	Reconciling Through Paying Tribute: Path Selection of Rebuilding Order in the Western Regions in the Ming Dynasty	Tian Shu & Yang Taowei	China's Borderland History and Geography Studies	Chinese
89	Manufacturing Techniques and Value of Tang Dynasty Silk Woven with Paper-Backed Silver Threads Unearthed from the Underground Chamber at the Famen Temple	Lu Zhiyong et al	Archaeology	Chinese
90	Differences in the Shape of Bamboo and Wooden Slips Depending on the Region and the Government Office: With a Focus on "Two-line" Slips among the Dunhuang Han Slips	Takamura Takeyuki	Toyo Gakuho	Japanese
91	The Connection between Tōwasanyō and the Min dialect : Ships, Plays and the Maritime Silk Road	Shang Zhonglan	Journal of East Asian Cultural Interaction Studies	Japanese
92	Oedipus and Jocasta on a 'Bactrian' Silver Bowl in the Hermitage, c. 350-500	Anca DAN & Frantz Grenet	Journal Asiatique	English
93	‘Chinese’ Paper and Margins of Gold in a Fifteenth-Century Shiraz Anthology	Elaine Wright	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society	English
94	839–841: Disastrous Years that Reshaped the Political Map of Central Asia	Xiangpeng Min & Huaiyu Chen	Central Asiatic Journal	English
95	Caravanserai middens on desert roads: a new perspective on the Nabataean–Roman trade network across the Negev	Guy Bar-Oz et al	Antiquity	English
96	Made in the City of Baghdad? Medieval Textile Production and Pattern Notation Systems of Early Lampas Woven Silks	Corinne Mühlemann	Muqarnas	English

97	Historic Premise of the Silk Roads in the South Caucasus: New Archaeological Evidence for the Communication from Iberia	Salome Jamburia	Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia	English
98	The Pramnai Ascetics of Strabo 15.1.70	Harry Falk	Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft	English
99	Aśvaghōṣa Between Gandhara and Kucha: the Śāriputraprakaraṇa and Its Narrative Expression in a Forgotten Slab from Mount Karamar	Robert Schulz	Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae	English
100	A Controversial Theme of Fayaztep's Painting in North Bactria: A Figure in the "Crown of Two Corners"	Казим А. Абдуллаев/ K. A. Abdullaev	Bulletin of ancient history	Russian



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2022
REPORT

CULTURAL EVENTS

Jointly released by
Institute for Intercultural Dialogue on the Silk Roads (IIDOS)
The ICOMOS International Conservation Center - Xi'an (IICC-X)



Annual Review of Cultural Events on Silk Roads in 2022

Lu Fangfang

China National Silk Museum

The diversity of civilizations provides a broad space for the exchange and mutual appreciation of civilizations, which in turn injects inexhaustible impetus for the creative development of human civilization. 2022, the ongoing epidemic did not stop the communication around the world. Following the cooperation of last year and with the support of the Icomos 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 2022*, the staff effectively filter and estimate the collected information and a total of 57 cultural events at home and abroad were screened out (except for archaeological discoveries, thematic exhibitions and academic researches).

Four aspects on the Silk Road cultural heritage will be listed in this paper: re-cognition, conservation and cooperation, innovation, and the power of the youth.

1.Re-cognition

Generally, World Heritage began with the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on November 16, 1972 and entered into force on December 17, 1975. In 1978, Mesa Verde National Park and Yellowstone National Park were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the first World Heritage Sites, starting a global movement for World Heritage. It has become a worldwide common sense that the world's cultural and natural heritage is not just belong to a city or a country, but to the common heritage of humanity.

In 2022, UNESCO and countries continued to focus on sorting out the value of cultural heritages and nominating for World Heritage. On February 23, an online Kick-Off Expert Meeting launched the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFiT) project "Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process" (Phase III). This event was co-organised by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), and brought together representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IICAS, two experts from each participating State Party, and international experts, including Japanese resource experts. Feng Jing, Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit and Coordinator of the Silk Roads project stated that "serial transnational

nominations of the Silk Roads foster international cooperation, which is at the heart of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, particularly on occasion of its 50th Anniversary” .

On October 23, the second annual meeting of the Coordinating Bureau (CB) of the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network (SRLHN) was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was organized by the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) during “Bosphorus” International Folk Dance and Music Festival in close collaboration with International Institute for Central Asia Studies (IICAS), European Association of Folklore Festivals and Traditional Arts Association of Turkey (TAA).

On November 16-17, Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Forum was held in Macao, China, jointly presented by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government and the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government, the China Academy of Cultural Heritage, the Guangzhou Secretariat of City Alliance for Maritime Silk Road Heritage Conservation and World Heritage Nomination, and ICOMOS China, and co-organized by the University of Macao and the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies. At the closing ceremony, representatives from several countries and regions, international heritage institutions and those from Chinese cities along the Maritime Silk Road jointly launched the “Macao Initiatives for the Protection of the Maritime Silk Road and its Nomination for World Heritage”, further promoting the cooperation and various partnerships in the field of the cultural heritage related to the Maritime Silk Road, as well as facilitating the nomination of the Maritime Silk Road for the UNESCO World Heritage List. The hosting of this Cultural Forum in Macao has emphasized the role of Macao as “a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is the mainstream and diverse cultures coexist”. Several experts and scholars from home and abroad presented their research results and delivered speeches, which yielded fruitful results.

In 2022, more cultural heritage is included in the United Nations Intangible Cultural Heritage List. The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, led to the inscription by States sitting on the Committee of 47 elements including: four on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, 39 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and four on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

In 2022, heritage is also experiencing unfortunate accidents and disasters. 152 cultural sites in Ukraine have been partially or totally destroyed since the beginning of the war, including 70 religious buildings, 30 historical buildings, 18 cultural centers, 15 monuments, 12 museums and 7 libraries. On July 27, heritage structures in Vigan City, the best-preserved Spanish-style city in the Philippines, with its cobbled streets and horse-drawn carriages, were damaged by a 7-magnitude earthquake. The tremors destroyed the facade of Vigan Cathedral, part of the Historic City of Vigan, a UNESCO world heritage site. On August 6, Wan'an Bridge, one of the longest ancient wooden bridges in China, which has a history of more than 900 years, located in Fujian province, collapsed on Saturday night after a fire broke out. It was listed as a key national cultural relic in 2006. The construction of wooden arch bridges uses the most sophisticated techniques among all wooden bridges in China, and the techniques themselves were listed as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in 2009.

The attention behind these disasters also further aroused the awareness of people around the world to cherish, love and protect the cultural heritage. On July 29, UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee have issued new guidance for assessing impacts from projects that could potentially affect the planet's most precious heritage places: *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*. Designed specifically for heritage management institutions, governments and project developers, it aims to help find the best possible solutions to meet both conservation priorities and development needs. It provides a methodology and a set of easy-to-use tools for elaborating impact assessments to the best practice currently existing for World Heritage, helps to identify and define the values and attributes of the site concerned, whether it is a cultural, natural or mixed cultural-natural site, and explains the process for evaluating potential impacts, and finding appropriate mitigation measures and alternative options.

2.Conservation and Cooperation

The international movement for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage has been proposed and emphasized since the beginning of the 20th century. The establishment of UNESCO in 1945, with a mission to “maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge

by assuring the conservation and protection of the world’s inheritance of books, works of art and monuments of history and science, and recommending to the nations concerned the necessary international conventions". And it also provided for the recommendation of the necessary international treaties to the countries concerned. The International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Heritage and Archaeological Excavations was established in 1951, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM) was established in 1959, and the International The International Committee for Cultural Monuments and Historic Places (ICOMOS) was established in 1965.

Historically, the Silk Road opened up links between Europe, Asia and Africa; today, multidisciplinary and transnational cooperation has become a major trend in the field of cultural heritage conservation. These practices, which are conducive to cultural inclusiveness and the construction of human destiny community, are a contemporary reflection of the spirit of the Silk Roads.

On July 5, the Central Asian Open Meeting on Silk Roads Documentary Heritage was held in the Headquarters of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies to mark the 30th anniversary of the UNESCO Memory of the World program. The meeting was organized jointly by the International Center for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) and IICAS in a hybrid mode. The meeting was attended by experts and practitioners from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting was aimed to facilitate regional collaboration network in preservation and accessibility efforts for Silk Roads documentary heritage, to support regional studies in identifying and cataloguing Silk Roads' documentary heritage, to share good practices in identifying Silk Roads documentary heritage for possible inscription at the regional and international levels, and to strengthen cooperation among the members of the MoW community.

On July 18-19, the "2022 International Forum on Culture and Tourism Development of Silk Road Cities" was held in Zhongwei, Ningxia. It was held by the Bureau of the International Communication and Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Ningxia Hui autonomous region and Network of International Culturalink Entities.

On September 12, the opening ceremony of the 9th International Archaeological School (IAS) was held at the conference hall of the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand. A unique educational program, established by the Khalikov Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies of Kazan Federal University in 2014 was being implemented with the financial support of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) as part of the 2022-2023 academic plan of the Institute. This year the School was held in two cities with ancient history and long research traditions - Samarkand and Bukhara.

“Rivers of the Silk Roads: how water shaped societies and empires in Central Asia”, secured significant funding from the Leverhulme Trust, aims to examining how the rivers of Central Asia’s Silk Roads helped to shape the societies and empires of the region. Led by Professor Mark Macklin, Distinguished Professor of River Systems and Global Change and Founding Director of the Lincoln Centre for Water and Planetary Health at the University of Lincoln, UK, this project uses state-of-the-art dating, hydraulic modelling, and satellite imaging techniques, combined with archaeological investigations of ancient canal systems, to provide the first ever multi-millennial length reconstructions of changing water resources and water hazards along the Silk Roads. Professor Macklin also works closely with academics across the globe on the project including Professor Peter Frankopan (University of Cambridge), Dr Willem Toonen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Dr Dmitriy Voyakin (International Institute for Central Asian Studies) and Dr Elizabeth Brite (Purdue University).

On October 4, the expert meeting on the "Architecture and Monuments" themed with the “Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads” was held online, which brought together renowned experts in the field of architecture and monuments from across the world, organized by UNESCO, the Nanjing Creative Center, with supports from the Nanjing World Historical and Cultural Cities Expo. It aimed to identify the main elements, methodologies, and technologies for best highlighting the Silk Roads common heritage relating to the theme of Architecture and Monuments within the Interactive Atlas and multi-volume. Thematic Collection UNESCO is currently developing.

On November 15, the signing ceremony was held online and offline between Northwest University and the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan. On behalf of the two sides, Guo Lihong, President of NWU, and Aziz Abdulhakimov, President of Silk Road University, signed the Agreement on the Co-construction of the China-Uzbekistan International Joint Laboratory of Scientific and Technological Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection between Northwest University and Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage.

3. Innovation

"Protection and utilization, inheritance and innovation" is the eternal theme in the field of cultural heritage. The practice and exploration of making cultural heritage alive through rational use, and transformation and innovation have even become the "competitiveness" of some regions.

Digital technology is undoubtedly a major and profound technological progress in the world, which not only changes the way people live, but also affects their way of thinking and value judgment. Digital construction provides a new path for cultural heritage protection, dissemination, communication and utilization. It is not only to protect the cultural heritage itself, but also to preserve the civilization style it carries.

Silk Road Online Curating Competition was held from April to July 2022 by China National Silk Museum, co-organized by Shanghai University and supported by Manycore Tech Inc. (KOOL). The competition attracted the participation of over 120 universities including Peking University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, University of the Arts London and many other universities, as well as more than 20 museums and a large group of designers. 127 online exhibitions were curated and divided into Cultural Heritage and Museology Group and Design Group with the two groups awarded respectively. It was powered by the Silk Road Online Museum (SROM) platform, a platform with its main concepts focusing on “digital collaboration” and “3D online curating”. It has brought together more than 2,000 digital artifacts from more than 40 museums worldwide. Curators and designers can design and curate exhibitions through the SROM platform by selecting artifacts from the Digital Collection, doing extensive academic research, building or selecting a gallery, selecting glass showcases, arranging display tools, writing explanation labels, and finally creating a 3D virtual exhibition. Additionally, the exhibition works can also be shared on social media, thus attracting more audiences.

On August 19, the "Dunhuang Documents Database" (dhyssjk.dha.ac.cn) was officially released online by Dunhuang Academy. The global sharing platform of Dunhuang documents includes their basic information, digitised images, transcripts of the full texts, and related documents of academic studies. Meanwhile, the database provides full-text retrieval and image-text comparison browsing in both Chinese and Tibetan.

Museums have gradually become a new field for public archaeological practice, and the construction of archaeological museums has become a new way for public archaeological practice. On April 28, Shaanxi Archaeology Museum, China's first comprehensive museum focusing on archaeology opened to the public in Xi'an. On July 14, Beiting City Ruins Museum opened in Xinjiang, aiming to present the World Cultural Heritage of Beiting City Ruins, and the Silk Road. On August 29, Southern Silk Road Branch of the National Local Chronicles Museum opened in the ancient city of Jianchuan in Dali, Yunnan Province. This is the first National Local Chronicles Museum branch in southwest China, and also the first international local chronicles Museum in China.

Culture truly has the power to transform society. Culture has many expressions - from our cherished historical sites and museums to traditional practices and contemporary art forms - and it enriches our daily lives in so many ways. Creativity can help build open, inclusive and diverse societies. Both heritage and creativity lay the foundation for a vibrant, innovative, and prosperous knowledge society.

On September 17, the Silk Road International Art Festival was opened, including five special activities such as an international contemporary art week, an international anime game culture week, an international children's drama week, a poetic week and an international youth sinologist seminar.

On October 12, the International Festival of Digital Arts in Greece Athens Digital Arts Festival was invited by China Shanghai International Arts Festival to become a member of Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals. Under the cooperation, ADAF becomes a member of the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals, which was established in 2017 under the initiation of the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, to explore the application of digital technology in artistic projects. The network has so far attracted 172 artistic organizations from 46 countries and regions.

On December 19, the fifth Arabic Arts Festival opened in the city of Jingdezhen in Jiangxi Province. The two-day event was expected to see in-depth cultural exchanges between artists from China and Arab countries, showcasing the unique charm of Jingdezhen, also known as China's "porcelain capital". The festival also included a series of cultural exchange activities such as performances, a cultural industrial forum and an exhibition featuring works by Arab and Chinese artists.

4.Emphasis on the power of the youth

The youth are the future of social development. Promoting the active participation of young people in world heritage conservation so that the youth group can become the cognoscenti, enthusiasts, and actors of conservation of the world heritage. They will be the basic force for the sustainable development of cultural heritage.

Opened for entries from April 19 - August 5, the UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads photo contest, themed with “Faith and Spiritualities” and “Living Together”, called on young people around the world, aged 14 to 25 years old, to pick up their cameras and send their best photos to the 4th edition of our Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads contest. As part of UNESCO’s Silk Roads Programme and Social and Human Sciences Sector, it promoted photography as a tool for encouraging cultural interaction, helping build mutual understanding, and promoting peace amongst the people living in the regions connected by the Silk Roads.

On December 5, International Youth Forum on “Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads: Youth creativity to promote intercultural dialogue and tackle global challenges" (online), was held in Changsha, Hunan Province. It aimed at promoting exchanges among young people around the world, and guiding young people to conform to the historical trend, show their commitment and contribute to global sustainable development, jointly organized by UNESCO, WFUCA, the National Commission of China for UNESCO, as well as the Changsha and Nanjing Municipal Governments. 23 youth representatives from countries along the Silk Road discussed with young people from all over the world around the two themes of “Imagine 2030, challenges and opportunities for global youth” and “The role of media art in promoting intercultural dialogue and creating a better future”.

1 Expert Meeting launches Phase III of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project "Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process"

Time: February 23, 2022
Venue: Online

Overview:

This event was co-organised by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), and brought together representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, IICAS and two experts from each participating State Party, together with international experts, including Japanese resource experts.

Feng Jing, Chief of Asia and the Pacific Unit and Coordinator of the Silk Roads project states that "serial transnational nominations of the Silk Roads foster international cooperation, which is at the heart of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, particularly on occasion of its 50th Anniversary" . He also presented an overview of the Silk Roads project and its achievements. UNESCO representatives and the international experts provided background information on Phases I and II of the JFiT project "Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process" and the key achievements, outlined the main points of the resulting publication *Silk Road: an ICOMOS Thematic Study*, and outlined the activities planned as part of Phase III. The participating States Parties (Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan) presented their national efforts for the initial identification, protection, conservation, presentation and management of related heritage sites linking to the Silk Road Volga-Caspian heritage corridor."



2 Silk Road Online Curating Competition

Time: April 15- July 8, 2022
Venue: Zhejiang, China (online)

Overview:

China National Silk Museum held the Silk Road Online Curating Competition from April to July 2022, co-organized by Shanghai University and supported by Manycore Tech Inc. (KOOL). The competition attracted the participation of over 120 universities including Peking University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, University of the Arts London and many other universities, as well as more than 20 museums and a large group of designers. 127 online exhibitions were curated and divided into Cultural Heritage and Museology Group and Design Group with the two groups awarded respectively.

The competition is powered by the Silk Road Online Museum (SROM) platform, a platform with its main concepts focusing on "digital collaboration" and "3D online curating". It has brought together more than 2,000 digital artifacts from more than 40 museums worldwide. Curators and designers can design and curate exhibitions through the SROM platform by selecting artifacts from the Digital Collection, doing extensive academic research, building or selecting a gallery, selecting glass showcases, arranging display tools, writing explanation labels, and finally creating a 3D virtual exhibition. Additionally, the exhibition works can also be shared on social media, thus attracting more audiences.



3 2022 Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest

Time: April 19-August 5, 2022
Venue: online

Overview:

UNESCO called on young people around the world, aged 14 to 25 years old, to pick up their cameras and send their best photos to the 4th edition of our Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads contest.

The UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads photo contest is part of the Organization's Silk Roads Programme and Social and Human Sciences Sector. It promotes photography as a tool for encouraging cultural interaction, helping build mutual understanding, and promoting peace amongst the people living in the regions connected by the Silk Roads.

This year, the themes are "Faith and Spiritualities" and "Living Together". Entries may focus on either of these, while concentrating on mutual influences shared by people along the Silk Roads.



4 The Shaanxi Archaeology Museum Opened

Time: April 28, 2022
Venue: Shaanxi, China

Overview:

China's first comprehensive museum focusing on archaeology opened to the public on Thursday in Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province.

The Shaanxi Archaeology Museum was first proposed in 2009. After several years of preparation, construction began in 2019, and it was completed in December. The building has a total floor space of 36,000 square meters.

From stone relics of the prehistoric city ruins of Shimao about 4,000 years ago to the abundant artifacts from the mausoleums of emperors at the zenith of the Chinese imperial period, more than 5,200 cultural relics unearthed over the past 60 years in archaeological excavations across the Shaanxi province now have a venue for display.



5 Beiting City Ruins Museum Opened

Time: July 14, 2022
Venue: Xinjiang, China

Overview:

The Beiting City ruins can be found 20 kilometers to the north of Jimsar county, in China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. It was the seat of the Beiting Protectorate, established by the central government of the Tang Empire (618-907) in 712 to govern the vast territory of northern Xinjiang. As a political and cultural center on the northern slope of the Tianshan Mountains, Beiting city was also a military base heavily guarded by armed forces. After the Tang Empire collapsed, the city continued to function in the western region. It was an auxiliary capital of the Uygur Kingdom of Qocho (Gaochang in Chinese, 10th-13th century) during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), and the site of military posts during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Having stood for six centuries, it fell into decline in the 14th century and was ultimately desolated in 15th-century warfare. Beiting City Ruins Museum aims to present the World Cultural Heritage of Beiting City Ruins, and the Silk Road.



6 "Rivers of the Silk Roads: How Water Shaped Societies and Empires in Central Asia" Project

Time: September, 28-October 6, 2022

Venue: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Overview:

"Rivers of the Silk Roads: how water shaped societies and empires in Central Asia", secured significant funding from the Leverhulme Trust, aims to examining how the rivers of Central Asia's Silk Roads helped to shape the societies and empires of the region. Led by Professor Mark Macklin, Distinguished Professor of River Systems and Global Change and Founding Director of the Lincoln Centre for Water and Planetary Health at the University of Lincoln, UK, this project uses state-of-the-art dating, hydraulic modelling, and satellite imaging techniques, combined with archaeological investigations of ancient canal systems, to provide the first ever multi-millennial length reconstructions of changing water resources and water hazards along the Silk Roads. Professor Macklin also works closely with academics across the globe on the project including Professor Peter Frankopan (University of Cambridge), Dr Willem Toonen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Dr Dmitriy Voyakin (International Institute for Central Asian Studies) and Dr Elizabeth Brite (Purdue University).



7 International Silk Road Symposium from Past to Future was Held in Ankara

Time: October 10-12, 2022

Venue: Ankara, Turkey

Overview:

The "International Silk Road Symposium from the Past to the Future", in which the Union of Turkish World Municipalities (TDBB) is among the supporting institutions, was held on 10-12 October 2022, hosted by Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University.

51 Academicians from Azerbaijan, South Korea, India, Spain, Switzerland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan and 38 from 22 universities from Turkey participated in the symposium. In addition, while twenty-three online presentations were made at the symposium, four joint papers were read at the international level.



8 Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Forum

Time: November 16-17, 2022/11/16-17

Overview:

The forum was hosted by the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR government, and undertaken by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government, ICOMOS China, the Office of the Maritime Silk Road Conservation and Joint Heritage Cities Alliance, and the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage. This forum invited experts and scholars in Maritime Silk Road research at home and abroad, as well as city representatives of the Chinese Maritime Silk Road Alliance, to give speeches and discussions on "The Protection and Sustainable Development of the Maritime Silk Road Heritage".

The forum was held both online and offline with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese, English and Portuguese. During the forum, extended activities such as guided tours related to Macao historical sites of the Maritime Silk Road and photo exhibitions on historical sites along the Chinese Maritime Silk Road were held in concurrent. Moreover, a special website will be set up for this forum. Guests from all over the world can watch the live broadcast of the forum and to review the highlights afterwards. There was also an online photo exhibition of the historical sites along the Chinese Maritime Silk Road uploaded.



9 Intangible Cultural Heritage: UNESCO inscribes 47 elements

Time: November 28-December 3, 2022

Venue: Rabat, Morocco

Overview:

The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, led to the inscription by States sitting on the Committee of 47 elements including: four on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, 39 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and four on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.



10

International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads: Youth creativity to promote intercultural dialogue and tackle global challenges

Time: December 5, 2022
Venue: Hunan, China

Overview:

The online forum was aimed at promoting exchanges among young people around the world, and guiding young people to conform to the historical trend, show their commitment and contribute to global sustainable development, jointly organized by UNESCO, WFUCA, the National Commission of China for UNESCO, as well as the Changsha and Nanjing Municipal Governments on 15 December 2022. Experts on heritage along the Silk Road, on the Maritime Silk Road, on promoting intercultural dialogue framework of UNESCO and on digital inclusion were invited to deliver keynote speeches.

At the venue set in Malanshan of Changsha, 23 youth representatives from countries along the Silk Road discussed with young people from all over the world around the two themes of "Imagine 2030, challenges and opportunities for global youth" and "The role of media art in promoting intercultural dialogue and creating a better future".



Cultural Event List

No.	Event Title	Date	Venue
1	Italy Sends Back Parthenon Fragment in Landmark Loan to Greece	2022/1/9	Italy, Greece
2	Expert Meeting launches Phase III of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process”	2022/2/23	online
3	IICAS Organized Online Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) Panel Review Meeting for the Site of Uzgen, Kyrgyzstan	2022/4/6	online
4	Silk Road Online Curating Competition	2022/4/15-7/8	Zhejiang, China
5	Focus on "Heritage and Climate" -- International Day for Monuments and Sites Online Forum	2022/4/18	Shaanxi, China
6	2022 Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest	2022/4/19-8/5	online
7	Shaanxi Archaeology Museum Opens	2022/4/28	Shaanxi, China
8	New research unravels the origin of the royal incense of the Tang Dynasty	2022/5/17	Shaanxi, China
9	Indonesia to Raise Visitor Fees for Borobudur Temple	2022/6/5	Indonesia
10	Madam Xian Culture and Maritime Silk Road Museum Opens	2022/6/11	Guangdong, China
11	High Level Academic Forum on Silk Road Archaeology	2022/6/12	Gansu, China
12	Forum of Alliance on Technological Innovations of Cultural Heritage along the Silk Road (ATICS)	2022/6/22	Zhejiang, China
13	Ukraine: over 150 cultural sites partially or totally destroyed	2022/6/23	Ukraine
14	China, Mongolia to jointly translate classics in next 5 years	2022/6/24	online
15	The Third China-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation Theme Short Video Contest	2022/6/27-11/16	online
16	Northwest University Team Uses Genomic Data to Map Ancient Human Genetics in the Tianshan Region	Jun-22	Shaanxi, China
17	Indo-Pacic Glass Beads Unearthed in the Central Plains Area and Xinjiang of China Testies the Prosperity of Trade Along the Land and Maritime Silk Roads		
18	The Sixth Symposium on Xinjiang Beiting Studies	2022/7/5-6	Fujian, China
19	Central Asian Open Meeting on Silk Roads Documentary Heritage	2022/7/5	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
20	Beiting City Ruins Museum Opens	2022/7/14	Xinjiang, China
21	2022 International Forum on Culture and Tourism Development of Silk Road Cities	2022/7/18-19	Ningxia, China
22	"Dunhuang in the World" Online Lecture in Osaka	2022/7/20	online
23	UNESCO heritage site damaged in Philippines' quake	2022/7/27	Philippines
24	Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context	2022/7/29	online

25	Ancient wooden bridge engulfed by blaze	2022/8/6	Fujian, China
26	U.S. returns 30 artifacts to Cambodia	2022/8/8	USA, Cambodia
27	Symposium on Interaction, Exchange and Integration of Multi-ethnic Cultures in Dunhuang	2022/8/10-13	Gansu, China
28	Dunhuang Documents Database Released Online	2022/8/19	online
29	BBC News to air “The Silk Roads - Wonders of Azerbaijan” program	2022/8/20	online
30	Southern Silk Road Branch of the National Local Chronicles Museum Opens	2022/8/29	Yunnan, China
31	The 26th International Sericulture Commission Congress	2022/9/8	Cluj-Napoca, Romania
32	9th International Archaeological School in Samarkand	2022/9/12	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
33	8th Silk Road International Art Festival	2022/9/17	Shaanxi, China
34	China-Central Asia People-to-people Friendship Forum Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection Sub-Forum	2022/9/27	Shaanxi, China
35	“Rivers of the Silk Roads: How Water Shaped Societies and Empires in Central Asia” Project	2022/9/28-10/6	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
36	The expert meeting on the "Architecture and Monuments" theme of the "Thematic Collection of the Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads"	2022/10/4	Jiangsu, China
37	Uzbekistan’s and China's Treasures on Silk Road Stamps	2022/10/7	Shaanxi, China
38	International Silk Road Symposium from Past to Future	2022/10/10-12	Ankara, Turkey
39	Athens Digital Arts Festival became a member of Network of Silk Road Arts Festival	2022/10/12	Shanghai, China
40	Seminar Series: Dunhuang & Silk Road Seminar Series, Michaelmas Term 2022 Programme	2022/10/20-12/1	UK
41	The second annual meeting of the Coordinating Bureau (CB) of the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network	2022/10/23	Istanbul, Turkey
42	Forum on Dialogue between Eastern and Western Civilizations	2022/10/25	Rome
43	“Across Time and Space: The Silk Road and the Silk City” International Symposium	2022/10/26-27	New Jersey, USA
44	International Symposium on "Expanding the Horizons of Cooperation among the Nation States of Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye: The Silk Roads - UNESCO Transnational Serial Nominations"	2022/11/8-10	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
45	Climate activists splash liquid on Barcelona mummy exhibit	2022/11/13	Barcelona, Spain
46	Seminar on Dunhuang art, Silk Road	2022/11/15	online
47	China-Uzbekistan International Joint Laboratory of Scientific and Technological Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection	2022/11/15	China, Uzbekistan
48	Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Forum	2022/11/16-17	Macao, China
49	"2022 Silk in Lyon" Meeting	2022/11/17	Lyon, Paris
50	World Philosophy Day Parallel Sessions: "International Symposium on Scientific and Cultural Exchanges along the Silk Roads" And "Roundtable on Philosophical Dialogue between East and West along the Silk Roads"	2022/11/18	Paris, France

51	Changsha Forum of City Alliance	2022/11/24	Hunan, China
52	Intangible Cultural Heritage: UNESCO inscribes 47 elements	2022/11/28-12/3	Rabat, Morocco
53	International Forum on the Two Ends of the Silk Road: China and Morocco	2022/12/3	China, Morocco
54	2022 Silk Road International Conference on the Cooperation and Integration of Industry Education Research and Application	2022/12/8	Shaanxi, China
55	5th Arabic Arts Festival opens	2022/12/19	Jiangxi, China
56	Germany hands over 20 looted Benin Bronzes to Nigeria	2022/12/20	Germany, Nigeria
57	International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads: Youth creativity to promote intercultural dialogue and tackle global challenges	2022/12/5	Hunan, China

Appendix

Archaeological Discoveries

- 1.Ancient artifacts unearthed at Farasan Islands near Jazan：
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2136781/saudi-arabia>
2. 新疆考古新发现 | 你所不知道的唐朝墩古城：
https://www.ts.cn/xwzx/whxw/202303/t20230328_12492197.shtml
3. 尼勒克县吉仁台沟口遗址入围“2022年度中国考古新发现” 骨质冰鞋为国内首次发现：
https://www.ts.cn/xwzx/whxw/202302/t20230225_11856304.shtml
4. 十大考古参评项目 | 广西合浦望牛岭汉墓：
<http://sanyamuseum.com/a/chenliexuanjiao/2023/0215/2120.html>
5. 实证千年商港 再现“海丝”繁华——浙江温州朔门古港遗址保护发掘纪事：
http://www.news.cn/2023-03/30/c_1129479017.htm
6. Ornate Silver Hoard Discovered in Forests Near Old Ryazan：
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2021/08/ornate-silver-horde-discovered-in-forests-near-old-ryazan/139889>
7. Silk Road Detour：
<https://https://www.archaeology.org/issues/509-2305/digs/11347-israel-silk-road-depot>
8. Human remains dating back some 2,300 years unearthed in Ho Chi Minh City：
<https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/ttnewsstyle/20220914/human-remains-dating-back-some-2300-years-unearthed-in-ho-chi-minh-city/69067.html>
9. New Findings from 3,000-year-old Uluburun shipwreck: Uzbekistan Nomads Supplied a Third of the Bronze Used Across Ancient Mediterranean：
<https://arkeonews.net/new-findings-from-3000-year-old-uluburun-shipwreck-uzbekistan-nomads-supplied-a-third-of-the-bronze-used-across-ancient-mediterranean/>
10. Ancient Indo-Parthian coins excavated in Pakistan：
<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/423321/Ancient-Indo-Parthian-coins-excavated-in-Pakistan>

Thematic Exhibitions

1. The Splendours of Uzbekistan's Oases：
<https://www.louvre.fr/en/what-s-on/exhibitions/the-splendours-of-uzbekistan-s-oases>
2. Exhibition – Nara to Norwich: Art and belief at the extremities of the Silk Roads, 500-1100：
<https://www.sainsbury-institute.org/e-bulletin/july-2022/exhibition-nara-to-norwich-art-and-belief-at-the-extremities-of-the-silk-roads-500-1100/>
3. Exotic and Lavish China. Knowledge of the Orient. To Mark the Year of Peter the Great at the Hermitage Museum：
https://www.hermitagemuseum.org/wps/portal/hermitage/what-s-on/temp_exh/!ut/p/z1/pVNNc8IgFPwrvXjMQMgH8UijY_xIo9ao4ZIHsJWOIWozA_vrm7T2YK1xWjnBsMu-t28BFMwBVWwv10zLQrF1eU6om0aEuKblw17U7WNIIjNud3EXDbsYzD4B8MIiENBT_rDkO50WHmMfehN05NcAaL3-FFBA12oJEqGq7YbLBUg4cpu25TADm01m2MjLDJZICyNbcMYFwtnTwq3QXOmNXoFkJXa51Gwp7oRqQF4oLZRUQHfYyUxWVrw0oBb5ptix3VsDIohQdVtoyVO-koqd9_GzUFpv06wq5-QFj3iQdJxhGMYDFPWtM8CXxMQJomjqI98-AmpEkrJInA6g6QZN2-x5TtCCBE37fmBjEzbLaeyleAWxKnZ5OfzHPxoafCtcsmeEEf1OY-WE6itvjkvu_QV5py7yxrd61DJafRD5vt5SUGaqic9BgfnuiNnkc556VG3Moh7mfeWH74Ozf7x8MmnwAFLYNzA!!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/?lng=en
4. Sur la route de la soie. The Silk Road in Cluny, France：
<https://www.trc-leiden.nl/trc/index.php/en/blog/1416-sur-la-route-de-la-soie>
5. The Silk Road: A Living History：
<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/exhibitions/silk-road-a-living-history>

6. 海上丝绸之路历史文化数字展走进肯尼亚：
<http://www.musesilkroad.com/?c=news&a=view&id=442>
7. Hunters, Warriors, Spirits: Nomadic Art of North China:
<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/bg/exhibitions/hunters-warriors-spirits/home>
8. 西海长云：6-8世纪丝绸之路青海道：
http://w2w.chinasilkmuseum.com/zz/info_17.aspx?itemid=30683
9. 跨越两国的审美：日本与中国汉唐时期文化交流：
<https://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/info/1002/98421.htm>
10. 锦绣西域——新疆丝路文物精品展：
https://file.ahm.cn:444/AnHuiMuseum/CMS_TOPIC_HTML/jxxy/index.html

Cultural Events

1. Expert Meeting launches Phase III of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process”：
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2416>
2. 2022丝绸之路周 | 国丝举行“SROM丝绸之路云上策展大赛” 颁奖典礼：
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/C9uvBE8TQj1gzm_6gE_2zg
获奖作品展：
https://www.kujiale.cn/activities/college_srom_award
3. 第四届“丝绸之路青年之眼”摄影大赛获奖者揭晓：
<https://www.unesco.org/zh/articles/disijiesichouzhiluguqingnianzhiyansheyingsasaihuojiangzhejiexiao>
4. Archaeology museum opens in Shaanxi：
<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202204/29/WS626b25fda310fd2b29e5a052.html>
5. 丝绸之路北庭故城遗址博物馆开馆：
<http://www.chinanews.com.cn/sh/shipin/cns-d/2022/07-15/news932103.shtml>
6. Major Grant Award for Rivers of the Silk Roads Research:
<https://news.lincoln.ac.uk/2022/08/17/major-grant-award-for-rivers-of-the-silk-roads-research/>
7. International Silk Road Symposium from Past to Future was Held in Ankara:
<http://www.tdbb.org.tr/?p=19522&lang=en>
8. Maritime Silk Road International Cultural Forum:
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1693/>
9. Intangible Cultural Heritage: UNESCO inscribes 47 elements:
<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/intangible-cultural-heritage-unesco-inscribes-47-elements>
10. 云携手扬丝路精神 2022“一带一路”青年创意与遗产线上论坛开启:
<http://www.center4mediarts.com/html/421/20221216/2923.html>



Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads

2022 REPORT

List of Expert Teams



List of Expert Teams 2022

Archaeological Discovery Team:



He Yunao (Chief Expert)
Professor, director of the
Institute of Cultural and
Natural Heritage of Nanjing
University



Guowu
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



Jiang Bo
Director and senior
researcher of the Institute of
Underwater Archaeology,
National Center for
Underwater Cultural
Heritage, China



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

Thematic Exhibition Team:



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



François Mairesse
President of the International
Committee for Museology of
ICOM (ICOFOM)



Maria Menshikova
Senior Researcher, Hermitage
Museum, Russia



Pan Shouyong
Distinguished Professor of
Shanghai University



Bae Kidong
Director, Institute of East
Asian Archaeology
Chair, ICOM ASPAC

Epilogue

Academic Research Team:



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



Saren Gaowa
Research Librarian of
National Library



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



Luo Shuai
Researcher of School
of History of Zhejiang
University

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



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



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

The Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2022 (hereinafter referred to as "annual report") has received resounding responses for three consecutive years at home and abroad. It has also been widely concerned and reprinted by major mainstream media. With the same framework as last year, the annual report collected and sorted out relevant information of the Silk Road cultural heritage in 2022. Meanwhile, 20 experts in the field of cultural heritage from 7 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 Pan Shouyong for his in-depth interpretation of each book published in the 84 thematic exhibitions, and Ms. Bamo qubuqie for her unique insights on "intangible cultural heritage" in cultural events. At the same time, many thanks should also be given to Luo Shuai, Gao Zhenhua and Tong Tao for their insightful academic reviews, and the editor team for their efforts made during the process of writing and editing the book.

The title of the annual report is *Cultural Heritage on the Silk Roads 2022*, 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.

