12-2017

Dun Huang Caves - A Trove of 1000+ Years of Art and History Preserved in the Gobi Desert of Gansu, China

Zhaohui Fu

Florida International University, Fujen@fiu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/gis

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons

Recommended Citation

Fu, Zhaohui, "Dun Huang Caves - A Trove of 1000+ Years of Art and History Preserved in the Gobi Desert of Gansu, China" (2017). GIS Center. 70.

https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/gis/70

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the GIS Center at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in GIS Center by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Dun Huang Caves – A Trove of 1000+ Years of Art and History Preserved in the Gobi Desert of Gansu, China

Zhaohui Jennifer Fu
Digital Collection Center
GIS-RS Center
Libraries
Florida International University
December, 2017
Outline

Background
- Silk Route;
- Buddhism from India, Central Asia to China

Site Visit
- Dunhuang Mogao Caves;
- Yulin Caves

Digital Dunhuang

International Dunhuang Project

Sabbatical Research Ideas
Silk Route and Dunhuang

Source: La bildo estas kopiita de wikipedia:de, March 2010  https://www.awesomestories.com/images/user/0f9575861fa34ca92b71241a44706eef.png
Caravane on the Silk Route

Source: Cave Number Mogao 323, the North Wall of Main Chamber, Digital Dunhuang, url: https://www.e-dunhuang.com/index.htm

Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/leo_lam_2000/3232808903
Buddhist Pilgrimage to India – Xuan Zang

9th century mural painting of the Buddhist monk Xuanzang travelling with a tiger. Mogao Caves, Dunhuang, Gansu Province. Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=95604

Source: Professor Li Xiguang, http://schillerinstitute.org/conf-iclcc/2016/0407-ny/xiguang_slides/xuanzang_expedition_map.jpg
Mingsha Mount And YueYa Pond

Source: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/travel/img/attachement/jpg/site1/20160918/f8bc126e491619486ab42a.jpg
Dunhuang Mogao Caves

- 735 Caves, 2000+ sculpture, 45,000 square meters of cave paintings
- 366 A.D. -- First established
- 10 Dynasties 366 A.D. to 1368 A.D.

Source: http://www.chinatourguide.com/china_photos/gansu/attractions/Gansu_Dunhuang_Mogao_Caves.jpg
Dunhuang Mogao Caves
Dunhuang Mogao Caves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caves</th>
<th>Dynasties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Mid-Tang Dynasty (781-848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>329</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>High-Tang (781-848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>High-Tang (781-848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>North Wei (439-534)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>High-Tang (781-848)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249</td>
<td>North Zhou (557-581)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>237</td>
<td>West Wei (535-556)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>259</td>
<td>Sui Dynasty (581-618)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*#17, the very famous Library Cave*
Dunhuang Mogao Caves
Mogao Digital Caves

- [Link](https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0257) (Narrative illustration of the nine-colored Deer Jataka)
- [Link](https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0329) (Conception of the Prince; Midnight Departure)
- [Link](https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0061) (Wu Tai Mountain)
- Cave #45, Tang Sculptures
Story of the nine-colored Deer Jataka

- [https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0257](https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0257)
Conception of the Prince; Midnight Departure

https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0329
Wu Tai Mountain
Desert and Gobi Landscape and View to Yulin Caves
榆林窟简介

榆林窟，亦名万佛峡，位于甘肃省瓜州县城南约75公里的南山峡谷中，因榆林河（又名踏实河）从峡谷中穿流而过，两岸榆树成林，石窟因此而得名。其精美的壁画艺术，在中国唐代至元代的佛教石窟中占有重要地位。

榆林窟现存洞窟43个，其中：唐代4个、五代8个、宋代13个、回鹘1个、西夏4个、元代3个、清代10个，共有壁画4200平方米，彩塑250多身。

由于榆林窟的营建历史、石窟建筑、彩塑和壁画的题材内容与艺术手法同莫高窟有密切的关系，是莫高窟的“姊妹窟”，故可同称为敦煌石窟。

一九六一年，榆林窟被国务院公布为第一批全国重点文物保护单位。
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caves</th>
<th>Dynasties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Qing Dynasty (1644-1912)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mid-Tang; Late Song; Early West Xia (1038-1227)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Five Dynasties; Song (960-1279)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tang; Yuan (1271-1368)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Early Tang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>West Xia; Yuan, Qing restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>West Xia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 窟 清代
12 窟 五代十国 1100前 西方净土变
13 窟 原建于五代十国 宋 曹氏家族
14 窟 宋 被并曾运用于 《王朝的女人》
15 窟 宋 正在修复 中唐飞天
16 窟 五代
21 窟 宋 原建于初唐 封闭了十五年 今年复开
25 窟 宋晚期西夏早期
27/26 窟 唐 27元代
17 窟 初唐
25 窟 中唐
2 窟 水月/音
（四位成人）
Yulin Caves
Yulin Caves

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/VmfgAqXI6ciq8xLDO32eXA
Yulin Caves
Yulin Caves
Library Cave

- Cave #17 was a secret chamber within Cave 16 discovered by Mr. Wang, Yuanlu around year 1900;

- Marc Aurel Stern (British)
- Paul Pelliot (French)
- Landon·Warner (American)
Library Cave and International Dunhuang Project

- 17 languages and 24 scripts, many of which have been extinct for centuries or known only from a few examples;
- Diversity in religion – Buddhists, Manicheans, Christians, Zoroastrians, and Jews;
- there are estimated 40,000 scattered among more than a dozen libraries and Museums around the world
The International Dunhuang Project: The Silk Road Online

IDP is a ground-breaking international collaboration to make information and images of all manuscripts, paintings, textiles and artefacts from Dunhuang and archaeological sites of the Eastern Silk Road freely available on the Internet and to encourage their use through educational and research programmes.

IDP partner institutions which both provide data for and act as hosts to the multilingual website and database are:

The British Library, London IDP Directorate (English Version)
The National Library of China, Beijing (Chinese version)
The Institute for Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg (Russian version)
Ryukoku University, Kyoto (Japanese version)
The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities (German version)
The Dunhuang Academy, Dunhuang (Chinese version)
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris (French version)
Research Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul (Korean version)

Major IDP partners providing data include:
The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
大秦景教三威蒙度赞 – Nestorian Christianity Hymn
This is a translation by Lionel Giles of a poem about the Huang Chao rebellion. In an introduction to the translation (pp.305-325), Giles describes how he collated the text from fragments in London and Paris, and sketches the historical background of Huang Chao’s rebellion. He concludes with the following remarks about the translation: ‘The diction, as befits narrative, is simpler and more direct than in the standard poem, and is for the most part free from the allusiveness which is apt to make Chinese poetry so obscure. The law of parallelism, too, is not so strictly observed, though it is seldom ignored altogether. While trying to make my translation readable, I have aimed above all at literalness, so far as this is compatible with the fundamental differences of Chinese and English.’
Dunhuang Study-- Dunhuangology

- Digital text analysis – Charting influences from Iran, India, Central Asia to China;
- Tibetan holdings;
- Tantric manuscripts for performing human sacrifice;
- Paper and Printing – Print was a Buddhist invention vs “Gutenberg galaxy” of paper and print; Printing was closely regulated by the imperial government; piracy and unlicensed copies
- Folk cultural rituals (weddings, buries, festivals, religious holiday celebrations), local records
- Accounting systems, medicine, Ancient Chinese Phonetics, theatre scripts,

-- in Summary, it covers a wide range of research in history, geography, archaeology, religion, nationalities, folklore, art, literature, Languages, linguistics, architecture, and technology
1) “Cave temples of Dunhuang: art and history on the silk road” Roderick Whitfield, Susan Whitfield, Neville Agnew, 2000, British Library
2) “50 Selected caves of Dunhuang” Fan, Jinshi; Liu, Yunzeng, 2003, Dunhuang Academy
3) “Art of Yulin Caves” Fan, Jinshi, editor. 2014, Dunhuang Academy
6) “Buddhist Records of The Western World” Xuan Zang, Tang Dynasty
7) “The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Xuanzang, and Yijing, Sources for cross-cultural encounters between ancient China and Ancient India” Tansen Sen, EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA Volume 11, Number 3 Winter 2006
9) The International Dunhuang Project: The Silk Road Online, url: http://idp.bl.uk/
10) Dunhuang Research Academy, URL: http://en.dha.ac.cn/
More Readings