12-2017

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

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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
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-iclc/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

- **132 中唐**
- **329 初唐 飞天藻井**
- **藏经洞**
- **61 元代**
- **45窟 特级窟**
- **249窟**
- **244窟 隋**
- **237 中唐 反弹琵琶**
- **103 盛唐**
- **148**
- **157 北魏 九色鹿**
- **259 禅定佛 东方蒙娜丽莎**
- **296 北周**
- **285/286**

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<th>Dynasties</th>
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<td>Sui Dynasty (581-618)</td>
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</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
Conception of the Prince; Midnight Departure

https://www.e-dunhuang.com/cave/10.0001/0001.0001.0329
Wu Tai Mountain
Cave #45 – Sculptures of Tang
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（又名湍河）从峡谷中穿流而过，两岸榆林成林，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。共建有壁画4200平方米，彩塑250多身。

榆林窟的营建、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。
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<td>Qing Dynasty (1644-1912)</td>
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<td>Caves</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>West Xia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Yulin Caves
Yulin Caves

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/VmfgAqXI6cig8xLD032eXA
Yulin Caves
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)
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
Library Cave and International Dunhuang Project

大秦景教三威蒙度赞 – Nestorian Christianity Hymn
Library Cave and International Dunhuang Project

Translation of The Lament of the Lady of Qin

Giles, Lionel

Bibliographical reference:

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 mar 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.

Section: Whole text
The Lament of the Lady of Qin. By the Right Buque Weizhuang.

In the guimiao year of Zhonghe, in the third month of spring,
Outside the city walls of Luoyang, the blossom was like snow.
East and west, north and south, wayfarers were at rest;
The green willows were still, their fragrant scent was departed.
Suddenly, by the wayside I saw a flower-like lady
Reclining in solitude beneath the shade of the green willows.
Her phoenix-head-dress was awry, and a lack of hair lay athwart her temples.
Her face showed traces of care, and there was a puckor between her eyebrows.
I made bold to question her, saying: "O Lady, whence do you come?"
Looking distressed, she was about to speak, when a sob choked her utterance.
Then, turning her head and gathering up her sleeves, she apologized to the company.
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
References

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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/
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