

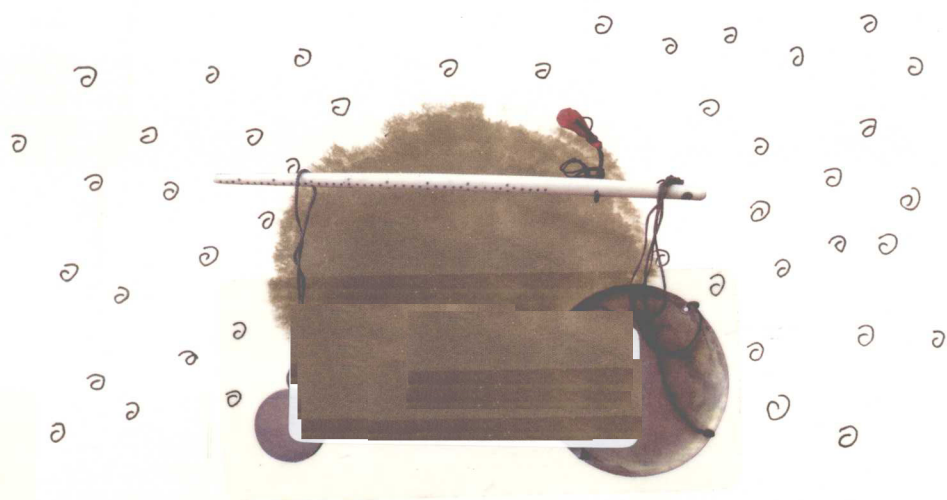


•JIANG NAN THE BEAUTIFUL•

锦绣江南丛书


The Commerce of Jiang Nan

商之江南



Yi Wen

伊文 著

 上海遠東出版社

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主编 孙悦

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Is this Jiang Nan?
(taken in Venice)

疑似江南？
(摄于威尼斯)

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Commerce and
Jiang Nan

无商不江南



*When spring comes, the river is
green as though blue, how can I
ever forget Jiang Nan*

春来江水绿如蓝，能不忆江南
(余兴立 摄)

Jiang Nan are well-known for their rich cultural deposits and highly developed economy. When did these watery areas begin to flourish and how did they achieve their economic and cultural prosperity?

The 6th century to the 14th century saw a very important development in Jiang Nan. Many talented and ambitious people moved here to escape disasters of wars. As a result, the economy and culture in these areas got a rapid development, and they quickly replaced the Central Plains (the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River) and later became one of the economic and cultural centers in China.

Commerce is one of the most important cultural signs in Jiang Nan. Of the ten biggest commercial groups in ancient China, half come from these areas.

一直以来，人们心目中的江南是富有文化底蕴、经济高度发达的水乡。那么，这一切从何时开始，又为何发生在江南这片神奇的土地上呢？

公元6-14世纪，正值中国的隋、唐、宋、元时代，在中国历史上，这是中国分裂后的大一统时代。对江南地区来说，这也是关键的年代。唐、宋时的两次战乱所造成的大规模移民潮，是江南经济文化发展的里程碑。不少衣冠文士、世族翹楚，为了逃避中原的战祸，纷纷迁居长江荫护下的江南。凭借这些人才，划江而治的汉人政权得以大力开发江南，使得江南的经济、文化飞速发展，并随即取代中原成为中国的经济文化重心地区。

Fishermen's nocturne

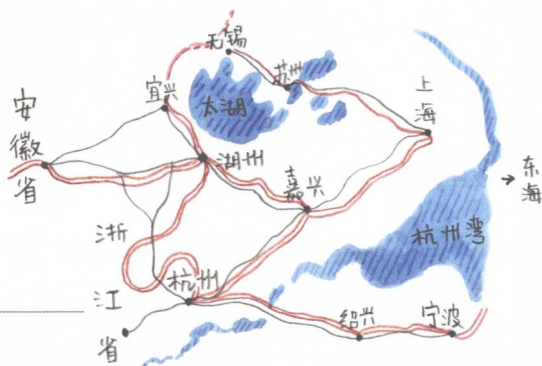
渔舟唱晚（周兵 摄）



Jiang Nan are adjacent to the sea in the east. Yangzhou(esp. in the Tang Dynasty), Hangzhou(esp. in the Song Dynasty) and some other cities in these areas were once famous commercial ports in China and even the whole world. During the Tang and the Song Dynasties, “the Silk Road on the Sea” started here and got flourished. Thereafter, it replaced “the Silk Road on Land” and became the most important route-way for the commercial and cultural exchanges between China and the west. The large-scale trade with overseas countries during the Ming and the Qing Dynasties ascribed its prosperity to the vast sea. In addition, this favorable geographical condition endowed Shanghai with great opportunities to take the lead to open itself to western cultures, which directly led to China’s historical course to modernization.

说到江南，人们不能不想到商，它是这一地区的文化符号之一。中国古代有徽、晋、陕、鲁、闽、粤、宁波、洞庭、江右、龙游十大商帮，其中半数在江南。在这片水乡泽国中，一湖（太湖）、两江（长江、钱塘江）、两海（黄海、东海）这几个连成一片而又具有不同形态的水域，为江南地区的商业发展提供了天然的交通便利。

江南地区东面濒临大海，唐代的扬州、宋代的杭州等，都是中国乃至世界的著名商港。唐宋时期，海上丝绸之路便始于江南，并大为兴盛。东至日本、西达阿拉伯的商旅，不断经江南等地到中国营商。此后，海上丝绸之路更取代陆上丝绸之路，成为中西商业、文化交流的重要途径。明、清时民间的大规模海外贸易，以及近代上海能够率先接触西洋文化，开始中国社会近代化的历史进程，都与江南沿岸的汪洋大海有关。

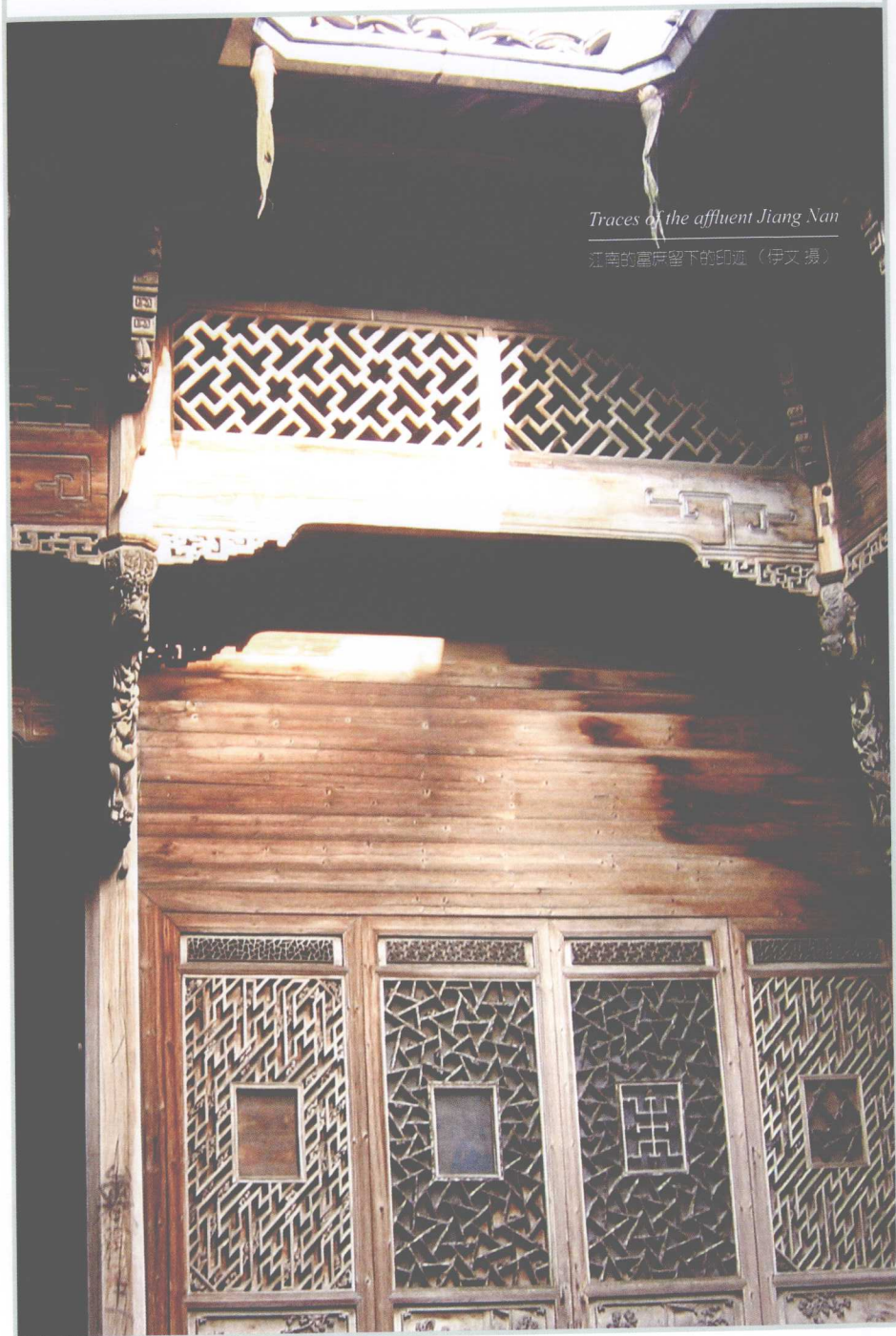


Map of Jiang Nan

江南地区示意地图

Traces of the affluent Jiang Nan

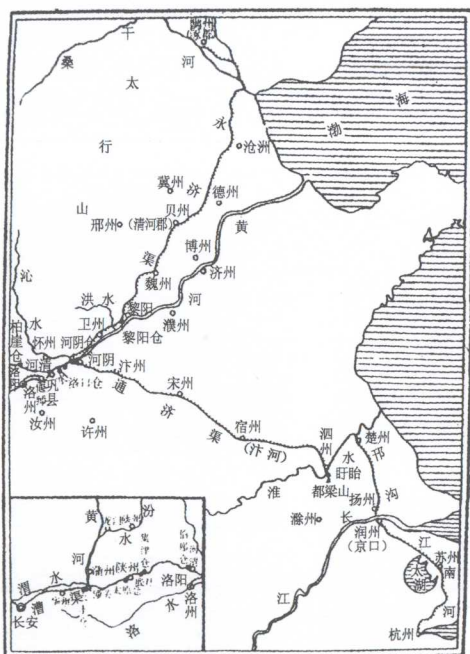
江南的富庶留下的印记 (伊文 摄)



Moreover, thanks to Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal which is called “the artery for economic and cultural exchanges between the south and the north of China” and the Yangtze River, “the golden passageway” which runs through these areas, Jiang Nan have been a crucial traffic hub in China, connecting the Yangtze valley plains in the south and the Central Plains in the north of China.

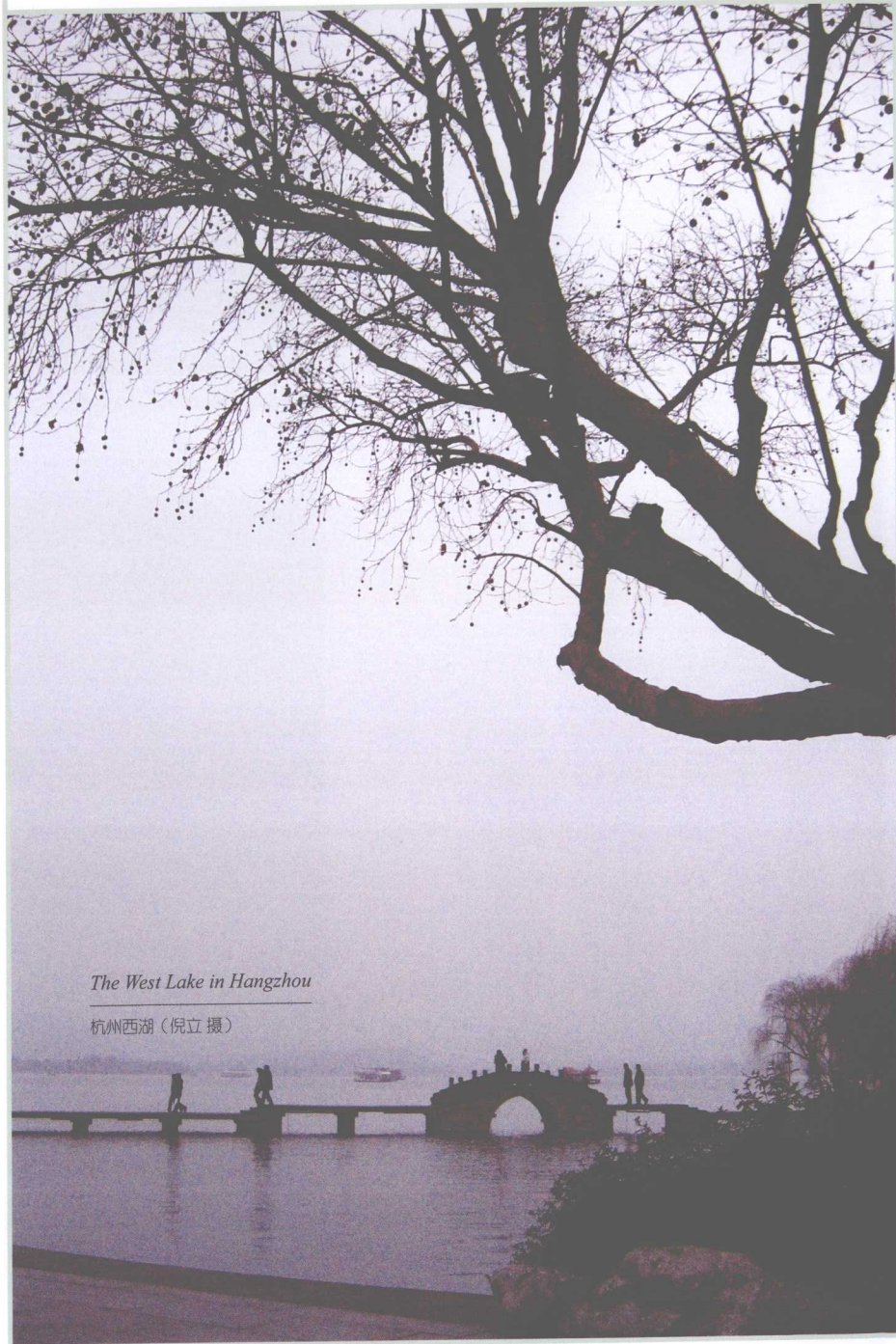
开凿于公元610年的隋代江南运河，是中国历史上规模最大的水利工程——南北大运河的一部分。大运河连接了黄河、淮河、长江、钱塘江四大东西走向的水系，贯通了江南与华北。如果说丝绸之路是东西方经济文化交流的走廊，那么，大运河便是南北经济文化交流的动脉。再加上深入南方内陆、被誉为“黄金水道”的长江，东临大海的江南便成了沟通长江流域与中原地区的交通枢纽。

鱼米之乡的江南自安史之乱（公元755-763年）后，经济已赶上了北方中原地区，其税收已成为中央政府最重要的经济支柱，故唐人有“赋出天下而江南居十九”之说。强大的经济力量以及便捷的运输网络，极大地促进了江南地区的商业发展，也使江南的重要买卖商市集演变成一座座与中国北方政治型城市截然不同的商业城市。



Map of the Grand Canal in the Sui Dynasty

隋代大运河示意图



The West Lake in Hangzhou

杭州西湖 (倪立 摄)

Due to the powerful economic strength and the convenient traffic network, commerce had an unprecedented development in these areas of fish and rice. And some important commercial fairs gradually developed themselves into commercial cities, totally different from those political cities in the north.

中国传统的城市，主要是政治、行政中心，故规划上也用规整和易于管理的中轴线布局，并实行坊市制度。而江南自唐宋以来商业活动的发达，使得限制商市范围的坊市制度不能维持。加上江南城市多依山傍水，其面貌也因此与北方的传统城市不同。

苏州是江南著名水城。城内外水道纵横，湖泊密布，桥梁众多，至今仍有东方威尼斯之称。唐代的苏州已因商业活动频繁而不禁夜市。由于是商业型城市，苏州城内居住着大批大地主、官僚及商贾。正因如此，苏州才留下了众多的私家园林。这些清雅优逸的园林，集建筑、造园、种植、美学于一身，留下了不少文人墨客的佳作，为城市增添了浓郁的文化气息。

A café in the corner of the street

杭州街头的咖啡馆（倪立摄）





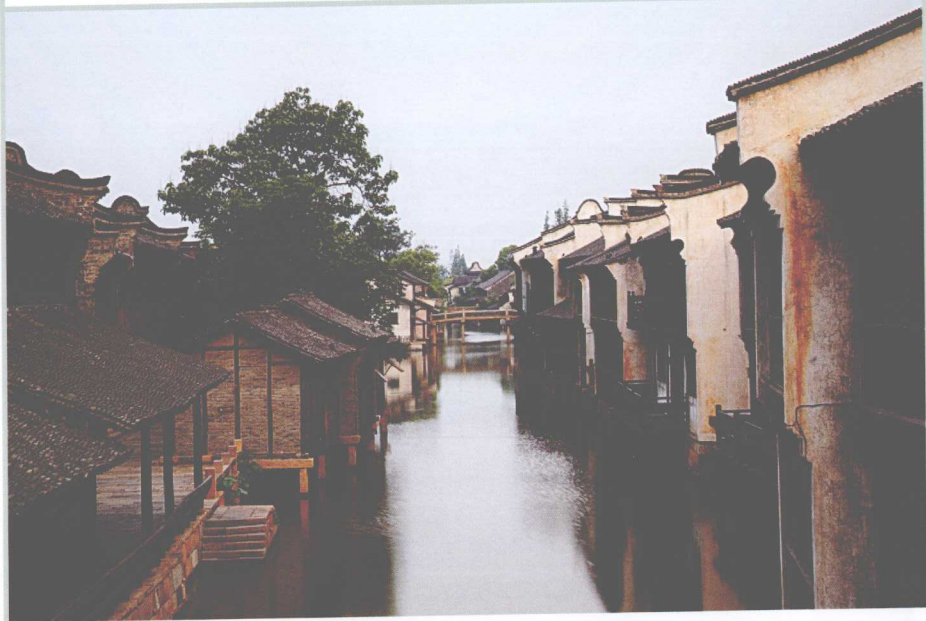
With numerous narrow waterways, small lakes and bridges, Suzhou enjoys the fame as “the oriental Venice in the east”. Because it was a commercial city, many landlords, officials and businessmen came to settle down, and in the wake of it, many private gardens were built. Hangzhou, which became a very important commercial city as early as in the Tang Dynasty, was once called “the heavenly city” by Marco Polo. During the Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties, Suzhou and Hangzhou flourished a lot, and a great number of businessmen came to travel or run business. Since then, the two cities won a good fame—“there is paradise in heaven and there are Suzhou and Hangzhou on the earth.”

江南另一个满布园林的城市，是被马可·波罗称为“天城”的杭州。随着经济重心的南移，杭州在唐代已被开发为重要的商业城市。在南宋时，杭州为首都，称临安，其建设结合了城中西湖、孤山等山水，呈不规则形。皇家园苑纵横西湖两岸，私家花园遍布全城。临安也是一座繁华的商业大都会，城内外店铺林立，买卖兴旺。专业商店集中的“团”、“市”和“行”，遍布全城，药市、花市、肉市、菜市、鲜鱼行、布行等，应有尽有。临安还有相当兴旺的夜市，盛况与白昼无异。

*Small bridge, flowing water and
household—a dream scenery*

小桥流水人家如梦似幻（余兴立摄）





苏州、杭州一带在唐、宋、元时期的繁华景象，吸引了大批客商慕名前来观光及经商，并因此赢得了“上有天堂，下有苏杭”的美誉。

扬州是唐代国际交通的重要港口。当时远航日本、东南亚和东非的商船，均从扬州出港。由于江南经济的蓬勃发展和人民生活条件的改善，中国对外国香料、奢侈品的需求大增。七八世纪时，波斯（今伊朗）人和大食（今阿拉伯）人纷纷循水路来华经商，并且多住在扬州。扬州设有波斯胡店。唐朝政府还在扬州专设管理外商事务的市舶司。到了宋代，海外贸易更加蓬勃，特别在南宋时，由于政府失去了北方的国土和田赋，对推动海外贸易更为积极。海外贸易的税收成为政府重要的收入来源。



北关夜市图