The Legend and Contributions of Marco Polo 马可·波罗的传奇与贡献

Yu Shixiong Yu Chienwen Qian Fan 余士雄 余前文 千帆

[著]

The Legend and Contributions of Marco Polo 马可·波罗的传奇与贡献

Yu Shixiong Yu Chienwen Qian Fan 余士雄 余前文 千帆

[著]

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

马可·波罗的传奇与贡献:汉、英/余士雄,余前文,千帆著.—— 北京:外语教学与研究出版社,2016.10

ISBN 978-7-5135-8173-8

I. ①马… II. ①余… ②余… ③千… III. ①马可·波罗 (Marco Polo 1254-1324) —人物研究-汉、英 IV. ①K835.465.89

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2016) 第 264113 号

地图审图号: GS (2016) 100号

出版人 蔡剑峰

责任编辑 钱垂君

封面设计 郭 莹

出版发行 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址 北京市西三环北路 19号(100089)

网 址 http://www.fltrp.com

印 刷 北京九州迅驰传媒文化有限公司

开 本 650×980 1/16

印 张 8.5

版 次 2016年11月第1版 2016年11月第1次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5135-8173-8

定 价 48.00元

购书咨询: (010)88819926 电子邮箱: club@ftrp.com

外研书店: https://waiyants.tmall.com 凡印刷、装订质量问题,请联系我社印制部

联系电话: (010)61207896 电子邮箱: zhijian@fltrp.com

凡侵权、盗版书籍线索,请联系我社法律事务部

举报电话: (010) 88817519 电子邮箱: banquan@ftrp.com

法律顾问: 立方律师事务所 刘旭东律师 中咨律师事务所 殷 斌律师

物料号: 281730001

《马可·波罗游记》是13世纪最著名的游记,马可·波罗是一位传奇人物。他17岁时,跟随父亲和叔叔沿着丝绸之路来到中国寻找丝绸、香料和珠宝首饰,并将中国的风土人情和商贸活动展现给西方世界,推动了中国与西方的交往,为中西文化交流、中西交通及中西贸易做出巨大贡献,对亚洲和欧洲的经济发展有极大的影响。

随着经济全球化的深入发展, 东亚和中亚与欧洲之间的经贸 联系日益紧密。横贯亚欧大陆的丝绸之路是联系东西方的重要纽 带, 早在两千多年前, 中国和罗马就靠它互通有无和发展友谊。 马可·波罗就是随他的父叔通过丝绸之路抵达中国的, 丝绸之路 为中西方交流的发展奠定了良好的基础。

建设"丝绸之路经济带"和"21世纪海上丝绸之路"(简称"一带一路")的战略构想,就是要通过加强丝绸之路沿途各国的区域合作,打造一条惠及30亿人口的经济大走廊,将亚太经济圈和欧洲经济圈更加密切地联系在一起,构建世界上最长、最具有发展潜力的经贸通道。它将对加强亚、欧、非沿线各国之间的沟通和交往、促进亚、欧、非合作和世界的共同发展与繁荣发挥重要的作用。

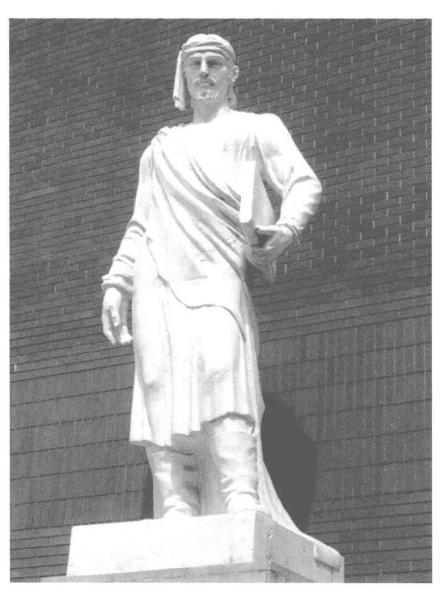
以马可·波罗和丝绸之路为主题的电影早已有之。北京电影制片厂1981年多次来函邀请本书作者之一余士雄教授对中国和意大利合拍的《马可·波罗》电影进行指导和历史背景介绍。这个主题不断出现在舞台、电影、电视和网络媒体里,如最近中国东方演艺公司编排的舞剧《马可·波罗》、凤凰卫视做过的几期《凤凰大视野》节目、中美合作拍摄的《马可·波罗》原创剧。除此

之外,马可·波罗和丝绸之路还引起了世界遗产中心和学术研究界的关注,中国也准备向联合国教科文组织提出"海上丝绸之路"文化遗产的申请。2015年9月,扬州马可·波罗博物馆和扬州博物馆联合举办了第二届"马可·波罗国际学术研讨会",会议主题为"马可·波罗与丝绸之路",本书作者之一余前文受特邀参与策划了此次国际盛会。余前文是美国布里奇沃特州立大学副教授及亚洲研究主任,早年毕业于北京外国语大学英语系,1981年获全额奖学金赴美留学,在美国学习、工作和教学已有33年。一直在中美两地同时从事马可·波罗研究和图书论文的编写工作。

余士雄一直从事马可·波罗研究和写作,前后有50多年,是国务院授予特殊津贴的专家,还是我国首批研究生导师,曾发表过200多篇论文,出版过20多部著作,其中包括《马可·波罗介绍与研究》和《中世纪大旅行家马可·波罗》。30多年前,余士雄教授被选为在北京举行的第一届马可·波罗国际学术讨论会的组委会副主任,并在大会上作了主题报告。本书另一作者千帆曾就读于北京航空航天大学,之后获全额奖学金赴美留学和工作多年,回国后专门从事科技词汇的研究和审定工作,翻译出版了马斯登本《马可·波罗游记》。

为了便于读者直观地了解马可·波罗所游历的路线,本书根据《游记》所记载的地名和叙述的大致顺序,绘制了一幅详细的《马可·波罗旅行路线图》。

余前文 2016年1月25日 于波士顿



外语教学与研究出版社大厦前的马可。波罗塑像 (千帆 摄)

Transportation and Trade
On Marco Polo in China
马可・波罗其人其事
中西方交流史上的友好使者——马可 ・波罗
《马可·波罗游记》的意大利版为何称《百万》?
马可・波罗懂汉语吗? 他担任过扬州总督吗?
《马可 · 波罗游记》与中西文化交流
《中国科技报》助我证实马可·波罗确实在元朝到过中国,
并非天方夜谭
《北京晚报》助我在马可・波罗研究上匡谬正误
马可・波罗——中西交往、交通与贸易的开拓者
我国马可・波罗研究述评
马可・波罗研究中的新成果
《马可・波罗游记》中的中国历史名城及其商贸业绩考释
(一):元大都(北京)
《马可・波罗游记》中的中国历史名城及其商贸业绩考释
(二):扬州
《马可·波罗游记》中的中国历史名城及其商贸业绩考释
(三): 苏州
《马可·波罗游记》中的中国历史名城及其商贸业绩考释
(四):行在(杭州)
《马可・波罗游记》中的中国历史名城及其商贸业绩考释
(五):刺桐城(泉州)
马可・波罗记叙的元初两起叛乱考释
马可・波罗旅行路线图

1 Marco Polo: Pioneer of East-West Communication,

Marco Polo: Pioneer of East-West Communication, Transportation and Trade

Chien Wen Yu1

The Travels of Marco Polo (hereafter The Travels) was the most influential travelogue concerning China in the 13th century. Today, there exist more than 130 versions of the book. Though scholars have examined many aspects of The Travels, few have studied closely what it tells us about the origins of East-West communication and culture. It is a popular text in China, but it is controversial in the West. Though many skeptics question the authenticity of Marco Polo's account, the work that scholars (members of my family and myself included) have done over many years translating and writing about Marco Polo proves that his coming to China contributed greatly to the advance of East-West communication, cultural exchange, transportation and trade.

The Life of Marco Polo and His Journey to China

Marco Polo was born to a merchant family on the Venetian island of Curzola (present-day Korčula, Croatia) in 1254. When he was six years old, his father (Niccolo Polo) and his uncle (Maffeo Polo) made their first trip to China. When Marco was 17, Niccolo and Maffeo took him with them on their second trip to China. From Venice, they entered the Mediterranean Sea, crossed the Black Sea, and arrived in

¹ Chien Wen Yu is Associate Professor in the Department of Management, Bridgewater State University.

the ancient city of Baghdad in the Middle East. There they were robbed by pirates, and the incident dissuaded them from travelling any further by sea. Instead, they took a land route to China. Riding on horseback, they overcame obstacles and went over the Pamir Mountains passing through Armenia, Persia and Afghanistan, before they arrived in the empire of Mongol. In May 1275, Kublai Khan invited the Polos to his residence where he was presented the privileges and letters that the Pope of Rome had sent. The Great Khan was very pleased with the holy oil that they had brought. In 1277, Marco Polo was appointed an official of the Privy Council by Kublai Khan and served as a tax inspector for three years in the City of Yangzhou.

Staying and doing business in the Mongol Empire for 17 years, the Polos acquired a wealth of jewels and gold, but they were anxious to go home. Kublai reluctantly let them go in return for escorting Mongol princess Kokachin so that she could marry the Persian prince, Arghun. The sea journey took two years; they passed the South China Sea to Sumatra and crossed the Indian Ocean for a final landing in Hormuz. The Polos arrived back in Venice in 1295 by way of Persia, Constantinople and the Black Sea.

The Travels of Marco Polo and Controversies

The Travels of Marco Polo is a detailed account of his travels to China and neighboring countries in Central, West and Southeast Asia, using first-hand information. The book is of high academic and historical value since there were no annals in China to record the historical facts of that period. The document is divided into four volumes. The first volume provides an account of what the Polos saw and heard on their way to China. The second volume records the society of early Yuan Empire including political affairs, wars, secrets of

the royal court, exotic customs, and economic prosperity of such cities as Dadu (now Beijing), Shangdu (now Zhangjiakou), and Xingzai (now Hangzhou). The third volume depicts the conditions of the neighboring countries to the southeast of China. The last volume describes the wars between the Khans and the political situation in Northern Asia. Of the four volumes, the second volume stands out because it is written from the perspective of Marco's personal experiences in China and it is considered by many to be the best.

Today, there are two schools among the scholars of Marco Polo, and they have formed opposing views. One side, the believers, affirm that Marco Polo went to China, while skeptics doubt that he went to China. Supporters are represented by scholars such as Tübingen University Professor Hans Ulrich Vogel, British diplomat and Polo biographer Maurice Collis, and Chinese scholars such as Professor Yang Zhijiu and Professor Yu Shixiong. Skeptics are represented by Frances Wood, Head of the Chinese Collection at the British Library, and

Professor Craig Clunas from University of London. Best known for her book *Did Marco Polo Go to China?*, Wood argues that Marco Polo didn't, and that *The Travels* was merely a travel guide containing second-hand tales.

In the 14th century, the book spread throughout Europe in manuscript form, popularly circulated and copied by hand. Two years after Marco Polo returned from China, a war started between the city states of Venice and Genoa. During the Battle of Curzola



A page from *The Travels of Marco Polo* by Rustichello da Pisa and Marco Polo, c 1300

(1298), Marco Polo was captured and put into jail as a prisoner of war. He spent several months of his imprisonment dictating his travels to a fellow inmate and writer, Rustichello de Pisa. Interpreting Marco Polo's tories and incorporating his own ideas, Rustichello wrote down only what he was interested in. And here is the root of the controversy.

The historical debate about the veracity of *The Travels* focuses on what is (or seems to some to be) missing from the book. Why does the book contain no reference to quintessential Chinese cultural practices and symbols, such as foot-binding among Chinese women, the Great Wall, Chinese characters or chopsticks, or even Chinese tea? The answers to those questions are pretty clear. For Marco Polo, the practice of footbinding for women was rare, especially in the Mongol area. Mongol nomads practically lived on horseback; it would have been difficult for bound-foot women to function. The Great Wall was built in the Ming Dynasty after the Yuan Empire and Marco Polo's travels. A Venetian, Marco Polo did not know or learn any Chinese, nor did he know how to use Chinese writing brushes or chopsticks. Therefore, there was no mention of Chinese characters or chopsticks. Finally, the Mongols did not drink the regular Chinese tea, which is brewed from tea leaves, and so Chinese tea is, naturally, never mentioned. In short, skeptics' questions are easily answered and the believers' case sustained.

Marco Polo's Stories and Contributions to East-West Communication and Culture

Marco Polo's description of Chinese food and drink still plays an important part in our understanding of the origins of East-West communication and cultural exchange. The foods he mentions include rice, noodles, the meat of birds, and the meat of domesticated and wild animals. In terms of drink, he mentions horse milk, camel milk, grape wine and rice wine. Horse milk is a Mongolian drink that many claim to taste as good as wine. According to Marco Polo's account, the Great Khans raised thousands of white horses, and only Kublai Khan and his immediate family had the privilege of being served this kind of drink. In addition to horse milk, camel milk was a favorite drink because it was reportedly tasty and good for promoting overall health and strengthening will power.

Marco Polo also wrote about grape and wine production in Taiyuan of Shanxi. Wine was believed to stave off hunger and promote health. As Marco Polo told it, in the Yuan Empire wine was to be used as the only offering made in imperial ancestral temples. In Qidan, he observed, residents drank a wine made of rice, spice and Chinese medicinal materials. In the Yuan Dynasty, Chinese medicinal materials were infused in distilled liquor to make Chinese Wolfberry Wine, *Radices Rehmanniae* Wine, Tiger Bone Wine and *Poria Cocos* Wine. The Chinese medicinal wines that spread to the West are still popular today. All of this can be attributed to Marco Polo. Finally, noodles were brought to the West by Marco Polo. The extra thin noodles that came from China to Italy become famous in Venice as "Marco Polo Noodles."

Marco Polo's Stories and Their Contributions to East-West Transportation

As Marco Polo described it, the Yuan Empire had a vast territory that was remarkably well connected. Across the Empire there were hundreds of communication posts where horses and couriers were stationed. In all, about 200,000 horses were kept and a system of town-to-town messengers was put in place for this purpose. Some messengers traveled 250 or 300 miles in a day.



Lugou Bridge (also known as Marco Polo Bridge), built of stone with 24 arches and supported by 25 piers (Author's photo)

Marco Polo was impressed with the efficient transportation and communication system in the Mongol Empire.

The Travels describes another important feature of East-West transportation: the world-famous Lugou Bridge (which Marco Polo called the Bridge of Polisangan). Appointed by the Great Khan as his ambassador to the West, Marco left Khan-balik (Beijing), crossing the handsome bridge of stone. Lugou Bridge was a strategic point of transportation, crossing as it did the Polisangan River, which flowed into the ocean and was navigated by many vessels with considerable quantities of merchandise. Since Marco Polo was the first westerner to cross the bridge and introduce the bridge to the West, many westerners call it "Marco Polo Bridge."

The Travels expanded the worldview of both his contemporaries and European explorers who came to China after him. Some famous world maps were made using information provided by Marco Polo, and *The Travels* contributed to the expansion of shipping ventures and business. After reading *The Travels*, Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama (1460–1524) and Italian mariner Christopher Columbus (1451–

1506) became interested in the East, envisioned Chinese prosperity and civilization, and explored the East in a way that promoted the East-West cultural exchange, transportation and trade. The Polos were adventurous merchants from Venice and went to the East to seek spices, silk and jewelries. Marco Polo was drawn to the powerful Yuan Empire and the prosperity of its economy and trade. Regarding the monetary system, he gave a detailed account of paper money, its circulation and manufacturing process.

Under the rule of the Yuan Empire, paper money was used by government officials and ordinary citizens. In Dadu, refusing to accept it as payment was punishable by death. Even the foreign merchants who came with silver, gold, precious stones and leather to the Yuan Empire had to accept paper money and take it for payment. Despite this threat, the use of paper money for trade was recognized by many in Marco Polo's time and since as so much more convenient and efficient than bartering. It signified the progress of the Yuan Empire, but it also reflects the acumen that Marco Polo possessed as a businessman and an objective observer, and a conduit for connecting ideas, practices and cultures of the East and the West.

On Marco Polo in China¹



Portrait of Marco Polo from the first edition of his book printed in 1477 in German

For many people all over the world, when they think of China, they think also of Marco Polo, and when they hear Marco Polo's name, they think of China. This Venetian of over 700 years ago established an indissoluble bond with the biggest ancient country in the East.

Upon receiving the Polo brothers, Kublai Khan was very pleased with their detailed answers to his questions about Western countries and others through which they had passed. He then decided to send an envoy,

Kejiada, together with the Polo's, to the Pope of Rome. On their way, Kejiada fell ill and could not go on. When the Polo's got to the City of Acre (in Northern Palestine), news came that the Pope was dead, so Kublai's mission could not be executed until a new pope was elected. The two brothers went home and waited. In the meantime, Niccolo's wife had died: Marco, his son, was then fifteen.

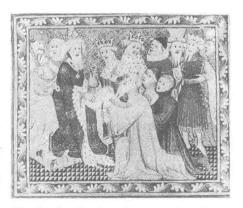
As there was no new pope after two years, the Polo brothers resolved to start eastward again, taking with them Marco, a promising young boy who longed to go to China. But very soon, a new pope was

¹ An earlier version of this essay appeared in China Reconstructs, Vol. xxxi, No.4, April 1982.

chosen and two priests, William of Tripoli and Nicolas of Vicenza, were sent to accompany them to Kublai's court. However, for reasons not clear, the two priests did not finish the journey.

The Polo's traveled for three and a half difficult years before reaching their destination. They passed the Iranian Plateau and the desert of Central Asia, reaching Shangdu (in Western literature "Xanadu") on the northern bank of the Shandian River, twenty kilometers from today's Zhenglan Banner of Inner Mongolia in 1275. There they were made welcome by Kublai Khan, and Marco Polo was included in the list of his honorary retainers. Kublai, pleased

with Marco's brightness and conscientiousness, sent him as an imperial commissioner to Shanxi, Shaanxi, Yunnan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. For three years, Marco was an official of Yangzhou on the Changjiang (Yangtze) River. He was also employed by Kublai on distant missions to Burma, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Java and Sumatra.



Illumination for French manuscript of 1400, showing the Polo's giving the Great Khan a letter from the Pope

Having stayed at the Yuan court for seventeen long years, the three Polo's yearned for home. Kublai did all he could to keep them. At last in 1295, after escorting the Mongolian princess Kokachin to Persia for a dynastic marriage, they returned to Venice.

Telling the West about China

Back home, Marco thought constantly of China and kept telling people of his experiences there. In 1298, in a naval battle between Venice and Genoa, Marco was wounded and captured. In the prison he met Rustichello, also a captive, who wrote down Marco's experiences at his dictation to create the world-renowned *The Travels of Marco Polo*, a systematic record of his years in China and in some countries in Central, West and Southeast Asia.

The part on China was a vivid and informed portrayal of her society in the early years of the Yuan Dynasty. It included things that were not recorded in detail, or in some cases not recorded at all, in Chinese history books, and is still a valuable first-hand account of those far-off times. It covers political affairs, wars, palace secrets and the prosperous cities of Beijing, Taiyuan, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Yangzhou, Nanjing, Chengdu, Kunming and Quanzhou as they were in the 13th century. Described also were the use of coal in China, her silkworm breeding, coinage, bridges and palace architecture, city planning, municipal administration, social welfare undertakings, and afforestation practices.

A vivid passage in the book tells of the Lugou Bridge built in 1192 (which still stands but is shorter now), recording that it had 24 arches, and was wide enough for 10 horsemen to ride abreast. The bridge was made of fine marble, with lions carved on the posts of the balustrades on both sides. When it was seen again, much later, by Westerners, they called it "Marco Polo Bridge." (It was here incidentally, where the first battle of China's resistance against Japanese aggression was fought in 1937.)

Chinese cookery was also introduced to the West by Marco Polo. Popular to this day in Venice there are "Marco Polo Noodles" made in