



文化遗产 苏州古城

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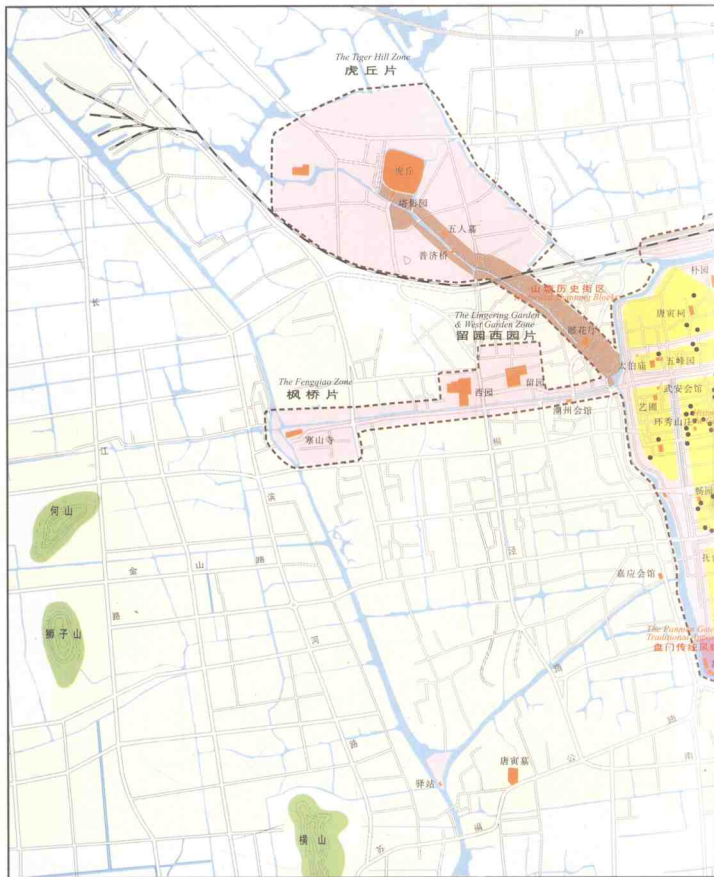
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Cultural Heritage
The Old City of Suzhou

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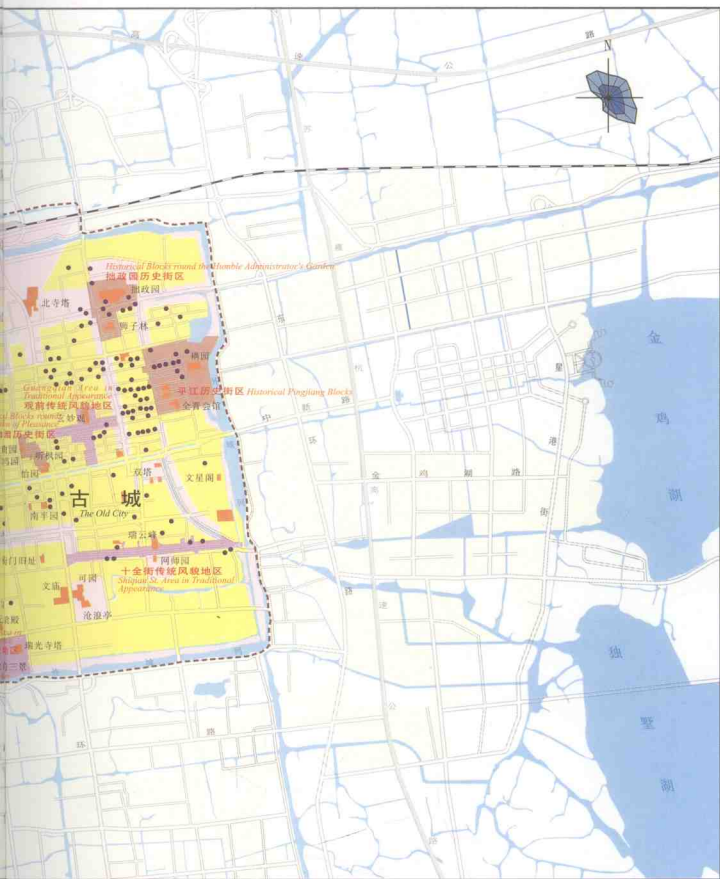
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历史文化名城苏州保护规划图
*A Protective Plan of the Historic and
 Cultural City of Suzhou*

- | | |
|---|---|
|  名城保护范围
The Protection Areas of the Historic City |  文物保护单位保护范围
The Protection Areas of the Protected Cultural Relics |
|  传统风貌地区
The Areas with Traditional Appearances |  控制保护古建筑
Controlled and Protected Old Buildings |

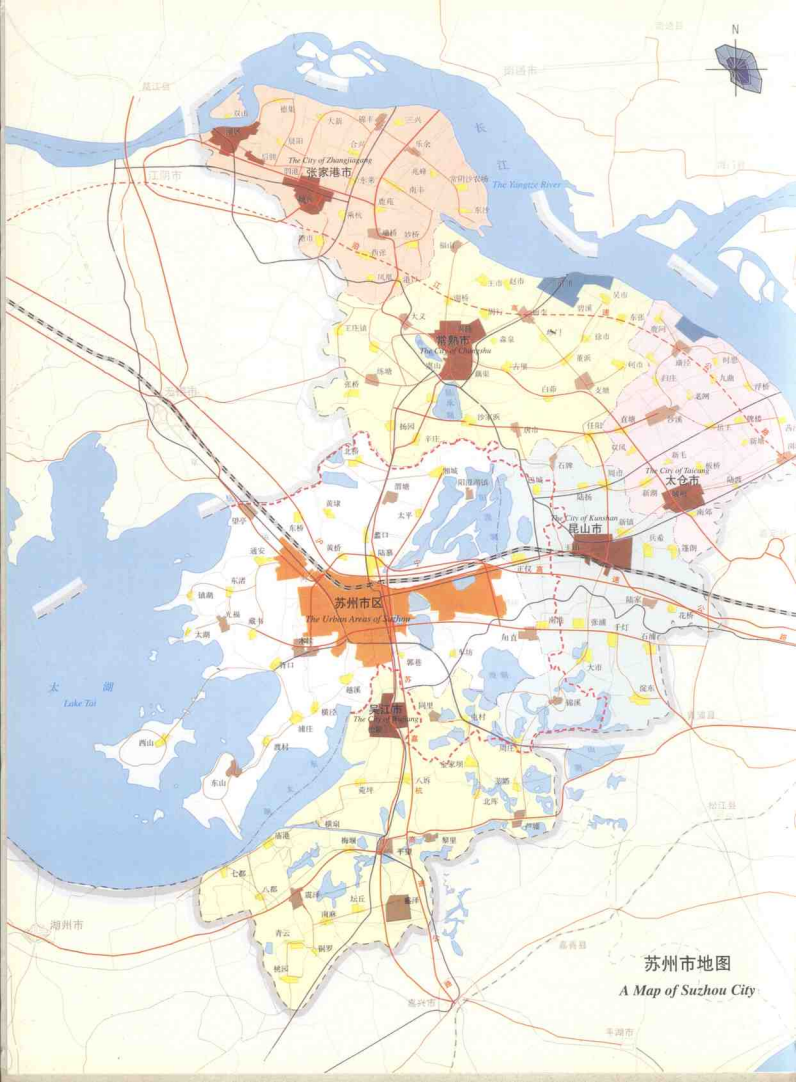


文物保护单位建设控制地带
 The Construction Control Zone of the Protected Cultural Relics
 历史街区
 Historical Blocks
 古城河道控制地带
 The Controlled Area of the Old City's Canal System

图例

世界文化遗产
 World Cultural Heritage
 已列入 On the World Heritage List
 已申报 Applied for the World Heritage Status

文物保护单位
 Protected Cultural Relics
 *** 国家级 Protected by the State
 ** 省级 Protected by the Province
 * 市(县)级 Protected by the City



苏州市地图

A Map of Suzhou City



太湖之滨 The Shore of Lake Tai



茶园春色 The Tea Plantation in Spring

序

苏州市市长

杨卫泽

新年伊始，由苏州市有关单位和学术团体联合编纂的精美画册《文化遗产苏州古城》出版问世了。这本图书把保护苏州古城提高到保护中华民族优秀传统文化遗产的高度，简明扼要地介绍了苏州的古城风貌、文物古迹和文化艺术，着重揭示苏州古城的重要历史价值、科学价值和艺术价值，以及在中国城市发展史上的独特地位，体现了苏州人民的高度历史责任感和与时俱进的开拓精神，这是一件很有意义的事。

苏州是一座具有2500多年建城历史的文化名城。这里曾经是春秋吴国的都城，强盛的国力和宏伟的城池为日后苏州的发展奠定了坚实的基础。秦汉以来，苏州一直是江南的重要都市，国家的主要“粮仓”和“财库”。历史上苏州虽然历经沧桑，但城址却始终未变。至今依然保持着“三纵三横”的骨干水道和“水陆并行、河街相邻”的双棋盘格局；依然保持着小桥流水、粉墙黛瓦的传统风貌；许多有名的文物古迹仍在原地保存完好。这在人类城市建设史上是极为罕见的奇迹。苏州古城本身就是一座博物馆，是祖国优秀传统文化的瑰宝。

新中国成立后，苏州人民为保护古城和文物古迹作出了坚持不懈的努力。50年代初，在地方经济还十分困难的情况下，人民政府毅然拨出专款，先后修复了拙政园、留园、忠王府、虎丘云岩寺塔等一批名胜古迹，丰富了人民群众的文化生活；并因地制宜，把其中的一些古建筑辟为博物馆、陈列馆，有力地促进了地方文化事业的发展。1982年，苏州被国家列为第一批历史文化名城。为了认真贯彻执行国务院批复的苏州城市总体规划，全面保护古城风貌，从1986年开始在城西开发了苏州新区，1994年起又在城东建设工业园区，形成了“东园西区、古城居中、一体两翼”的城市发展新格局。一批工厂迁出了老城区，古城内人口过密的情况得到了松动。2001年，吴县撤市建区，这就为保护古城和城区发展提供了更广阔的空间。2002年，经过长期的酝酿和深入调研，“苏州古城申

报世界文化遗产”终于提到了议事日程上来。这对于加大古城的保护力度、改善古城的人居环境,对于弘扬中华民族优秀传统文化、推动人类文明进步,都具有十分重要的意义。申报工作“志在保护,志在成功”,以申报促进保护,以保护推动发展,使祖先留下的珍贵历史遗存得以流传后世,永续利用。

50多年来,在保护苏州古城的长期工作中,我们始终得到国内外专家学者的热心帮助。他们为文物古迹的整修、城市保护规划的修订,呕心沥血,作出了无私的奉献。今后在苏州古城申报世界文化遗产的过程中,我们希望更多的海内外专家学者给予各方面的帮助和指导,并对我们的工作提出宝贵的意见。

祝愿古城苏州的明天更加美好!

2003年1月2日



怡园 *The Garden of Pleasure*



平江路水巷 *The Canal along Pingjiang Rd.*



传统民居 *Traditional Chinese Houses*



龙南新石器时代遗址出土的稻谷
Rice Unearthed from the Neolithic Cultural Site of Longnan



草鞋山新石器时代遗址
The Neolithic Cultural Site of Caotieshan



太湖三山岛 这里曾发现1万多年前的旧石器时代遗址
*The Three Hills Island in Lake Tai
A Paleolithic cultural site dated 8000+ BC was discovered on the island.*

PREFACE

Yang Weize

The Mayor of Suzhou City

At the beginning of the calendar year "Cultural Heritage — The Old City of Suzhou" was published. It is an exquisite picture-book jointly compiled and edited by some academies and relevant organs of Suzhou City, which concisely brings to light Suzhou's traditional appearances, cultural relics, places of special historic interest, culture and art, and gives publicity to its historical, scientific and artistic value, and its unique position in the history of Chinese urban construction, and puts emphasis on the importance of protecting the old city of Suzhou the same as protecting brilliant Chinese cultural heritage. This is a matter of great significance, showing the Suzhou people's keen sense of historical responsibility and the pioneering spirit of keeping up with the times.

Suzhou is a historic and cultural city with a history going back more than 2500 years. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Wu in the Spring & Autumn period. The magnificent capital city and the marshaled resources and strength of the Kingdom of Wu in times past laid solid foundations for future development of Suzhou. Since the Qin and the Han Dynasty, Suzhou has been an important metropolis, a major "granary" and "exchequer" of the State. Inconceivably the site of the old city of Suzhou has remained unchanged in spite of vicissitudes. Still preserved is the overall layout of the city in a double checkerboard fashion. There are 3 canals running from west to east and 3 canals running from north to south. These canals are going parallel to streets or alleyways. The traditional appearances of small bridges, murmuring canals, gray-tiled houses with white-washed walls are kept in an essential manner. Many cultural relics and places of special historic interest are well-preserved. The old city of Suzhou itself is a museum, very much like a gem of brilliant traditional Chinese culture. It is a marvel in the history of human urban construction.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Suzhou people have made every endeavor to protect the old city of Suzhou, its cultural relics and places of historic interest. The local People's Government determinedly allocated a sum of money to the renovation of a good number of cultural relics and places of historic interest including the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Lingering Garden, the Loyal Prince Li's Palace, and the Yunyan Temple Pagoda on the Tiger Hill, and to the conversion of some old buildings to museums and show-rooms in line with local conditions, notwithstanding financial difficulties in the 1950s. In doing so, it has enriched the cultural life of the masses and promoted local cultural development. In 1982 Suzhou was listed from the very first as the historic and cultural city by the State. In order to conscientiously implement the Overall Plan of Suzhou City approved by the State Council, the old city of Suzhou is now flanked by Suzhou New District on the west, which was founded and started to grow larger and fuller in 1986, and by Suzhou Industrial Park on the east, which was established at the



黄泗浦古证。在张家港市鹿苑镇。唐代高僧慧鉴于此启航。东渡日本。

The Site of Huangsiyu

Huangsiyu is situated in Luyuan Township, Zhangjiagang. It was from Huangsiyu the famous Buddhist Abbot Jian Zhen set sail across the sea to Japan on the east in the Tang Dynasty.



天妃宫郑和纪念馆。在太仓市浏河镇。明代航海家郑和于此出海远航。

The Memorial Hall of Zheng He at the Tianfei Palace

It is located at Lihu Township, Taicang. The Ming navigator Zheng He set out his overseas expeditions from Lihu.

beginning of the year 1994. A large number of factories had been relocated away from the old city of Suzhou. Consequently the extremely high population density there has loosened by degrees. In 2001 new districts were founded in place of the former city of Wuxian, providing more space for urban development and favorable conditions for the protection of the old city of Suzhou. In 2002 the work of applying to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, for inscribing the old city of Suzhou on the World Cultural Heritage List was finally put on the agenda after long deliberation, investigation and research. It has a tremendous effect on the effectiveness of the old city protection, the improvement of living conditions in the old city of Suzhou, the furtherance of brilliant traditional Chinese culture and the advancement of human civilization. We aim at the gaining of success. We aim at the successful protection of the old city of Suzhou. Nothing succeeds like success. Let the invaluable historical legacy be handed down from generation to generation. Let's make the best use of it for ever.

Throughout the last 50-odd years we received enthusiastic and valuable help from Chinese and foreign experts and scholars in protecting the old city of Suzhou. They contributed selflessly and immensely their expertise on the problems of protecting or renovating cultural relics and places of historic interest, and drawing up a protective plan of Suzhou City. With a view to applying to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, for putting the old city of Suzhou on the World Heritage List in the future, I'll greatly appreciate more assistance, guidance and orientation in all respects from more experts and scholars from home and abroad.

May the old city's tomorrow be even more splendid!

Jan.2, 2003



澄湖新石器时代遗址出土的刻有原始文字的陶罐
Pottery with Primitive Characters
Unearthed from the Chenghu
Neolithic Cultural Site



严山出土的春秋吴国王室玉器
Royal Jade of the Wu, the Spring & Autumn
Period, unearthed from Yanshan



梓潼土地庙前祭桥
The Song-dynasty Bridge in Front of the Earth
God Temple at Zitong

序

罗哲文

半个世纪来，我因为从事文物保护工作和对古建园林、历史文化名城、世界遗产的考察研究，经常奔波在被称之为“人间天堂”的姑苏胜地，特别是近二十年来更加频繁，因此与苏州结下了不解的情缘。

记得在上个世纪50年代中期，我就专程到苏州来考察古建筑和文物，并写了重点介绍苏州园林的文章，发表在《文物》月刊上。其后为了虎丘云岩寺塔、瑞光寺塔、北寺塔、罗汉院等文物建筑的调查研究和保护维修之事，又多次来苏，足迹遍及古城内外。更使我难忘的是1981年春节过后不久，时值“春风又绿江南岸”之际，为了苏州的文物古迹保护、发展旅游、振兴经济之事，参加国务院十个部委联合组成的调查组，又来到苏州，作为时十余日之考察，再次被苏州丰富多彩、独具魅力的文物古迹、风景名胜所吸引。水乡、古城、园林、古塔、苏绣、评弹、昆曲、土特产、风味饮食、民俗风情，如此等等，无不令人留连忘归，曾作《姑苏十唱》小词、小诗十首，以纪其胜。

苏州是一个名副其实的水城，有“东方威尼斯”之称，“小桥流水”为街巷景观特色。城区纵横交错的水系决定了城市的格局，历代相承。唐代诗人杜荀鹤诗中描写的“君到姑苏见，人家尽枕河”，正形象地刻画了苏州水乡城市的风貌。对照现存的宋代石刻《平江图》，还可看出城市总体布局的情况。许多重要的古建筑仍然在原址保存完好，有的经过整修，恢复了原状；许多街名、桥名沿用至今。苏州古城可称得上是世界城市建设史上的一大杰作。

此后，我又会同北京和省、市各方面的专家学者，协助当地文物、城建部门研究文物古迹的保护维修，拟订历史文化名城的保护方案。由于苏州的文物古迹不仅数量之多全国少有，而且价值之高也是罕见，不能马虎，必须慎重对待。其中像虎丘云岩寺塔的抢险加固工程，自上世纪70年代开始，我即多次邀请工程结构、文物古迹专家前来“会诊”，拟订

加固维修方案，往返于京、苏、沪、宁之间。直到1986年苏州建城2500年之际，这一工程才告竣工验收。虎丘云岩寺塔、瑞光寺塔、北寺塔、盘门等一批文物古迹的整修开放，标志着对苏州历史文化名城保护进入了一个新的历史时期。

1995年以后，我又有幸参加了苏州古典园林申报世界文化遗产的工作，使我对作为中国造园艺术代表作的苏州园林又有了进一步的认识。其巧夺天工的造园技法，“虽由人作，宛若天开”的艺术效果，令人赞叹不已。这一项目的申报成功，使苏州这一国家历史文化名城更加蜚声海内外。

今年春天，苏州市政协的几位朋友专程赴京，就苏州古城申报世界文化遗产的有关问题垂询于我。我认为，就苏州古城的价值和她在世界上的知名度来说，完全是够得上的。这是一件大好事，说明了苏州领导和各界人士对苏州古城保护的重视，对苏州可持续发展具有远大的眼光。虽然还要做很多的工作，但只要坚持不懈地努力，取得申报成功是很有希望的。

最近，苏州有关单位和学术团体，从保护和弘扬民族文化遗产的高度出发，编辑出版《文化遗产苏州古城》，实是一件很有意义的事情。按苏州友人及编者之嘱，写了一点回忆和认识，不敢言序，谨表我对苏州古城的良好祝愿而已。

2002年12月5日



古戏台 The Old Stage



昆曲 Kun Opera



评弹 Pingtan Performing Art



盘门景区 The Panmen Gate Scenic Area



范义庄 The Fans' Charitable Institution



网师园冷泉亭 The Cold Spring Pavilion in the Master-of-Nets Garden

INTRODUCTION

Luo Zhewen

For half a century I've been engaged in the work of protecting cultural relics, inspections and studies of old buildings, gardens, historic and cultural cities, and world heritage sites, and have frequently visited Suzhou, a wonderful place known as the Earthly Paradise. It is particularly so in recent 20 years. Indeed, I've established indissoluble relations with Suzhou.

I can still bring back to the mind my special tour of Suzhou in the mid 1950s, inspecting its old buildings and cultural relics which led to the publication of my article in "Cultural Relics", a monthly periodical, detailing the classical gardens of Suzhou. Not long afterwards, I came here several times, having been to every corner of the old city of Suzhou and its environs in order to examine carefully, protect, and restore the Yunyan Temple Pagoda on the Tiger Hill, the Auspicious Light Temple Pagoda, the North Temple Pagoda, the Arhat Temple grounds and other noteworthy buildings. I shall never forget another 10-day-odd inspection tour of Suzhou with the purpose of protecting cultural sites, developing tourism and revitalizing economy when I was a member of the team made up of persons from 10 ministries under the State Council shortly after the Spring Festival of 1981 when the spring breeze blew fields green again in the area south of the Lower Yangtze. I was again enchanted with its plentiful, colorful and delightful cultural relics, places of historic interest and scenic spots. Its old city, Venetian scenes, classical gardens, old pagodas, embroidery, Pingtan performing art, Kun opera, cuisine, specialties, folk customs and others made me reluctant to leave. And I composed 10 Songs of Suzhou in verse of "ci" and 10 short poems recording my extraordinary experiences.

Crisscrossed by a network of canals, Suzhou has had the reputation as being the Venice of the East with streets or alleyways going parallel to canals spanned by bridges of stone. "What will you see on arriving at Suzhou? Houses rest on canals as on a pillow", said the Tang poet Du Xunhe in his poem depicting vividly the Venetian scenes of Suzhou. Referring to "A Map of Pingjiang(Suzhou)" inscribed on the stele under the Song Dynasty, one can get to know the overall layout of the city of Suzhou. A large number of major buildings of great antiquity have been well-preserved on the original sites, some of them have been restored to their formal splendor. Many streets, alleyways and bridges still bear their old names today. The old city of Suzhou is a brilliant masterpiece in the world history of urban construction.

At a later time experts, scholars and I from Beijing, Jiangsu and the Department of Cultural Relics and the Department of City Construction of Suzhou jointly studied and worked out programs for protecting and renovating the historic and cultural city of Suzhou and its places of historic interest and cultural relics. This was a serious job. It shouldn't be done in a slapdash manner as Suzhou in China



喜迎新年 Welcoming New Year



古塔生辉 The Old Effulgent Pagoda

uncommonly boasts numerous places of historic interest and cultural relics with very high value. For example, the Yunyan Temple Pagoda on the Tiger Hill. Since the 1970s I had been busy going back and forth between Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai and Suzhou. On many occasions I invited civil engineers, architects and experts in cultural relics to Suzhou to "diagnose" the endangered pagoda and find out how to reinforce its foundations and internal structure. The work was not completed until the year 1986 when the city of Suzhou observed the 2500th anniversary of its birth. A considerable number of cultural sites have been renovated and open to the public such as the Yunyan Temple Pagoda on the Tiger Hill, the Auspicious Light Temple Pagoda, the North Temple Pagoda, the Panmen Gate and the city wall, marking a new phase in history in protecting the historic and cultural city of Suzhou.

After 1995 I fortunately took part in the work of applying to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, for putting the classical gardens of Suzhou on the World Heritage List, which enabled me to gain a better understanding of the classical gardens of Suzhou, the finest specimens of Chinese landscape gardening. What's most admirable is the superb technique of making gardens appear natural and uncontrived. Since the successful inscription of the classical gardens of Suzhou on the World Heritage List, the national historic and cultural city of Suzhou has become world-famous.

In the spring of 2002 some friends from the Suzhou Municipal Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference made a special trip to Beijing and consulted me about applying to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, for placing the old city of Suzhou on the World Cultural Heritage List. I think the old city of Suzhou with its value and reputation in the world meets the world heritage criteria. This is a very good thing. It shows that the leaders and the people from all walks of life in Suzhou have attached great importance to the protection of the old city of Suzhou, and to its future needs and sustainable development. They are far-sighted. Of course, a lot of work is to be done. Where there's a will there's a way.

With the purpose of protecting and carrying forward Chinese cultural heritage, some academies and relevant organs had participated in the editorial work of "Cultural Heritage — The Old City of Suzhou" until quite recently. Its publication is of great significance. Kindly requested by the editor and some friends of mine from Suzhou, I've recalled my past experiences and thoughts so as to express my best wishes to the old city of Suzhou. I do not dare say such things as an introduction.

苏州位于中国江苏省的东南部，北倚长江，西临太湖，自然环境十分优越，自古是江东一大都会，素有“人间天堂”的美誉。市区周围有常熟、张家港、昆山、吴江、太仓五个县市。苏州古城则居市区中央。

苏州是一座历史悠久的水乡古城。自公元前514年吴王阖闾命伍子胥建城以来，基址始终没有位移。现在古城内依然是河道纵横、桥梁密布，保存着前街后河、街河平行的双棋盘格局，以及大量古代民居和文物古迹。它的筑城方法、城市布局、街河体系、建筑风格、水巷特色等，在中国城市建设史上有着特殊的价值。

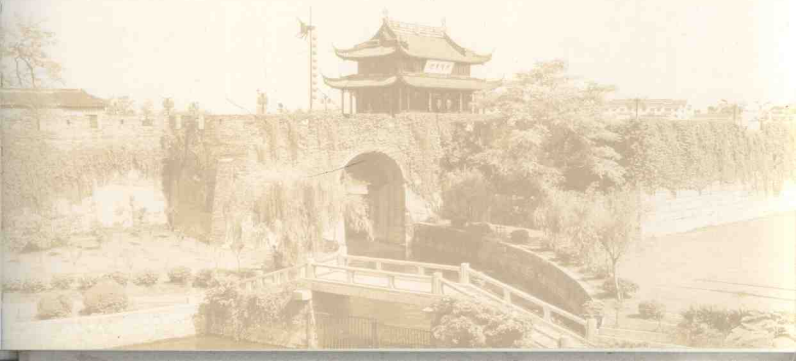
苏州是“鱼米之乡”。早在5000多年前的新石器时代，先民就已经在这里种植水稻。西晋左思的《吴都赋》以“国税再熟之稻，乡贡八蚕之绵”形容吴中农桑业的发达。唐宋以后，苏州已卓然成为天下粮仓，民间流传的谚语“苏湖熟，天下足”，便是当年的真实写照。苏州的大地上刻划着中国传统农业发展的历史轨迹。

苏州是“丝绸之府”。太湖流域是中国蚕丝的发源地之一。晋唐以后，苏州成为全国丝绸的重要产地。明代史志上记载：“东北半城，万户机声”，有“日出万绸，衣被天下”之称。丝织业和商业的高度发展，直接促使中国的资本主义萌芽最早在苏州地区发生。它从一个侧面展现了这一历史时期中国社会内部的发展和演变。

苏州是“工艺之市”。这里素来是中国精湛手工艺品的传统产地，以精、细、雅、洁见称，刺绣、缂丝、琢玉、制扇、金银细作、家具乐器，以及泥塑捏像、木刻年画等，琳琅满目，美不胜收，从中透射出中国传统工艺和江南民间艺术的熠熠光华。

苏州是“园林之城”。其源可追溯到春秋吴王的宫苑别馆。园林与山水的巧妙结合，建筑装饰的美仑美奂，对后世园林艺术的发展产生了深远的影响。东晋以后，随着江南经济的长足发展，营造私家园林蔚然成风。明代苏州见于方志记载的园林有200余座，清代多至300余座。“苏州好，城里半园亭”，清人的一曲歌词生动地描述了苏州古城在城市园林化进程中所达到的高度水平，也唱出了先民对美好居住环境的不懈追求。

苏州是“文萃之邦”。这里自周秦以来人文荟萃，英豪辈出，如孔子门人南方夫子宫廪，晋代文学家陆机、陆云，唐代书法家张旭、孙过庭、陆柬之，元代医学家葛可久，明代戏曲音乐家魏良辅、建筑大师蒯祥、通俗文学家冯梦龙以及书画名家沈周、文徵明、唐寅、仇英、祝允明、王宠，清代天文学家王锡阐，光学专家孙运球等，群星灿烂，举不胜举。而春秋吴国军事家孙武，宋代政治家范仲淹、明末清初思想家顾炎武，



则是其中的杰出代表。他们的著述、思想和成就，是中华民族优秀传统文化中的瑰宝，也是苏州持续发展的一个重要因素。

中华人民共和国成立后，苏州在推进经济建设的同时，十分重视对古城的保护。现在已形成以古城为中心，西为新区，东为工业园区，周围有众多古市镇的“一体两翼、众星环拱”，城乡协调发展的新局面。在朝向现代化迈进的同时，苏州古城将会被保护得更好，环境被整治得更美。

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Suzhou lies in the southeastern part of Jiangsu Province, China. It borders the Yangtze River on the north and reaches west to Lake Tai. With its superb natural surroundings, Suzhou has been an Oriental metropolis in the Yangtze River basin since ancient times and has had the reputation of being the Earthly Paradise. The old city of Suzhou is located at the center of Suzhou City which is encircled by 5 county-level cities, namely, Changshu, Zhangjiagang, Kunshan, Wujiang and Taicang.

Characteristically, Suzhou is a Venetian city of great antiquity. Since the Wu King Helu gave an order to Wu Zixu for the construction of his capital city in 514 BC, the site of the city, later called Suzhou, has amazingly remained unchanged. Laid out in a double checkerboard fashion, the old city of Suzhou still boasts streets or alleyways going parallel to canals spanned by numerous bridges of stone, lots of old houses, cultural relics and places of historic interest. The old city of Suzhou has special value in the history of Chinese urban construction as regards overall layout, methods of construction, streets, alleyways, canal systems, architectural style and Venetian features.

*Suzhou has long been known as the Land of Fish and Rice. As early as over 5000 years ago, Neolithic man here was already engaged in the cultivation of rice or *Oryza sativa*. The Western Jin writer Zuo Si said in his essay entitled "the Wu Capital", "... collection of tax in double-crop rice, and in silk from eight crops of cocoons every year", portraying flourishing agriculture and sericulture of this region. Since the Tang and the Song Dynasty, Suzhou has prominently become a great "granary". "A bumper harvest in Suzhou and Huzhou is enough to feed the entire population under heaven", as the saying is. This is the vivid description in words. Suzhou has left its mark on the gradual development of traditional Chinese agriculture.*

Suzhou has been the home of silk over a lengthy period. The Lake Tai basin is one of places of origin in China where sericulture started. After the Jin and the Tang Dynasty, Suzhou came to be a major silk producing area in the whole empire. "10000 households in the northeastern half of the city of Suzhou are engaged in silk industry, turning out thousands of rolls



of silk everyday for people to wear under the sun", as recorded in the Ming History. Highly developed silk industry and commerce caused the seeds of capitalism in China to germinate in Suzhou, epitomizing a basic socio-economic change in the course of China's evolution.

Suzhou has for long been a city celebrated for its arts and crafts of delicate workmanship and purity of tastes such as embroidery, tapestry, jade-carvings, fans, gold and silver articles, furniture, musical instruments, clay figurines, and wood-block prints. There are so many beautiful things that one cannot simply take them all in. They are shining brightly alongside other traditional Chinese crafts and folk arts in the area south of the Lower Yangtze.

Suzhou is also well-known as the City of Gardens. The origin of garden making can be traced back to the King Wu's imperial garden-villa in the Spring & Autumn period, which set an excellent example of ingeniously integrating architectural forms with natural scenery, exerting a strong influence on landscape gardens constructed in the dynasties that followed. With the steady growth of local economy after the Eastern Jin Dynasty, private garden making gained momentum. According to the local Historical Records Suzhou possessed more than 200 gardens under the Ming Dynasty, and 300-odd gardens under the Qing Dynasty. "How beautiful Suzhou is! Landscape gardens cover half of the city", sang a Qing-dynasty song, which delineated emphatically an advanced state of urban landscaping and expressed the civilized Chinese who lived long ago in their pursuit of environmentally friendly habitation.

Suzhou has been a place famed for the intellect of notabilities and the attainment of culture. During a long period of time after the Zhou and the Qin Dynasty Suzhou has produced innumerable eminent persons like Yan Yan, a disciple of Confucius known as the Confucius of the South, the Jin men of letters Lu Ji and Lu Yun, the Tang calligraphers Zhang Xu, Sun Guoting and Lu Jianzhi, the Yuan physician Ge Kejiu, the Ming playwright and musician Wei Liangfu, the great Ming architect Kuai Xiang, the Ming pop writer Feng Menglong, the Ming artists and calligraphers Shen Zhou, Wen Zhengming, Tang Yin, Qiu Ying, Zhu Yunming and Wang Chong, the Qing astronomer Wang Xichan, and the Qing optician Sun Yangu. Outstanding representatives include Sun Wu, the distinguished Wu strategist in the Spring & Autumn period, Fan Zhongyan, the prominent Northern Song statesman, and Gu Yanwu, the great late Qing thinker. Their works, thoughts and achievements are regarded as gems of brilliant traditional Chinese culture, helping to bring about continuous progress in culture.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Suzhou has earnestly carried out economic construction. In the meantime Suzhou has attached great importance to the protection of the old city of Suzhou. Surrounded by many old townships and old county-level cities, the old city of Suzhou today is flanked by Suzhou New District on the west and Suzhou Industrial Park on the east. While heading for modernization, the old city of Suzhou will surely be protected even better and renovated to finer condition.

