絲路珍寶

The Silk Road

新疆文物大展

Treasures from Xinjiang





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新疆文物大展

21.12.2005 - 19.3.2006

康樂及文化事務署與新疆維吾爾自治區文物局聯合主辦
Jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

新疆維吾爾自治區博物館、新疆維吾爾自治區文物考古研究所與香港文化博物館聯合籌劃
Jointly organized by the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Museum, the Institute of Archaeology of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

永隆銀行贊助
Sponsored by the Wing Lung Bank

永隆銀行 WING LUNG BANK

康樂及文化事務署出版
香港文化博物館編製

香港沙田文林路一號
電話：(852) 2180 8188
傳真號碼：(852) 2180 8111

此刊物配合《絲路珍寶 —— 新疆文物大展》
展覽而出版

Published by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Produced by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

1 Man Lam Road, Sha Tin, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2180 8188
Fax: (852) 2180 8111

Published on the occasion of
"The Silk Road: Treasures from Xinjiang" Exhibition

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ISBN 962-7213-58-6
HM44
HK$180

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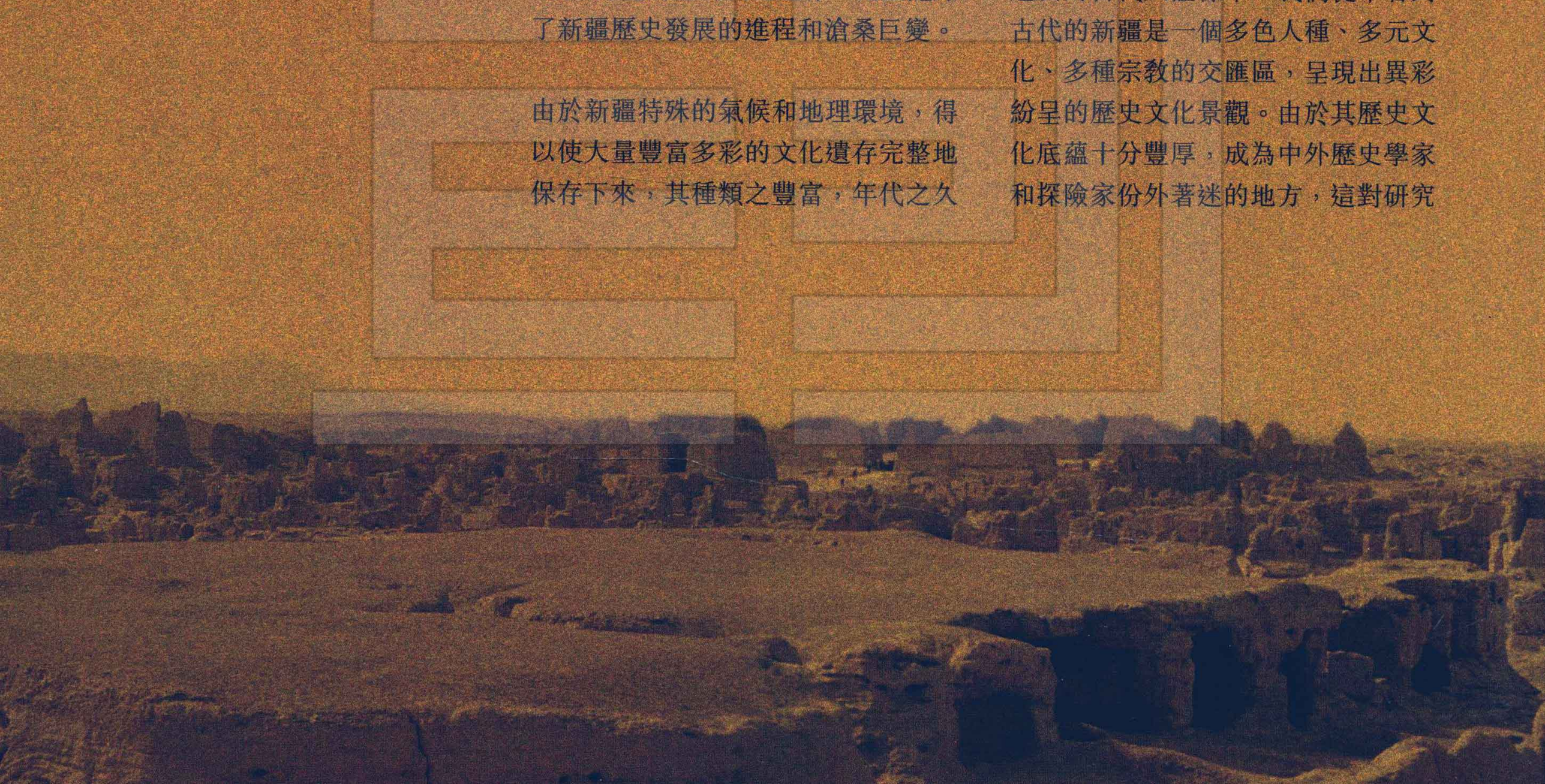
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獻辭 Message

新疆古稱西域，位於祖國西北邊陲，面積 166 萬平方公里，佔祖國版圖的六分之一。公元前 60 年西漢政府在此設立西域都護府，使之正式納入祖國的版圖，成為祖國領土不可分割的一部分。新疆為絲綢之路的重點地區，是古代東西方文明交流融匯的重要中心和陸上絲綢之路的要衝。歷來為多民族聚居地，亦是各種宗教信仰並存的地區。生息在這塊大地上的先民們休戚與共，血肉相連，共同創造了輝煌的古代西域文明。新疆現存的 4000 餘處的歷史文化遺存，完整記錄了新疆歷史發展的進程和滄桑巨變。

由於新疆特殊的氣候和地理環境，得以使大量豐富多彩的文化遺存完整地保存下來，其種類之豐富，年代之久遠，價值之高，有著“天然博物館”之稱，也為世人所矚目。一座座千年古城，雄風依在；一個個佛寺遺址彷彿還梵音繚繞；一幅幅精美絕倫，藝術價值極高的壁畫，反映出了佛教的博大精深；石人、鹿石，形象生動的岩畫代表著古代草原文明，這些歷史文化的縮影和形象的代表，為我們勾勒出一幅幅歷史的畫卷。在眾多出土文物中最為典型的有研究價值極高的古代文書、簡牘、絢麗多彩的絲毛織品、栩栩如生的泥製雕塑、又如剛剛逝去的古代人體標本，我們從中看到古代的新疆是一個多色人種、多元文化、多種宗教的交匯區，呈現出異彩紛呈的歷史文化景觀。由於其歷史文化底蘊十分豐厚，成為中外歷史學家和探險家份外著迷的地方，這對研究



古代新疆社會生活及民族文化形態有著重要的作用和意義。

新疆蘊藏著的深厚歷史文化深深吸引著國內外專家學者的極大關注。此次在香港文化博物館舉辦《絲路珍寶——新疆文物大展》，是我們為香港特區提供的一次文化饕餮大餐。我們精心挑選了富有新疆民族地區特色的出土文物，其中不乏有獨一無二的珍品，薈萃了考古成果的精品，全方位地展示新疆悠久的歷史、燦爛的地域文化。通過展覽使香港市民能夠認識新疆，對新疆的歷史文化有更深的了解。在展覽之際，精心編撰出版的圖錄，對一般愛好者和專業研究人員都將大有裨益。通過這一媒介，通過香港這一國際大都市架構起的文化橋樑，讓更多的國際友人認識新疆，了解新疆，走進新疆。讓絢麗多彩的西域文化這朵中華民族文化寶庫中的奇葩在海內外發揚廣大。

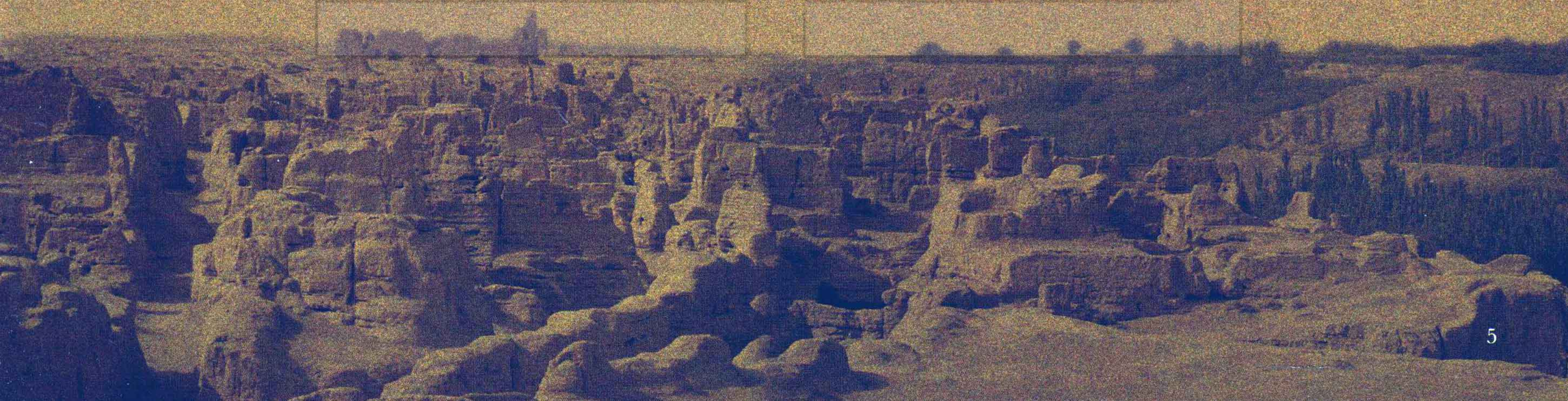
我們謹向香港文化博物館和為此展覽及出版圖錄給予了巨大幫助和支持的各界人士表示衷心的感謝和崇高的敬意。

衷心祝願香港繁榮昌盛，香港的明天更加美好。

盛春壽

盛春壽

新疆維吾爾自治區文物局局長



Xinjiang was known as 'Xiyu', or the 'Western Regions', in ancient China. Situated in China's northwest, it is a sprawling expanse of land covering 1.66 million square kilometres, or one-sixth of the total area of China. As early as 60 BC, following the setting up of the Xiyu Protectorate by the Western Han regime, the region was officially incorporated into the map of China. As a vantage point on the Silk Road, and an important hub where the Eastern and the Western civilizations converged, Xinjiang has been historically the home of many ethnic peoples, a place where different religions co-existed. Ancient peoples who lived on this vast piece of land had shared their trials and tribulations in building the glorious civilization as we discover today. There are over 4,000 cultural relic sites in Xinjiang, offering us an overview of its historical developments and great changes.

The arid climate and unique geographical conditions of Xinjiang have allowed huge quantities of this rich and colourful cultural legacy to be preserved intact. The amazing variety, the long history and the priceless-ness of the finds have given Xinjiang the nomenclature as a "Natural Museum", one that has drawn the attention of the world. Today, many ancient cities, dating thousands of years in history, still remain, magnificent and inspiring. The sound of Buddhist music seems to reverberate in the ruins of the Buddhist temples, and many wall paintings of great artistic value still shine with the wisdoms of Buddhism. Figures of Man (*Balbal or Baba*) and deer rocks (*Olenniye Kami*), petroglyphs that seem to come alive - all these are representations of the ancient civilizations of the steppes. They give us a telescopic view of a macrocosmic world thousands of years ago, and tell us more about history, civilisations, and forms of life. Among the numerous artifacts found, there are ancient writings, tablets, colourful silk and woolen textiles, lifelike clay figures, and ancient corpses that look as if they had only died recently. These invaluable relics show us that ancient Xinjiang was a place of multi-ethnicities, multi-cultures and multi-religions. Together they wove a fascinating tapestry of histories and cultures that has attracted historians and expeditions from all



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parts of the world. Their subsequent findings have significant bearing on the study of the social fabric and ethnic cultures of ancient Xinjiang.

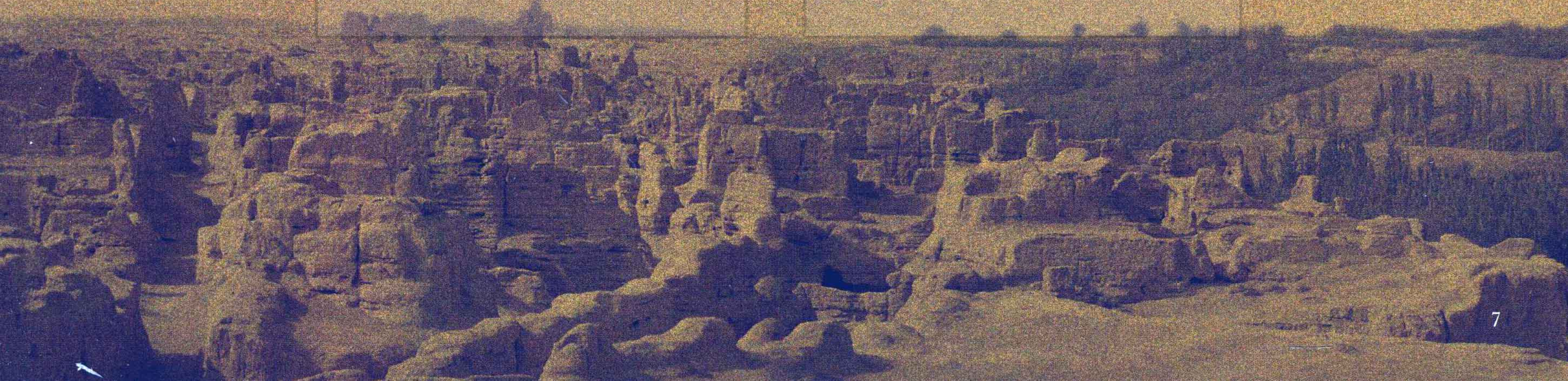
The history and culture of Xinjiang have attracted a lot of attention from experts and scholars all over the world. The exhibition, *The Silk Road: Treasures from Xinjiang*, held at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum is a cultural feast we bring to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. We have chosen artifacts of exceptional ethnic characteristics, and among them many are one of a kind archaeological treasures that reveal all aspects of the long history and magnificent regional culture of Xinjiang. We hope the people of Hong Kong will get to know more about Xinjiang and gain a more in-depth understanding of its history and culture. This exhibition catalogue will be a good reference for the general public as well as professional researchers. Through it, and through the cultural links of Hong Kong as a cosmopolitan city, we hope to bring Xinjiang to the world and in turn, bring the world to Xinjiang.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Hong Kong Heritage Museum for their tremendous help, and to all sectors of Hong Kong for their support in making this exhibition and catalogue a reality.

We sincerely wish Hong Kong prosperity and an even better tomorrow.

盛春壽

Sheng Chunshou
Director of the Cultural Heritage Bureau of
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



獻辭 Message

新疆古稱西域，位處絲綢之路的要衝，曾經是世界主要古代文明交流互動的地方。近數十年來，新疆有不少重要考古發現，出土的文物見證了古代文化交流的盛況。今年初舉行的“走向盛唐”展覽，主題正是文化的交流融合，其中不少展品來自新疆。今次的“絲路珍寶”展覽，可說是“走向盛唐”的延續篇。

“絲路珍寶”展覽在新疆維吾爾自治區文物局統籌下，集合新疆博物館、新疆文物考古研究所和區內文博單位的珍藏，包括最新的考古發現和不少國寶級文物，展示自史前時期到十四世紀新疆多元燦爛的文化面貌，眾多珍貴文物俱難得一見，而古屍更是經國家文物局特別批准才能運港展出。

展覽在各方鼎力支持下，終能順利在港舉行。在此謹向國家文物局、新疆維吾爾自治區文物局和各借出珍藏的文博單位，致以衷心謝意。承蒙永隆銀行慷慨贊助展覽圖錄的製作，亦在此一併致謝。

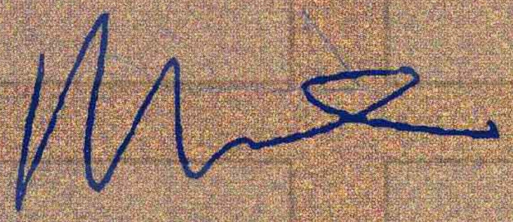
王倩儀

王倩儀
康樂及文化事務署署長

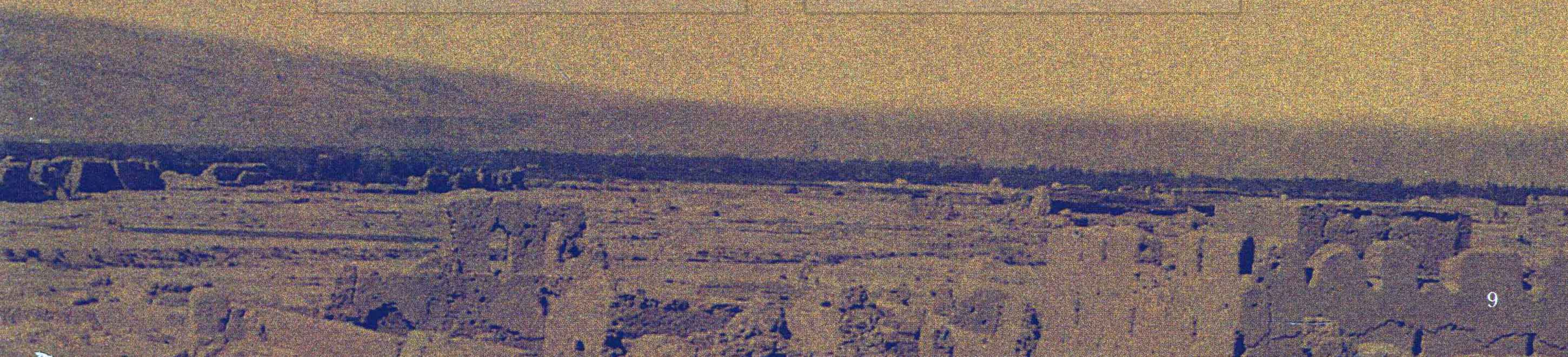
Known as the "Western Regions" in ancient times, Xinjiang was once a communication hub on the Silk Road, where major civilizations of the world met and interacted. Over the past few decades, there have been a number of important archaeological discoveries in Xinjiang. The relics unearthed testify to the diverse cultural development of the area. Cultural exchange was the theme of the exhibition "From Eastern Han to High Tang" held earlier this year, in which many exhibits were drawn from Xinjiang. "The Silk Road", our present exhibition, can be regarded as a sequel.

"The Silk Road" exhibition features invaluable treasures contributed by cultural institutions in Xinjiang under the coordination of the Cultural Heritage Bureau of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Most exhibits are latest archaeological finds and many are classified as grade-one relics, reflecting the rich cultural facets of Xinjiang from the prehistoric period to the 14th century. The ancient mummies, in particular, are rarely seen outside the Mainland and special permission from the State Administration of Cultural Heritage is obtained for their display in Hong Kong.

The exhibition is successfully organized with the concerted efforts of all parties concerned. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Cultural Heritage Bureau of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and all other organizations that have made contributions. We are also grateful to the Wing Lung Bank for the generous sponsorship of the exhibition catalogue.



Anissa S Y Wong
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services



序言 Preface

絲綢之路是古代中外陸上交通的主要通道，在促進中西貿易和文化交流方面擔當過重要角色。這個陸上交通網的基本路線雖然早已存在，但要到公元前 2 世紀張騫出使西域後，才得到全面開通。經漢唐時期積極經營，絲綢之路成為幾大地域文明互動的舞台。唐末中央政府積弱，回紇和吐蕃先後崛興，中西陸上交通受阻，加上宋元時期海上貿易發達，約自公元14世紀以後陸上絲綢之路漸為海上航道所取代。

19 世紀末到 20 世紀初，西方探險家進入西域地區進行考古調查、勘探和發掘，在新疆發現了大量極具價值的文物資料，震動中外學術界，讓學者重新認識絲綢之路的重要性。為了研究和保存絲路沿線的遺物和遺跡，自20世紀初以來，中國學者曾對新疆古迹文物進行了多次考察，成果豐碩，特別是從1950年代至今，新疆的考古工作成就輝煌，令絲路考古再一次成為世界文化探索的焦點。

經過幾代考古和歷史學者的努力，今日我們對絲路沿線的文化，已經獲得了一個基本的認識。那些未見諸中外歷史文獻，流寓於新疆境內的古民族的生活形態，也可透過考古資料而略知端倪，至於中國古籍中所提到的西域邦國、胡人和胡商，更可以從出土文物中重現於世。

這個展覽集合新疆維吾爾自治區內各個主要文博單位的珍藏，包羅近數十年來重要的考古收穫，從生活面貌、紡織品、古文字、宗教文化和喪葬風俗等方面，追溯從史前時期至十四世紀期間，新疆地區豐富多采的文化面貌，讓參觀者深入認識中國古代西域的情況。

香港文化博物館



The Silk Road was a major overland communication route in the ancient times, and had played an important role in the promotion of trade and cultural exchanges between the East and the West. Although the rudimentary route of this overland communication network existed long before, it was not until after the diplomatic missions of Zhang Qian, the Han emperor Wudi's envoy, to 'Xiyu' (the 'Western Regions') in the 2nd Century BC that the Silk Road was fully opened for traffic and trade. With the diligent efforts put into the development of the route during the Han and Tang periods, the Silk Road finally became the centre stage for interaction of major civilizations in the neighbouring regions. The weakening central administration of the late Tang, coupled with the rise in power of the Uygur and Tibetan peoples, caused the traffic between the East and the West by land to be blocked. This was further aggravated by the rise of maritime trade during the Song and Yuan periods (circa mid-10th Century to mid-14th Century). The Silk Road was therefore gradually taken over by its maritime counterpart after the 14th Century.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Western expeditions that ventured into the Western Regions for archaeological study, surveys and excavations discovered large quantities of artifacts that took the academic world by storm. Scholars and researchers began to take a renewed interest in the Silk Road. And since the early 20th Century, Chinese scholars have conducted many expeditions on the archaeological sites and recovered many valuable artifacts and information. The results have been most rewarding, particularly since the 1950s. The success of archaeologists in Xinjiang has put the Silk Road once again on the world's cultural map, and this time, in an even more prominent position.

The efforts of generations of archaeologists and historians have given us a fundamental understanding of the cultures along the Silk Road. Through archaeological findings, we have also made inroads into learning more about the historical archives hitherto undisclosed to the world, as well as the ways of life of the ancient inhabitants in the Xinjiang region. Most interestingly of all, the 'statelets of the Western Regions', and the foreigners generally referred to as 'Hu people' and the 'Hu merchants' often mentioned in ancient Chinese literature have come alive through the unearthed artifacts.

This exhibition has put together many prized collections of museums and archaeological institutions of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The exhibits include important archaeological findings of the last few decades. From daily life, textiles, ancient scripts, religion to burial customs, we can retrace the cultural diversities of the Xinjiang region from the pre-historic period to the 14th Century. Visitors will be able to have a more in-depth understanding of 'Xiyu' of ancient China.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

專題文章

Articles