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眇墨揮巖泉

錫堂錢為刻時年八十二

拙政園

The Humble Administrator's Garden

匾額楹聯磚刻賞析

Appreciation of Inscribed Boards,

Couplets and Brick Tablets in Humble Administrator's Garden



拙政园

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匾额楹联砖刻赏析

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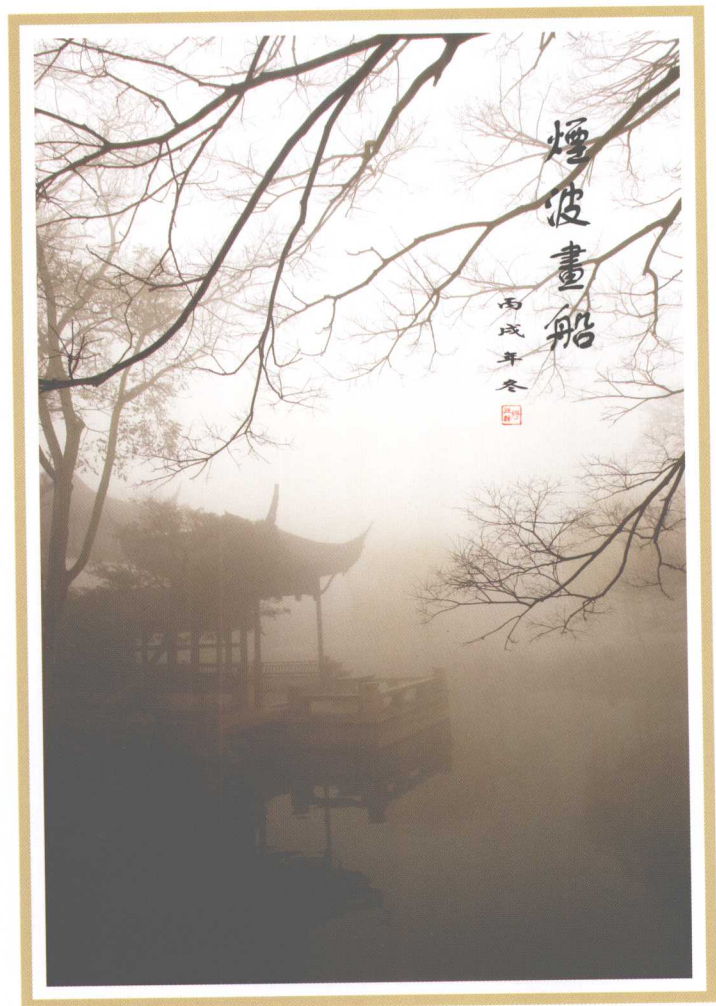
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前言

拙政园是中国私家园林的杰出代表，全国首批重点文物保护单位，1997年列入了世界遗产名录。前人造园至今已有五百余年，数百年来众多著名文人墨客用精湛的书法、美丽的文学为后人留下了脍炙人口的匾额楹联，也为拙政园塑造了造园艺术中的另一种用文字、书法体现的意境美，它们相互衬托，缺一不可。正因为有了如此深厚的文化底蕴和综合造园艺术的结合，才有了今天的园林经典。

多年前我就萌发出一个想法，将拙政园所有的匾额楹联拍成图片，并与环境影像配合一起，再将解释词译成外文，融于一书，让来参观的中外友人了解、欣赏拙政园的文化内涵。由于在具体拍摄匾额楹联的过程中，涉及到与周边植物、环境、季节、时间的相匹配，故拍摄工作持续了几年时间，直至今日才成书出版。书中尚存在的不足之处，还望读者多多谅解。

感谢钱怡老师、吴根生老师在撰写解释词时为核实相关资料付出的时间和精力，感谢其他友人为出版本书时所提供的帮助和支持。

黎明

Preface



As an outstanding representative of the private gardens in China, the Humble Administrator's Garden ranks among the first batch of the key historical monuments for national preservation and was inscribed on the List of the World Heritage Sites in 1997. It was built 500 years ago. In the past centuries numerous prominent men of letters used marvelous calligraphy and pretty literature to have left the descendents lots of tablets and couplets, and they did create another kind of ideological beauty in the art of classical gardening by utilizing their script and handwriting. They set off one another, not a single one of which can be dispensed with. It is thanks to the combination of such a profound cultural foundation and so complex gardening art that today one can witness the classics of gardens.

Years ago in my heart there arose an idea, which was to take photographs of all the tablets and couplets in the Humble Administrator's Garden, to put them together with their surrounding scenes, to translate their annotations into a foreign language, and to merge all of them in one book so as to let visitors from home and abroad to understand and appreciate the cultural connotation of the very garden. Because taking photos of them deals with the florae around, surroundings, seasons and time that must be a good matching, it takes me years to finish doing it. Up to now the book is compiled and published. There might have existed some inadequacies in the book so as to ask for your understanding and forgiveness. Thanks should be expressed to the reverend teacher Madam Qian Yi and the senior translator Mr. Wu Gensheng, who have spent time and devoted their intelligence for checking the related materials in order to write the annotations. And thanks should be also given to other friends who have provided assistance and support for the publication of this book.

Li Ming



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the Humble Administrator's Garden



东部花园

East Part of the Garden

东部花园

大门 The Main Entrance



拙政园 The Humble Administrator's Garden

佚名书 Written by unknown person

注释:

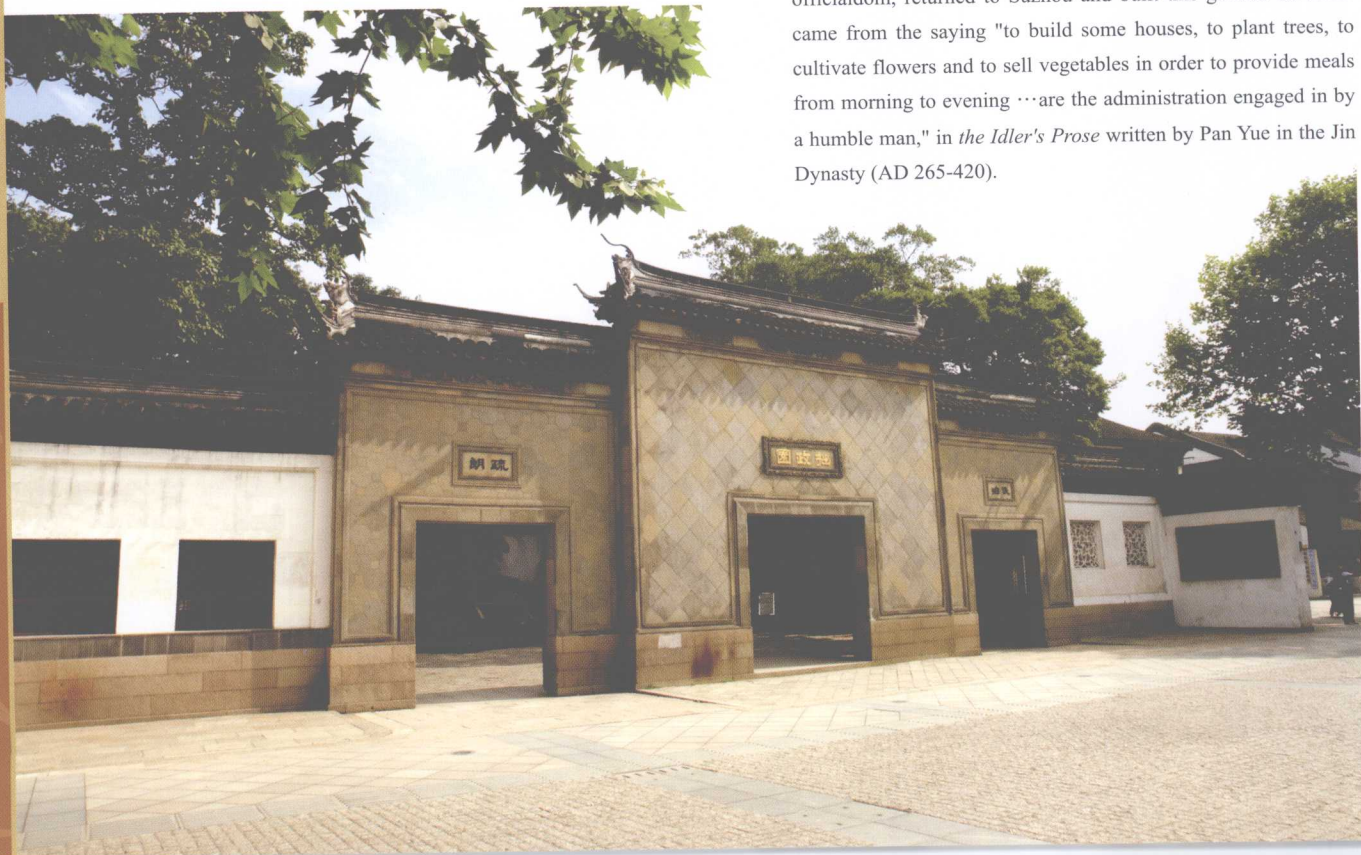
拙者为政之园。

拙政园第一位园主御史王献臣因官场失意还乡后建造此园，取晋代潘岳《闲居赋》中“筑室种树，灌园鬻蔬，以供朝夕之膳，……是亦拙者之为政也”句意命名。

Annotation:

The garden symbolizes the administration engaged in by a humble man.

The founder of the Humble Administrator's Garden was Wang Xianchen, an imperial procurator, who was frustrated in officialdom, returned to Suzhou and built this garden. Its name came from the saying "to build some houses, to plant trees, to cultivate flowers and to sell vegetables in order to provide meals from morning to evening ...are the administration engaged in by a humble man," in the *Idler's Prose* written by Pan Yue in the Jin Dynasty (AD 265-420).





淡泊 Simple living



疏朗 Spaciousness

佚名书

Written by unknown person

注释：

恬淡、明敞。点出了拙政园以水为主、旷远明瑟的风格特色和文人写意山水园的内涵意蕴。

Annotation:

The four characters which mean to be indifferent to fame or gain, clear and spacious, indicate that the characteristics of the Humber Administrator's Garden are to take water as its predominant position with spacious and pellucid scenery, and that the connotation of the mountain and water garden is shown by scholar's using the freehand brushwork in traditional Chinese painting.



大门 The Main Entrance



通幽 Leading to tranquility



入胜 With enchantment

佚名书

Written by unknown person



注释:

通往幽胜之处，进入园林佳境。

取唐朝常建《破山寺后禅院》“曲径通幽处，禅房花木深”诗意而名。

Annotation:

Walk to a place of depth and serenity to enjoy the garden's enchantment.

The four characters are based on a poem entitled *the Poshan Buddhist Temple's Backyard* composed by Chang Jian in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which goes: "A winding path led me to a secluded place where Buddhist monks' living quarters lay deep amidst flowers and trees."



兰雪堂 The Orchid Snow Parlour

【清】朱彝尊书（注1）

Written by Zhu Yizun in the Qing Dynasty (Note 1)

注释：

如兰幽香、似雪洁白之堂。也寓园主人的品行高洁。

取自【唐】李白《别鲁颂》“独立天地间，清风洒兰雪”诗意。

Annotation:

The parlour's name shows it is as fragrant as orchid and as white as snow, symbolizing the morally elevated personality of the owner of the garden. And the name was given by the owner who drew his inspiration from Li Bai's poem in the Tang Dynasty, entitled *Farewell to Lu Song*, which said: "Standing solely between heaven and earth, I enjoy the gentle breeze that sprinkles over orchid and snow."



【现代】钱定一 撰书 (注2)

Composed and written by Qian Dingyi
in modern times (Note 2)

注释:

此地是明代归田园居的故址，想当年高朋胜友园内雅集，饮酒赋诗，留连忘返，看今日犹存一树梅花怒放，旧时月色依然朗照。

这座园林乃苏州著名的景点，如今古园新貌，花木扶疏，楼台掩映，八方游人汇集，尽情沐浴着盛世明媚的春光。

Annotation:

This is the former site of the Return-to-the-Countryside Garden Villa in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), where noble-minded friends gathered, drank wines and composed poems, lingering in this garden of enchantment. Up to now the then plum trees are still in full bloom while the moon ever shines above, bright and beautiful.

Having been a well-known place in Suzhou, the ancient garden displays a new look with towers, pavilions and bridges well spaced among luxuriant trees and flowers of various kinds, attracting tourists from all parts of the world. Well, let them revel in joy and pretty scenery in such a flourishing age.

斯园乃吴下名区，于今花木扶疏，楼台掩映，试看万方裙展，尽占盛世春光

萬方裙展盡占春光
斯園乃吳下名區
於今花木扶疏樓台掩映試看

此地是归田故址，当日朋侪高会，诗酒留连，犹余一树琼瑶，想见旧时月色

此地是歸田故址當日朋儕高會詩酒留連猶餘
一樹瓊瑤想見舊時月色



