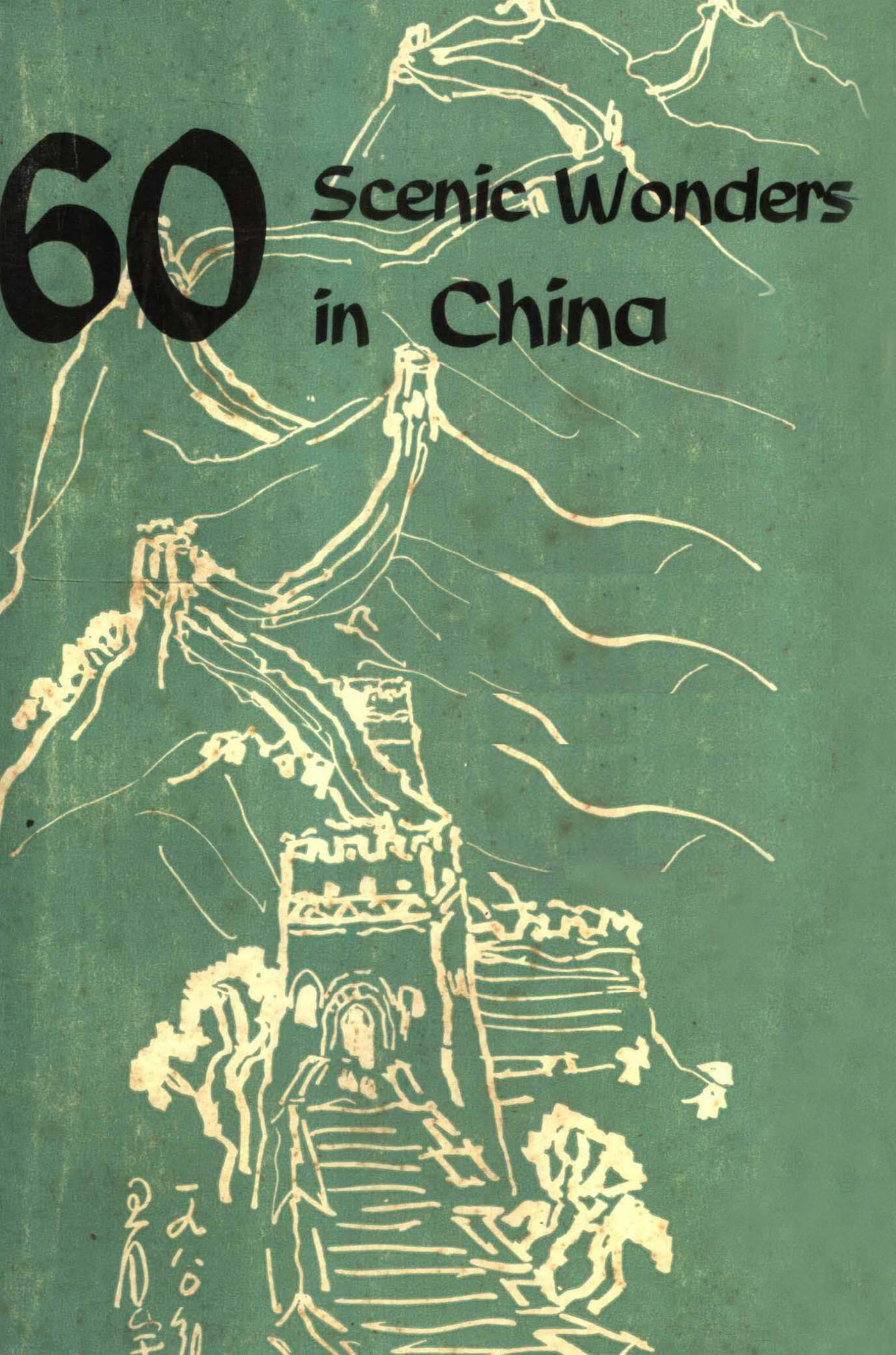


60

Scenic Wonders
in China



2
10
5
10
30

60 Scenic Wonders in China

Edited by

The Editorial Department of NEW WORLD PRESS

and

The English Language Service of RADIO PEKING

NEW WORLD PRESS

1980

60 Scenic Wonders in China is a 'must' for English-speaking travelers in China and for all those interested in China's scenic beauty and its historical and archaeological treasures. Here one will find:

- * Information not available in other guidebooks.

- * Facts, legends and folk tales you are sure to be telling long after your visit to China is over.

- * Line drawings done especially for the book by China's well-known artist Shao Yu, who also did the cover design. His art lends a lyrical touch rare in this type of book.

- * Maps, charts, table of dynasties, list of place names and also an index.

“Many people have heard of, read about, or actually seen the Great Wall in China, but few realize that it is the only man-made structure which can be seen from the moon.”

(See p. 1)

“Emperor Wan Li of the Ming dynasty, who reigned from 1573 to 1620, began construction of his own tomb when he was 22. It took six years and cost eight million taels of silver. He gave a party in his own funeral chamber, so the chronicles say, to mark its completion, and thirty years later was buried in it amid splendid ceremonies.”

(See p. 32)

First edition

1980

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

All the articles in *60 Scenic Wonders in China* are selected from the regular feature series "Travel Talk" broadcast by the English Language Service of RADIO PEKING (BEIJING). These have been revised throughout by the Editorial Department of NEW WORLD PRESS which also prepared all the appendices included in the book. The cover design and line-drawings are done by Shao Yu, a leading artist in China.

NEW WORLD PRESS
24 Baiwanzhuang Road,
Beijing, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Introduction

If you plan to tour China, or have already done so and would like to know more about the places you saw, or if you are perhaps a “book-traveler” interested in knowing more about other aspects of the People’s Republic than you get in the daily papers, we believe *60 Scenic Wonders in China* is made for you.

This book of sixty articles contains the best selections from among China’s immense number of scenic and historical spots to give the reader something beyond a glimpse of this ancient/new land. In other words, the present volume is of more lasting value than any tourist guide. It penetrates what meets the visitor’s eye, giving historical background, peculiar geographical conditions and changes, and some of the folklore that has built up around certain exotic sites, such as the epic poem *Ashma** and the origin of the Stone Forest.

Even for the seasoned China traveler *60 Scenic Wonders* offers fascinating bits of information not likely to be gleaned during the unavoidably rushed tour to a few of China’s cities and more important monuments.

* A new edition of the English translation of *Ashma*, published by the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing, is now available.

Among the special features of the book is a restructuring of mental pictures of life in China centuries ago when dynastic rulers held feudal sway — the pomp and ceremony of Ming and Qing dynasty processions to the Altar of Heaven so that the annual imperial prayers could be offered for a good harvest, the autocracy and extravagance of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi (Tzu Hsi) and her detention of the nominal, and more enlightened Emperor Guang Xu in her Yiheyuan Summer Palace.

While inspired to marvel at ancient monuments, the reader is at the same time given some idea of the cost of these scenic wonders in terms of human life. An appreciation is gained of these places having been returned in 1949 to their creators, the working class, and of their having been restored and opened for the education and recreation of the people in their many millions.

60 Scenic Wonders in China should fill a void in many a collection of books on China for its informative value. It should be among the outstanding publications of the year by the People's Republic of China.

Contents

Introduction

BEIJING · NORTH CHINA

1. The Great Wall 1
(长 城)
2. Tian'anmen Square 5
(天安门广场)
3. The Forbidden City — Former Imperial Palace . 9
(紫禁城——故宫)
4. Temple of Heaven — Tian Tan 15
(天 坛)
5. The Summer Palace — Yiheyuan 18
(颐 和 园)
6. Beihai Park 24
(北 海 公 园)
7. Beijing's Western Hills 29
(北 京 西 山)
8. Dingling Mausoleum — Underground Museum . 32
(定陵——地下博物馆)
9. Zhoukoudian — Home of Peking Man 37
(周口店——“北京人”之家)
10. The Eastern Tombs of Qing Dynasty 41
(清 东 陵)
11. Chengde Mountain Resort 45
(承德避暑山庄)

12. A Stroll Along Luguo (Marco Polo) Bridge . . . 50
(卢沟桥漫步)
13. Yungang Grottoes in Shanxi Province . . . 53
(云 岗 石 窟)
14. Memorial Temple of Jin . . . 56
(晋 祠)
15. Wutai Mountain . . . 59
(五 台 山)

SHANGHAI · EAST CHINA

16. Shanghai's Town God's Temple — Yuyuan . . . 62
(上海城隍庙——豫园)
17. Suzhou with Its Gardens . . . 65
(苏 州 园 林)
18. Lake Taihu and Erquan Pool . . . 68
(太湖和二泉池)
19. The Karst Caverns of Yixing . . . 71
(宜兴石灰岩洞)
20. Nanjing (Nanking) . . . 74
(南 京)
21. West Lake in Hangzhou . . . 79
(西 湖)
22. Other Attractions in Hangzhou . . . 83
(杭州其他名胜)
23. Zhenjiang of Jiangsu Province . . . 87
(镇 江)
24. Mt. Taishan in Shandong Province . . . 91
(泰 山)
25. Qingdao — “Blue Island” . . . 96
(青 岛)

26. Laoshan Mountain 100
(崂 山)
27. Qufu — Birthplace of Confucius 103
(曲阜——孔子故里)
28. Quanzhou — the Ancient Port City 107
(福 建 泉 州)
29. Xiamen (Amoy) 111
(厦 门)
30. Mt. Lushan in Jiangxi Province 114
(庐 山)
31. Picturesque Huangshan Mountain 117
(黄 山)

GUANGZHOU · CENTRAL SOUTH CHINA

32. Guangzhou (Canton) 122
(广 州)
33. Conghua Hot Springs 127
(从 化 温 泉)
34. Seven-Star Rocks 130
(七 星 岩)
35. The City of Changsha 133
(长 沙)
36. Longmen Grottoes in Henan Province 137
(龙 门 石 窟)
37. Songshan, One of the Five Sacred Mountains . . . 140
(嵩 山)
38. Yueyang Tower and Junshan Island 143
(岳阳楼 · 君山岛)
39. The Triple City of Wuhan 148
(武 汉 三 镇)

GUILIN · SOUTHWEST CHINA

40. Guilin (Kweilin) 152
(桂 林)
41. Huangguoshu Falls and Rhinoceros Cave . . . 156
(黄果树瀑布和犀牛洞)
42. Chengdu in the Sichuan Basin 159
(四 川 成 都)
43. The Three Gorges on the Yangtze 163
(长 江 三 峡)
44. Mt. Emei in Sichuan Province 167
(峨 嵋 山)
45. Kunming, City of Perpetual Spring 171
(昆 明)
46. Stone Forest 174
(石 林)
47. Beautiful Dali — Home of the Bai People . . . 177
(云 南 大 理)
48. Lijiang Landscape in Yunnan Province 180
(云 南 丽 江)
49. Subtropical Xishuang Banna with Its Rare Plants
and Animals 184
(西 双 版 纳)
50. The Potala Palace of Lhasa 188
(拉 萨 布 达 拉 宫)
51. Tibet's Ice Forests 193
(西 藏 冰 塔 林)

XI'AN · NORTHWEST CHINA

52. Historical Relics of Xi'an 195
(西 安 历 史 文 物)

53.	Huaqing Pool and Mt. Lishan	200
	(华清池 • 骊山)	
54.	6,000-Year-Old Banpo Village	204
	(西安半坡村)	
55.	Museum of Qin Shi Huang's Buried Sculpture Legion	207
	(秦始皇兵马俑)	
56.	Mt. Huashan in Shaanxi	211
	(华 山)	
57.	Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang	214
	(敦煌莫高窟)	
58.	The Turpan (Turfan) Basin in the Xinjiang Desert	218
	(吐鲁番盆地)	
59.	Lake Tianchi — Heavenly Lake	223
	(天 池)	

NORTHEAST CHINA

60.	Harbin on the Sungari	226
	(哈 尔 滨)	

APPENDICES

1. Table of China's Dynasties
2. Transliteration Glossary of Place Names
3. Cross Index of Article Titles
4. Plan of Palace Museum
5. Plan of Chengde Mountain Resort
6. Sketch Map of Beijing (Peking)
7. Sketch Map of Shanghai

8. Sketch Map of Hangzhou (Hangchow)
9. Sketch Map of Guangzhou (Canton)
10. Sketch Map of Wuhan
11. Sketch Map of Xi'an (Siaa)
12. China's Administrative Division
13. Places of Tourist Interest

The Great Wall

长 城

Many people have heard of, read about, or actually seen the Great Wall in China, but few realize that it is the only man-made structure which can be seen from the moon. Like the pyramids of Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India, and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Wall is one of the four great wonders of the world.

The Great Wall rises and falls, twists and turns along the ridges of the Yanshan and Yinshan Mountain chains, which straddle northern China from east to west. Known in China as the "Ten Thousand *Li* Wall", it actually stretches for 12 thousand *li* (six thousand kilometers) from Jiayuguan Pass in Gansu Province at the west end to Shanhaiguan Pass on the shores of Bohai Bay at the east end. It traverses five provinces (Gansu, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei and Liaoning) and the two autonomous regions of Ningxia and Inner Mongolia.

Construction of the Wall began during the Warring States period in the fifth century B.C., when many fairly large cities had already been built on the Central China Plain. These were frequently plundered by the nomadic peoples living north of the Yinshan and Yanshan mountain ranges. Excellent horsemen and archers, these people struck and vanished like the wind, charging and breaking the ranks of the resisting foot-soldiers. To ward off such incursions, the ducal states of Yan, Zhao, Wei and Qin built walls along the mountain ridges. In the third century B.C., when Qin Shi Huang conquered all the other six ducal states and became the first emperor of a unified China, he ordered his general Meng Tian to link these walls up and

extend them. Soldiers and peasants numbering three hundred thousand did the work, and a continuous wall finally took shape. Reinforcement and renovations were carried out during successive dynasties. In Ming times (14th to 17th century) the Wall underwent major repairs on 18 occasions.

There are 14 major strategic passes along the wall, the most important being Shanhaiguan and Jiayuguan at either end.

Facing the calm Bohai Sea, Shanhaiguan is situated between two sheer cliffs of the Yanshan Mountains. A neck connecting north China with the northeast, it had always been a key junction contested by all strategists. Many famous battles were fought here. The magnificent square "Pass" has four gates, one on each side. Under the eaves of the two-storied eastern gate-tower is a horizontal plaque inscribed with five huge Chinese characters "Tian Xia Di Yi Guan" ("The First Pass Under Heaven") marking it as the starting point of the Great Wall. Atop the gate-tower are iron cannons installed there during the Ming dynasty more than three hundred years ago, while to its north the ruins of satellite castles, watch-towers and barracks are still to be seen. These formed the first and second lines of defence. It was the gate of Shanhaiguan that the Ming general Wu Sangui opened to the Manchu army to suppress the peasant rebellion led by Li Zicheng and so surrendered the whole empire to the Manchus.

Jiayuguan Pass was also an important communication center in Chinese history. Cleft between the snow-capped Qilian Mountains to the south and the rolling Mazong Mountains to the north, it was a strategic point on the ancient Silk Road. Zhang Qian, the first envoy of Emperor Wu Di of the Western Han dynasty, passed here on his journey to the western regions. Later, silk flowed to the west also through this pass. The gate-tower of Jiayuguan, built in 1372 when the first Ming emperor Zhu Yuanzhang ordered the Great Wall repaired and strengthened, is of attractive construction and excellent workmanship. There is an inner and an outer city here, the former square and surrounded by a wall 11.7 meters high and 730 meters in circum-



ference. It has an eastern and a western gate with magnificent towers facing each other. The four corners of the wall are occupied by watch-towers. A stone tablet outside the western gate proclaims that this was the "Strategic Pass Under Heaven". Legend has it that the craftsmen had worked out their plans so carefully before the actual building began that when the construction was completed only one brick was left. A brick still lies on one of the watch-towers and this is said to be the extra one.

The Great Wall is preserved as a historical monument today, and it is included in most tourist itineraries. The section best preserved and most often visited is Badaling, 85 kilometers north of Beijing. An average day sees a thousand or more travelers visiting by car or train.

The Wall at Badaling is 8.5 meters high and 5.7 meters broad. Five horses or ten people can walk along it abreast. There are

ramparts, embrasures, peep-holes and apertures for archers on the top, besides gutters with gargoyles to drain rainwater off the parapet walk. Two-storied watch-towers are built in at 100-meter intervals. The top stories of the watch-towers were designed for observing enemy movements, while the first was used for storing grain, fodder, military equipment and gunpowder, as well as for quartering garrison soldiers. The highest watch-tower at Badaling stands on a hill-top and is reached only after a steep climb, like "climbing a ladder to heaven". The view from the top is rewarding however. The Wall follows the contour of mountains that rise one behind the other until they finally fade and merge with distant haze.

A signal system formerly existed that served to communicate military information to the dynastic capital. This consisted of beacon towers on the wall itself and on mountain tops within sight of the wall. At the approach of enemy troops smoke signals gave the alarm from the beacon towers in the daytime and fires did this at night. Emergency signals could be relayed to the capital from distant places within a few hours long before the invention of anything like modern communications.

Building a wall of this length and magnitude over mountain peaks, precipices and ravines was a stupendous undertaking. Many moving stories connected with it reflect the misery it inflicted on the people. Perhaps the best known is the tale of Meng Jiangnü, one of very many women whose husbands were conscripted by Emperor Qin Shi Huang to build the Wall. Finding the long years of separation from her husband unbearable, Meng Jiangnü finally sets out to find him. But where can he be along a wall so long? Arriving at last at Shanhaiguan Pass, she learns that her husband is dead. She weeps so many tears that the section of the Wall under which he is buried crumbles, exposing the remains of her beloved. Heart-broken, she drowns herself in the sea. A rock with a commemorative tablet rose at once out of the roaring waves, and this was believed to be Meng Jiangnü's tomb. A temple built to her memory stands today at Shanhaiguan.