

A Guidebook to Alleys in Beijing

北京胡同旅游手册

李明德 赵祯永 / 著
◎ 唐洪磊 / 译

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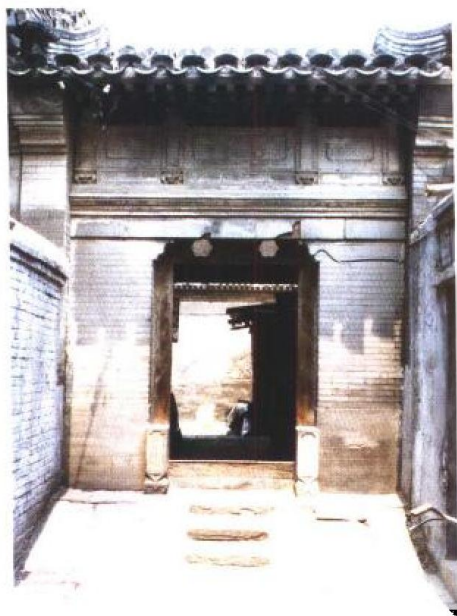
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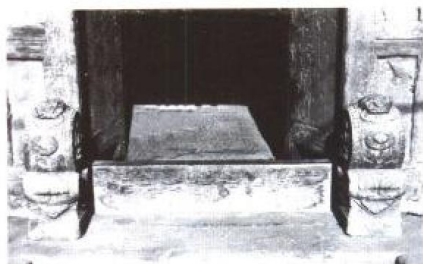
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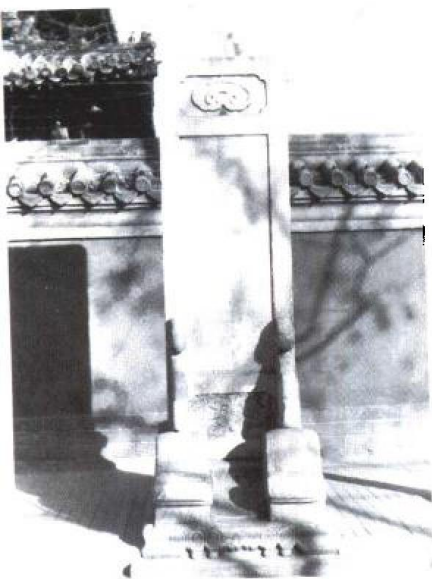


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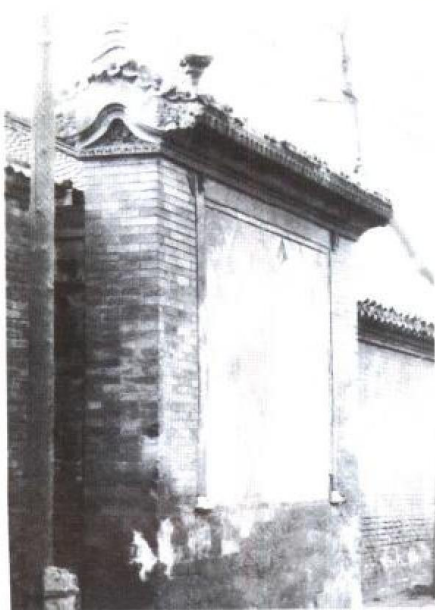
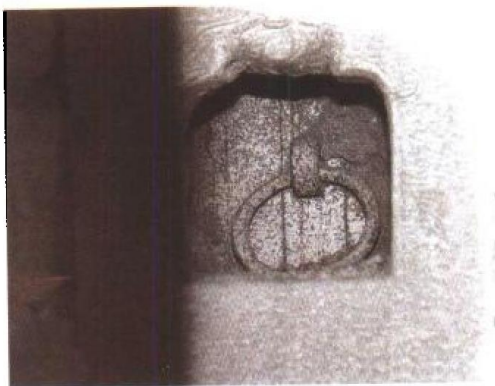
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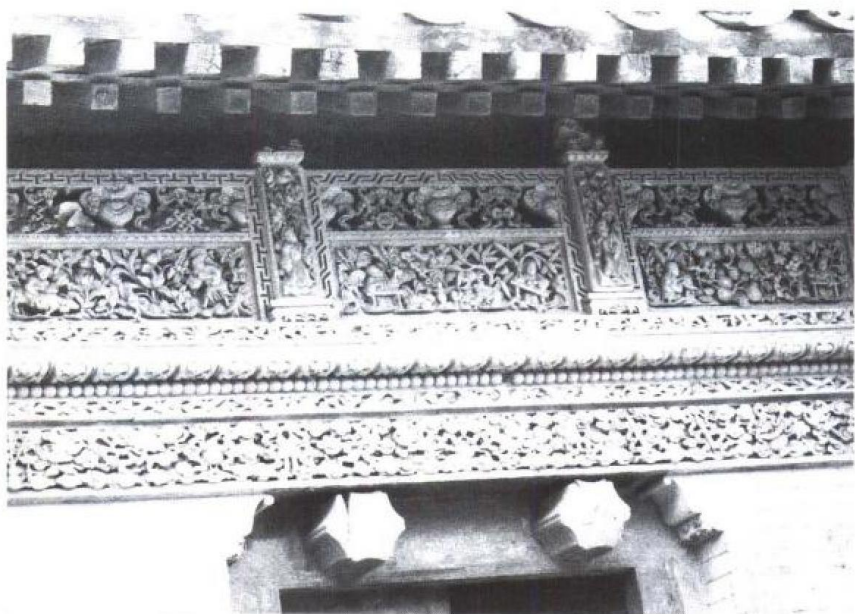
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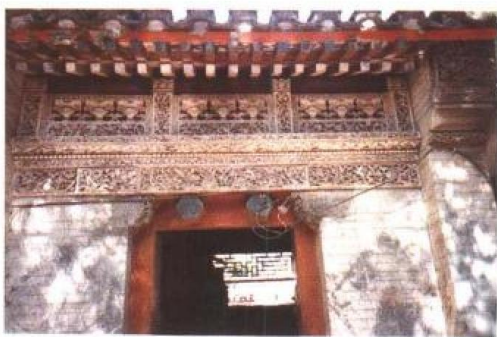
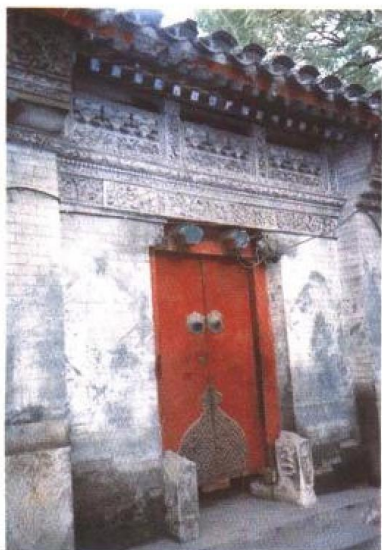
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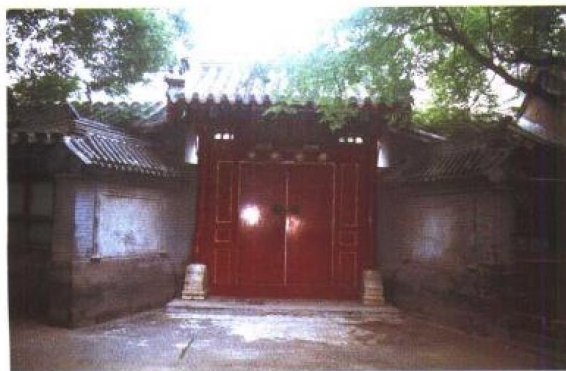


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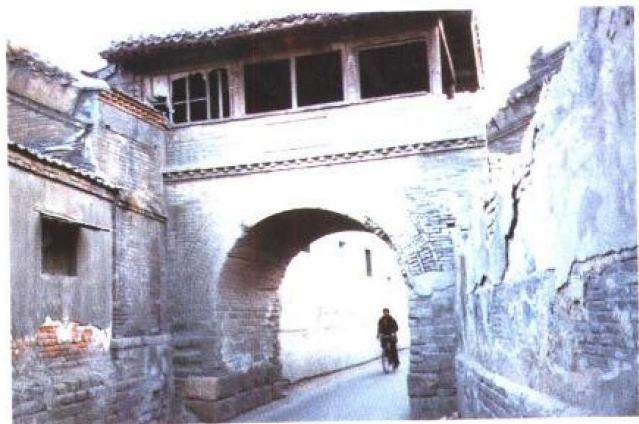
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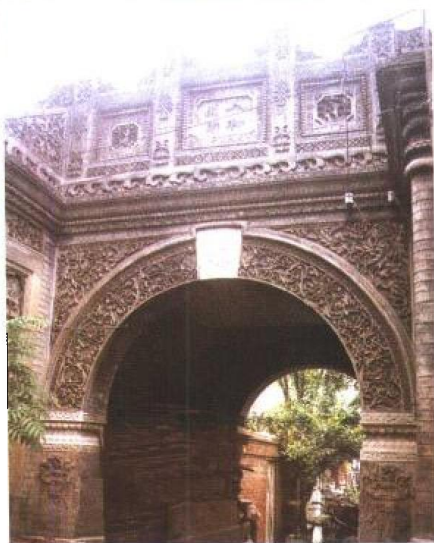
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An exquisite brick carving on an arched gate (Photographed by Liu Songnian)



序

舒 乙

一排一排由四合院比邻串连组成的小街道，矮矮的，灰灰的，排列得极为整齐，永远正南正北正东正西，颇像围棋棋盘。这种小街道，北京话叫“胡同”，已有八百年以上的历史。这里有结构独特的建筑，有精美绝伦的花园，有爷爷辈留下来的老树和可爱的小花草，有天人合一的布局，处处有空，静中有动，达到人和自然的高度谐和，成为世界大都市中的绝无仅有的奇观。

胡同是北京的标志，北京的象征、北京的骄傲。

北京城由两部分组成：皇家宫殿、皇家园林和成片的居民胡同、四合院。前者大多是北京的名胜古迹文物，后者既是民用建筑群，又是文化。这两部合二为一便是一座完整的北京城。

胡同是属于老百姓的，它是世俗的，也是无所不包的，是一种更大、更广、更深的存在。

北京的胡同是独一无二的，在世界上仅此一份；要看胡同只能到北京来。

北京的胡同是历史的载体，几乎处处都有故

事，有讲究，有人文内含，所以，北京的胡同是史料、民俗和民间故事的摇篮及聚宝盆。

北京的胡同是一门专门的学问，每一个微小的细节都有一大堆内容可供研究，可供述说，而且绝对生动、有趣、可爱。

把北京胡同的知识编成手册，很有实用价值，因为它既面面俱到，又简单扼要，既携带查找方便，又有知有情有趣，是一部别开生面的专用工具书，可以叫胡同的小百科全书。我为它的诞生感到由衷的高兴，我祝它好运。

在城市现代化进程中，胡同的命运受到了致命的打击和威胁，弄不好，会在短短时期内消失大半，连大格局都难以保住，在此关键时刻，胡同旅游手册的出现，对保护胡同来说，便是一种福音，有了它人们会对胡同有更多的接触与了解，产生更深的认识与感情，从而，或许会给胡同带来更多的爱护和珍惜。

挚爱至深，除了介绍，心头所思，披露出来，权当小序，或不为过。

Foreword

by Shu Yi

In Beijing, clusters of neighboring siheyuan (quadrangles), low and gray, make small alleys, which, orderly laid out like a chessboard, run all either from south to north or east to west. Alleys of this sort, termed hutong in Peking dialect, enjoy a history of more than 800 years. Along them one can not only spot uniquely-designed buildings, extremely beautiful courtyards, old trees planted by grandfathers, lovely flowers and plants, and the special layout representing the great harmony between heaven and man, but also fully appreciate the most harmonious link between man and nature by sensing space here and there as well as motioning in stationariness. All these have made alleys in Beijing an extraordinary wonder viewed in no other metropolises of the world.

Alleys are the badge, the symbol and the pride of Beijing.

The city of Beijing comprises two parts: one

being the imperial palaces and gardens, the other blocks of residential alleys and quadrangles. The former are mainly scenic places of historic interests, while the latter are both bundles of constructions for civil use and components of culture. The two parts, combined together, formed the integrated city of Beijing.

Inhabited by ordinary people, alleys are secular and embrace everything, thus symbolizing a larger, broader and more profound existence.

The alleys in Beijing are unique in the world, so one has no choice but to come here in Beijing if he wants to have a look at them.

The alleys in Beijing are the carrier of history in that almost every part of it involves some stories, implications and humanistic contents, so they are the cradle and the treasure house of historical materials, folk customs and folktales.

The alleys in Beijing have formed a specialized branch of knowledge, each of their minute details, really vivid, interesting and lovely, containing a great deal to be studied and recounted.

It is of much practical value to compile a guidebook concerning the alleys in Beijing, for, compiled in a comprehensive and concise way, the guidebook here, not merely portable and easy to

consult, but informative and appealing, is really a novel reference book for a special purpose and can be regarded as a small encyclopedia of alleys. Accordingly, I am heartily glad for its birth and wish it good luck.

In the process of urban modernization, the fate of alleys in Beijing has met with deadly attacks and threats. If not properly dealt with, most of them will disappear in a short period and even the main layout can hardly be maintained. At this crucial time, the birth of *A Guidebook to Alleys in Beijing* is quite a blessing for the protection of alleys, as it makes it possible for people to acquire a better understanding of alleys through more contact with them and thus develop a deeper affection for them, which may, in turn, bring more protection and care to them.

Cherishing so deep a love for alleys, I hope I am not going too far in confiding here what I thought, especially my personal concern, about the alleys in Beijing in this brief introduction, simply as a foreword.



李明德,北京文物保护协会会员、中国戏剧家协会会员。1941年生于北京,多年来从事北京胡同门楼艺术及民俗的研究。在报刊发表文章百余篇。著有《北京胡同门楼艺术》一书,由国际文化出版公司出版发行。近年与中央电视台、北京电视台合作拍摄介绍北京胡同及民俗专题片数集。

Li Mingde

Member of Beijing Cultural Relics Protection Association and member of China Dramatists Association. Born in Beijing in 1941, he has been engaged in the study of the art of gate building in Beijing's alleys and Beijing's folk customs for many years and has published over 100 articles on magazines and newspapers. His work, *The Art of Gate Buildings in Beijing's Alleys*, was published by the International Culture Publishing Corporation. In recent years he has worked with CCTV and Beijing TV in shooting special subject serials on Beijing's alleys and folk customs.