RESIDENTIAL COURT VARIOF SHANXI

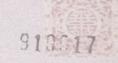
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## RESIDENTIAL COURTYARD OF SHANXI MERCHANT QU FAMILY

## 晋商宅院







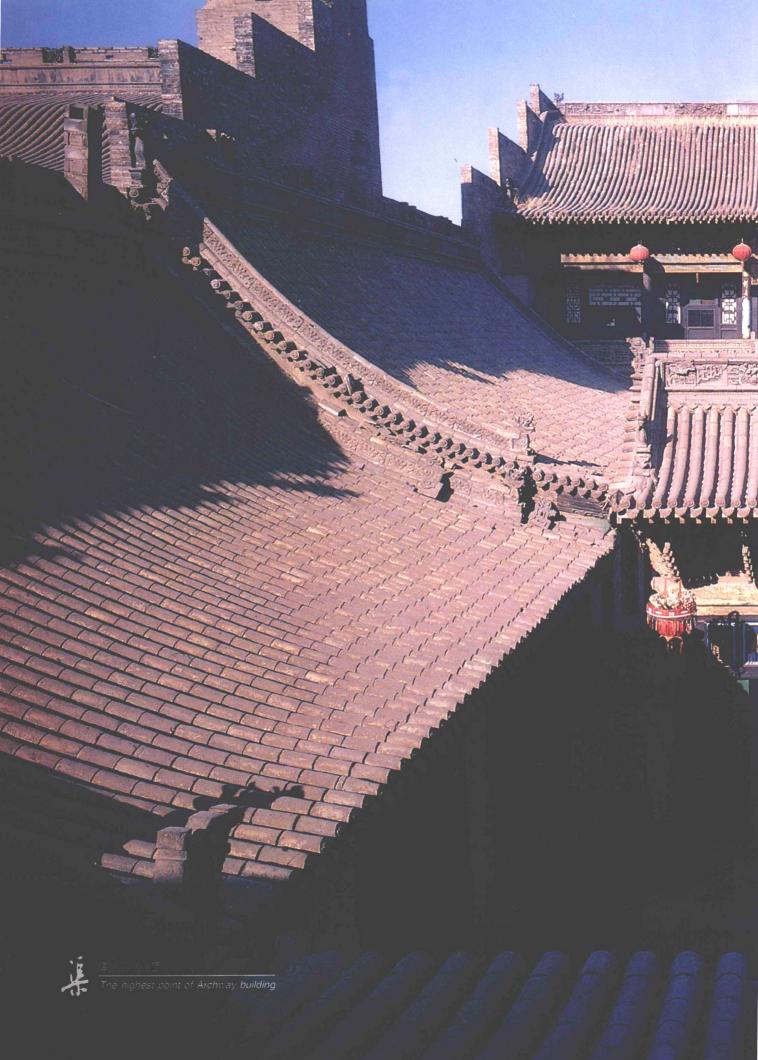




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山西人经商,有着得天独厚的条件。

蜿蜒万里的长城,将中国古代两种不同类型的文明截然分开。长城以北,天苍苍,野茫茫,风吹草低,牛羊成群,是北方游牧民族休养生息的广袤舞台。长城以南,阡陌纵横,良田沃野,桑麻遍地,男耕女织,是中原农耕文明诞生和繁荣的温馨摇篮。

长城南北的两类文明,具有强烈的互补性质。北方游牧民族,逐水草而居,以畜牧业为主,其衣服、粮食、日用品等主要依靠中原农耕文明提供。长城以南的农耕民族,生产和生活中使用的耕牛、皮毛,尤其是战争中使用的战马,则主要取之于游牧文明区域。

山西地处万里长城中段脚下,北部与北方游牧民族的主要活动区域蒙古高原紧密相连,南部、东部和西部则与中原主要农耕地区毗连为一体。因此,自古以来,山西便是沟通长城内外物质交流的主要组带和区域。远在先秦之际,山西就出现了不少豪商大贾,与北方游牧民族在山西北部和中部开展了频繁的商贸活动。由秦入汉,山西商人更将贸易场所,北移到了长城边上,即《汉书·匈奴传》所载:"匈奴自单于以下,皆亲汉,往来长城下",进行商贸交流活动。经魏晋南北朝、隋唐而至两宋,随着长城南北民族交往和融合的进一步扩大,山西商人沟通长城内外商业贸易的活动也日益频繁和活跃,尽管这种贸易随着时代的不同而潮涨潮落,但贸易的规模从总体上讲却在不断扩大。

不过, 山西商人沟通长城南北贸易活动的最兴盛时期, 却始于明代。明朝初建, 将主要的边防置于山西北部一带。为给镇守北边的军队筹运军粮, 明政府以换取官方许可的食盐专卖权为条件, 鼓励商人代替政府将数目庞大的军粮等军需物资, 源源不断地贩送至北方边镇军营。此即明初实行的"招商输粮而与之盐"的"开中制"。此制既出, 具有悠久经商传统的山西商人, 凭借优越的地理条件, 捷足先登, 兼粮商与盐商为一体, 拉开了明清晋商在长城内外长达 500 余年之久的大规模商业活动的序幕。

人清之后,由于中俄《恰克图互市界约》签订等原因,晋帮商人在长城以北的活动半径,又横穿戈壁大漠,逐渐扩展到了莫斯科等欧洲地区。其时,北亚、中亚等地纵横数万里的草原驿站,几乎都变成了晋商转送货物的不湿码头;那一队队满载货物的驼队,则是晋商大规模贩运商业物资的不沉之舟。

正因为有了长城南北更大规模的商业贸易,才有了晋帮商人在明清两代引人注目的崛起,才有了晋帮商人白银如流水般的商业利润,才有了晋帮商人组建票号的创举,也才有了晋帮商人在故乡纷纷矗立辉煌的纪念碑——构筑豪门大院的壮举。

本书所介绍的渠家,便是明清之际在沟通长城南北的商业贸易中,逐渐崛起的商业、金融大户;本书所展示的大院,则是渠氏家族用丰厚的经营利润,在故乡构筑起来的一座闻名遐迩的巨型宅院。



People of Shanxi do have their own advantages for doing business.

The long, up & down Great Wall had precisely divided the ancient Chinese civilization into two so different kinds. At the north side of the Wall, a boundless natural grassland in which oxen and sheep in large flocks eating in bushes and grasses under the vast blue sky where the northern Chinese nomadic tribes being born and growed. At the south, it was the cradle of the Chinese agricultural civilization, picture like patterns everywhere, all kind of green crops in fertile farmland, and men working in rice – fields and women knitting at home.

Two civilizations are complimentary to each other. The northern tribes were cultivated by the vast grassland, living mainly on animal husbandry, and their clothes, grains and daily necessities were supplied by the southern farmers which in return were relying on supplies of farm animals, furs and battle steed by the northern herdsman.

Shanxi is located at foot of middle part of the Great Wall. Its northern part closely links with the Mongolian highland — the main area for the northern tribes; and its south, east and west neighboring with the agricultural area of central China. Therefore, since the very ancient time, Shanxi has been the principal region and channel for people of north and south to exchange their goods and products. Back to the early Qin Dynasty, quite a some rich merchants had emerged in Shanxi, doing trading business with the northern tribes along the north and central borders. Afterwards in Han Dynasty, the Shanxi merchants expanded their business scope to the area of Great Wall as recorded in the 《 Han book. File of Mongolian》: " Mongolians after the Shan — Yu period were all doing business well with the Han nationalities along the area of Great Wall". Through the Dynasties of Wei, Jin, South & North, Sui, Tang, up to the Song, the businesses scope of Shanxi merchants became so enlarged with the actively going on contacts between people of two sides of the Great Wall. The business was expanding all the time in general, all though there was up and down in trade volumes sometimes.

Actually, the most prosperous time of Shanxi merchants doing business over the Great Wall began in Ming Dynasty. In early Ming Dynasty, the border defense was mainly at north of Shanxi. In order to ensure the military materials inc. grains to the frontier troops, the Government, as condition, encouraged businessmen to transport and sell continuously the large quantity of needed materials to border areas at north by granting to the businessmen the exclusive licenses of trading eatable salt. This was the government policy then well known as "Businessmen were invited to sell grains to the frontier troops, but holding the salt licenses." The smart and experienced Shanxi merchants were quickly catching the opportunity with geographical advantage and selling both grains and salt. This had been the significant beginning of the 500 year long of the large scale business practice of the Shanxi merchants in and outside of the Great Wall.

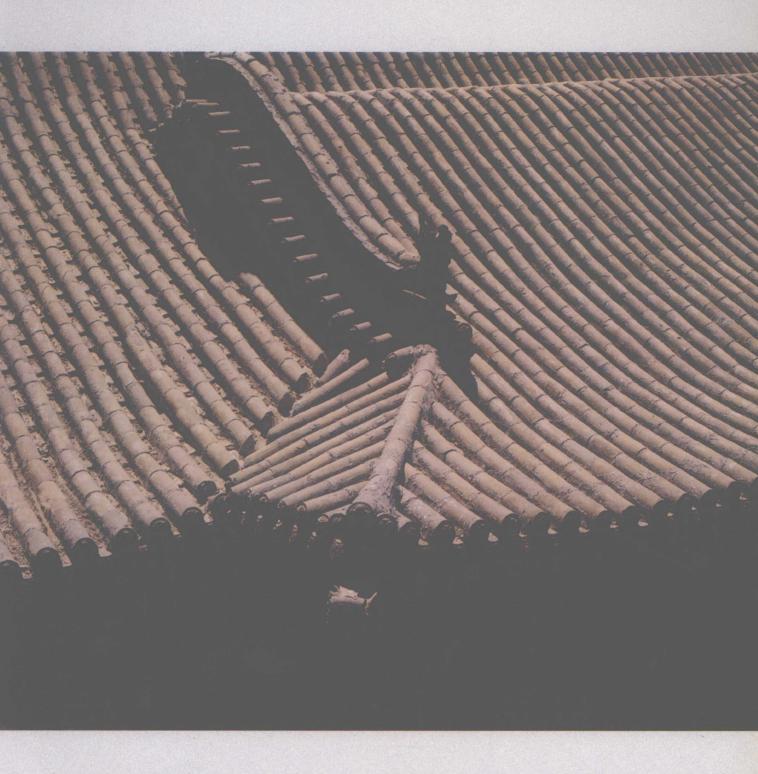
After entering the Qing Dynasty, Shanxi merchants, being encouraged by a Sino – Russia Protocol ( The Border Agreement of ZAKATOV – translated based on pronunciation ), again expanded their business scope up to Moscow and other places of Europe crossing the Gobi Desert. At that time, all the hotels of big and small in the desert and prairie of thousands miles crossing the central Asia and mid – Asia were used as " harbors of land" by the Shanxi merchants. The fully loaded camel teams were the "unsinkable container – ships" for the Shanxi merchants to transport their goods in long distance.

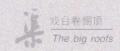
Just because of the large scale of the crossing Great Wall trading, the Shanxi merchants were remarkably growing up in the duration of Ming & Qing Dynasties. Then silvers (business profits) flew like running water into their pockets and the financial houses of the Shanxiness were opened one after another. With the money then the Shanxi merchants built up at their homes the monuments – the magnificent family courtyards.

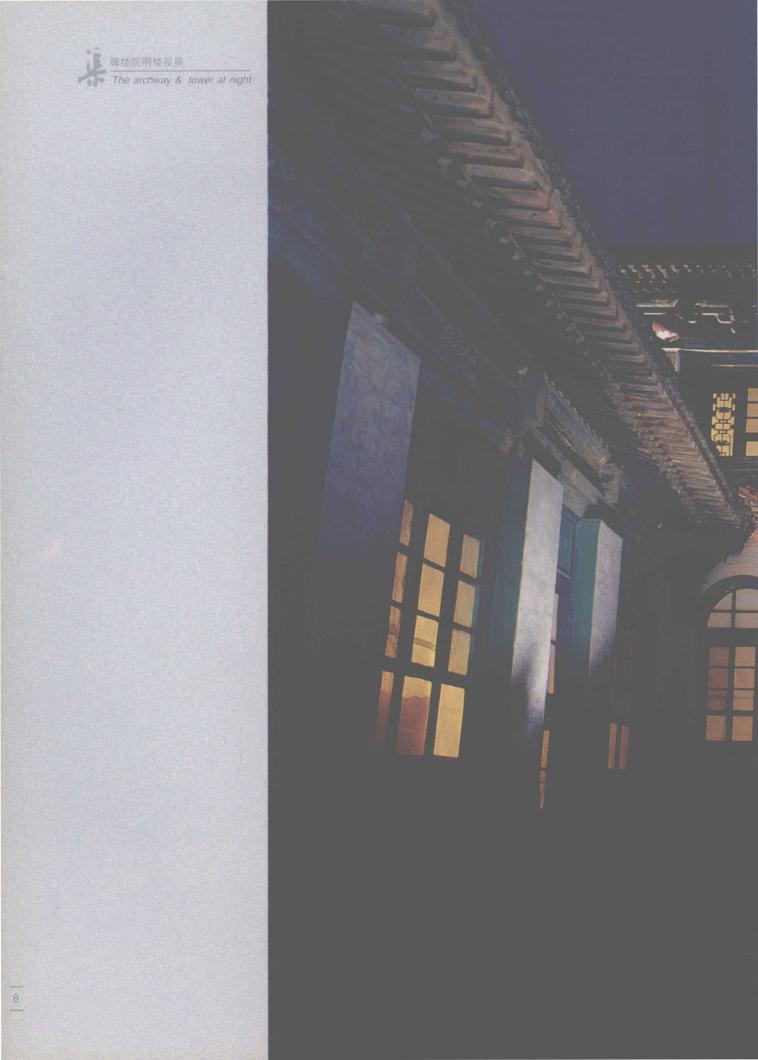
The Qu family being introduced in this book was a successful trader and financial entity rising abruptly during the crossing Great wall commercial activities in the Dynasties of Ming & Qing. And the huge business profitability generated in the family's long – run business had enabled the family built up such a super – sized magnificent residential courtyard as shown in the book in their home – village.



总策划 侯伍杰 /主 编 张成德 范堆相 了副 主 编 宋富盛 刘 巩 张成德 范堆相 侯伍杰 巩 崔元和 赵绍波 李 摄影影 张成德 宋富盛 赵绍波 王耀生 陈永平 王小平 王亚中 撰文 崔元和 翻译 药朝诚 设计 陈永平 责任校对 郭永慷 责任编辑 王亚中









果氏先祖渠济,祖籍山西东南部的上党。元末明初,其子数人,靠走村串户倒贩土特产品,积蓄渐盈。于是,洪武年间,将其家迁至山西中部的祁县定居,并兴办店铺,展开了较具规模的商事活动。若干年过后,随着晋帮商人在长城以北的商业活动逐渐拓展,渠家也将自己的商业活动中心,迁移到了草原集镇包头一带。至渠氏 14 代渠同海之际,渠家在包头一带的商务已颇具规模。其时,渠家已购置田地 10 余顷,经营着粮油、茶叶乃至钱业等生意。

到清乾隆、嘉庆年间, 渠氏 15 代人渠映璜, 又增置"长顺川"和"长源川"两大茶庄, 派专人赴湖南、湖北等地采购茶叶后, 再贩销于中国西北地区。而后, 又将商贸活动区域向北部和西部更遥远的异国他 乡拓展, 在万里之遥的俄国境内创建起了商务庄号。据说, 渠映璜在世之际, 从经营利润中积累起来的 白银, 已达 120 万两之多。

集氏家族从 17 代的"源"字辈起,进入了商贸事业的鼎盛时期,在豪商巨贾云集的晋中地区,一跃而成为"八大富户"之一。"源"字辈中的渠源演,于清同治初年(1862年)创立"三晋源"票号,并与同辈兄弟渠源潮、渠源淦、渠源洛共组"百川通"票号,开始大规模涉足商业金融事务,获利甚丰。在经营票号的同时,渠氏家族仍保持着规模庞大的商业贸易活动,经营范围包括茶叶、盐业、绸缎、药材、当铺等众多项目。其时,渠家的庄号、票号曾遍及国内众多城市、口岸和国外许多地区。规模巨大的商业金融事务和商业贸易活动,使渠氏家族获得了极为丰厚的利润报偿,白银如流水般地从长城内外的众多票号和商庄,源源不断汇回渠氏故乡。《清稗类钞》曾推断,渠家当时的家资在 300 万两至 400 万两白银之间。其实,这远远低估了渠氏家族的经济实力。据说,仅在渠源浈过世后,其后人就在"三晋源"票号的银客内,发现存银 300 万两,又在其住宅客藏中,起出白银百万两以上。渠氏家族当年的豪富,由此可见一斑。

築家后辈从 18 代开始, 顺应历史发展潮流, 开始尝试对中国封建社会后期传统工商业和金融业的改革。其中, 渠源浈之子渠本翘实为翘楚, 堪称山西近代史上尝试创办民族工商业和民族金融业的先驱。清光绪二十九年(1903 年), 渠本翘即斥资 5000 两白银, 与他人合伙接办了山西当局创办的火柴局, 并更其名为"双福火柴公司", 是为山西早期的民族工业之一。清光绪三十年(1904 年), 为反对清政府出卖山西平定等地的煤铁矿权, 渠本翘在借贷的基础上, 斥资白银 150 万两, 从外国公司手中赎回了平定等地的煤铁开采权, 而后又组建起了"保晋矿务有限公司", 渠本翘被推举为该公司首任经理。光绪三十四年(1908 年), 渠本翘又为改革晋商票号、筹办"山西汇业银行"而到处奔走呼吁。由于当时清政府的腐败、外国资本的侵压加深等等原因所致, 渠本翘的这些尝试和努力, 最终都未能成功, 但他顺应时代和社会要求所做的一切, 却赢得了后人的尊敬与怀念。

在半殖民地半封建中国腐败而动荡的社会现实中,在外国资本日益严重的侵压排挤下,渠氏后人惨淡经营的"三晋源"票号,终于在1934年宣告歇业。这标志着渠氏家族从元末明初逐渐发展起来的、长达500余年的商务和金融活动,在中国半殖民地半封建社会日益衰败之中,终于不得不降下了满载昔日荣光的帷幕。

渠家大院,是渠氏家族明清之际长达 500 余年商业、金融活动的一座纪念碑。虽然饱经岁月的侵蚀与战乱的洗礼,这座气势雄伟的深宅大院,依然基本完好地矗立在祁县古城东大街的路北,庄严肃穆地向后人诉说着自己昔日的辉煌。

渠家大院始建于清乾隆年间,以后又经多次增修扩建,现存主要建筑,多为清同治、光绪年间所建。该大院原来是一座占地面积非常阔大,院落及房屋十分众多的庞大民居建筑群落。本书所介绍的所谓"渠家大院",实际上仅是近年来经过清理并向游人开放的一部分。不过,这一部分不仅在建筑布局上





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相对独立,而且建筑规模也相当可观。经测量,仅此部分占地面积仍有5300平方米之广,建筑面积仍达 3 200 平方米之多, 共由 8 座大套院落, 19 座中套院落计 240 间房屋组成, 仍然是一座结构谨严, 气势恢 宏,建造考究,工艺精湛的晋商民居大院。

该部分大院的主要建筑外围,呈相对独立的封闭型结构,四周均有城堡式围墙守护。该墙厚实凝 重,达10余米之高。从外部看来,整个大院显得宏伟庄重,高峻威严,气象森然。

进入该部分大院的正门,为一台阶式门洞,门洞阔大而幽深。门洞顶上,建有敦实威武的眺楼一座, 可居高临下地观察院内外动静。进入正门, 是一座民居建筑中极为罕见的五进式穿堂院落, 幽静深邃, 使人情不自禁地想起"庭院深深深几许"的古人词句。五进穿堂院的第一个院落,为石雕栏杆院。该院的 主要特色,在于工艺精湛的青石雕栏,栏上所雕人物故事、草木花卉,或维妙维肖,或呼之欲出。虽然,这 些雕栏现仅存一少部分, 但仍能使人感受到当年"雕栏玉砌"的气派。该穿堂院第二进至第三进院过厅 顶上,建有三间阁楼一座,极具端庄俊秀之气象。五进穿堂院的第四、五道门,门顶部分别建为方型和半 圆形,并有雕绘影壁镶嵌其旁,使庭院深深幽邃中,别具变化、典雅之情趣。穿堂院第五进深处,是一座 藏经楼,楼上砖雕围栏,彩绘飞檐,显得极其秀逸玲珑。

五进穿堂院的西侧,是该大院的主要建筑群落。该群落中部有一条由房舍间断的东西向甬道,将其 分为南北两大建筑群体。北部建筑群体从东向西的第一座院落,为该大院的主院。该主院中部,建有一 座高达 10 余米的"十一彩"木制牌楼,将该院一分为二。该牌楼飞檐叠嶂,雕斗簇峰,彩绘金缕,显得十 分富丽堂皇。主院深处建有20米高的五间歇山顶式明楼,雕栏画栋,危然高耸,属祁县古城旧时的最高 建筑。北部建筑群第二座和第三座院落亦为阔大高峻的四合院。院落深处,分别建有一线排开的统楼两 座,与富丽秀逸的主院明楼相比,又显示出一种铅华脱尽之后的质朴与庄重。

甬道南部的建筑群体,与主院相对的,是戏台院。该院南部建有宽敞阔大的戏台一座,院的两侧为 开敞式观戏大厅。民居建筑中筑有戏台及看厅,极为罕见,渠家当年的富贵,由此亦见一斑。该建筑群体 的西端,俗称南院,也是一座建筑考究的会客院。院内客厅,雕饰而不失舒展,繁复中见出凝练。南院与 戏台院中间, 为书房院, 该院布局严谨, 质朴自然, 是渠家当年家塾所在。

渠家大院建筑,不仅在整体上境界变化而有机呼应,情趣别具又相互照应,同时在局部建造设计 上,也极富变化,各具特色。如屋顶,便分别建为悬山顶、歇山顶、硬山顶、卷棚顶等多种形式。又如,该大 院院与院之间,均有牌楼相隔,但其雕刻风格、样式,又各具特色,各有意境,绝不雷同。至于大院内几乎 无处不有的砖雕、木刻, 更是艺术精湛而手法多样, 巧夺天工而风格迥异, 栩栩如生而内容繁复, 堪称中 国古近代砖木雕刻艺术之宝库。

渠家大院不仅是渠氏家族昔日辉煌的象征,而且是当时社会建筑、工艺乃至政治、经济、文化、艺术 的凝结和反映。作为明清之际的一座典型民居建筑、渠家大院已被辟为山西省晋商文化博物馆。

"山围故国周遭在,潮打空城寂寞回。淮水东边旧时月,夜深还过女墙来。"在历史江河无情的冲刷 下,明清晋商所创建的显赫商业王朝,如同昔日的帝都王国,都已逝而不返,只留下遗踪供人凭吊。然 而,渠家大院留予后人的又远远不只这些。透过这座满载昔日辉煌的深宅大院,我们不仅应当认识到已 经逝去的那段历史、那些文化、当时的社会和后来的变迁,更应当从历史的必然中体味到如何去追寻属 于我们自己的明天。

