

Find The Old Beijing

尋找

老北京城



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

寻找老北京城 / 杨茵, 旅舜主编. — 北京: 中国民族摄影艺术出版社, 2005.5
ISBN 7-80069-667-7

I. 寻… II. 杨… III. 城市史 — 北京市 — 画册
IV. K291-64

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 028300 号

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General Designer: Wu Jianqun
Art Designer and Computer Layout: Liu Bin
Photo Effect Processing: Beijing Creation Advertising Co.

《寻找老北京城》
中国民族摄影艺术出版社 出版
开本: 787 × 1092mm 1/12
印张: 14 印数: 1-5000
版次: 2005 年 7 月第一版第一次印刷
书号: ISBN 7-80069-667-7 / J.410
010-67018834

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Find The Old Beijing
Published by China Nationality Art Photograph Publishing House
Format: 787mm × 1092mm 1/12
Printed Sheet: 14 Impression: 5000
Printed Order: First Impressions & First Edition in July, 2005
ISBN 7-80069-667-7 / J.410
86-10-67018834

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前言

Foreword

对于新、老北京城的时间分界，现在还难以做定论，因为北京城的改造还在进行中。如果以北京城的城墙、城楼拆除算起，那么应该是20世纪五六十年代；如果从街道、胡同、四合院的大规模改造和消失算，应该是20世纪80年代以后到现在。总之，在不到50年的时间里，这座从元大都历经明清两代近800年的古都北京城，发生了根本性的变化，不久的将来，故宫、北海、天坛等古迹及若干片被法定保护的胡同、四合院，会被淹没在高楼大厦的汪洋大海中，成为现代化的、开放的、国际化的大都市中的点缀。

然而，老北京城作为一个文化的概念，却不是推土机能使其消失的，对于从20世纪五六十年代前就已在北京生活的北京人，这座城市就是他们的故乡，他们目睹了、经历了，甚至也参与了城墙、胡同、四合院的拆除和改造，他们的生活方式、价值观念、理想追求，都与北京城的变化同步，他们应该还保留着对老北京城的感情和回忆。从无忧无虑的童年、充满美好理想的少年，到激情燃烧的青年、肩负沉重压力的中年，他们的生活道路上的某个起点、某个阶段、某个转折，都一定和这座城市的某条街道、某条胡同、某个四合院或大院有着密切的联系，这就是历史，是人文的历史，是构成并创造老北京文化的历史。

今天，面对正在迅速改造的老北京城，面对重新修建的永定门城楼、皇城根遗址公园、明清城墙遗址、元大都遗址公园，我们都在思考：有着5000年文明的中华民族的首都，应该是个什么样子？

据说，20世纪50年代梁思成先生曾向政府提出并描绘保存老北京原有的整体文物特征的建议和方案。当时给他的回答是“夕阳无限好，只是近黄昏”。时间如梭，经过半个世纪的“山乡巨变”，对老北京城真是“回忆总在黄昏后”。

本书提供的图片和文字，旨在引起老北京人的共鸣，一起轻轻抚摸那已被尘封的温柔的记忆，希望读者能通过本书，认同老北京城作为历史文化名城的价值，探讨科学的发展观，共同构建美好的新北京。

It's hard to define the divide between the Old Beijing and New Beijing, for the city is still under reconstruction. To delimit by the demolition of Beijing's city walls and gate towers, the dividing line should be 1950s to 1960s; while by the large-scale reconstruction and disappearance of the ancient streets, hutongs and quadrangles, it should be 1980s. In a word, during no more than 50 years, the 800-year-nearly ancient capital of Beijing starting from the Yuan Dynasty has made radical changes, and in the near future, the Palace Museum, Beihai Park, Temple of Heaven, as well as those protected hutongs and quadrangles, would be submerged in the sea of high buildings and become the decoration of the modernized, opened and international metropolis.

Yet, as a cultural concept, the Old Beijing could never be destroyed by the soil shifters. To those who have lived in Beijing before 1950s, the city is their hometown. It is them who witnessed, experienced and participated in the large-scaled reconstruction and demolition of the city walls, hutongs and quadrangles. They keep changing their lifestyle, concept of value, ideal and pursuit along with the changes of the city. Perhaps, those people have strong feelings and retain the memories of the old Beijing, because they spent their carefree childhoods, youth times full of hopes, passionate adolescences as well as heavy-burdened middle ages there, and a certain period, a certain turn or a certain starting point during their growth stages must be indissolubly linked with a certain hutong, a certain quadrangle or a certain scenic spot in old Beijing. That's the history of humanity and the history forming and creating old Beijing's culture.

Today, when facing the astonishing speed of Beijing's renovations, the new built Yongdingmen Gate Tower, the Huangchenggen Relics Park, the ruins of the Ming and Qing city wall and the Relics Park of Dadu (Great Capital) of the Yuan Dynasty, we are all thinking what the capital of the Chinese nation having 5,000-year civilization history looks like.

It was said that, in 1950s, Mr. Liang Sicheng suggested protecting the original and integrated cultural relics' characteristics of old Beijing to the government and offered the plan, while the answer to him was "The setting sun is unrivalled in its splendor, but is close upon gloaming". Time flies. After half of a century, we have to recall the old Beijing after gloaming.

Our aims to compile this album are to evoke older generation of Beijingers' sympathies and bring back them gentle but sealed memories. We hope the readers could know the value of old Beijing as a world-renowned city of historical and cultural magnificence, approach more scientific outlook on development, and build up a fine and new Beijing.



看着右边的地图中重叠的几个北京城，会有一种不真实的恍惚感。如果用今天的高科技手段，在电脑上做成三维的北京城，再把这几个北京城叠加起来，看着它们之间的结合点，该是多么有趣！其实，如果耐心地在地图上找一找，驱车到实地去看一看，从历代的文献考据中查一查，应该说今天的北京城里城外，仍保留着不少有形、无形的老北京的历史痕迹。辽代陪都北京现留存的莫过于天宁寺塔最为有名。而今天宣武区的会城门、丽泽桥应是金中都的旧名。至于元大都的遗址就更多了，从西四的砖塔胡同、刘兰塑胡同到阜内的白塔寺，以及新建成的北京最长的带状公园——元大都遗址公园，都可以寻找到昔日北京的影子。明、清北京城，那就更别说了，因为老北京城的基本格局从明、清以来压根就没大变。

历史上的北京城，三千多年的建城史、八百多年的建都史，真是风雨春秋、兴衰变迁，给人以沉重的沧桑感。你可能会想到——你今天居住的楼房所在地，或许曾是昔日北京繁华的街市；你上座驱车经过的街道上，曾经跑过蒙古的铁骑、明朝令人生畏的锦衣卫和清代横行的八旗子弟；你与恋

人相拥散步的护城河边，或许正是当年于谦大破瓦剌军的战场，也或许见证过闯王进军的金戈铁马……

历史带给我们的不仅仅是追忆，更多的应该是思考。再过200年，今天的我们，今天的北京城，也会成为真正的历史。那么，我们该为后人的历史做点什么呢？在右边这张地图上，我们该如何绘制新北京的位置？

北京，作为都城一般从辽金算起，距今已有800多年。但作为城市，则大概始于公元前1045年，周武王灭了商纣，封召公于燕。近年在房山区琉璃河一带发掘出一座古城址，颇具规模，同时出土的铜器铭文证明，这里就是周初燕国的都城，这是北京史上已知最早的城邑。周武王封召公于燕的同时，还封了帝尧之后于蓟，而这个蓟城就在今北京宣武区广安门一带。随着燕国的强大，蓟被吞并，到了春秋中期，燕国已把蓟当成了都城。

秦始皇统一中国后，蓟城从燕国都降为广阳郡，此后的一千多年中，汉唐称幽州，直到公元938年，后晋高祖石敬瑭将燕云十六州献给契丹人，契丹在此建辽国，将幽州建为陪都，改称南京或燕京。

A Spiritual Tour of the 800-Year Capital: Beijing in History

The Beijing maps of different periods on your right hand give us a feeling of untruthfulness because they have so many things in common. If we turn them into three-dimensional models, more interesting thing would happen. As a matter of fact, if we read the map patiently, conduct on-the-spot investigation, or look up from the historical documents, we will find that the modern Beijing has many vestiges of history, tangible or intangible. The most famous building of the Liao Dynasty is the pagoda in the Tianningsi; while Huichengmen (Gate of Assembling Successes) and Lizeqiao are the place names date back to the Jin Dynasty; much more Yuan structures are well preserved in Beijing now including the Zhuanta Hutong, Liulansu Hutong, Baitasi and new-completed banding park: the Relics Park of Dadu of the Yuan Dynasty; let alone those of the Ming and Qing, because the basic layout at that time has never been radically changed at all.

Beijing, as a city having a history of more than 3,000 years and having functioned as capital for more than 800 years, has experienced many vicissitudes and hardships. Do we think the site of our residence was a busy market in history? Do we think the streets on our way to work were treaded by Mongolian cavalry, guards of Jinyiwei (literally, Brocade Guards) of the Ming Dynasty or the soldiers of Eight-Banner of the Qing Dynasty? Do we think we are standing on the former battlefield when we go for a stroll with lovers...

History should bring us much consideration than memories. After 200 years, we ourselves become the history, so dose the present-day Beijing. In that case, what should we give to our offspring?

Beijing's history as a national capital dates back to 800 years ago during the Liao and Jin dynasties. Yet, its history as a city started from 1045 B.C.. When the King Wu of the Zhou Dynasty defeated the King Zhou of the Shang Dynasty and brought Shang to the end, he enfeoffed Prince Zhao to the region of Yan. King Wu of the Zhou Dynasty also enfeoffed King Yao's descendant to the Jicheng, or City of Ji, which is located around the present Guang'anmen (Gate of Extensive Peace) in Xuanwu District. During the mid-Spring and Autumn Period, Jicheng was seized by the State of Yan and then had served as the capital of the state.

In 221 B.C., Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty and in Chinese history, established a unified centralized state. The Kingdom of Yan ceased to exist and Jicheng became an ordinary prefectural town named Guangyang. Thereafter, it was known as Youzhou until 938, when Shi Jingtang, the emperor of the Later Jin Dynasty, offered 16 prefectures to Khitan, a nomadic tribe in the north-east China. Then, Khitan established the Liao Dynasty, made the original Jicheng the secondary capital of the dynasty and renamed it Nanjing (Southern Capital, also known as Yanjing).

辽、金时代的北京城

Beijing City in Liao and Jin Dynasties

辽南京的原址在今天北京城的西南方,其东部与北京外城的西部重合。公元1122年,金军攻占辽南京。公元1153年,金海陵王完颜亮迁都燕京,改称中都。金中都就是在辽南京的基础上扩建而成。当时的金中都修建得十分堂皇,有皇城、皇家园囿。全城分六十二坊、商业区等。可惜不到100年,就被攻入中都的蒙古铁骑付之一炬,成了一片废墟。

辽南京及金中都留存到今天北京市内的遗物不多,最有名的是广安门外天宁寺塔。这是辽代所建。现在的中山公园,是辽金时代燕京城东北的兴国寺,当然寺早已不在,但寺内古柏尚有一些存活至今,成为中山公园一大特色。

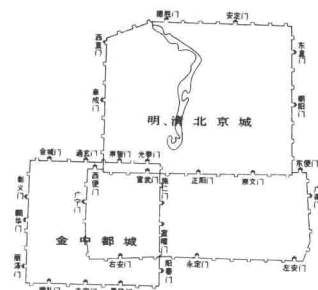
北海、团城一带在金代是中都的东北郊,为皇帝的离宫大宁宫,也许是因离主战场稍远而得以保存。今团城上有棵栝子松,据说是金代遗物。

The Nanjing of the Liao Dynasty is located southwest of today's Beijing City. In 1122, the Liao Dynasty was succeeded by the Jin Dynasty, which was established by Jerchen, another tribe in the northeast. King Hailing, the Jin ruler, moved the capital to Nanjing in 1153. Then Nanjing was made the capital of the Jin with the new name Zhongdu (Middle Capital). The beautiful and imposing capital was constructed on basis of Nanjing, including royal palaces and gardens, commercial zones, as well as fangs (residential areas). Unfortunately, the city was burnt to the ground when Mongolian cavalries captured it.

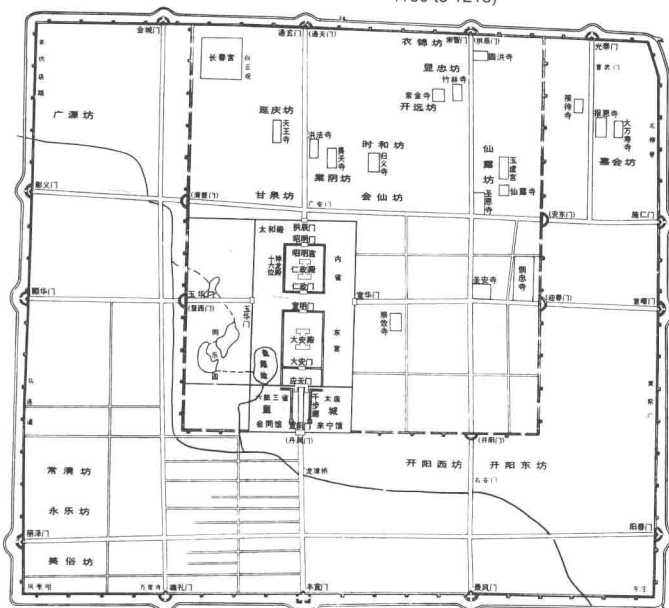
As time went on, the capital of the Liao and Jin had disappeared already along with the history and changes of the city. But today some historical remains of the two dynasties still can be found in Beijing. The most famous is the pagoda

in the Tianningsi (Temple of Heavenly Peace) located on Guang'anmenwai Street in Xuanwu District, which was erected in the Liao Dynasty. Today's Zhongshan Park was built on the former site of Xingguosi (Temple of National Prosperity) of the Liao Dynasty. Although no traces of the old buildings remain, the ancient cypresses planted inside the temple serve as a reminder of those days.

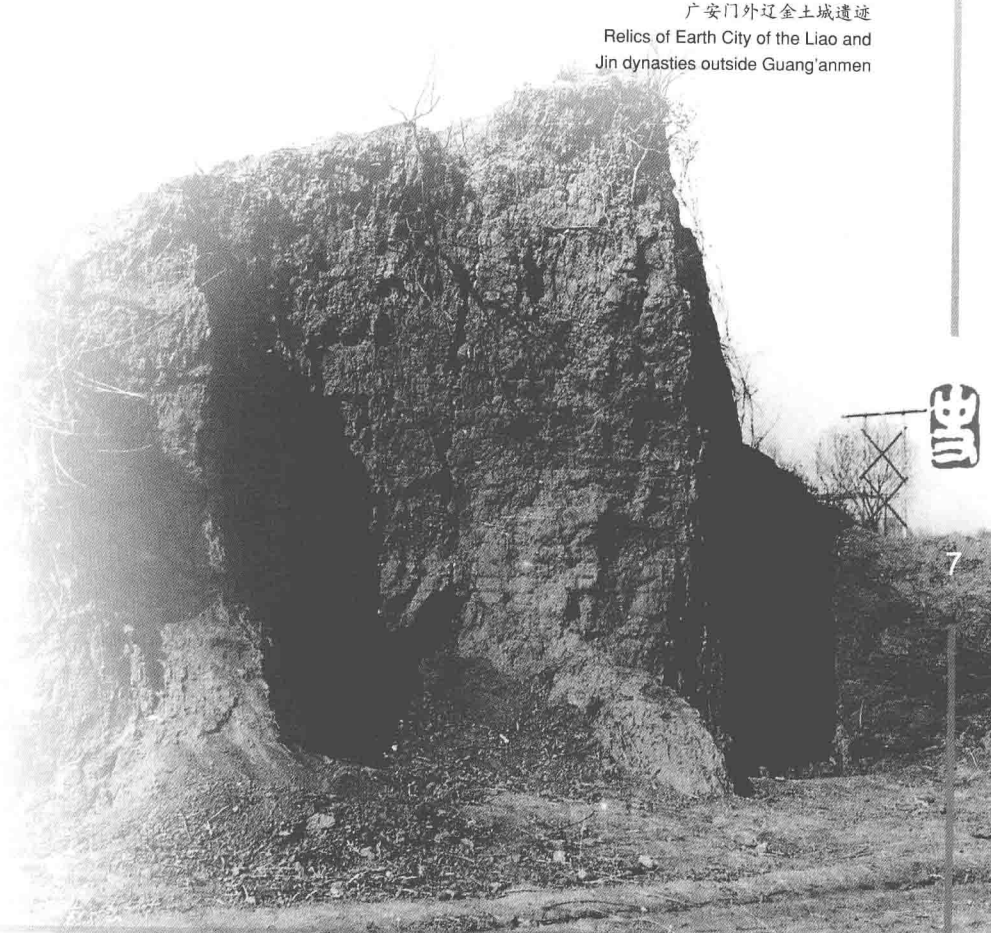
The area around Beihai (North Lake) Park and Tuancheng (Circular City) was located in the northeast suburbs of the Zhongdu of the Jin Dynasty. The Daninggong (Palace of Great Peace) there, one of imperial abodes outside the capital of the rulers, was preserved well, perhaps because it was a litter far away from the battlefield. There was still an ancient pine tree on the Tuancheng said to be planted in the Jin Dynasty.



金中都(大定、贞祐年间,公元1160~1215年)示意图
Sketch map of Zhongdu of the Jin Dynasty (during the reign periods of Dading and Zhenyou, i.e. from 1160 to 1215)



广安门外辽金土城遗迹
Relics of Earth City of the Liao and Jin dynasties outside Guang'anmen



元大都

Dadu of the Yuan Dynasty

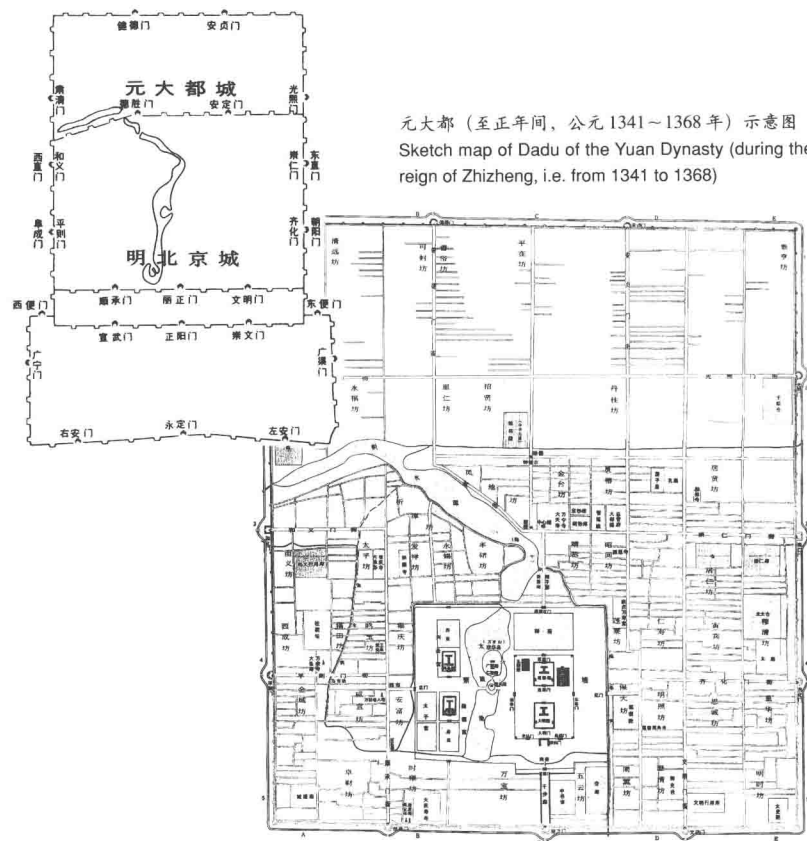
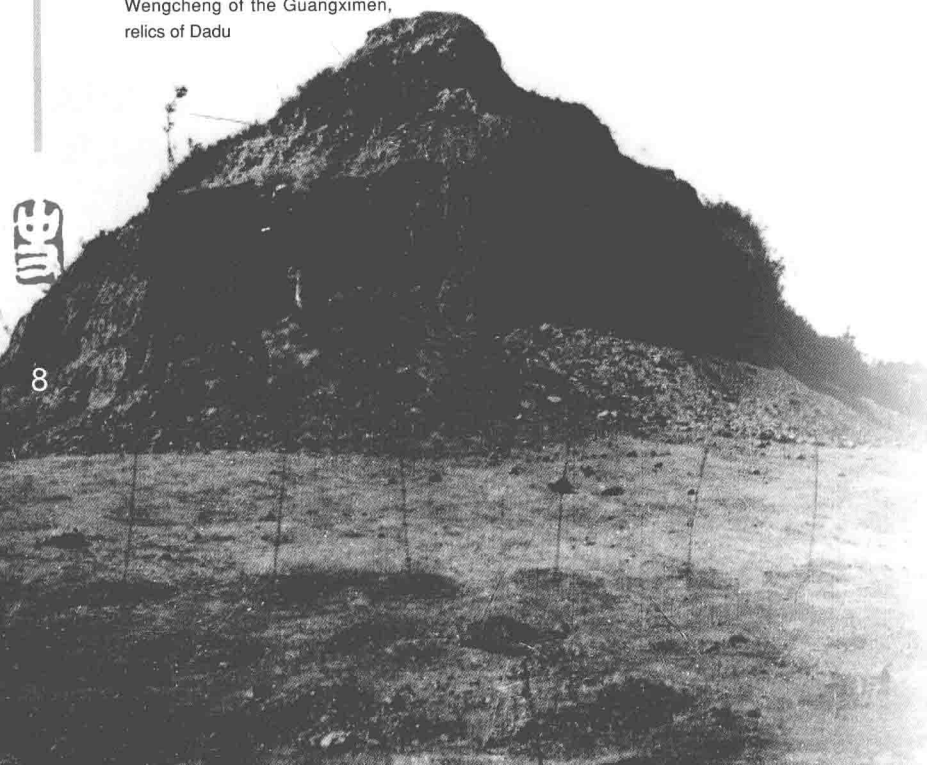
元大都始建于1267年，到1283年基本完成。为正方形，面积50平方千米。大都城的东、西城墙与明清北京城墙的位置相同，只是北端向北延伸5里。在元大都遗址公园一线，至今尚有土城遗址。南城墙在今北京长安街一线。南城墙上开三门，居中的一门为丽正门；北面城墙上开安贞、健德二门，这两名称今天仍被借用。

元大都官城比现紫禁城稍靠北，位于太液池东岸，以琼华岛为中心。元大都城内街道笔直，分干道、小街和胡同，设计规整。而元朝大科学家郭守敬又沟通南北运河，使大批运粮船从南方直驶入积水潭。元大都作为地跨欧亚大陆的庞大帝国的首都，成为当时全国政治、商业中心，也是著名的国际商业都会。

现今北京西城的白塔寺，建于元世祖至元八年（1271年）。此外，建国门南的观象台，原本是郭守敬创建的大都城天文台。

The construction of Dadu (Great Capital) of the Yuan Dynasty started in 1267, and it was not completed until 1283. The square city covered an area of 50 square kilometers. The eastern and western city walls were rebuilt during the later Ming and Qing, but the ruler of the successive dynasties kept their original locations. However, the northern section was moved 5 *li* (*li* being a Chinese measure of distance roughly equal to 500 meters) northward. The southern section of the city wall was located roughly along today's Chang'an (Eternal Peace) Boulevard and has three entrances into the city, the central one being called Lizhengmen (Gate of Beauty and Righteousness).

大都城遗址——光熙门瓮城
Wengcheng of the Guangximen,
relics of Dadu



元大都（至正年间，公元1341—1368年）示意图
Sketch map of Dadu of the Yuan Dynasty (during the reign of Zhizheng, i.e. from 1341 to 1368)

The northern section of the city wall had two gates, Anzhenmen (Gate of Peace and Allegiance) and Jiandemen (Gate of Health and Virtue), both names are used even now.

Slightly to the north of the Forbidden City is the Palace City of the Yuan Dynasty. Centered by the Qionghuadao (Jade-Flowery Islet), it was located at the eastern bank of Taiyechi (Celestial Pool). Orderly laid out, the capital had straight avenues intersecting each other, as well as many streets and hutongs. Because of the limited water supply in Dadu, Kublai commissioned the famous hydraulic expert Guo Shoujing to solve this problem. Guo planned and designed the water-transferring project from the Yuquan (Jade Spring) Hill to the Grand Canal, and restarted the project for harnessing water for navigation on the Tonghui River. These projects not only solved the problem of material transportation and water for living use for the capital, but also created a new stage of the economic and cultural exchanges between the south and the north, because the newly-renovated canal facilitated the grain ships and cargo ships to arrive at the Jishuitan (Water-Gathered Pool) Lake directly. The Dadu, capital of the great empire Yuan, was the nation's political and commercial center, as well as a famous commercial metropolis in the world at the time.

Today we still can see some Yuan construction-buildings in Beijing. For instance, the Baitasi (White Dagoba Temple) built in 1271, the 8th year of Yuan Emperor Zhiyuan's reign and the Beijing Ancient Observatory initially built by Guo Shoujing.

明、清两朝的北京城

Beijing City in Ming and Qing Dynasties

从公元1369年起,明朝大将徐达主持重建北京新城。其最大的改动是废弃大都的北城墙,向南移了5里,并同时减去了东、西城墙上靠北的两座城门。在新建的北城墙上开了德胜门和安定门。另外,将南城墙从长安街向南移了500多米,就是今天的前三门一线。过了100多年,又在南面修筑了外城。原本设想修建一个“回”字形外城,将内城完全围在里面,但由于财力不够,改建成了“凸”字形的帽子城。

在修建紫禁城之前,明成祖下令拆除了元朝皇宫,重建的紫禁城整体南移了四五百米。

明、清两朝北京城的格局就此定格,并延续了500多年。直到今天,虽然北京作为城市所包含的地域概念已大大扩展,但在地图上,仍然可以清楚地看到老北京城“凸”字城的位置。

说起老北京城,其实看得见、摸得着、记得住、说得出的地和物、人和事,大多数就是明、清两朝留下的。难得的是在600多年的历史中,老北京城虽经过了多次战火的劫难,但没有根本上地伤筋动骨。到1949年解放前,留下来的老北京城虽然残破不堪,但架子不散。其绵长雄伟的老城墙、金碧辉煌的紫禁城、巧夺天工的天坛、优美秀丽的北海琼岛,以及遍布城内的文物古迹,还有承载着老北京人生活的街道、胡同和四合院,所有这些,都默默地、但又是骄傲地展示着老北京城——这座东方文明古都的深厚历史文化。

After Zhu Yuanzhang overthrew the Yuan Dynasty and established the Ming Dynasty, he dispatched Xu Da, a famous Ming general, to rebuild the Beijing City. First he changed the size of the city wall by moving the Yuan northern city wall much further (5 li) to the south. Then the north gates in the eastern and western city walls were demolished, but two city gates, Deshengmen (Gate of Virtue and Victory) and Andingmen (Gate of Peace and Stability), were added into the northern wall. And what's more, the southern city wall was shifted about 500 meters to the south, along today's Qiansanmen (Front Three Gates) Street. The outer city wall was added after over



明、清北京城示意图
Sketch map of Beijing during Ming and Qing dynasties

100 years, but because of the financial problems only the southern suburbs were enclosed. Thus, Beijing became a “double town” with a square “inner city” inside yet an oblong “outer city” only to the south, like a cap.

When the Ming Emperor Chengzu, or Yongle made Beijing the capital of the dynasty, he had the royal palace of the Yuan emperors’ demolished, and then built a new palace, the Forbidden City, for himself. This new palace complex is located about 400 to 500 meters south to the former one.

The layout of Beijing City took shape, being almost unchanged during the 500 years after that. Up to now, although Beijing has become much larger in territory, and her speed of

development is astonishing which brings about changes day by day, we could see clearly the imprint of the “cap” on the map.

Today what we talk about much of the Beijing’s history are the place names, people and things of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The City of Beijing had kept her basic layout and structure even though she experienced several disastrous wars. The stretching city walls, the magnificent Forbidden City, the wonderful Temple of Heaven, the graceful Beihai Park, and numerous famous historical sites which possess great aesthetic and cultural values, as well as ancient streets, hutongs and quadrangles — all these have formed the essence of Beijing’s history and culture, additionally showcase the uniqueness and the charm of Beijing.



中华民族曾经创造了灿烂辉煌的历史文化，不论是文明古国还是世界奇迹，怎么排位都少不了中国。但同时我们也应该勇敢地承认，被我们自己破坏的文明和文化遗存也不在少数。不管是出于什么原因和理由，毁掉的历史遗存是无法找回的，其给后人乃至人类文明带来的损失是无法估量的。

北京的城池包括城墙、城门，从明代修筑起，保存了近600年。现在，城墙除东便门至崇文门一段断壁残垣外，已荡然无存；城门包括“内九外七”共十六座，仅剩一座孤独的大前门；箭楼仅保留下了前门、德胜门和内城东南角三座；护城河则有一半被盖在了地下。

惟一留在北京人生活中的的是至今没有改变的地名，让我们来念叨一下：前门、崇文门、朝阳门、东直门、安定门、德胜门、西直门、阜成门、宣武门、永定门、广渠门、广安

门、东便门、西便门、左安门、右安门……这些百姓耳熟能详的称谓用不着解释就知其方位。我们可以用一个网络时代的词：“虚拟”昔日的北京城和城门。

如今，北京虽然没有了城墙和城门，但老北京城池建筑的结构作为一种文化，过去影响着、今后仍将继续影响着北京人的生活方式和思维方式。它是一种方正、大气、宏观、正直、宽容的帝都文化的构成部分，这是一种形而上的精神遗产，也是地域文化的依托。

北京的老城门、城墙消失了，或许它们的消失象征着北京更开放、更现代化。但它们的人文价值却越来越被人们追忆、研究和怀念。当它们还存在时，我们会觉得它们破旧、碍事，而当它们不幸被我们毁掉后，却引起了重视和珍惜。但愿北京的老城门、城墙能以自己的兴亡警示后人，激起他们对祖国文物古迹的关怀和保护意识。

To Visit the Vanished City: The City Gates, City Walls and Moat of Old Beijing

The Chinese nation has created splendid and venerated cultures, and no matter by which order — ancient cultural country or world miracle — China ranks among the best. But we should admit bravely at the same time that many civilized and cultural remains were destroyed with our own hands. Whatever the reasons are, the lost historical relics could not be found back for ever, which is an irreparable loss to the futurity and even human civilization.

The city wall and moat of old Beijing have a history of nearly 600 years, dating back to the Ming Dynasty. With the exception of the section from Dongbianmen (Eastern Informal Gate) to Chongwenmen (Gate of Exalted Literature), nearly all city walls disappeared. Among the 16 former city gates, nine for the Inner City while seven for the Outer, only Qianmen (Front Gate) has managed to survive the vicissitudes of physical and social change that have transformed most of the capital. Furthermore, there are merely three embrasured watchtowers: Qianmen, Deshengmen and south-eastern corner of the Inner City, are preserved; and half of the moat was transformed into an underground river.

All that remain are names to mark the spots, such as

Qianmen, Chongwenmen, Chaoyangmen, Dongzhimen, Andingmen, Deshengmen, Xizhimen, Fuchengmen, Xuanwumen, Yongdingmen, Guangqumen, Guang'anmen, Dongbianmen, Xibianmen, Zuoanmen and Youanmen. Although the former buildings themselves are gone, we could easily find our bearings just by these familiar names.

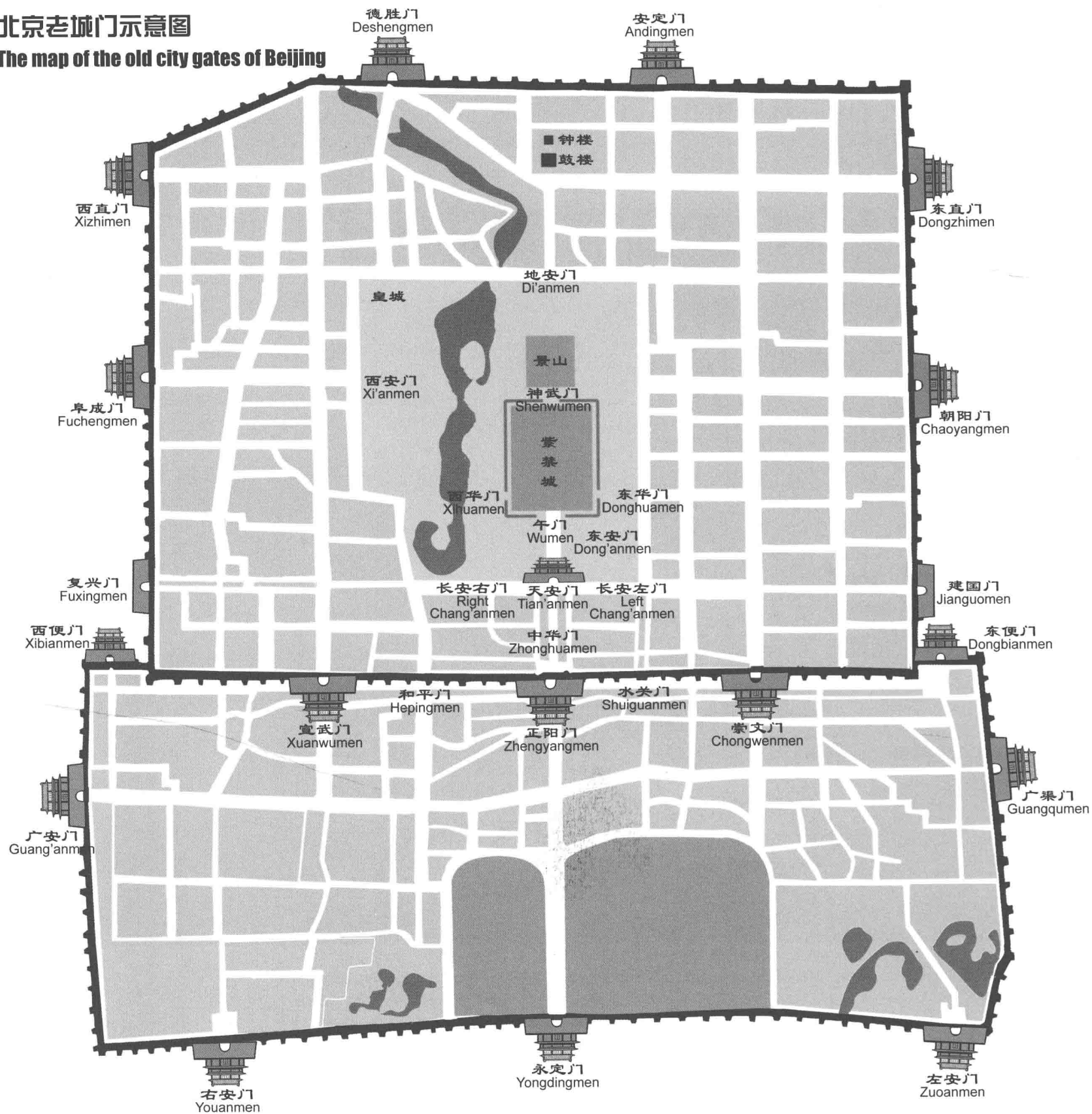
Despite Beijing lost the city walls and gates, its basic layout, as a kind of culture, has been influencing the way of life and mode of thinking of Beijingers, just as the past also influences them. It is a component part of Beijing's magnificent, upright and tolerant culture as an imperial capital, a mental heritage, as well as the backing for the local culture.

Maybe the disappearance of the city walls and gates symbolizes Beijing's much extent of opening and modernization, but their humanities values become increasingly missing by people. When they were there, perhaps we thought they were old, shabby and in the way; however, when they were lost or damaged, we begin to pay much attention to them. We hope that the rise and fall of them could warn us and the later generations, and arouse our enthusiasm for the caring and protecting the cultural relics.



北京老城门示意图

The map of the old city gates of Beijing



前门 Qianmen

北京的城门中名气最大的当数前门。这得归功于“大前门”牌香烟。20世纪五六十年代过来的老人，都会记得那印着前门箭楼的香烟包装盒，其实箭楼只是前门的一部分，真正的大前门，应该是正阳门。过去北京的城门包括城门，箭楼，以及联接二者的瓮城，瓮城的两侧有闸楼及卷门。

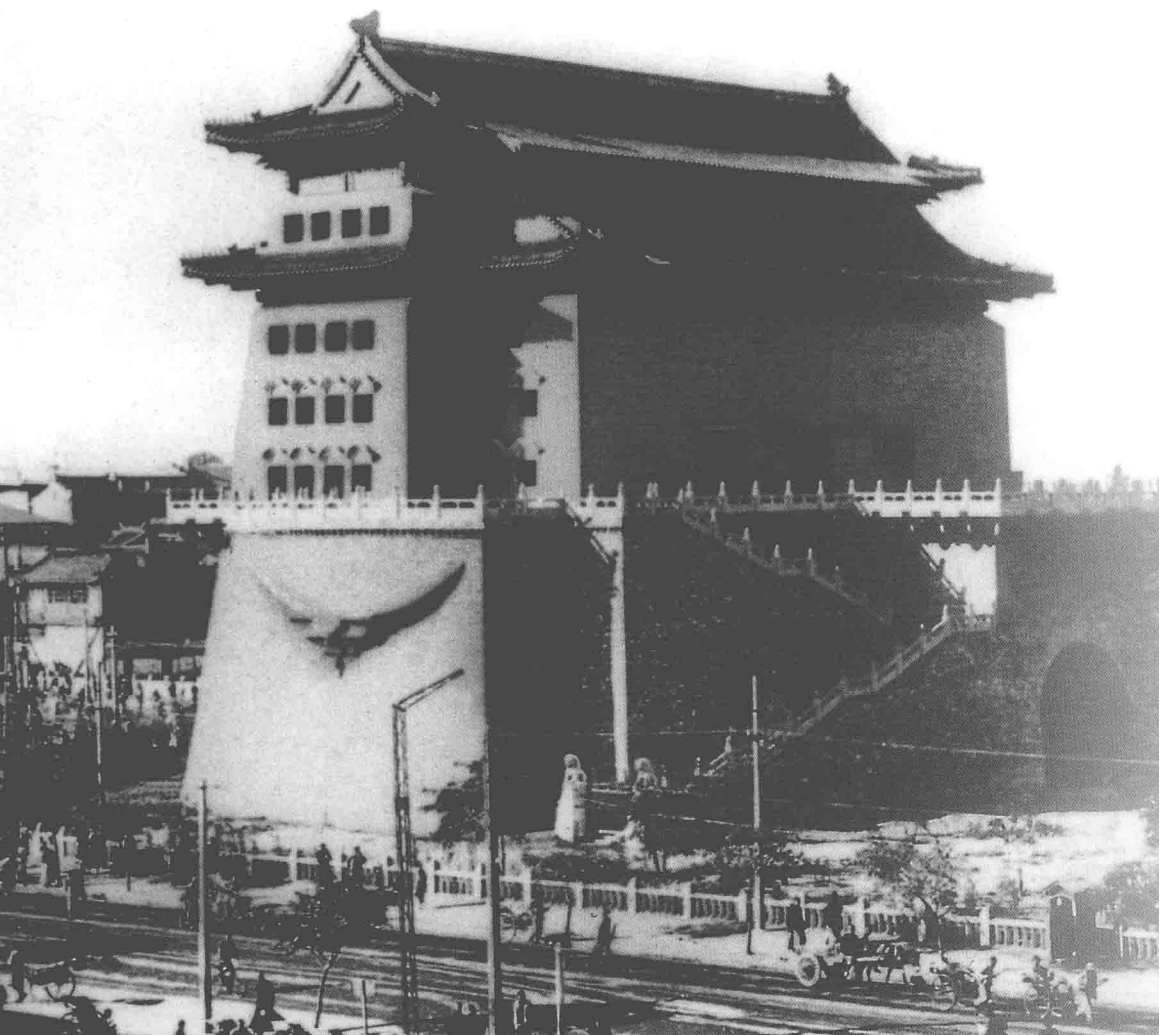
前门自明初修建后，箭楼于明万历三十八年（1610年）、清乾隆四十五年（1780年）和道光二十九年（1849年）三次失火并重修。清光绪二十六年（1900年）又因义和团及八国联军的炮火，使正阳门城楼和箭楼被毁，于1903年重建。1915年拆除了瓮城及东西闸楼。

正阳门过去是国都的正门。平时总是关闭着，除了皇帝，任何人也不准从箭楼下的正门出入，只能走东西两边的旁门。清代皇帝南巡出归，或到天坛、先农坛举行各种祭礼，则经过正阳门御道出入，因此，前门的功能主要是政治上的，在老北京人的心目中，前门是北京的象征、代名词。



The most famous city-gate of Beijing is Qianmen (Front Gate), which probably owned to the Daqianmen (Great Front Gate)-brand cigarette. The older generation of Beijingers would remember clearly the cigarette case with the print of embrasured watchtower of Qianmen. As a matter of fact, the real Daqianmen refers to Zhengyangmen (South-Facing Gate), the embrasured watchtower only being a part of Qianmen. Generally speaking, Beijing's city-gate should include the main gate (usually with a gate tower), embrasured watchtower and a wengcheng (urn wall) which is a semi-circular curtain-wall flanked by Zhalous (sluice towers) connect to the main city wall.

The Qianmen was first built during the early of Ming Dynasty, then the embrasured watchtower was rebuilt several times in 1610, 1780 and 1849 because of fire damages. In 1900, the 26th year of Qing Emperor Guangxu's reign, the Eight-Power Allied Forces destroyed the gate tower and embrasured



上图 (Upper picture) :
未改建之前的正阳门北侧，摄于1915年之前
North side of Zhengyangmen before its reconstruction in 1915

下图 (Lower picture) :
1939年的正阳门箭楼
Embrasured watchtower of Zhengyangmen in 1939



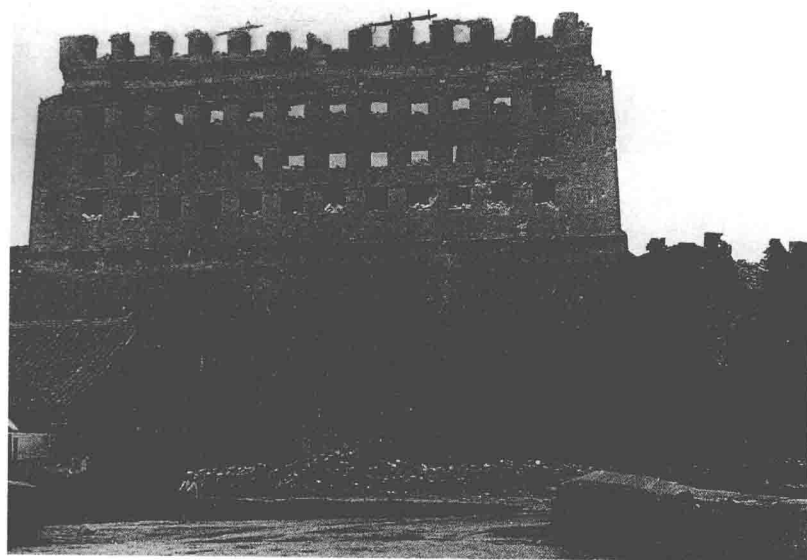


watchtower. The Zhengyangmen then was rebuilt in 1903, but the wengcheng and its flanking Zhalous were demolished in 1915.

The Zhengyangmen was the main entrance to the capital in the past. The central gate was used exclusively by the emperor. During the Qing Dynasty, when the emperor made imperial inspection tours or went to the Temple of Heaven and Xian-nongtan (Altar of Creator of Agriculture) for worshipping ceremonies, he would go out through this gate. Just because of its political function, the older generation of Beijingers took it as the symbol of Beijing.

右图 (Right picture) :
正阳门东闸楼
Eastern Zhajalous of Zhengyangmen





上图 (Upper picture) :

正阳门城楼南面全景，摄于1916年改建之后。图中城墙东、西各开两个门洞，为城门改造工程之一。城楼下分别建有关帝庙和观音庙。关帝庙内供奉的关帝塑像原为明大内之物。庙内有三宝：一为大刀，有三口，分别重400斤、120斤和80斤；二为关帝画像，传为吴道子手笔；三为白玉石马。后两件于清末民初丢失。“文革”期间，关帝庙与观音庙一同拆除。

A panoramic view of south side of Zhengyangmen. The photo should be taken in 1916 after its renovation. At the time, two doorway were opened in each of east and west sides of the gate. Near the gate tower were Guandimiao (Temple of Lord Guan) and Guanyinmiao (Avalokitesvara's Temple). The statue of Lord Guan in Guandimiao was the Ming remains. The temple once housed three treasures: three broadswords weighting 400 *jīn* (*jīn* being a Chinese measure of weight roughly equal to 0.5 kilogram), 120 *jīn* and 80 *jīn* respectively; painting of Lord Guan said to be works of Wu Daozi, the greatest Chinese painter of the Tang Dynasty; and a white jade horse. The latter two had been lost during the end of Qing Dynasty and early of the Republic of China. The two temples were demolished during the Cultural Revolution.

下图 (Lower picture) :

战火后的正阳门箭楼

Embrasured watchtower of Zhengyangmen after wars

