

Wang Shuofeng

MARCO POLO

IN 马可·波罗的中国传奇

CHINA

王硕丰 编著

ROADS TO THE WORLD



中国传播出版社

China Intercontinental Press

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

马可·波罗的中国传奇：汉英对照/王硕丰编著；（新加坡）李燕萍（Andrea Lee）译.—北京：五洲传播出版社，2010.1

ISBN 978-7-5085-1714-8

I. ①马… II. ①王… ②李… III. ①马可·波罗（1245~1324）—生平事迹—汉、英 ②文化交流—文化史—汉、英 IV. ①K835.465.89

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字（2009）第199692号

中外文化交流故事丛书（Roads to the World）

顾问：赵启正 沈锡麟 潘 岳

周黎明（美） 李 莎（加） 威廉·林赛（英）

主 编：荆孝敏 邓锦辉

编 著 者：王硕丰

翻 译：Andrea Lee（新加坡）

责任编辑：苏 谦

设计指导：田 林

封面绘画：李 骐

设计制作：北京尚捷时迅文化艺术有限公司

图 片：CFP Fotoe

马可·波罗的中国传奇

Marco Polo in China

出版发行 五洲传播出版社（北京市海淀区北小马厂6号 邮编：100038）

电 话 8610-58891281（发行部）

网 址 www.cicc.org.cn

承 印 者 北京外文印务有限公司

版 次 2010年1月第1版第1次印刷

开 本 720×965毫米 1/16

印 张 10.25

定 价 78.00元



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FOREWORD

It has been a long and exciting history of tremendous cultural exchange between China and other countries. In terms of culture, economy, ideology, and personnel, these exchanges between China and other countries can be dated back to the times of Qin and Han dynasties—directly or indirectly, by land or sea. The long-term and multi-faceted cultural exchange helps the world to understand more about China and the rest of the world, enriching the common wealth of mankind—both materially and spiritually.

The book series entitled *Roads to the World* offers the most splendid stories in the entire history of Sino-foreign cultural exchange. We hereby offer them to foreign students learning the Chinese language, and to foreign readers who have a keen interest in Chinese culture. These stories depict important personalities, events, and phenomena in various fields of cultural exchange between China and other nations, and among different peoples. By reading the books, you may understand China and Chinese civilization profoundly,

and the close link between Chinese civilization and other civilizations of the world. The books highlight the efforts and contributions of Chinese people and Chinese civilization in the world's cultural interchange. They reflect mankind's common spiritual pursuit and the orientation of values.

This book is about the Italian traveler Marco Polo, who had stayed in China for 17 years in the 13th century. Marco Polo wrote his memoir of China in his book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which became the first book that introduced China to the Western world. The book instilled in many Europeans an interest in the Orient, and had a strong impact on the discovery of new travel routes in the world. Marco Polo also became a significant representative of early cultural exchanges between the East and West.

前言

中国与其他国家、民族之间的文化交流具有悠久而曲折的历史。在中国与外国之间，通过间接的和直接的、陆路的和海路的、有形的和无形的多种渠道，各种文化、经济、思想、人员方面的交流，可以上溯至秦汉时代，下及于当今社会。长期的、多方面的交流，增进了中国与其他国家、民族之间的了解，使人类的共同财富（物质的和精神的）更加丰富。

中外文化交流故事丛书（Roads to the World）的宗旨，是从中外文化交流的历史长河中，选择那些最璀璨的明珠，通过讲故事的方式，介绍给学习汉语的外国学生和对中国文化感兴趣的外国读者。这些故事描述中国与其他国家、民族在各个领域文化交流中的重要人物、事件和现象，以使外国读者能够更深入地理

解中国，理解中国文明，理解中国文明与其他各文明之间的密切关系，以及中国人和中国文明在这种交流过程中所作出的努力和贡献，并尽力彰显人类共同的精神追求与价值取向。

本书讲述意大利人马可·波罗于13世纪来到中国，在中国各地游历17年，回国后口述完成《马可·波罗游记》的故事。《马可·波罗游记》是西方人感知东方的第一部著作，激起了欧洲人对东方的热烈向往，对新航路的开辟产生了巨大影响。马可·波罗也因此成为早期中西文化交流的重要代表人物。

I

Youthful Ambitions

Marco Polo was born in 1254 in Italy's famous city, Venice. His father Nicolo Polo and uncle Matteo Polo were merchants and were out running their trade since Marco Polo was a little boy. Marco Polo lived with his mother, and had not once met his father, until he was 15 years old. At that time, Marco Polo's mother had passed



马可·波罗的家乡——美丽的水上之城威尼斯
Marco Polo's hometown, Venice—the beautiful water city.

1

少年梦想

1254年，马可·波罗(Marco Polo)出生在意大利有名的商业城市威尼斯。他的父亲尼科洛·波罗 (Nicolo Polo) 和叔叔马泰奥·波罗 (Matteo Polo)，都以经商为生。在马可·波罗小时候，父亲和叔叔一直在外经商，他和母亲一起生活，从没有见过父亲。直到15岁时，父亲和叔叔才回到威尼斯家中。当时，马可·波罗的母亲已经去世了，他和姑姑生活在一起。

那是1269年的一个上午，马可·波罗像平时一样，正在他的房间里专心读书，忽然从隔壁传来姑姑惊异的呼唤声。马可·波罗急忙来到姑姑的房间，看到姑姑正在和两个陌生的男人有说有笑。姑姑见到马可·波罗，马上把他拉到两个陌生人面前，指着其中年纪稍长的那个人说：“孩子，这就是你日夜思念的父亲！”

away and he was living with his aunt.

Marco Polo would remember that particular morning in 1269, when the excited shrills of his aunt next door drew him away from his studying. He rushed into his aunt's room and saw her chatting merrily with two men, whom he had never met. When his aunt saw him, she immediately introduced the two men to him, and while pointing to the slightly older man, she said, "Boy, he is your father, whom you've been thinking night and day!"

Marco Polo prided himself to be a young man of considerable inner strength, and he hardly cried when facing obstacles. However, at that very moment, he was unable to restrain his emotions. He fell into his father's arms, and broke into tears. Here he was, the father that he had met for the first time in 15 years. For the past 15 years, all he could do was to stand at the coast, hoping in vain for the ship carrying his father to fall into sight. While all he could do before was to imagine how his father might look, now he could finally take into view his father's face.

Nicolo Polo was equally emotional. He was struck by the appearance and built of his son. Marco Polo was rather tall and lanky; his face was a little pale, and his thick, curly eyelashes added a fine touch to his blue eyes, which were aglow with intelligence and wisdom. Warmed with the thought that his son would soon grow



马可·波罗画像
Portrait of Marco Polo.

马可·波罗是个坚强的小伙子，平时遇到什么事情都不会哭。可是这一刻，他不能控制自己的感情，扑倒在父亲的怀里，失声痛哭起来。这是他15年来，第一次见到自己的父亲。15年里，他只能站在海边，眼望大海盼望着父亲乘船归来，只能在梦中一次次地幻想父亲的模样。现在，他终于真正见到了自己的父亲！

尼科洛·波罗也非常激动。他从上到下仔仔细细端详着儿子：15岁的马可·波罗，个子比较高，很瘦，脸色有些苍白，眉毛很浓，微微向上翘着，蓝亮的眼睛里闪烁着机灵、智慧的光芒。看到这一切，尼科洛·波罗的嘴角流露出了满意、自豪的微笑。他觉得自己的儿子将来一定会是个诚实、聪明而又稳健的男子汉。

尼科洛·波罗从自己的包裹里拿出了很多礼物，有结实的棉布、漂亮的亚麻、精致的丝绸、透明的薄纱，还有一些五彩斑斓、晶莹剔透的宝石。马可·波

up to be an honest, intelligent and stable young man, Nicolo Polo grinned with pride and satisfaction.

Nicolo Polo took out an assortment of presents from his luggage. Among them were sturdy cotton fabric, fine linen, intricate silk fabric, muslin, and multi-colored gemstones. Marco Polo was filled with curiosity and he asked his father, "Where did you get all these beautiful and expensive gifts?"

His father replied, "China, and Persia."

"China? Where's that?"

Marco Polo felt a little perplexed. Is there really such a place called China? Are there many treasures to be found there? What kind of place is China? It was then that he recalled what he once heard, that there exists in China a river filled with valuable treasures. Marco Polo thought: "That must be the place where Father and Uncle picked up all those treasures."

He could not help but ask his father, "Is China rich? Did you make friends with the Chinese people?"

"Certainly, we made many friends in China, including the great Kublai Khan!" answered Nicolo Polo, proudly.

"What's a 'Khan', Father?" asked Marco Polo.

"Kublai Khan is the ruler of China. He's a Mongolian, who called their emperor 'Khan'."

"Emperor? You made friends with the emperor!"

罗好奇地问父亲：“这些又漂亮又贵重的礼物，是从哪儿来的呢？”

父亲告诉他：“中国，还有波斯。”

“中国？在什么地方？”

“就是人们常说的加塞。”尼科洛·波罗解释说。

马可·波罗有些茫然。中国，真的有这个地方吗？那里有这么多的宝贝吗？中国到底是什么样的呢？这时，他突然想到，曾经听人说过，在遥远的加塞，有一条遍布宝石的河流。马可·波罗心想，也许这些礼物就是父亲和叔叔从那里捡回来的吧。

他禁不住问父亲：“中国真的很富有吗？你们和中国人做朋友了吗？”

“当然，我们在那里认识了很多朋友，连那里的忽必烈大汗，也和我们是很好的朋友！”尼科洛·波罗得意地说。

“大汗是什么？”马可·波罗不解地问。

“忽必烈统治了中国，他是蒙古人，蒙古人把‘皇帝’称作‘大汗’。”

“你们跟皇帝也交上朋友了？！”马可·波罗非