



丝路明珠

敦煌石窟在威尼斯

Jewel of the Silk Road

Buddhist Art from Dunhuang

敦煌研究院 编
DUNHUANG ACADEMY

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Jewel of the Silk Road: Buddhist Art from Dunhuang

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莫高窟远眺

View of Mogao Caves





莫高窟九层楼
The Nine-storey building of Mogao Cave









前言

敦煌地处中国西北部，是戈壁沙漠中的绿洲城市，也是古丝绸之路的重要枢纽之一，数千年中联通着古代中国与外域的交流，以中华文明兼容开放的精神为主导，成为人类多元文化与贸易交流的见证。

敦煌石窟作为佛教艺术的宝库，在公元4世纪到公元14世纪近1000年间的石窟开凿营建历史中，如实记录了古丝绸之路东端社会生活的方方面面，吸收多元文化基因，形成了人类文明的结晶，成为了沙漠中一座不朽的美术馆。由于历史原因曾一度被遗忘于黄沙之中，在沉寂了近500年后才被偶然发现，再次吸引世人的目光。共计735个洞窟，拥有4.5万平方米的壁画及2415身雕塑，跨越了中国10个朝代，其历史之漫长、文化交流之广泛、艺术价值之高别具特质，而它的有序传承和保存现状更是世所罕见。

1987年，敦煌莫高窟、威尼斯及其泻湖因符合世界文化遗产全部六项评定标准，同时被列入《世界遗产名录》。敦煌身处戈壁沙漠环绕的绿洲中，无疑是一座“沙之城”，而威尼斯则是“水之都”。两座城市虽相隔万里，却都是丝绸之路上的贸易重镇，具有许多共性。

7世纪时，中国最著名的旅行家及僧人玄奘从敦煌出关前往印度求法。14世纪时，威尼斯著名旅行家、商人马可·波罗在其游记中也提到敦煌（当时被称为“沙州”）的见闻，这也是丝绸之路这一人类历史上最具魅力和浪漫色彩的商道上无数传奇中的一部分。

两座城市缘分殊胜，如今随着中国国家主席习近平提出“一带一路”倡议，“新丝绸之路”构建起了东西方互联互通的纽带。以威尼斯大学150年校庆为契机，两个古老的城市再次相遇。我们举办敦煌艺术展，希望通过丰富多样的内容展现别样的丝路情愫，呈现千年敦煌的历史积淀，使威尼斯观众可以充分领略敦煌文化历久弥新的魅力，加深对中国传统艺术的了解。希望观众们都能喜欢这些精美的展品和它们背后引人入胜的故事。藉由本次展览体现中意两国的人文交流，加深两国人民的相互理解和友谊，也期望今后有更多的友好合作。

祝愿展览圆满成功！

敦煌研究院院长 王旭东

Foreword

Dunhuang is an oasis city in the Gobi Desert in northwestern China and one of the important hubs along the ancient Silk Road. For millennia, it facilitated exchanges between ancient China and the outlying lands. In keeping with the inclusive spirit of Chinese civilisation, Dunhuang witnessed the flow and assimilation of diverse cultures and trade.

As a treasure trove of Buddhist art, the Dunhuang Caves have faithfully recorded all aspects of social life on the eastern end of the ancient Silk Road, absorbing multicultural elements and turning them into gems of human civilisations throughout the construction of these rock-cut caves spanning a millennium from the 4th to the 14th century. Due to the vicissitudes of history, this enduring art gallery in the desert was forgotten in the sands and then fortuitously rediscovered. After having faded into oblivion for nearly five hundred years, the caves once again have gained the world's attention. The site contains a total of 735 caves, 45000 square metres of murals and 2415 statues spanning ten Chinese dynasties and regimes. This extraordinary span of history, the inclusiveness of cultures, and the caves' supreme artistic value render them unique in the world. They stand unparalleled in the world for their unbroken lineage and excellent state of preservation.

In 1987, both Mogao Caves at Dunhuang and Venice with its Lagoon fulfilled six selection criteria and were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List. While Dunhuang in the midst of the Gobi Desert is undoubtedly a "City of Sand", Venice has long been known as the "City of Water". Although they are thousands of miles apart, both cities were once important trade hubs along the Silk Road, sharing many commonalities.

In the 7th century, Xuanzang, the eminent Chinese monk and traveller, left metropolitan China through Dunhuang for a journey to India in quest of Buddhist scriptures. The 14th-century Venice merchant and celebrated traveller Marco Polo also mentioned his experience in Dunhuang (then known as Shazhou) in his travelogue. These are among the countless fascinating and romantic legends associated with the history of the Silk Road.

The distinguished historical links between these two cities continue today. With the One Belt One Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping of China, the "New Silk Road" forges bonds anew between the East and West. With the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the two ancient cities are once again connected. Through this exhibition of Dunhuang art with its rich and varied content unique to the Silk Road, we hope to present to the people of Venice the heritage of Dunhuang accumulated over a thousand years, and allow them to fully appreciate the enduring charm of Dunhuang's history and culture, while deepening their understanding of traditional Chinese art. We hope the audience will enjoy these exhibits and the fascinating stories behind them. It is also our wish that the exhibition reflect cultural exchange between China and Italy, deepening the mutual understanding and friendship between these two countries. We look forward to more opportunities for amicable cooperation in future.

Wishing the exhibition every success!

Wang Xudong
Director of Dunhuang Research Academy

致辞

敦煌位于甘肃省西部的茫茫戈壁中，地处古代丝绸之路要冲，全市总人口18万。坐火车从灰蒙蒙的兰州到达敦煌，立刻被它独一无二的魅力所吸引，也难怪古“敦煌”的地名有“明亮的火炬”之意。乘车沿公路前行，两旁的杨树、柳树枝繁叶茂，敦煌就这样踞于戈壁绿洲之上，耸立在鸣沙山和月牙泉之间。

公元前111年，汉武帝（140—87 B.C.）正式设敦煌郡，并开始建立军事亭障以抵抗西域的侵犯。自此，敦煌成为边塞重地，与两个著名关隘——玉门关与阳关，一起守卫着中国的西大门。

随着军事、商业、佛教的发展，敦煌更成为了当时的商贸重镇、佛教朝圣者的目的地及亚洲多元文明的交汇处。

马可·波罗在穿越塔克拉玛干沙漠之后，简单记录了敦煌这座城市。根据《马可·波罗游记》中的记载，在经历了10天沙漠中的长途跋涉之后，他们终于到达了一座名叫沙州（即敦煌）的城市，城内有许多民居和城堡，受大汗统治，“百姓中有不少是物神崇拜者，也有景教徒，但都听命于大汗”。

马可·波罗这位著名的威尼斯旅行家和商人，当时就已经意识到在敦煌共存着多种宗教。它不仅是一个东西方贸易繁盛的大都市，更是亚欧大陆宗教、文化的交汇地，这点在敦煌石窟辉煌灿烂的壁画中也有所反映。

本次旨在向观众展示敦煌的历史及社会中形形色色人的日常生活（其中包括将军、商贩、旅行家、手工业者、宫廷妇女等），呈现从公元4世纪到14世纪千余年间敦煌广阔的历史图景及贯穿其中的深厚的宗教情感。

这是莫高窟的壁画第一次来到威尼斯——马可·波罗的故乡，穿越千年时空，向观众展示丝绸之路上宗教信仰的自由与繁荣；讲述修建莫高窟的无名艺术家、雕刻家和工匠们的故事，以及慷慨出资的供养人的生活；介绍中国及周边中亚地区的佛教音乐、乐器和舞蹈，还有古代妇女的服饰和妆容。

威尼斯和敦煌都是东西方贸易的重要中转站，同时也是宗教、文化的交汇地。敦煌是中国西部的边塞重地，在这里长途跋涉的人们可以稍作休整、补给牲畜之后继续赶路。因此，它成为了一个经济文化繁荣的国际化大都会和极具盛名的佛教中心，而莫高窟也因为百姓对佛教的虔诚和供养者的慷慨出资，成为了灿烂辉煌的佛教艺术宝库。

威尼斯大学副校长 Tiziana Lippiello

Welcome speech

Dunhuang, a city in the heart of the Ancient Silk Route, lies in the midst of the Gobi desert in the province of Western China with approximately 180,000 inhabitants. Travelling in from the plumbeous Lessanzhou, one remains spellbound by its charm and unique beauty and it is of no surprise that the ancient place name of Dunhuang means “Blazing Beacon”. A lush thicket of poplars and willows runs alongside it and rises in an oasis between the Crescent Moon Lake (Yueyaquan 月牙泉) and the “Singing Sand” Mountains (Mingshashan 鸣沙山).

Dunhuang was annexed to the Chinese empire in 111 B.C. during the reign of Emperor Wu武 (140-87 B.C.) of the Western Han dynasty, he set up a garrison following a military campaign against Western territories. It then went on to become an important military outpost along the frontiers together with the two important passes of Yumenguan 玉门关 and Yangguan 阳关 that defended the Chinese empire and granted access to the West.

It was also an important trading and collection centre and became a Buddhist pilgrimage site, a crossroads of different cultures and civilizations in the heart of Asia. On his travels across the Gobi desert, Marco Polo described this city, called Succiu (Shazhou 沙州) in the Milione as a journey’s end after ten days in the desert, a city abundant in dwellings and castles under the rule of Gran Khan: “the inhabitants are Christian, worshippers and subjects to the dominion of the Gran Khan”.

The esteemed merchant and traveller was then well aware of how Dunhuang was a melting pot of different religions, a metropolis of trade as well as cultural and religious interchange in Central Asia with artistic testimonials in the magnificent cave paintings of Dunhuang.

The exhibition intends to illustrate the history and everyday life of generals, merchants, travellers, craftsmen, ladies-in-waiting besides bearing witness to a profound religious expression which pervaded the social life of the Dunhuang people for many centuries, from the 4th to the 14th century.

Venice, the home of Marco Polo, is for the first time in history to host the Dunhuang cave paintings of Mogao which depict the religious beliefs that crossed the Silk Road, the story of artists, sculptors and craftsmen who created Buddhist artefacts. It tells the story of the patrons who promoted the dispositions of musical instruments and Buddhist dances of China and Central Asia and the costumes and make-up products of the Chinese Empire.

Venice and Dunhuang were important staging posts in the exchange of commerce and culture between Europe and East Asia. Dunhuang had a vital role as the main post on China’s western frontier. Travelers could stop and rest here, come by provisions and animals to proceed on their journey. It has thus become a crucial Buddhist centre, the caves have been converted to Buddhist shrines, thanks to the sponsorship of the donors and to the allegiance and faith of its people.

Tiziana Lippiello
Vice Rector, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

Chapter One

第一章

Along the Silk Road

丝路漫漫



由欧亚大陆的地理、天候、区域政权、沿线民众生活方式等因素促生出的贸易和交流之路，从长安出发，经敦煌通往西域，直趋中亚、印度、西亚，以至欧洲大陆的陆路交通道路，沿用至今。19世纪时被德国地理学家李希霍芬称为“丝绸之路”。

“丝绸之路”的开辟不仅是中西交通的主要干线、互通有无的商贸大道，同时还是中西方文化交流与汇通的桥梁，意义深远。敦煌，身处丝绸之路的要道枢纽，见证了千年间这条漫长道路的沧桑岁月和悠久历史。

In the ancient world, a confluence of geographical, climactic, political and cultural elements gave rise to trans-Eurasian routes promoting trade and exchange. Starting from Chang'an, these overland routes stretched into the Western Regions through Dunhuang, then penetrated Central Asia, India and West Asia, and reached as far as the European continent. Today these routes are still in use. The "Silk Road" was the English rendering of the term coined by the 19th-century German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen.

The development of the Silk Road not only forged major transportation routes and a thoroughfare for mutual trade between China and the West, but also established a bridge facilitating the exchange and integration of cultures East and West with far-reaching implications. As a major hub on the Silk Road, Dunhuang witnessed the vicissitudes of this long road over the past two millennia.