

中国石窟艺术系列画册

敦煌石窟

GROTTO ART IN
JINHUANG

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GROTTO ART IN DUNHUANG

中国旅游出版社

敦煌石窟

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前言

敦煌,位于中国西北部甘肃省河西走廊最西端、塔克拉玛干大沙漠东缘的戈壁荒漠之中,是一片靠祁连山融化的雪水浇灌出的绿洲。河西走廊是古丝绸之路的一条孔道,而敦煌则是这一孔道西端的门户。

敦煌命名始于汉代,其意为:“敦,大也,煌,盛也”。公元前二世纪,汉武帝派张骞出使西域,最早开辟了通往西方的著名商路——丝绸之路,接着于公元111年,设置敦煌郡。自此,敦煌逐渐成为古丝绸之路上的咽喉重镇。史学家称其为丝绸之路总枢纽。中国的文化和特产,特别是丝绸从这里传向中亚和欧洲,同时外国的文化、物产,特别是印度的佛教,从这里传入中原。佛教擅长以艺术形象来宣扬、阐述佛陀思想,它与中华民族的传统文化融合后,在丝绸之路的沿途留下了众多的石窟文化,其中历史悠久,内容丰富,规模巨大而且保存完好的,就是以莫高窟为代表的敦煌石窟。

莫高窟、西千佛洞和安西榆林窟,组成

了敦煌石窟艺术。

莫高窟(俗称千佛洞),创建于公元366年,历经北凉、北魏、西魏、北周、隋、唐、五代、宋、回鹘、西夏、元等十余个王朝和民族地方政权历史时期,得到不同程度的扩建,形成了一座内容丰富、规模宏伟的石窟群。现存洞窟492个,保存彩塑两千多身,壁画4万5千多平方米。其中以壁画的内容最为丰富。尊像画、佛经故事画、经变画、佛教史迹画、传统神话题材画、供养人画和各种装饰图案等,都是出现最多的壁画题材。不同时期的壁画反映出了不同时期的各民族、各阶层的社会生活,如王公出行、歌舞音乐、农耕渔猎、竞技习武、赴会的外国使节、丝路上各国商旅生活等。国外的学者曾比喻它们是“墙壁上的图书馆”。20世纪初被发现的藏经洞中,就存有近五万件手写的文献及其它文物,仅绢画、版画、刺绣及书法艺术品就达上千件之多。如果将这些艺术品一件件陈列起来,将组成一条长达25公里的大画廊。

莫高窟,开凿在第四纪海湖沉积的砾岩上,岩质并不很坚固,虽然经历了千百年的地震坍塌,但由于当地降雨量少,气候干燥,所以唐代的崖面基本得到保存。本世纪四十年代,中国在莫高窟筹建了首间敦煌艺术研究所,新中国成立后,对莫高窟进行全面修复和加固,抢救了39个洞窟,1千8百多平方米的壁画和2百多身彩塑。

作为敦煌艺术组成部分的西千佛洞和安西榆林窟,经过修整,现已对观众开放。

敦煌石窟是中华民族的瑰宝,也是全人类的文化遗产。1961年敦煌莫高窟被国务院列入第一批全国重点文物保护单位,1991年7月,敦煌莫高窟被联合国教科文组织批准列入“世界自然与文化遗产”名录。


面对灿若繁星的敦煌艺术,这本小画册只能撷取不同历史时期有代表性的部分作品加以简单介绍,以使读者对敦煌石窟艺术有一个初步的印象和了解。

Foreword

Dunhuang lies at the western end of the Hexi Corridor in Gansu Province in Northwest China, an oasis on the eastern edge of Taklimakan Desert. It is nourished by melted snow water from the Qilian Mountains. The ancient town used to be an important stop-over point on the Silk Road.

The name “Dunhuang” was given in the Han Dynasty. In Chinese “Dun” means grandness and “Huang” means prosperity. In the 2nd century B. C. Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty sent imperial envoy Zhang Qian to the Western Regions, opening up a trade route which was to be known as the “Silk Road” in history. The imperial court set up Dunhuang Prefecture in A. D. 111 and Dunhuang became a strategic town. Through this route Chinese culture and products, especially silk, were introduced to European and Middle East countries, and foreign culture and products such as Buddhism of India came to central China.

Much of Buddhism is propagated through artistic forms, which were soon assimilated into the Chinese traditional culture. The result was that many Buddhist images were carved in



caves in mountain cliffs along the Silk Road. Many of them have been well preserved. The best are those at Mogao in Dunhuang.

The Dunhuang Grotto Art is composed of the Mogao Grottos, Western 1, 000-Buddha Cave and Yulin Grottos in Anxi. Carving of the Mogao Grottos, commonly known as 1, 000-Buddha Caves, began in A. D. 366 and continued through a dozen dynasties including the Northern Liang, Northern Wei, Western Wei, Northern Zhou, Sui, Tang, Five-Dynasties Period, Song, Huihe, Western Xia and Yuan. The extant 492 caves preserve more than 2, 000 color statues and 45, 000 square meters of murals. The mural themes depict Buddha portraits, stories and interpretations of Buddhist scriptures, Buddhist history, legends, portraits of devotees and various decorative patterns. They describe different ethnic groups, people's lives such as nobles' outings, singing, dancing and music,*farming, fishing and hunting, acrobatics and martial art practice, foreign envoys and merchants on the Silk Road. Some scholars liken these murals to a "library on the wall."

In the early 20th century some 50,000 pieces of cultural relics were found in the Scripture-Keeping Cave including hand-written

* documents and more than 1, 000 pieces of silk painting, graphic painting, embroidery and calligraphy. Put together the art works would form a 25-kilometer-long art gallery.

The Mogao Grottos were dug in loose sedimentary conglomerate of the the Quaternary Period. Some parts collapsed in earthquakes. But the dry weather has preserved the basic outlook of the cliffs. In the 1940s the Dunhuang Art Research Institute was established at Mogao. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the new government began an overall repair and reinforcement project on 39 caves, saving 1, 800 square meters of murals and 200 color statues.

The Western 1, 000-Buddha Cave and Yulin Grottos at Anxi have been opened to the public after renovation.

Grottos in Dunhuang are a national treasure of China and a cultural heritage of the world. In 1962 the State Council put them among China's first key cultural relics under state protection and in 1991 the UNESCO put them on its list of world natural and cultural heritages.

This album includes the best works representing different historical periods with brief introductions.

一、敦煌——丝路明珠

位于河西走廊西端的敦煌绿洲，是古丝绸之路东段（从长安到敦煌）的终点，又是古丝绸之路中段（从敦煌到葱岭）的起点。敦煌自公元 111 年起就在历史上出现了，今天它仍以众多的历史遗迹和一幅幅壮丽的自然风光吸引着人们。玉门关、阳关遗址、渥洼池、三危山、鸣沙山、月牙泉，特别是敦煌石窟的艺术宝藏，更是令人向往。

今天，鸣沙山——月牙泉风景名胜区内已列为国家级重点风景名胜区。

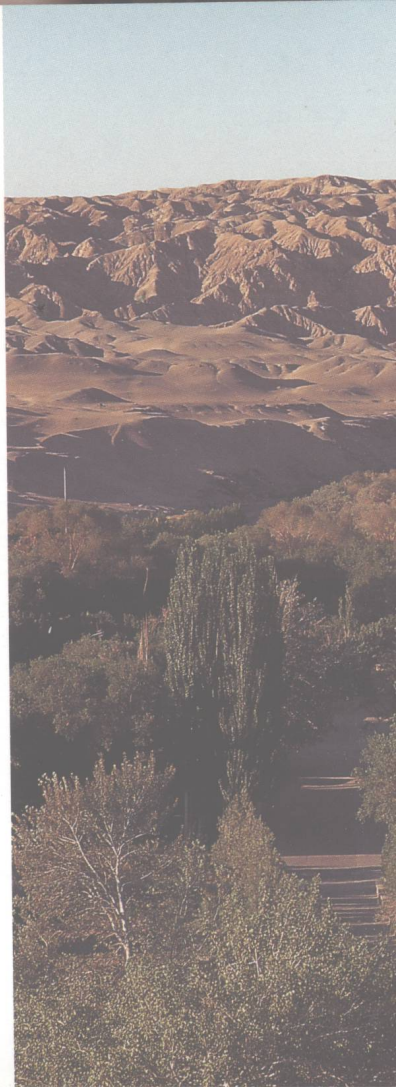
I. Dunhuang on the Silk Road

Dunhuang Oasis at the western end of the Hexi Corridor was the terminal of the eastern section of the Silk Road (from Chang'an to Dunhuang) and the starting point of the middle section of the Silk Road (from Dunhuang to Congling). An administration was set up at Dunhuang in A. D. 111. Today this tourist destination attracts people with its numerous historic sites such as Yumenguan Pass, ruins of Yangguan Pass, Wuwa Pond, Sanwei Mountain, Ringing-Sand Hill, Crescent-Moon Pool and the many grotto carvings and murals. The Ringing-Sand Hill-Crescent-Moon Pool Historic and Scenic Area is one of China's key tourist attractions.



△ 三危山
Sanwei Mountain.

▷ 敦煌莫高窟全景
Full view of the Mogao Grottos in Dunhuang.

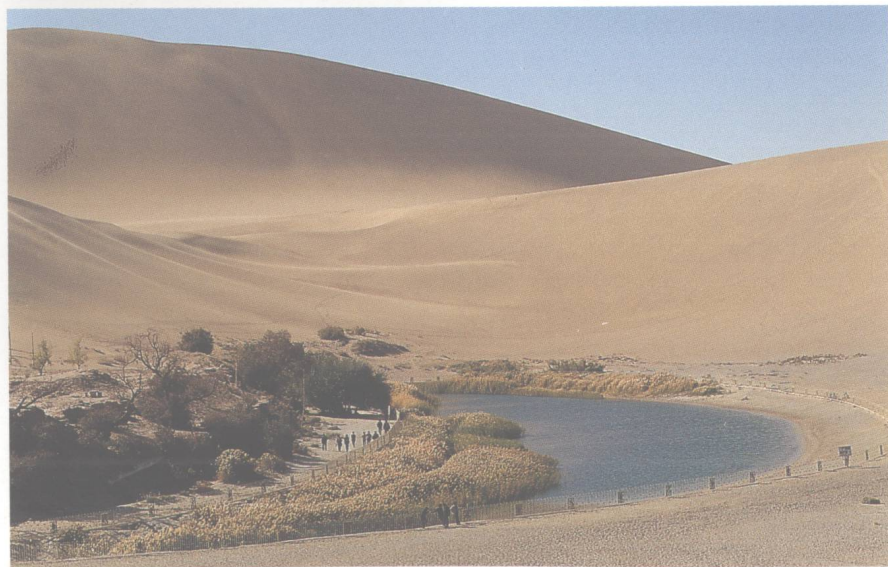






◁ 位于敦煌城西、党河西岸的敦煌故城遗址。

The site of ancient Dunhuang city on the western bank of the Tanghe River.



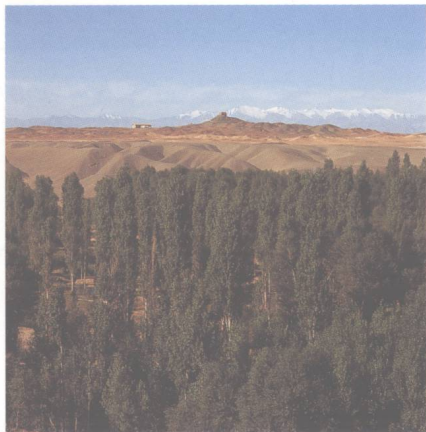


◁ 月牙泉，古称沙井，泉池呈月牙形，位于鸣沙山北麓。

Crescent-Moon Pool, known as Sand Well in ancient times, is located on the northern slope of Ringing-Sand Hill.

△ 鸣沙山，在敦煌城南 6 公里，东西长约 40 公里，南北宽 20 公里，高数十米。从沙波滑下，会听到轰鸣声。

Ringing-Sand Hill lies six kilometers south of Dunhuang proper. It is about 40 kilometers from east to west, 20 kilometers from south to north and 10 meters high. When one slides down the hill the friction causes a whistling sound.



△ 远眺位于敦煌市西 70 公里的阳关遗址

The site of Yangguan Pass, 70 kilometers west from Dunhuang proper.

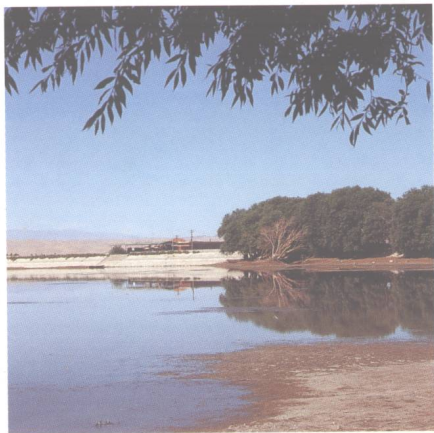


△ 汉代长城遗址 The site of the Great Wall built during the Han Dynasty.



△ 坐落于敦煌市西 80 公里戈壁滩上的玉门关故址

The site of the Yumenguan Pass in the

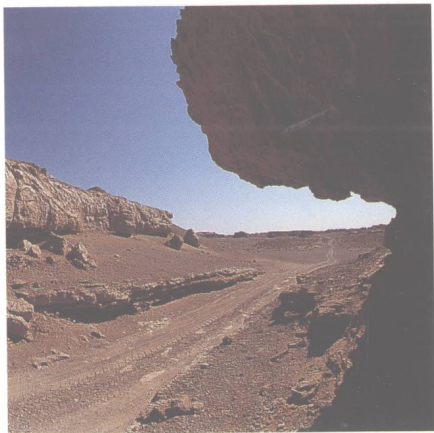


△ 传说中曾出天马的西汉渥洼池

Wuwa Pond is said to have produced a celestial horse during the Western Han Dynasty.

▷ 汉长城用以燃放烽烟的芦苇烽炬。

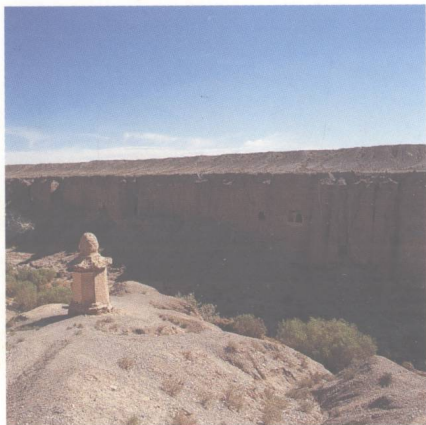
Reed torches were placed on the Great Wall and lit as an alarm signal when enemy troops approached.



△ 古丝路

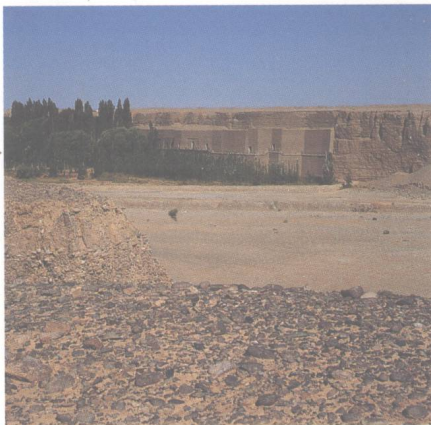
Ancient Silk Road.





△ 榆林窟, 又称万佛峡, 位于安西县南约 70 公里, 现有 41 窟。

The 41 caves of the Yulin Grottoes, also known as 10, 000-Buddha Gorge, are located about 70 kilometers south from the county seat of Anxi.



△ 西千佛洞, 位于敦煌市城西, 党河北岸。

The Western 10, 000-Buddha Cave is found on the northern bank of the Danghe River to the west of Dunhuang proper.

二、历史文化艺术宝库

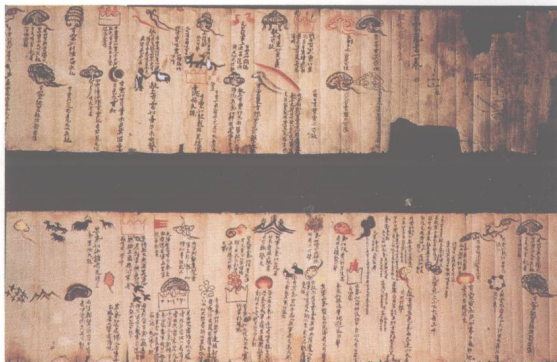
莫高窟是一处规模宏大、保存完好的佛教艺术宝库，窟内绚丽多彩的壁画和神态各异、精巧逼真的雕塑令人惊叹。而1900年发现的藏经洞(17号窟)中竟存有从四世纪到十四世纪的历代文物约五万件。其中“写本”除汉文外，还有藏文、梵文、法卢文、粟特文、古和阗文、回鹘文等各种民族文字，内容除大量佛经、道经、儒家经典之外，还有史籍、帐册、契据、信札、状牒等。仅绢本绘画、刺绣等美术作品就有数百件。它对研究我国古代的政治、经济、文化、军事，以及中外交往等，具有重要的历史科学价值。然而，自1907年至1925年间，莫高窟的艺术品和文物中有很多被一些所谓的外国学者偷盗和掠夺到国外。

II. Historic and Cultural Treasure-House

Mogao Grottos have preserved many murals and graceful color statues. In 1900 about 50,000 items of cultural relics were found in the Scripture-Keeping Cave (Cave No. 17) dating from the 4th to the 14th century. There are hand-written texts on Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, historic records, accounting books, letters and court records in Chinese, Tibetan, Sanskrit, Falu, Sute, Hetian and Huihe languages. Also found are several hundred pieces of painting and embroidery. They are of high values for the study on politics, economy, culture, military affairs and foreign relations in ancient China. But between 1907 and 1925 many of these treasures were stolen by foreign so-called scholars.



△ 敦煌出土的镂孔蝉形金饰
A hollowed gold ornament in a cicada form unearthed in Dunhuang.



△ 唐代的遗物:《占云气书》
A meteorological book written during the Tang Dynasty.



△ 北凉时期的石塔
A stone pagoda built during the Northern Liang Dynasty.

