

**English Translation of Wan Rong's Postface to the Chinese Translation of Stein's  
*Preliminary Report for his 1st Expedition in Xinjiang***

The 6th month of the *renyin* year [i.e., July 1902]

Governor Rao [Yingqi] has forwarded to me a booklet with Mr. Stein's *A Record of Archaeological Exploration in China* [*You Hua fanggu ji* 游華訪古記] and asked me to translate it. During the idleness of long summer days this has been the perfect thing to break the quietude, and in one month's time I completed the translation, which came to about 20,000 characters. A talented student of mine by the name of Feng Weifu proofread the text and made a clean copy. Then we bound the translation and sent it back.

The Governor highly praised this work [i.e., Stein's report], and at one time scholars fond of antiquities competed with each other for copying it, eager to enjoy the privilege of reading it first. Mr. Stein is a highly refined gentleman, and he has travelled through Kashgar specifically for the purpose of seeking out antiquities; he has used 9,000 Rupees and spent eighteen months incessantly climbing mountains, traversing rivers, and seeking out antiquities and ancient sites. He tracked every matter to its source and investigated its nature. The ignorant ones may ridicule his roundabout wanderings and take no notice of them. But there is a reason behind every matter and an underlying principle behind everything that exists; and just as all numbers stem from the number one, this underlying principle stems from the infinite adaptability of things. But if we do not know whence things come, how could we know whither they go? If we do not know what they look like, how could we know what they are used for? This is why Westerners explore the ancient and through this they understand the modern; they observe the physical objects and recognize the principles behind these.

The natural sciences of the West are all developed on the basis of observation. Their weapons and technology are advanced through learning. Aspirations of studying natural phenomena lead to wealth and power, but the principle of going from studying to political might seems coincidental to people. They all marvel at the natural sciences and are in awe of Western weapons and technology, yet when it comes to seeing Mr. Stein crossing mountains and rivers, or travelling through the desert, they laugh at his folly. This is just being ignorant!

Translation and postface by Wan Rong from Gaoyao