

was a serious issue, several of the international donors initiated an inadequately funded, poorly-managed, and characteristically trickle-down Poverty Alleviation Program, which proclaimed at its inception in 1994 that by 2000 it would reduce those living below the poverty line to 10%; instead a World Bank survey conducted in 1998 classified more than 35% of the population as living below the poverty line, and in 2002 two respected specialists on pro-poverty economic growth have questioned the efficacy of a recently created poverty program.

A few of the international donor agencies have intruded even in Mongolian government decision-making. When Mongolian officials did not abide by the policies prescribed by a particular agency, its representatives would sometimes suspend aid that had already been pledged. This was a strange way of promoting democracy and autonomy for a country that had been dominated by China for three centuries and by the U.S.S.R. for seventy years. How can Mongolian government officials develop independence if several of the international donor agencies, on occasion, dictate policy?

In short, international visitors and consultants have often provided a rosy portrait of Mongolia in the post-communist era. Observers who travel outside the capital city have a less sanguine view.

About the Author

Morris Rossabi has written *Khubilai Khan, Voyager from Xanadu*, and other books on Inner Asia. He has contributed to "Legacy of Genghis Khan," an exhibition that opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and will be on display at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from mid-April to mid-July of 2003. In 2003 and 2004, he will publish two books, one on China's national minorities and one on post-communist Mongolia.

British Library Symposium on "The Kingdom of Khotan to AD 1000: A Meeting of Cultures"

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An important scholarly meeting on the archaeology, literature, languages, history and culture of ancient Khotan took place at the British Library, London, on May 10 and 11, 2004. The symposium, organized by Ursula Sims-Williams and Susan Whitfield, was held in conjunction with the library's spectacular special exhibit on "The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith" (May 7 to September 12, 2004). Thirteen prominent scholars from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States presented illustrated lectures on such diverse topics as art history, numismatics, geography, recent archaeological explorations, folk legends, historical chronology, and manuscript studies. (See the full list of presenters and lecture titles at the end of this article.) The audience consisted, in addition to the participants themselves, of some forty invited guests, many from abroad. Many specimens of the types of materials — manuscripts, paintings, coins, textiles, and the like — that were discussed in the lectures were also represented in the accompanying exhibits, which had the effect of vividly bringing to life the presentations about the world of Khotan.

Several of the many interesting presentations complemented each other, for example Joe Cribb's lecture on the historical and numismatic context of early Khotanese coins and Helen Wang's addressing broader issues of the monetary system of Khotan. Similarly, Christoph Baumer's illustrated description of his recent expedition to Dandan Uiliq complemented Madhuvanti Ghose's re-evaluation of the murals found in earlier excavations at the same site, while Mariner Padwa's insightful lecture on residential patterns in the

Niya site dovetailed with Richard Salomon's discussion of the documents discovered there. Historical and cultural relations between Khotan and its Tibetan and Chinese neighbors were reflected in the presentations by Tsuguhito Takeuchi and Hiroshi Kumamoto, and Klaus Wille's paper authoritatively summarized the extent and variety of the finds of Indian Buddhist literature in Khotan and adjoining regions of the southern Tarim Basin.

Finally, special presentations were given by Franz Grenet, regarding the Sogdian community in the silk road regions, and by Prods Oktor Skjærvø. The latter was the self-described "Alpha and Omega" of the symposium, who with characteristic vigor and energy gave both the opening and concluding lectures, presenting fascinating glimpses of the literature and folklore of Khotan. All in all, the symposium was a great success. All of the speakers presented new and original data and interpretations, demonstrating the vitality of the study of Khotan and the other related cultures of the Silk Road regions.

Lectures in order of presentation

Prof. P.O. Skjærvø (Harvard University): Khotan between Iran and China — Legends on the Silk Road.

J. Cribb (British Museum): The Sino-Kharosthi coins from Yotkan.

Dr. C. Baumer (Hergiswil, Switzerland): 1998 expedition to Dandan-Uiliq.

Dr. M Ghose (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford): A reappraisal of the iconography of the murals at Dandan-Uiliq.

M. Padwa (Harvard University): The Geography of the Niya Oasis: a comparison of textual and archaeological evidence.

Prof. F. Grenet (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris): Samarkand to Xi'an: the Sogdian self-image (evening public lecture).

Prof. M. Maggi (University of Naples): The Book of Vimalakirti and Buddhism in Khotan [*cancelled due to illness*].

Dr. K. Wille (Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen): Buddhist Sanskrit sources from the Southern Silk Road.

Prof. R. Salomon (University of Washington): Buddhist and secular documents in Kharosthi script from Niya, Khotan and other Tarim Basin sites.

Dr. Helen Wang (British Museum): Money in Khotan: archaeological and documentary evidence.

Prof. H. Kumamoto (Tokyo University): The St. Petersburg bilingual documents and problems of chronology.

Prof. T. Takeuchi (Kobe University): Khotanese/Tibetan and Tibetan/Khotanese cultural relations.

Prof. P.O. Skjærvø (Harvard University): Perils of princes and ambassadors in tenth-century Khotan.

About the Author

The director of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project, Richard Salomon is a Professor in the Dept. of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington. His books include *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in the Indo-Aryan Languages* (1998), *Ancient Buddhist Scrolls from Gandhara: the British Library Kharosthi Fragments* (1999); *A Gandhari Version of the Rhinoceros Sutra* (2000).

Guidelines for Contributors

We welcome contributions, which may be submitted either to the Silkroad Foundation at its address in California, or, better, sent directly to the current editor of *The Silk Road*:

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The normal publication schedule is two issues a year, appearing in June and December. It is desirable, therefore, that material be received no later than early May for the June issue, and early November for the December one. Where we have enough lead time we are happy to print information that is time-sensitive (e.g., announcements about art exhibits or upcoming conferences); however we cannot guarantee production in a timely fashion.

Decisions regarding whether submissions are to be published are made by the editor in consultation with the Director of The Silkroad Foundation, members of its Board of Directors, and, as appropriate, academic specialists. Contributions should be in English and generally should not exceed 8000 words in length, including notes and bibliography. In normal circumstances, we will not accept unsolicited book reviews; however, you may ask the editor whether your reviewing a particular book would be acceptable.

Our newsletter is intended for a general readership. While it is important that contributions be well informed and be of interest to specialists, they should be written with a non-specialist audience in mind. This means, among other things, keeping footnoting to a minimum, using non-technical language, including transcription or transliteration of source texts only if essential to the reader's understanding, and avoiding transliteration using diacritical marks.

The production of the newsletter is by volunteers. Most of the editing and formatting is done personally by the editor. Be aware that the editor does take an "activist" stance in regard to clarity and style, but his preference would be not to spend a lot of time re-writing. He is not in a position to check all your facts and references. It is essential that submissions follow some standard rules in order to minimize time-consuming problems. In particular,

- Submit text formatted in Microsoft Word, *not* in another word-processing program. Send the editor both electronic copy (this may be done as an e-mail attachment, which should have a .doc file extension) *and* hard copy. References to sources should be included in the text in parentheses — e.g. (Smith 1992: 25). Endnotes should be used only if they contain some essential explanation that does not fit in the main text. A list of references should be included, with full bibliographic citations (author, including first name where available; title; vol. and number if a journal; place and publisher if a book; date; pages if an article or section of a book). Please include authors' or scholars' first names if referring to them in your text.
- In references use standard transliteration (e.g., for Chinese, pinyin; for Cyrillic, modified Library of Congress system). It is preferable for citations in other than West European languages that you provide both transliterated titles and, in parentheses, translated titles. We generally prefer not to include Chinese or other non-Latin characters (which may present problems in printing and formatting), but you