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## Summer Programs Co-Sponsored by the Silkroad Foundation

### Dunhuang Art and Society: On-site Seminar (June 29-July 12, 2008)

With the strong support of the Dunhuang Research Academy, China, the Silkroad Foundation and Yale University are organizing its fourth seminar on Dunhuang art and society, to be held at the Mogao Caves, Dunhuang, Gansu Province, China, from June 29-July 12, 2008. A trip to visit Buddhist art sites in east Xinjiang, including Balikun, Hami, Turfan, Jimsar, and Urumqi, will follow (July 13-20). The invited speakers include Roderick Whitfield, Mimi Yiengpruksawan, Neil Schmid and Ning Qiang from the US side and Peng Jingzhang, Wang Huimin, Liu Yongzheng, Zhang Xiantang and Wang Binghua from the China side. Seminar participants will examine the paintings and sculptures in the Mogao and Yulin caves with the experts listed above and interact with local scholars formally and informally. In addition to visits to the Buddhist caves, this interdisciplinary seminar will provide onsite lectures/discussions examining a wide range of issues relating to Chinese art, religion, politics, and society. *The official language of the seminar is English.*

For additional details, including a list of the lectures by Profs. Whitfield, Ning, Yiengpruksawan and Schmid, visit <<http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/dunhuang/dhseminar08.html>>. Lecture information by Chinese scholars at the Dunhuang Research Academy will be available later.

**Seminar Fee:** The comprehensive seminar fee is \$1,060 for double which covers cave visit fees at Mogao and Yulin, accommodations at the Mogao Guest House and weekend excursions in the Dunhuang region. The July 13-20 trip to other Buddhist sites is not included in this fee.

**Registration:** The online registration <<http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/dunhuang/dhsform00.html>> should be submitted to the Silkroad Foundation by December 12, 2007. The full nonrefundable payment is due by February 15, 2008 once you are accepted to the program. A maximum of thirty participants will be accepted. For more information, please contact the program director, Prof. Ning Qiang <[qning@conncoll.edu](mailto:qning@conncoll.edu)> or the Silkroad Foundation at <[dunhuangseminar@silkroadfoundation.org](mailto:dunhuangseminar@silkroadfoundation.org)>.

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### Mongol-American Khovd Archaeology Project Xiongnu Cemeteries of the Altai Mountains (June 19 – July 31, 2008)

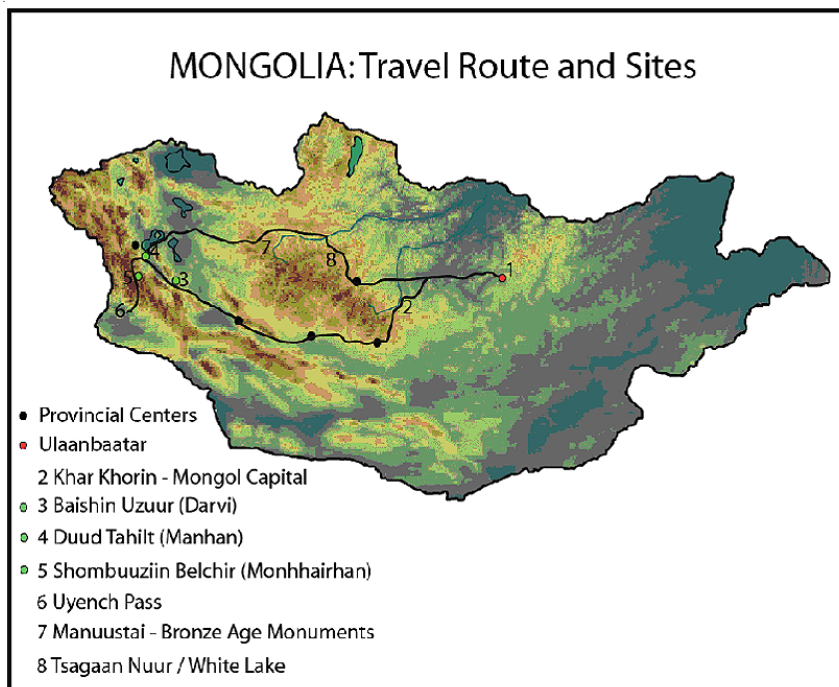
For the summer of 2008, the Silkroad Foundation, in conjunction with the National Museum of Mongolian History and the University of Pennsylvania, will be sponsoring excavations and surveys in the Altai Mountain region of Khovd aimag, Mongolia.

The Mongol-American Khovd Archaeology Project aims to advance material investigations of the peoples and cultures of the Altai Mountains, a crucial region between the nomads of the Mongolian steppes and the Silk Roads area within present-day northwest China. Chinese historical documents attest to the emergence of a strong nomadic confederacy called the Xiongnu in the late first millennium BCE which held sway over the steppe and mountain regions north of the Chinese realm for several centuries and well into the Common Era. Our understanding of this nomad polity and its constituents has, within the past few decades, been transformed by archaeological discoveries not only of royal tombs but of standard- burial graveyards, regional analyses and settlement studies. A wealth of new material is being unearthed, and new methods are being applied to its analysis. Excavations in 2008 will take place at three separate Xiongnu cemeteries — Baishin uzuur in the low valleys, Dood Takhilt adjacent to the elite cemetery of Takhilt, and Shombuuzin belchir in the high mountain pass — to analyze the relationship between those interred in different geographic locales of the Altai region of Khovd and the degree of variation between sites attributed to the Xiongnu in the western periphery and those elsewhere in Mongolia. The project offers a variety of excavation activities with focuses on the analysis of human remains and processes of in-field conservation. In addition, several lectures will be provided on-site, and a cross-country trips between Ulaanbaatar and Khovd will allow participants to see a large collection of sites within varied geographic zones and relating to different periods of Mongolian history and culture.

This program provides an exciting opportunity for participants with a wide range of interests. Participants need no special training, but should be prepared for physical activity and wilderness camping (no electricity and living on the steppes in Mongolian tents) for extended periods of time. Participants will be given training on archaeological survey and excavation, including proper methods of unearthing, documenting and mapping the materials. If you have excavation experience, we welcome your assistance, and if you have not, we look forward to the learning process! The most important things you need for this project are: 1) patience and a good sense of humor; 2) the ability to adapt to radically different cultures and climates and environments (without electricity and all the trappings that go with it); and 3) a sense of adventure, for we will be traveling to and seeing some fantastic places!

More details on Takhilt Xiongnu Cemetery: <<http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/excavation/takhiltcemetary.html>>.

**Language:** The official language of the expedition is English. Lectures by local Mongolian scholars will be translated.



#### **Site Descriptions**

##### **Tsenkher Cave**

Tsenkher cave lies a few kilometers further up the Khoit Tsenkher river valley from the site of Takhilt cemetery. Here can be found some of the earliest cave paintings in Mongolia and in the world. Animals are painted on the walls of the cave in an array of red, black and white.

##### **Uyench Pass**

The Uyench river valley at the southern end of this mountain pass through the Altai has numerous sections of rock wall carved with animals, chariots and hunting scenes from the Bronze Age through Turk period. Some of the most famous rock-cut art in Mongolia, for example the often depicted Xiongnu chariot with escorts, can be found on the walls of this canyon.

##### **Baishin uzuur, Darvi sum, Khovd aimag**

Several Xiongnu cemeteries have been found in Darvi sum amongst the foothills. Excavations in 2008 will focus on two sites in the vicinity of a hill named Baishin uzuur. One site is a small cluster of eight features where we will excavate several graves. The more significant site consists of over thirty Xiongnu period graves on the eastern slope of a small hill, two small Bronze Age burials on the western side, and a dense collection of Turkic inscriptions on the boulders on top of the hill. We will excavate several graves at this site, including the two Bronze Age burials, several small Xiongnu graves, and a large circular Xiongnu grave with adjacent burials and a line of stones to the north. This manner of stone line was excavated for the first time in 2007 at Takhiltin-khotgor, and we found ritual deposits of burnt animal bone. It is our goal to further investigate this phenomenon of ritual stone lines outside the context of the more elite tomb complexes like those at Takhiltin-khotgor.

##### **Dood Takhilt, Manhan sum, Khovd aimag**

The elite Xiongnu cemetery of Takhiltin-khotgor sits in a flat area between two river valleys: the Khoit (North) Tsenkher River and the Dund (Middle) Tsenkher River. In summer 2007, while excavating at this elite cemetery, surveys of the Khovd Archaeology Project discovered two small groups of Xiongnu period graves nearby the elite grounds and next to the Khoit Tsenkher River. In 2008, we will excavate two graves here; one with apparent accompanying interments and another with a stone line to the north.

##### **Shombuuzin belchir, Monkhkhairkhan sum, Khovd aimag**

Numerous Xiongnu cemeteries and Bronze Age monuments were documented in the Altai mountain pass area of Monkhkhairkhan sum during surveys in 2006, and one of the larger sites is located in a mountain niche called Shombuuzin belchir. We will excavate a long cluster of burials here, including a large circular grave with a stone line to the north.

**Program Fee:** A tax deductible donation of \$1500. This donation does not include airfare, visas nor incidentals in Ulaan Bataar and Khovd.

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**Preparations:** Participants should be prepared for physical activity and wilderness camping for extended periods of time. We are going out on the Mongolian steppe and will be anywhere from 50 km to 150 km from any sizable towns. We will live in gers (Mongolian traditional tent houses), without electricity and plumbing. Access to water, for bathing and drinking, will be a river nearby the campsite, so participants will need to bring water filters (or share with other participants). The diet will be heavy on sheep and dairy products. Vegetarians will have a difficult time with such a diet, and thus will need to come prepared with some of their own additional food options.

**Application/Deadline:** The online application <<http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/excavation/2008/excform008.html>> should be submitted to the Silkroad Foundation by January 1, 2008. We will notify those accepted by January 15, 2008; so please be available for contact during this time. Please send email to <[excavation08@silkroadfoundation.org](mailto:excavation08@silkroadfoundation.org)> for any questions.

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***The Silkroad Foundation also a proud supporter of***

### **Silk Road House: A Cultural and Educational Center**

Silk Road House is a non-profit organization created to promote and support an impressive array of diverse ethnic cultural traditions. The main goals of the Silk Road House are:

to create a center for the collection of pertinent cultural and historical information

to provide a place where creative activities can bring to life the traditions of the Silk Road here in United States to celebrate the Silk Road's tradition of hospitality

Silk Road House symbolizes the connections, communications and bonds between peoples and cultures united by the Silk Road concept, and at the same time, a real network of the modern day contacts between those peoples and cultures. The Silk Road House is a welcoming cultural center where everyone who might be interested could find a wide range of accurate information concerning the history, culture, and everyday life of Silk Road countries.

For extensive listings of the many events, including programs in December 2007, visit the website at: <<http://www.silkroadhouse.org/>>.

Among the events scheduled for early in 2008 is a Central Asian film series (made possible through a generous gift of the Open Society Institute [Budapest, Hungary]). The compiler of DVD-collection is Gulnara Abikeyeva, Director of the Center of Central Asian Cinematography. All movies have English subtitles and will be introduced and commented on by Alma Kunanbaeva:

- Saturday January 12, from 5 to 7 PM. "The Land of the Fathers" (Kazakhstan).
- Saturday, January 26, from 5 to 7 PM. "White Mountains" (Kyrgyzstan).
- Saturday, February 9, from 5 to 7 PM. "You're Not an Orphan" (Uzbekistan).
- Saturday, February 23, from 5 to 7 PM. "Hassan-Arbakesh" (Tajikistan).

Also, on Sunday, February 24, 1 to 3 PM (Lecture begins at 1:30 PM) an illustrated presentation, "New perspectives on early Inner Asian nomads," by Dr. Daniel Waugh, University of Washington, Seattle. The talk will include new material on the Pazyryk burials in the Altai and results of the Xiongnu archaeological excavations co-sponsored by the Silkroad Foundation in 2005 and 2007 in Mongolia.

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**Humanities West** presents:

## **Empire on Horseback: Genghis Khan and the Mongols**

**February 22 and 23, 2008**

at the Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

**The program includes:**

*Friday, February 22*

8:00 PM. "The 'Owl of Misfortune' or the 'Phoenix of Prosperity'? Reassessing Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire." *Daniel Waugh* (Emeritus Professor, University of Washington) attempts to separate myth from reality and provide a balanced picture of the Mongols' impact on their contemporary world.

9:00 PM. "From Steppe to Stage: An Exploration of 800 Years of Mongolian Music." *Peter K. Marsh* (Assistant Professor of Music, CSU East Bay), explores the history of Mongolian music from Imperial times to the present, paying particular attention to how traditional music, including the two-stringed fiddle and khöömii or 'throat singing' traditions, intersect the human, natural, and spiritual worlds. He'll end by looking at how Mongolian music has fared in the era of globalization.

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Saturday, February 23

10:00 AM. "On Culture and Commerce." This illustrated lecture by *Morris Rossabi* (Professor of History, Columbia University) reveals that the Mongols promoted commerce and fostered some of the arts in the vast empire they subjugated.

11:00 AM "The Women in Genghis Khan's Life." *James D. Ryan* (Emeritus Professor, CUNY) focuses on several of the remarkable women, including Genghis' mother, his chief wife and mother of the four sons who figured in succession to his empire, and several of his daughters-in-law. Their histories reveal that Mongol women enjoyed higher position and greater recognition than those in China, the Arab world, or Europe.

1:30 PM. *A Performance of Mongolian Music*, coordinated by *Peter K. Marsh* and *Orna Uranchimeg-Tsultem*.

2:00 PM. "The Mongol Influence on Islamic, Especially Persian Art." With rich illustrations, *Stefano Carboni* (Curator, Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) explores the impact of China's Yüan dynasty on the art and culture of Iran's Ilkhanid dynasty. In a period of great cultural achievement and profound changes, local artists and artisans were introduced to previously unknown artistic traditions from East Asia, and attempted to respond to the tastes of their new royal patrons, the Mongol rulers.

3:00 PM. Panel discussion and Q & A, moderated by Fred Astren.

This event is by paid admission ticket, which may be obtained from City Box Office <cityboxoffice.com>. For further information, visit the Humanities West website at: <www.humanitieswest.org>, write <info@humanitieswest.org> or phone 1-415-391-9700. Humanities West has prepared various educational resources to accompany the program. Among the program's sponsors is the Silkroad Foundation.

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## FOR TENT AND TRADE: MASTERPIECES OF TURKMEN WEAVING AT THE DE YOUNG MUSEUM December 15, 2007, through April 27, 2008

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco present a selection of premier examples from their world-class holdings of Turkmen rugs and textiles in For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen Weaving at the de Young Museum December 15, 2007, through April 27, 2008. During the past twenty-five years, FAMSF has developed the finest public collection of Turkmen carpets and other pile textiles outside Russia. This exhibition includes approximately 40 of the finest rugs, bags, and tent and animal trappings from these extensive holdings.

This exhibition provides an overview of Turkmen pile weaving and addresses some of the unanswered questions surrounding Turkmen carpets in addition to new findings that are changing our understanding of this complex weaving tradition.

The textiles included in For Tent and Trade come from the plains, oases, and low hills of Turkmenistan, northwest Iran, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. Many are woven from the superb wool of Saryja sheep, which are bred solely in this region. This exhibition provides the opportunity to contrast objects traditionally woven for a woman's dowry or domestic use with those made for the market or a prosperous city dweller.

*Diane Mott*, Curator of the Caroline and H. McCoy Jones Department of Textile Arts, is the curator of this exhibition.

The exhibition will be accompanied by various educational programs and public lectures, with two of the latter scheduled for December 6 and January 12. Visit the museum website for details <<http://www.deyoungmuseum.org>> or call 1-415-750-3600.

**The de Young Museum** is located in Golden Gate Park, at 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118.

*Camel trapping for bridal procession (khalyk). Central Asia, Turkmen, Yomut? tribe. Wool or goat hair; knotted pile (symmetrical knot). Gift of George and Marie Hecksher 2000.186.12.*



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