

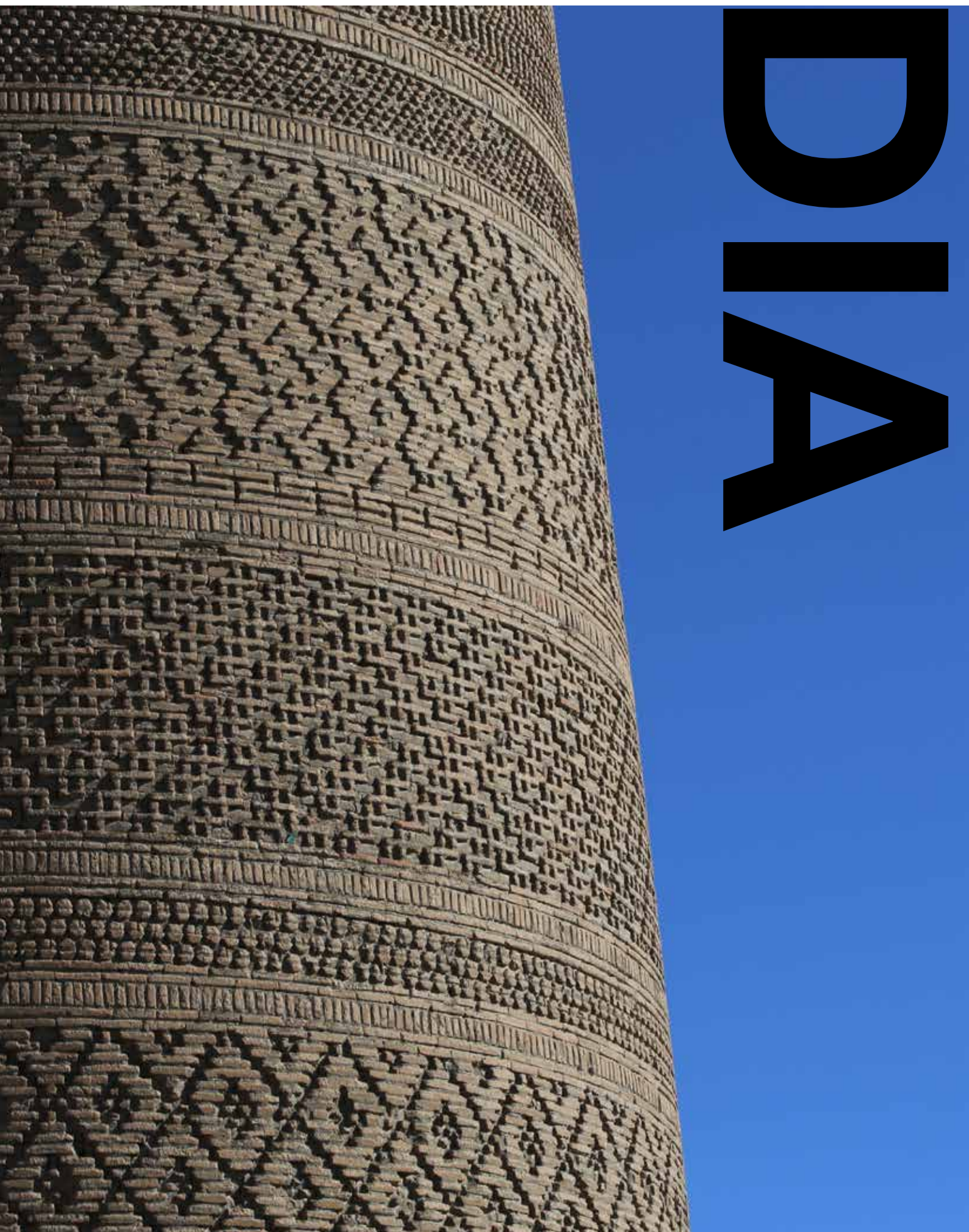
SILK ROAD

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**SILK-ROAD
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NETWORK**



SILKROADIA

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Letter from Editor-in-Chief

D.A.P. Sharma



Colleagues and friends!

Warm greetings for the New Year 2019.

For some time, we have been thinking about publishing a cross-campus magazine that could reflect the inter-campus activities and cultural life at our member universities. As you may remember, we have been sharing this intent with you from time to time. Let us announce that what we dreamed of is going to come true with all your good wishes and continued support. We are delighted to launch and give you the introductory issue of Silkrodia – please read and enjoy.

Just think about that table around which members of a group of friends from diverse countries and cultures from East to West and North to South, sit together, share, and

listen to each other. Sometimes they talk about their golden past, sometimes they discuss present challenges, and sometimes they exchange innovative ideas for future – they agree, disagree and argue but they keep sitting together with a great dream in their eyes. The table provides a strong platform for the members, so that they could rest their elbows on it and see each other face to face. Sitting around the table, they together share their concerns, celebrate their achievements, and learn from each other's experiences. Knowingly or unknowingly, they are building a better future for the generations to come. If that table is Silkrodia then? What do you think?

As you are aware, during the last five years, the concept of the ancient Silk Road has emerged with a new perspective in a time of changing global order. Since then the discussion on Silk Road transcended its historical premise and is often viewed and interpreted within the present global geopolitical kaleidoscope. We are glad to be reaching out to some of them under the opinion section and our sincere effort will be to include the diversity of views in the

forthcoming issues. Secondly, though more than a product, silk has been the symbol of trade and connection between East and West. However, its importance as a product also, on the ancient trading route may not be refuted. Therefore, we decided to begin with tracing earliest evidences of silk production. Here, two scholarly features on this topic reveal a great amount. Other articles are indicative of our cultural diversity. We are thankful to our fellow colleagues on the Silk Road study panel who have contributed their scholarly articles at short notice.

We are committed to developing Silkrodia that best reflects the cross-campus life of our member universities. In this respect, we invite active participation and encouraging responses from the faculty and the students of our member universities for future issues. Should you have any suggestion or feedback, we hope you will not hesitate to get in touch.

We will get back to you with the next issue. See you then! Good-bye for now.

The Origin of Silk Production

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The origin of silk production and the diffusion of its production technique is a long and fascinating history. The evidence of silk was found in China about 5000 years ago. According to Chinese legend, sericulture and the weaving of silk cloth was invented by Hsi-Ling-Shih, the wife of mythical Yellow Emperor who ruled China in 3rd millennium BCE. In Chinese texts, she is referred to as the “Goddess of Silk”. Legend states that the cocoon accidentally falls into the teacup of the empress, who found that the cocoon could unravel to yield silk thread. The earliest tangible archaeological evidence for domesticated silk use in China



dates back to 3rd millennium BCE, as evidenced by remains from Qianshanyang, a Liangzhu Neolithic site in Zhejiang province. The silk samples of *Bombyx mori* found from the earliest cultural deposit of the site are dated between c. 3500 and 2700 BCE. But, the identification of sesame and peanut from these deposits, if correct, raises the issue of contextual integrity, because sesame is thought to come from India and peanuts are a South American plant. The silk moth *Bombyx mori* was domesticated from the wild silk moth *Bombyx mandarina*, which was existed almost the whole of Asia, mainly in India, China, Korea, Japan and the eastern regions of Russia. The silk from Qingtai site (Henan province) is associated with cultural remains of the Late Yangshao period, c. 4000–3500 BCE, but its immediate context has not been dated. The find of silk cocoons from a Yangshao culture site c. 5000-3000 BCE called Xiyin Cun, in Shanxi Province was analysed and identified as *Ronditia menaciana* Moore, a wild species. The Biomolecular evidence of silk in the tombs of Jiahu, a Neolithic site (Henan province) shows the existence of silk fibroin of about 8500-year-old. The invisible

products of the degradation of buried silk were identified in tomb soils using soil proteomics methods. The peptides of silk protein were detected in two samples, which can be considered reliable evidence of the earliest silk fibre in China.



The silk from wild indigenous forms of silkworms was known in the Indian sub-continent roughly contemporary with some of the earliest clear archaeological evidence for silk in China. The microscopic analysis of thread fragments found inside copper or copper-alloy bangle and ornament from Harappa and steatite beads from Chanhudaro, the Harappan sites, have yielded silk fibres, dating to c. 2500–2000 BCE. This study offers the earliest evidence in the world

for any silk outside China, and is roughly contemporaneous with the earliest Chinese evidence for silk. The sample found inside the bangle is of wild *Antheraea* silk and appears to be from *A. assamensis* species. The other sample inside the ornament is also of a wild *Antheraea* silk, but appears to be from a different species, *A. mylitta*. Both the species are indigenous to South Asia. The thread sample found at Chanhudaro appears to have been reeled. The fibres may be from *A. assamensis* or possibly from a species of *Philosamia* (Eri silk). The variety in type, technology and thread forms of these examples of silk offer a glimpse into the extent of knowledge about sericulture in the Indus Civilization during the Mature Harappan phase (3rd millennium BCE). Apart from these sites, silk might have been produced obviously in many Harappan settlements. There is also evidence for silk from a bead thread at Nevasa (Maharashtra) dated c.1500 BCE. Notwithstanding, it seems that the mulberry culture came to India from china, the references in the old scriptures point out that India had cultivated some kind of wild silks independently much earlier

date. The Rig Veda mentions "Uma" generally translated as "land of silk". The silk was mentioned as kausheya in the epic Valmiki Ramayana. The Gautama Dharmasutra (5th century BCE) explicitly discusses the rule against the sale of silk. The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (1st cent CE), mentioned that silk was one of important item exported from the Indian seaports like Barygaza, Muziris and others to western countries.



According to tradition, knowledge of silk production and its procurement was very carefully kept within China until the Western Han Period c. 2nd cent BCE. The techniques of degumming and reeling, the two important silk working processes have been thought to be of Chinese technology

known only to China till the early centuries CE. But interestingly, several archaeological occurrences of silk preceding this date by several centuries have been found far beyond China's borders. It seems that the sericulture spread to Korea and Japan in the early centuries CE. Silk remains have been found from the Egyptian mummy dated to around 1000 BCE; a burial in Sapallitepe (Uzbekistan) dating to the mid-second millennium BCE; the German grave dated to 7th cent BCE; the Delivala Stupa site in Rambukkana (Sri Lanka) dated to 2nd century BCE and few other places. The silk remains of pre-Hans period found in those places seems to be either of indigenous origin or imported from China or from India or elsewhere. The various evidences demonstrate that silk was known to the Europeans much before the Hans period. Aristotle (c. 384-322 BCE), describes the process by which the silk was unravelled and turned into a thread. According to him, silk was first produced in the Mediterranean by Pamphile of Kos, a Greek Island.

Earliest Evidences of Silk Origin in China

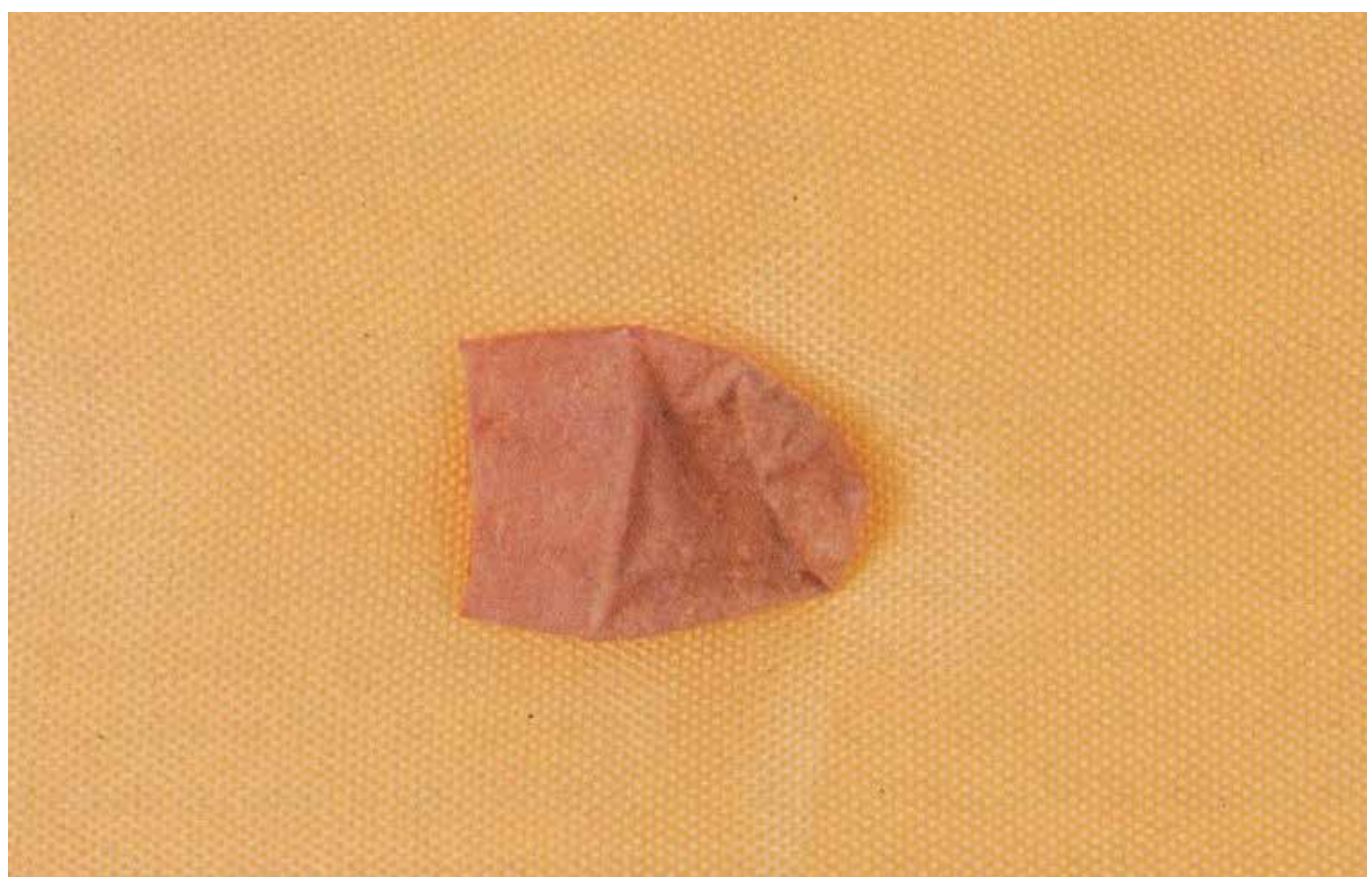
Zhao Feng

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China is the home of silkworm raising and silk weaving. Sericulture is one of the characteristics of Chinese civilization, and has made a tremendous contribution to human civilization. As for the exact origin of silk – its earliest appearance in time and place – we should look for proof from archaeological findings in modern times.



In 1926, China's first field archaeologists working at a Yangshao culture site (around 3500 BC) at Xiyin Village in Xiaxian County, Shanxi, unearthed a “half silkworm cocoon” (see Figure 1), which is so-called because the cocoon shell was 1.36 cm long and 1.04 cm wide, with the other half missing. It caused a



Half a Silkworm Cocoon

stir in academic circles at home and abroad because it confirmed the history of ancient Chinese sericulture in the hometown of Yellow Emperor.

In 1958, members of the archaeological team of Zhejiang working at the Qianshanyang site in Huzhou City found a bamboo basket with some textiles and threads. These were identified by the Zhejiang Textile Scientific Institute and Zhejiang Textile Technical College (now known as Zhejiang Sci-Tech University), who identified some fibres as linen, and others as silk. The transections of some fibres revealed the shape of an obtuse triangle, typical of silk, and it was confirmed that the assemblage included fragments of silk tabby (see Figure 2), silk



Silk Tabby

thread and silk ribbon. It was a remarkable and exciting discovery. Carbon-14 dating indicated that the Qianshanyang site dated back 4200 years, making this one of the earliest discoveries of silk. Many scholars of sericulture and silk were keen to establish the facts. Xu Hui and others re-confirmed the properties of the fibre by conducting further tests, and wrote in *Validation of Silk Fabrics Unearthed from Qianshanyang* that “the silk fragment is a kind of plain woven fabric with raw silk wefts and warps, while the silk ribbon is a long, thin ribbon running through the plain weave and interlaced with twisted silk threads. The fragment of silk tabby from the Qianshanyang site was thus recognized by both textile and archaeological circles, and they inferred that the origin of Chinese silk in the south were inferred to be around 5,000 years ago.

A working group for the cultural relics of Zhengzhou conducted a large-scale excavation at the neolithic site at Qingtai Village, Xinyang City in the 1980s and, in the seventh and relevant strata, unearthed fragments of silk and linen dating back to around 5,500 years ago. Zhang Songlin, a leading archaeologist in China, and Gao Hanyu, a leading expert in textile history, observed that silk thread fragments found in the W164 and W486 urn fields are not twisted and that the cross section of filaments is triangular, both of which are typical features of mulberry silk. In terms of weave structure, the fabrics from Qingtai Village include plain woven silk and silk woven with two ends crossed, identified as “gauze” by Zhang Songlin and others. The gauze fabric was coloured a light crimson, and they concluded that it had been scoured first, then dyed, perhaps with hematite as the dye.

These findings not only fix the date of the origins of silk to about 5,000 years ago, but also lend credibility to the half cocoon from Xiyin Village. In addition to the examples of silk and silkworm cocoon mentioned above, there are other material remains from the

Neolithic Period that provide depictions or sculptures of the silkworm or pupa.

The Silk Roads: An Ancient Symbol for a Modern Reality

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*“When I use a word...
it means just what I choose it to
mean-
neither more nor less.”*

- Humpty Dumpty, from “*Alice in Wonderland*”



*“The question is, whether you can make
words mean so many different things.”*

- Alice

Ask an academic a question and the response is less likely to be a straight answer than a litany of conditions and qualifications raising more issues than they resolve. Scholars are used to analyzing things, and usually the first place they begin is by examining received assumptions and insisting on defining one's



parameters before the conversation can continue

Over the past several decades “The Silk Road” has become a widely-used and easily recognizable term all over the world, with equivalent expressions having now entered many different languages. Evoking the exotic adventures of intrepid travelers and camel caravans facing all manner of hardships from endless parched deserts and sudden mountain blizzards to ruthless bandits and treacherous hosts as they plodded for months or years across the world’s most remote and uninviting regions, the Silk Road concept has inspired countless books and articles, film documentaries, international conferences and cultural events, and even a system for



selling contraband on the Dark Web. The government of China has appropriated the idea of the Silk Road as the ideological underpinning for its far-reaching “Belt and Road” development plan. The Silk Road has become one of the world’s most recognized brands, but what exactly is it, and who owns it?

Human activity in the form of migration, cultural encounters and trade across the vast oasis-linked steppes of Central Eurasia almost certainly goes back thousands of years. A simple glance at a physical relief map will reveal an almost unbroken horizontal chain of mountain ranges across the middle of the super-continent, stretching from the

Hungarian Plain to the Gobi Desert. Humans domesticated the horse around 3500 BCE, enabling them to cover vast distances in search of pasturelands and peoples to trade with or raid. But unlike us, they did not have maps to tell them where they were going. Hence, their travels naturally tended to follow lines marked out by the ecological transition zone between mountain and steppe, since mountains were difficult of access but provided reliable sources of water (in the form of snow-fed streams running down from above) whereas steppes, while dangerously arid, offered endless grazing for humans to pasture their flocks. In a world of climate extremes even small weather changes could be fatal, so people were often on the move looking for more suitable places to live. The mountain-steppe transition zone provided the most natural corridor.

Evidence of such migrations – in the form of archeological remains that show regular movements of pastoral nomadic peoples originating in western Siberia towards southern Central Asia and from there into India and the Iranian plateau, as well as across the Pamir and Tian Shan Mountains



into the Tarim Basin and eventually into China proper – appears in abundance throughout the 2nd millennium BCE. The appearance of such “Western” technologies as war chariots and Iranian loan-words on oracle bone inscriptions from Shang Dynasty China (16th to 11th centuries BCE) testify to the kinds of cultural and commercial interactions implied by use of the term “Silk Road”, a thousand years before the embassy of the Han ambassador Zhang Qian to Central Asia in 139 BCE which is commonly taken to mark the “opening” of the Silk Road.

To be sure, commerce-driven trans-Asian travel began to flourish around the beginning of the Common Era, but even then to call it a unified system, as use of the term “Silk

Road” implies would be misleading. Goods – and ideas – could indeed be transmitted over vast distances, even as far as Rome where Chinese silk became the fashion rage during the 1st century CE and after, but this was accomplished through relay. The “Silk Road” at this time was not a single road or network but rather a series of adjacent ones, mostly controlled by Iranian middlemen such as the Parthians and the Sogdians. Privileged by their geographical position between China, India and Rome, the Iranian peoples remained the principal agents of trans-Asian trade and cultural exchange for the next fifteen centuries, dominating not just the overland caravan routes but the maritime Indian Ocean ones as well.

In using the term “Silk Road” one is implicitly drawing upon a phenomenon that stretches back thousands of years. And yet, our way of conceptualizing these ancient historical patterns of human contact – what might be called premodern patterns of globalization – reflects a distinctively modern approach. No one had ever heard of something called the “Silk Road” until a German explorer, Ferdinand von Richthofen,

first coined the expression (die Seidenstrasse) in his geography of China published in 1877. Von Richthofen's definition limited itself to a single route leading from the Mediterranean coast across Central Asia to China during the Roman-Han period. This characterization may be compared with the more recent one found in Peter Frankopan's hefty new world history, *The Silk Roads*, in which the title seems intended to cover pretty much all networks of historical human interactions everywhere. Localities such as the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius – uninhabited by humans until the 17th century – and the remote North African Spanish enclave of Melilla, are now clamoring to have themselves recognized as players within the Silk Road framework. Today everyone, it seems, is claiming rights to their share of the Silk Road pie.

A conscientious historian might take issue with the unexamined appropriations and re-appropriations of a 19th century term and its four-thousand-year referents for what appear to be mostly attempts at modern-day marketing and brand control. At the same time, it may be recalled that the very word

“history” means “a story”, and stories are always told and re-told in ways that engage and inspire their audiences with their ever-evolving needs, perspectives and priorities. Stories endure by adapting. Clearly, the story of the Silk Road has entered a new and dynamic phase.

Conceptualizing the Silk Road in an Age of Belt and Road

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Belt and Road raises the stakes for Silk Road academia. Primarily, it clarifies the need for a more rigorous debate around how we conceptualize the Silk Road. Within fields such as archaeology, art history and material culture studies, the Silk Road is often taken as a normative concept, whereby the primary concern is to establish the key empirical issues by which we understand histories of regional and long-distance connectivity, whether it be trade, religion, material culture, language and so forth. However, for those working



in political science, sociology, logistics, marketing or tourism, to name a few, the Silk Road has become a key analytical vector for understanding the connections of the twenty first century. For historians of the twentieth century, the Silk Road is also a valuable resource for understanding the shifting nature of East West relations, and the politics of cultural sector cooperation in relation to colonialism, world wars and the Cold War. It is invariably noted that the term was coined by Ferdinand von Richthofen in the late nineteenth century. Its evolution and appropriation across multiple countries and contexts since then has however been a much more complex story than is readily acknowledged.

Throughout the modern era the Silk Road has been defined by complex intersections between history, international politics, nationalism and geoeconomics, and Belt and Road is merely the latest iteration of such processes. Such factors have defined where, when and in what ways the histories of the Silk Road have been defined. In the 1950s for example, Japanese postwar diplomacy ensured cities such as Nara featured heavily

in the Silk Road discourse. In a context of Belt and Road, Xi'an becomes the Eastern terminus. Pre-World War II Japanese colonial heritage discourses also brought a number of Korean locations into ideas about a Buddhist Silk Road, themes that were picked up again at the end of the Cold War, but gain much less visibility when the focus of the Silk Road shifts towards China. Many more examples could be cited, and such factors mean that the distinction between a simple 'ancient' and 'modern' Silk Road is nowhere near as simple as it might seem.

This situation means there is a lot of analytical work to do done regarding how we should conceptualize the Silk Road, singular or plural. This requires nuanced and difficult discussions between disciplines and across national boundaries and languages. Given the Silk Road will increasingly be a key concept of international discourse in the future, it is critical we more robustly understand how the term is being used, and to what end. Activities, publications and journals such as this one, which explore these issues, will make a valuable contribution to Silk Road studies in the coming years.

Reading the Silk Road from Iran

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Since the announcement of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, the idea of a Silk Road has taken a new significance.



Reacting to this initiative and among other factors, countries re-imagine their histories in terms of a heritage that justifies their (often mixed) position toward this initiative. In Iran this is evident in the growth of national and international events around the topic, the dedication of research centers and in publications (a recent example is International Conference of the Silk Road: Mashhad, Iran). How has the concept evolved in Persian texts and how do they conceptualize the new incarnation of the old trade network?

Anecdotal reading of 73 Persian articles dating from 1980s onward on the topic reveals the situated nature of concept of the Silk Road(s). While a number of leitmotifs are invoked — trade and travel, connectivity, exchange, and their relevant archaeological evidence such as ruins of caravanseras — the manner of its invocation at any given time is driven by the country's domestic, regional and international conditions underpinned by references to heritage. From the 1980s onward, approaches to the topic have evolved from establishing historical Iran's historical role in the ancient trade network to looking outward, into the geopolitical and strategic regional benefits that the new incarnations of the network could instigate. Predictably, the former approach originated in historical studies and was cognizant of multi-national projects by UNESCO and aware of translated literature in the field, while the latter is heavily informed by and oriented toward international relations and trade.

Overall, much of the literature is driven by three themes and oriented by both domestic and international factors. Firstly, the need to establish Iran's cultural and historical

position as a key contributor and component of the historic trade routes between East and West. Here, the idea of “Iran” is posited as an historical entity that is not necessarily bound by its present geopolitical borders. However, so-far the texts do not seem to indicate territorial expansionism. Secondly, a concurrent attempt to articulate ways for reaching out to the region, to make connections which are seen beneficial in economic, trade, natural resources and ultimately strategic terms for the country. Thirdly, in light of the ongoing volatile relations with Western powers, there is a professed desire to articulate possibilities to converge with regional neighbors (such as those around the Persian Gulf) on the one hand, and a tilt toward China and Russia, on the other hand. From a domestic perspective, the evolution of scholarship also suggests an ongoing tension in defining Iranian identity and the state’s relationship to the country’s history. In other words, the literature is also understood in the context of evolving state identity discourses, a strong aspect of which is articulated in relation to choices of officially-sanctioned heritage. The evolution of this

identity and the broader notion of Iranian heritage is complicated by different and at times contradictory approaches devised in relations with the immediate region. Addressing it would be a major challenge faced by the Iranian establishment.

Interview with Secretary General of SUN

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Silk Road Universities Network (SUN) is a well-known global initiative for promoting peace, harmony, tolerance among diverse cultures and prosperity for all. Within a short period of three years it has made a long way to its destination. Such a project of consequence that has far reaching effect on the larger global community needs relentless effort and a pious passion to achieve its objective. The visionary person who has invested his effort and passion behind the SUN is Prof. Sungdon Hwang, the Secretary General of Silk Road Universities Network. Prof. Hwang began his

career as an expert of public administration and turned as an activist of propagating peace, harmony and tolerance in a turbulent time of global intolerance. On the eve of launching SUN webzine, team Silkroadia is honored to invite him to speak his views and what inspired him to establish Silk Road Universities Network (SUN) and how he envisions the tomorrows' SUN. Maiya Li, editorial assistant at SUN secretariat, interacted with Prof. Hwang. Excerpt from the interview:



Maiya Li: At the outset let me first wish you a happy New Year and congratulate you on the occasion of launching Silkroadia (SUN's webzine). Obviously, you also would like to

convey message to SUN family.

Sungdon Hwang: I am so honored and take it that I should work harder, as Secretary General. Most of all, I want to extend New Year's greetings to presidents, rectors, chancellors, vice-chancellors, professors, and students of member universities, wishing peace and health for them. Also, I wish peace in the Silk Roads, no more wars and no more innocent people to be kidnapped, killed, and threatened and also wish for the year of cultural peace that allows the cultures and traditions of any ethnic and racial minorities to be treated respectfully and proudly.

Li: May I request you to share that what inspired you to establish the Silk Road Universities Network?

Hwang: It was an awareness crossing my mind. Many associate the Silk Roads with an enigmatic place, and they surely dream to go there someday. I have felt the same since my childhood. Once I knew that the Silk Roads are the cradle of most civilizations, it has kept me in awe. Piles of evidence there make

us have boundless pride in being humans. However, on hearing the news that numerous wars have killed many of innocent people due to their different religious beliefs and the exploitation of natural resources along with ravaging wars has in an instant destroyed historic sites and relics dating back hundreds, maybe thousands years, what crossed my mind was “It can’t be! I must do something worthwhile, beyond teaching, researching, and writing.” How on earth can people kill people, and can it be true in this age that those who commit indiscriminate killing in the name of religion live proudly? This horrible fact truly makes humans ashamed of being humans. Such extremely uncivilized act only attests to those humans still live in the barbaric age. It gave a severe blow on my life and self-esteem as a professor, who has sought the cutting-edge civilization and tried to contribute to it. I have come to realize that I have more to do beyond helping students have better careers, publishing my articles in world-class journals, and contributing to making Korea the best in the world.

Li: As you mentioned and it is often iterated that SUN is a global peace initiative and its

objective is to transform the ancient Silk Roads into peace roads in the 21st century that promote co-existence, cultural exchange and inclusive prosperity. Isn't it the work of political leaders and religious heads to do?

Hwang: Yes, they are, but as a matter of fact, in solving most problems particular to the Silk Roads, their roles are somewhat limited. The politicians' important duty is to maximize the interests of their countries, and that's why they are elected. Since most of the problems arising along the Silk Roads have been derived from the conflicts over national interests, politicians have fundamental limitations. Historically and in some cases, there have been a few religious leaders who have played key roles in resolving international problems. However, religion has been at the core of the problems. Thus, as far as religious leaders are concerned, they are generally considered to aggravate the situation rather than settle it.

Li: You have rightly said, but universities are generally considered for imparting education and skills. How can they deal with such socio-

cultural complex issues along with their main responsibility?

Hwang: One or two universities cannot do. However, I figure that if universities at least on the Silk Roads can become a united body, they can surely handle the matter. Most intellectuals work in university and know through training that their actives should be neutral, free from political, religious, cultural biases. University, their workplace, lives on universalism. That's why the institution is called 'university' in English. Besides, it is the highest institution that educates future humans. What's education? University teaches knowledge and technology, but fundamentally it passes thoughts and viewpoints of people. Most of the conflicts arising along the Silk Roads can be resolved only when there's change in thoughts and perspectives. Such change takes a very long time, but intellectuals and universities are the agents that can change most effectively thoughts and perspectives of the next generation. Thus, I believe that if universities and intellectuals on the Silk Roads agree upon restoring its cultural value and the

gravity of the problems and thus unifying their efforts to think of remedial alternatives, they can play a much more powerful role than politicians or religious leaders.

Li: Under your able leadership, SUN has made a long way in a short period of just three years. What has been your priority in carrying out your duty as Secretary General for the past three years?

Hwang: I have worked on securing more member universities. As a result, the number of membership beginning with 32 universities in 2015 has grown to 78 universities within 2 years, and the number of countries has increased from 21 to 30 countries and 63 cities.

Li: While working for the SUN, which moments do you feel the most rewarding and gratifying?

Hwang: It is whenever I see delegations of member institutions of SUN along with their students come from thousands of miles away by car or air, to attend an annual

general assembly, and as SUN has become internationally known, new universities send emails requesting the membership application. Another memorable moment was when I had a chance to introduce SUN in front of Silk-Road specialists representing their own countries at the UNESCO conference on Aug. 17, last year in Mongolia. Also, my speech at the 8th UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum held at the UN headquarters in Manhattan on Nov.20, last year was really fruitful as the occasion confirmed SUN's being recognized internationally and would enhance its recognition further.

Li: May I ask you to divulge your future course of actions and expansion plan to reach SUN to all continents of the world?

Hwang: My biggest hope as Secretary General is to raise membership to 100 universities and institutions that include those in Africa by the year of 2020. Also, I hope it grow into an international organization like the UN-affiliated body so that it can be organizationally and financially

more stable. And, I hope that the activities of SUN-affiliated bodies, IASS (International Association for Silk-Road Studies), SPO (Silkroadia Philharmonic Orchestra), and USSUN (United Students of SUN) will become more invigorated. Hopefully, cultural projects and Silk-Road expeditions intended for making students, professors, global citizens, and leaders of various fields feel the beauty and value of cultural diversity of the Silk Road will draw more participation and support.

Li: Could you please be more specific regarding new projects you are considering in the future?

Hwang: Yes, you are right. For an academic undertaking, I am planning an annual international event at the hometown of Hippocrates, Kos Island along with Medical School of Greek National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The event consists of an academic conference and the Silk-Road medical ethic project. At the conference professors and students of medical school and doctors will discuss

medical ethics, while in the project they will hold a joint Hippocratic Oath ceremony. As for a cultural project, Silk Road Film Festival is being planned. Films dealing with diverse Silk-Road cultures, histories, and other relevant issues will be presented. Talking of expeditions, I am planning three expeditions: Chinese Silk Road, the Second-Section Maritime Expedition from Malaka in Malaysia to Muscat in Oman or Busher in Iran, and the 21st-Century Marco Polo Project. In the Marco Polo Project young people around the world will drive their cars departing from Venice, Italy, driving through cities that Marco Polo once visited and then through Mongolia, China, and North Korea, and finally arriving in South Korea. I am sure that this project will become a concrete momentum for ushering the peace and prosperity of the Silk Road and paving the way for international cooperation for them. The project is not feasible without the active involvement and cooperation from all member universities, participating countries, and international bodies like the UN. Though it's a difficult and time-consuming project, for the remainder of my terms of office I will do

my best to shorten the time.

Li: Thank a lot for sparing time and sharing your views.

Hwang: You are welcome. Pleasure was mine.

A Meeting with: China “He”, Zheng He

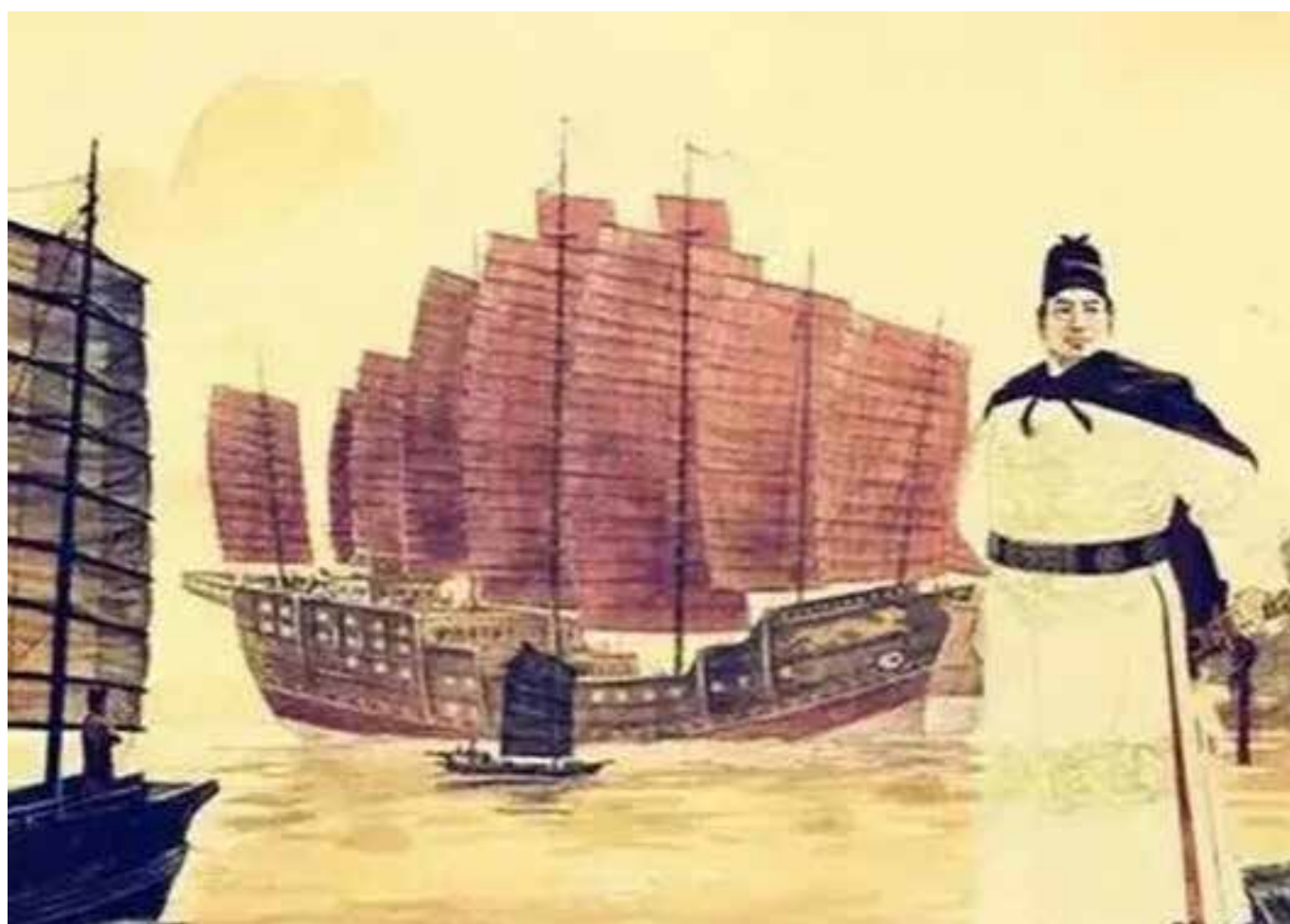
Ji Luyu

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The exchange between Chinese Civilization and Arab Civilization has a long history. It is the Silk Road that connects these two Asian giants with each other. And Zheng He, the famous Chinese navigator, is the most important promoter alongside the Maritime Silk Road. Today, we have the honor to interview Mr. Zheng He. Let's follow his footsteps and revisit the Maritime Silk Road.

Q: Nice to meet you, honorable Zheng Sir. Could you please share with us today your experiences of sailing to the Indian Ocean seven times?

A: Nice to meet you, too. As you said, I have been to the Indian Ocean and its coastal countries seven times,



The great Chinese navigator, Zhenghe(1371-1433)

from 1405 BC to 1433 BC. For the first three voyages, our fleets could go mainly up to Southeast Asia. From the fourth voyage, we took Port Hormuz as our base. And my colleagues went respectively to Yemen, Saudi Arabic, Somalia and Tanzania. Since then, China has established formal friendly relations with Arab people and African people.

Q: What a great feat! As we all know, you are praised as the title “Trailblazer”, what’s your opinion of this special title?

A: I would like to elaborate on this issue from two sides. Firstly, the restart of the Silk Road, in fact, the name “Silk Road” before our voyages mainly referred to the Land Silk



The map of Zheng He's voyages

Road. But since the late Tang Dynasty, China had lost the control rights of the Western Regions. As a result, the land Silk Road was abandoned. So, people had to turn their eyes to the sea. Our voyages promote the Maritime Silk Road, as well as the whole Silk Road. Secondly, it is obvious that many fleets have sailed in the Indian Ocean for a long time, but most of these voyages have been just short ones, which is far from promoting the friendly exchanges. On the contrary, my voyages are supported by our respectable emperor, Zhu Di. It is also the first time that official fleets travelled around the Indian Ocean. Of course, official action can boost the sailing movement to the greatest extent



Emperor Mingchengzu, Zhu Di(1360-1424)

possible.

Q: Yes, the Emperor Minghengzu, Zhu Di is really an enlightened monarch. But why were you chosen to be the leader of these fleets.

A: Ha ha, I think it is because my name, Zheng He. This name was given to me by our respectable emperor. Do you know the meaning of the word “He”? In fact, “He” is the core of Chinese traditional culture. We advocate peace, moderation and harmony. What is the most valuable treasure we brought from Arab countries? Maybe mathematic knowledge, navigational

methods, internal surgery and so on. But what is the most valuable treasure we send to our friends? It is the concept of “Peace”. What we did, successfully creates a harmonious atmosphere all around the Indian Ocean. From then on, the Indian Ocean has become a prosperous region.

Q: I can't agree more. I believe that when Da Gama got to the Indian Ocean, he must have been shocked for your story. Maybe you are real founder of the world's great sailing era.

A: You thought highly of me!



The friendly exchanges

Traditional Use of Seaweed in Agriculture in Mainland Portugal

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The algae harvest in the “Entre-os-Rios” and the “Douro” regions (North of Portugal) was, from the middle ages to the mid-20th century, an economic and socially important activity in mainland Portugal, as is clearly demonstrated by the Dionysian and Manueline provincial laws of “Póvoa de Varzim” and “Maia”. In the provincial law published on March 9, 1308, granted to the old regiment of Varzim de Jusão and its terms, King D. Dinis determines that the picking of the “Sargaço”, as an economic activity of great importance at that time for fertilizing the land, belonged to its residents.



The “sargaceiros” and the “sargaço” picking utensils

These provisions were later confirmed in the Manueline Order of 1514 but, realizing that it was a natural resource capable of generating revenue, it also established on the “Sargaço” trade a real tax (Pereira and Correia, 2015).

Returning to the last point which unequivocally shows the close connection between the algae and the way of life of a people, it is convenient to distinguish the two main mixtures of marine algae traditionally used as fertilizer, that is, the “moliço” of the “sargaço”. As already mentioned, the “moliço” is a mixture of green (Chlorophyta) and red algae (Rhodophyta), and also some marine plants. “Moliço” is composed by specimens

of the genus *Enteromorpha* (algae now belonging to the genus *Ulva*), *Rhizoclonium* (Chlorophyta) and *Gracilaria* (Rhodophyta), and seagrasses (angiosperms) belonging to the genera *Zostera*, *Ruppia* and *Potamogeton*, all harvested in Ria de Aveiro (Aveiro, Portugal).

The “sargaço” (also called “argaço and limos” since the time of the first Kings) is a mixture composed exclusively of several marine macroalgae (*Saccorhiza*, *Laminaria*, *Fucus* - Phaeophyceae, *Codium* - Chlorophyta, *Palmaria*, *Gelidium* and *Chondrus* - Rhodophyta), which grow on the rocks of the coastline. The traditional harvesting of the “sargaço” consisted in the



“Sargaceiros” collecting the “sargaço”

collection, on the beach or on the seashore, of algae that came off the rocks, by the action of the wave movement. Once collected, it was spread out on the sands of the beach to air dry and under the sun. The traditional utensils used to collect the “sargaço” are: the “carrelo” (used to transport the raft), the raft (used to reach the rocks furthest from the beach where the algae cling), the instruments for cutting and collecting (“foicinhão”, “croque”, “engaceira”), and also the baskets (made of wood splints to pack and transport them to land) and the ox carts, to take them to the place where they would dry (Figure 1a, b); another of the utensils used is the round, wide mesh bag with which the loose “sargaço” is collected in the waters. The transport of the “sargaço”, after drying, to the “medas” or haystacks (Figure 1d), was also done using the same baskets of wood splints. These haystacks or haystacks were thus designated as being topped with straw (to waterproof and protect from rain and sun) (Pereira, 2010; Pereira and Correia 2015).

The "Sargaceiros"

The “sargaceiros” are men and women who, during the tides of the periods between



"Maceira" – agricultural field

the equinoxes, head towards the sea to collect the “sargaço”. The origin of this ritual is lost in time, but the "branquetas", robes proper for this task (Figure 1a, b), remember a possible connection to the Romans of Puglia (Apulia in Italian), zone of the South of Italy. Armed, in the style of Roman legion, they fight against the sea of the beaches of Minho (North of Portugal).

The Fields of "Maceira"

"Maceiras" or fields of "maceira" constitute a form of agriculture unique in the world (Figure 1c), and it can even be said that it is autochthonous (as a practice). This form of secular agriculture, widely used on the



"Sargaço" hystacks

coasts of these two counties, was invented; it is said, in the eighteenth century by the Benedictine monks of the abbey of “Tibães”. This type of agriculture is now in danger of extinction, due to the aging of the labor force and consequent gradual abandonment of ancestral agricultural practices, replaced by intensive and more profitable practices in the short term (Pereira, 2010; Pereira and Correia 2015).

"Mahi Kababi" 'traditional grilled fish' (fat fishes, or salmon) in Khuzestan province style/ IRAN

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"Steps to bake grilled fish" Usually after a fresh fish, an oily / fat fish special for a grill that has a certain variety (sobur: salmon, kharro, qezel ala: trout or even small fishes like beyah, yeffut: sardines) is served. After washing the fish and scooping its skin from the backside with a knife for thorough cleaning, they clean the fish mustache.

They lift the fish from the back of the lumbar and clean its inside. They usually eat fish's caviar, which has an intake of food and is very tasty. After washing the fish, they



spray salt on the entire surface of the fish and leave it for half an hour to absorb the good salt and add salt again, and then put the whole surface of the skin and the inside of the stomach into a laced layer of tomato paste, dates or sour cream. Soak them up. Then they have already prepared the parchment. After washing the fish, the entire surface of the fish is sprayed with salt and left for half an hour to



absorb the salt, and after washing it, they add salt again, and then put the whole surface of the skin and the inside of the stomach into a laced layer of tomato paste, dates or sour cream of tamarin. Then a

thickly dipped layer of smelling vegetables, garlic, white pepper and tamarin is put on the inner side of the fish. Afterwards, when the pre-cooked casserole completely covers the fish's abdomen, they put the fish on ("jali" in a rod in a metal lattice that keeps the fish on both sides of the fish like a clamp). Spread out in imer hilla, the chopped fish are ready to put on a bench or be barbecue or baked in a traditional oven, which is better as it bakes the fish very slowly, around 60 degrees centigrade.



This meal could be served with rice; shirazi salad (cucumber,



onion, tomato, lemon juice) for lunch. Its original dessert is dates and sesame oil. History of the dish: in mid- 14th century A.D. Ibn Battutah the Moroccan traveller ate such a meal in the city of Abadan (khuzestan, Iran) in a sufi monastery as a guest. He said that it was the best meal that he had during his 45 years of voyage



SILKROAD AGRICULTURE & GASTRONOMY

Zeytoon Paravardeh or Marinated Olives

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Zeytoon paravardeh or marinated olives is a traditional Iranian side-dish originated from the northern cities of Iran. The birthplace of this traditional appetizer is Roodbar, where there are plenty of olive gardens. Rudbar is 268 kilometers from Tehran and it is considered as a gateway to Guilan Province in the north of Iran, by the Caspian Sea. Rudbar's local economy is premised on olives and olive-based products as the groves of olive trees surround the city.

In the following paragraphs the recipe of Iranian way of marinated olives is explained:

Ingredients

- 800 gr chopped or whole olives (Raw or Canned)
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Fresh Mint (Use dried herbs instead of fresh if preferred.)
- 2 crushed garlic Cloves
- 200 gr ground walnuts
- 1/2 cup sour pomegranate seeds (optional)
- 1/2 cup pomegranate paste (optional)
- 1/2 cup Sour Pomegranate Juice
- Pinches of salt and ground black pepper to taste
- A pinch of chilly flakes (optional)
- A couple of sprigs of Tarragon and Thyme

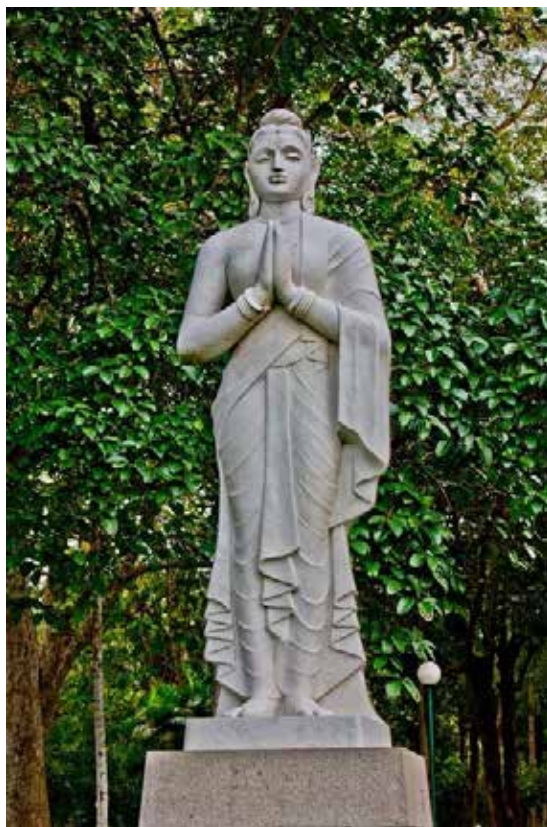
Directions: (It is a piece of cake to prepare it.)

- 1.** Wash the olives well and dry.
- 2.** Add the other ingredients and mix them well in a large bowl.
- 3.** Transfer the marinated olives into a container, close the lid and keep in the refrigerator for few days before serving (Leave it for a few days for the flavors to develop.).

The Story of Queen Vihara Maha Devi

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Nazly Ahmed, Flickr

In the history of Sri Lanka, few female characters are as reverently aspired to as Queen Vihara Maha Devi. Not only because she gave birth to and rose up the greatest Sinhalese king Duttugenumu, but also because of her own morality and maternity. In the 13th century Pali text, Vihara Maha Devi was described as “a woman without blemish”:

firm in the faith, pious and beautiful, self-controlled, keen-witted and virtuous.

Born to a privileged royal family, Vihara Maha Devi first demonstrated her extraordinary patriotism and moral strength when she was only 12. Her father, King Kelanitissa of Kelaniya, unjustly killed a Buddhist monk because of his suspect about his wife's adultery. This act of sacrilege incurred the wrath of the god, who rose up the waters in the Indian Ocean to flood his kingdom. Young as she was, Vihara Maha Devi willingly sacrificed herself for the sake of her people. She was placed into a beautiful but fragile boat and set adrift to the angry waves.

However, the god receded and decided to spare her life, carrying her boat ashore to Dovera in Kirinda, the territory of King Kavantissa. The powerful yet pacifist king fell in love with the little princess asleep in the boat, and together they had two sons: Dutugemunu and Saddhatissa.

The most famous anecdote of Vihara Maha Devi took place between her and her eldest son Dutugemunu. When Dutugemunu was a child, his father King Kavantissa summoned

the two princes and laid down three principles: first, respect the three jewels of Buddhism and promote the spirit of Dharma; second, love your brother and your family; third, pay allegiance to the Tamil King Elara, who was occupying the northern and north-central regions of the island. Dutugemunu agreed with the first two principles, but was determined to take back their entitled land from Elara. He returned to his bedroom and curled up in his bed, and when his mother Vihara Maha Devi asked him why he slept with his limbs curled, Dutugemunu answered: “To the north there is Elara, to the south there is the vast sea, how can I sleep like a spread-eagle?” The Queen understood his son’s ambition and patriotism, but taught him to hide his light under a bushel and wait for the right time. Later, after his father’s death, Dutugemunu succeeded the throne and launched the battle against the Tamils. Vihara Maha Devi accompanied her son in his battle, proving to be his shrewdest military adviser.

To this day, Vihara Maha Devi was held highly in Sri Lankan people’s heart. The most famous park in the capital city of Colombo was named after her, and statues of her can

be found all over the island, including the
aforementioned Vihara Maha Devi Park.
The former first lady of Sri Lanka, Hema
Premadasa, extolled Vihara Maha Devi as
“noble and exemplary in all her roles as
daughter, wife and mother,” and that her
life “was a great source of inspiration to the
women today.”

SUN NEWS

**The 4th General Assembly of
Silk-Road Universities Network
August 29- September 1, 2018
Ca' Foscari University of Venice,
Venezia, Italy**





The 4th Annual International Conference of International Association for Silk Road Studies (IASS), September 13-16, 2018 Gyeongju, Korea





More than 50 professors, researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and opinion leaders in diverse fields of Silk Road related studies from 10 countries world-wide (Australia, Mexico, Japan, India, Korea, Italy, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkey) attended the 4th Annual Academic Conference.

The Cities Mayors Forum “Global Silk Road” July 2-3, 2018 Astana, Kazakhstan



Secretary General Sungdon Hwang delivered a speech to The Cities Mayors Forum “Global Silk Road” which was held at Astana in Kazakhstan from July 2 to 3, 2018.

The UNESCO Conference August 16-19, 2018 Karakorum, Mongolia



Secretary General Sungdon Hwang was invited to the UNESCO Expert Meeting on "Interactive Atlas of Cultural Interactions along the Silk Roads" which was held at Karakorum from July 16 to 19, 2018.



The 8th UNAOC (UN Alliance of Civilizations) Global Forum at the UN Headquarters November 19-20, 2018 New York, U.S.A.

Secretary General Sungdon Hwang was invited to the 8th UNAOC (United Nations Alliance of Civilization) Global Forum which was held at the Headquarter of UN in New York from November 19 to 20, 2018.

As an invited speaker, he made a speech on how a network of universities can contribute



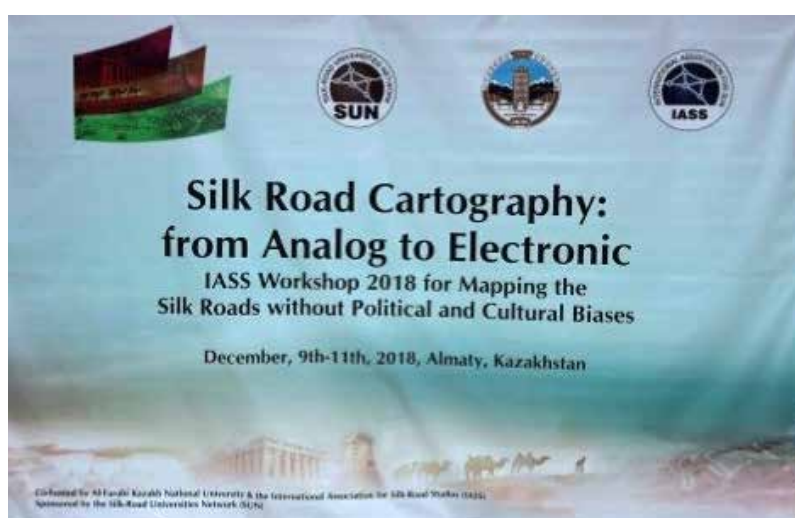
to transforming the Silk Roads to peace roads. He introduced what and how SUN has done through diverse projects and programs in collaboration with member universities of SUN. He made five proposals that can be done with UN and UNAOC including (1) sponsoring or co-organizing the cultural programs of SUN like PHOCOS, WRICOS, the concert of Silkroadia Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Silk Roads Film Festival for young generations, (2) the 21C Marco Polo Project: crossing the land Silk Roads by car from Venice to Gyeongju in South Korea thru North Korea, (3) completion of the Maritime Silk Roads expedition from Malaka, Malaysia to Lisbon, Portugal after last year's expedition, (4) co-organizing or sponsoring the annual ceremony of taking Hippocratic Oath and

academic conference on medical ethics in the island Kos in Greece, the hometown of Hippocrates with medical doctors and professors and students of medical schools all over the world, and (3) establishing the Silk Roads Travel Fund so that there will be no young students who could not travel the Silk Roads just because they don't have money. SG Hwang's participation enabled SUN to be exposed quite widely to diverse governmental as well as non-governmental leaders all over the world.

IASS Workshop 2018 for Mapping the Silk Roads without Political and Cultural Biases December 9-11 Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Almaty, Kazakhstan



On December 10th, an international conference dedicated to the Great Silk Road "Silk Road Mapping: from analog to electronic" co-organized by the Silk-Road Universities Network and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



The 4th USSUN WORKSHOP

August 30 - September 1, 2018
Ca' Foscari University, Venice



28 students from 13 countries represented their universities during the two-day workshop.

NEWS FROM **MEMBER UNIVERSITIES**

Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, Azerbaijan

They want to be AUL students- Reportage from International Education Exhibition

The Baku Expo Center hosted the 12th International Education Exhibition and highlighted the success of our education system and its future goals.

The exhibition organized under the slogan “Investing in the future of children” brought together more than 130 participants from 12 countries and created a great opportunity for everyone to choose both a specialty and an educational institution.

<http://www.adu.edu.az/en/2018/10/they-want-to-be-aul-students-reportage-from-international-education-exhibition/>



Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

CU Rector: Insignia exhibition “a small miracle”

Visitors to the Czech capital and Charles University have an opportunity to see a unique exhibition on at the Carolinum until the end of January 2019. On view are some of Charles University's rarest treasures, such as the university's founding document and its historic seal and insignia.

At the vernissage on the eve of the opening, the university's rector, Tomáš Zima confirmed that the exhibition was part of ongoing celebrations marking 670 years since the founding of the university and 100 years since the founding of Czechoslovakia.

<https://www.cuni.cz/UKEN-868.html>



University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland

University's celiac disease research is at the top of the world

The University of Tampere's celiac disease research is among the top of the world, and Professor Katri Kaukinen is one of the leading experts in the field.

This result is based on a ranking published by the Expertscape website, which analyzed 5,860 peer-reviewed research articles published in international science journals.

<http://www.expertscape.com/ex/celiac+disease>



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

In mid-November 2018, a joint EU Project of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2014-2020, entitled “Silk Road Local Culture – SILC” has been launched by the European Interdisciplinary Silk Road Tourism Centre. Aristotle University is now leading a consortium consisting of partners from Armenia (Russian-Armenian University), Georgia (International Centre for Social Research and Policy Analysis-ICSRPA), Bulgaria (University of Varna), and Romania (National Association for Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism).



The 2nd International Congress on World Civilizations and Historic Routes, 15-16 November 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

The Centre has also actively participated in the 2nd International Congress on World Civilizations and Historic Routes, 15-16 November 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria, where the President of the Centre, Dr. Stella Kostopoulou, Associate Professor of Regional and Tourism Development, School of Economics, AUTh, was invited by UNWTO.

<http://europe.unwto.org/event/2nd-international-congress-world-civilizations-and-historic-routes>

Allameh Tabataba'i University, Teheran, Iran

Silk Road Studies Research Center

Allameh Tabataba'i University has launched the Silk Road studies research center in Iran for the first time. Enhancing the Silk Road-related researches; although important, is only part of the objective. The main thrust of this measure is to use the finding of the study in policy making and innovative strategies.

<https://en.atu.ac.ir>



Imam Khomeini International University, Qazvin, Iran

Achieving the First Rank of Shiraz Open Robotic Championship

Imam Khomeini International University's invention and innovation team by support of University's center of growth and entrepreneurship and representative of the supreme leader office in the university, with presenting five inventions in the field of power were participated in the country's robotic invention competition league in Shiraz Open 2018 and with achieving to a silver trophy medal and two bronze trophy medal could have reached to the first rank of this great country's academic scientific championship.

<http://ikiu.ac.ir/en/news-view.php?nid=12>



Imam Khomeini International University's team members posing with their certificates

University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran

The University ranked the world's best universities in the "golden age" of the 2018

The University of Isfahan ranked the world's best universities in the "golden age" of the 2018 Global Times University Ranking System with a global rank of between 151 and 200 among 200 universities in 44 countries.

http://www.ui.ac.ir/ShowPage.aspx?page_=news&lang=2&template=intrnationalen&sub=107&isPopUp=false&PageID=23476&PageIDF=595&isPopUp=false



University of Isfahan

RANKED 151–200



Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venezia, Italy

Science, art and movies to shape a sustainable future

Prince Albert II of Monaco and Youba Sokona, vice president of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), inaugurated the third edition of the Festival for the Earth,



two activity-filled days, bringing art and science together for a more sustainable future. The festival is organized by Ca' Foscari University of Venice and MrB Art, in partnership with the Prince Albert II Foundation and the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC).

https://www.unive.it/pag/16584/?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=6147&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=641c2130b7cd159e0c42fbe6cbdf7912

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Tokyo, Japan

TUFS Becomes Top Recipient of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research

According to the “2018 Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research Distribution Report” released by MEXT, the acceptance rate for



funding of new research projects at TUFS in 2018 was 52.8%, making it the highest in all of Japan. This is the first time in 10 years that TUFS has achieved this.

In addition to this, in the rankings for most grants awarded by field, TUFS came in 2nd in “literature, linguistics and related fields”, 9th in “history, archaeology, museology and related fields”, 4th in “geography, anthropology, folkloristics and related fields”, and 5th in “political science and related fields”.

http://www.tufs.ac.jp/english/NEWS/research/181130_1.html

University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

UJ Hosts Former Astronaut, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden

The University of Jordan (UJ) library, within the American Corner's activities, organized, in cooperation with the Schools of Engineering and Science, a lecture by Charles Bolden, U.S. Department of State Science Envoy for Space and the former administrator of the National



Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Charles Bolden, U.S. Department of State Science Envoy for Space, NASA gives his lecture at the University of Jordan

http://ujnews2.ju.edu.jo/en/english/Lists/News/Disp_FormNewsConf.aspx?ID=5744

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

University Nanosatellite was Successfully Launched into Space

The «SpaceX» Elon Musk Company has launched the Kazakhstani Nanosatellite «Al-Farabi-2» created by Al-Farabi KazNU.

It is designed to solve original scientific, technological and educational tasks, as well as it would allow for testing of electronic components of an onboard computer developed by KazNU's scientists for small spacecraft. The results of research and



experiments are valuable and relevant to the Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan and foreign partners of the University.

<http://www.kaznu.kz/en/3/news/one/14878/>

University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Um, Ifcon Technology Launch Blockchain Technology Lab and National Blockchain Seminar

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT), University of Malaya (UM) in collaboration with IFCON Technology Sdn Bhd, an IT-based company in Malaysia



recently launched the University of Malaya (UM) Blockchain Technology Lab and National Blockchain Seminar. The launch of the seminar and establishment of Blockchain Technology Lab is in line with the UM vision of becoming a world-class institution of higher learning in research, innovation, publication and teaching.

<https://www.um.edu.my/about-um/media-centre/news/2018/11/13/um-ifcon-technology-launch-blockchain-technology-lab-and-national-blockchain-seminar>

Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

English Olympiad is successfully organized

English Olympiad has been traditionally organized at the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture since 1994. On March 30 of this academic year, the Olympiad ended with award ceremony at the “Oyutan” theatre after it had covered all students of 6 schools



competing in 3 categories. 470 students took English test at the first level of “I love English” Olympiad contest. 20 top students from the first level contest participated in the second level and competed in essay writing or interviewing categories.

<http://www.en.msuac.edu.mn/#/%D0%BC%D1%8D%D0%B4%D1%8D%D1%8D%D0%BB%D1%8D%D0%BB/english-olympiad-is-successfully-organized>

National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Mongolia Beckons, QS Arrives: Developing The Next Hot Destination in Global Higher Ed!

Braving temperatures of -10 to -20 degrees centigrade, a very special edition of QS Xchange kicked-off in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 5 November 2018 at the campus of the National University of Mongolia. Co-hosted also by the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and with the theme “Journey to Global Prominence: Internationalizing Mongolian Higher Education,” the seminar



offered an opportunity for Mongolian government and higher education leaders to get to know QS, and for QS to better understand the developments taking place in Mongolia.

<https://news.num.edu.mn/?p=53848&lng=en>

Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, People's Republic of China

President Peng Long heads a delegation to Norway, Lithuania and Kazakhstan

From June 12 to 20, a BFSU delegation headed by President Peng Long paid visits to Norway, Lithuania and Kazakhstan. To promote inter-school exchanges, they visited a number of well-known universities and academic institutions including University of



Oslo, University of Bergen, Vytautas Magnus University, International Science Complex “Astana” and Al-Farabi Kaz NU, and signed a number of agreements.

<http://global.bfsu.edu.cn/en/president-peng-long-heads-a-delegation-to-norway-lithuania-and-kazakhstan/>

University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Establishment of the Sino-Lusophone Academy of the University of Coimbra

The University of Coimbra (UC) officially established its Sino-Lusophone Academy in October 2018, with the mission of promoting the development of relevant knowledge concerning the relations between China, Portugal and the Portuguese Speaking Countries, with a primary focus on Law, and transferring that knowledge to the parties interested in the strengthening and consolidation of those relations.

<https://www.uc.pt/en>



University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Astronomers discover a new class of X-ray sources

Sun and other stars in the Milky Way emit radiation that can be detected by human eyes. Astronomers, however, know many celestial objects that can radiate their energy in the form of X-rays. An international team of scientists, which includes astronomers from the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Warsaw, reported in the “Nature Astronomy” journal the discovery of a new class of X-ray sources.

<http://en.uw.edu.pl/astronomers-discover-a-new-class-of-x-ray-sources/>



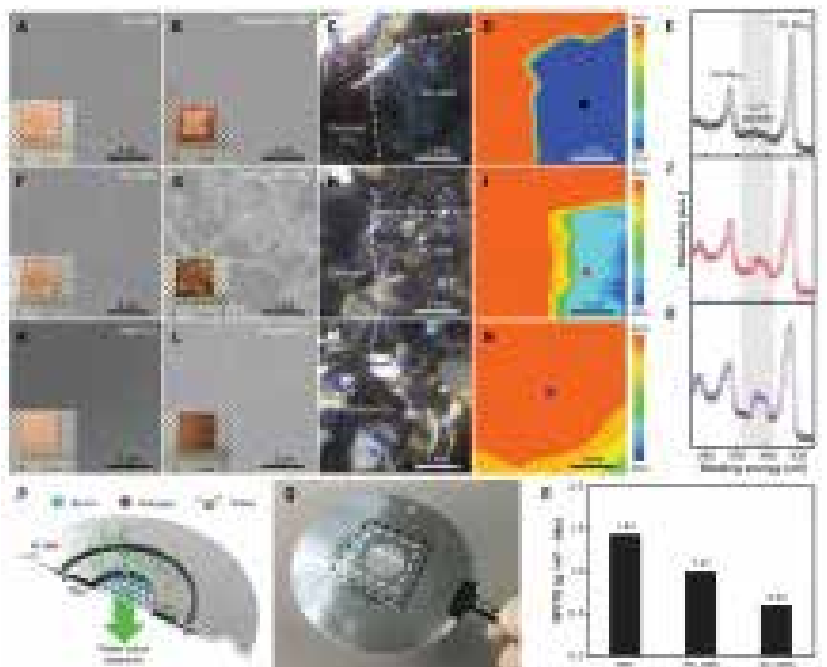
Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea

An Innovation in Transparent Flexible Electronic Materials

Among two-dimensional materials, hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) is the only insulating material that is used to make transparent flexible and wearable electronic products. However, the large-area 'polycrystalline hexagonal boron nitride' synthesized by the conventional method has shown a low insulating character due to its incomplete atomic bonding of boron and nitrogen.

For the first time in history, Joo Song Lee (BIN Fusion Engineering doctoral student at Chonbuk National University) and his team have successfully discovered a way to synthesize wafer-scale 'single-crystalline hexagonal boron nitride' (SC-hBN) monolayer films with chemical vapor deposition, and have published the results of the study in Science magazine recently as the main author.

<http://www.cbnu.edu/eng/?menuID=350&mode=view&no=276>



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Chair University of SUN), Seoul, Republic of Korea

HUFS ranked 5th in Arts & Humanities in Korea

HUFS has demonstrated a steady rise in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018. On March 1, 2018, higher education data specialist QS released its university rankings in 46 subjects. In the rankings, HUFS ranked in the world's top 200 in four subjects.

HUFS, much recognized for its arts and humanities programs, remained in the top 200 worldwide. It climbed 18 places to reach 132nd in the global ranking (5th in Korea).

<http://builder.hufs.ac.kr/user/boardList.action?command=albumView&siteId=hufspublic&boardId=16788463&boardSeq=104177943>



Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov, Romania

The 4th International Conference on Music Therapy

The International Conference on Music Therapy held by Transilvania University of Brasov between November 10th - 11th, 2018 brings together speakers from international and national scientific research environment, universities and professional organizations. This year's conference topic "The Healing Power of Music" led us into exploring both, the diversity and wholeness of the music therapy profession, as well as learning about innovative healing practice. It is an opportunity to present new ideas and research results in the research field, in the music therapy research field, discussions and exchanges of experience in music therapy

<https://www.unitbv.ro/en/research/scientific-events/scientific-events-2018/2668-the-4th-international-conference-on-music-therapy.html>

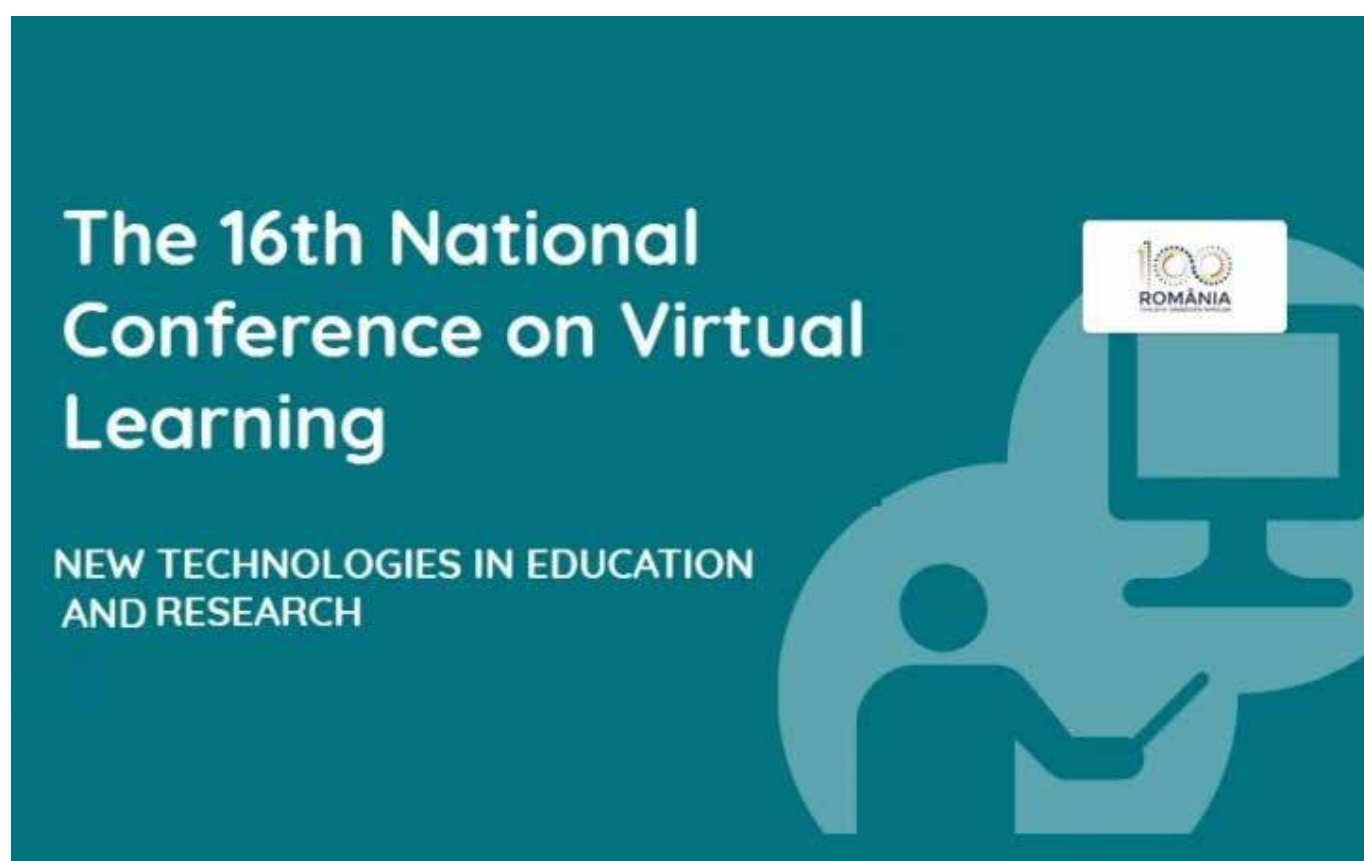


University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania

University of Bucharest, Organizing Partner for the XVIth edition of the National Conference on Virtual Learning

The XVIth edition of the National Conference on Virtual Learning (CNIV) celebrating the 1918 Great Union Centenary was organized at the University of Bucharest, in partnership with the „1 Decembrie 1918” University from Alba Iulia, on the 26th-27th of October 2018.

<https://en.unibuc.ro/2018/10/31/university-of-bucharest-organizing-partner-for-the-xvith-edition-of-the-national-conference-on-virtual-learning/>



Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow, Russia

MSLU in the first universities ranking of Forbes

On June 29th, 2018 the editors prepared the first rating of Russian universities to analyze which universities graduates young people with business skills have become capable to join the Forbes list and become part of the Russian political elite. According to this rating MSLU entered the top 100 rankings and took 45th place.

https://www.linguanet.ru/en/about/news/?ELEMENT_ID=4147



Irkutsk National Research Technical University, Irkutsk, Russia

Rector of INRTU Mikhail Korniaikov to take part in Torch relay of Winter Universiade - 2019

Rector of INRTU Mikhail Korniaikov was awarded the right to carry the flame for the Winter Universiade – 2019.

The XXIX Winter Universiade starts in Krasnoyarsk on March 2, 2019. The flame for the festival of youth and sports will be lighted with the formal ceremony on September 20, 2018, the International Day of Student Sports. The Universiade Flame relay is aimed at the popularization of this project among the population of Russia and world community. The torch bearers will carry the flame through streets of 30 Russian cities where the leading universities as well as large economic, sports, and culture centers are located.

<https://www.istu.edu/eng/news/45542/>



University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

Jordi Garcés gets the University a 4.2 million European funding for research in palliative care

The Research Institute of Social Welfare Policy (Polibienestar) of the University of Valencia directs the European project INADVANCE, funded in the Horizon 2020 program of the European Commission with 4.2 million euros. The plan has a duration of four years and represents the highest budget achieved by the University to develop and implement palliative care that meets to the requirements of older people with chronic non-cancer diseases.

Through INADVANCE (Patient-centred pathways of early palliative care, supportive ecosystems and appraisal standard), the aim

INADVANCE' project research team



is to design effective, sustainable over time intervention programs that can be replicated in various care and cultural contexts that improve the quality of life of patients. Likewise, the project is one of the major concerns of Europe, since it aims to reduce the socioeconomic impact of chronic diseases

https://www.uv.es/uvweb/uv-news/en/news/jordi-garces-gets-university-a-4-2-million-european-funding-research-palliative-care-1285973304159/Novetat.html?id=1286056359405&plantilla=UV_Noticies/Page/TPGDetailNews

National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan

Students from Diplomacy win the “Distinguished Delegation Award” at 2018 National Model United Nations in New York

In late March, 18 undergraduate and MA students from Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University (NCCU) received the “Distinguished Delegation Award” from the 2018 National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York City, a 5-day international conference that has invited the largest number of students from all over the world to join a model-UN simulation.

<https://www.nccu.edu.tw/?locale=en>



Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

The panel, organized by Ankara University's Human Rights Center on the occasion of World Children's Rights Day, was held at the Senate Hall of Ankara University Rectorate

https://twitter.com/AnkaraUni_en/status/1064872189692907520



The British University in Dubai, Dubai, UAE

Role of Government-Academia-Industry in Building Innovation-Based Cities and Nations is discussed at the 2nd International Triple Helix Summit

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed AL-Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and CEO of Emirates Group, The British University in Dubai has



The 2nd International Triple Helix Summit

partnered with The University of Dubai, Al Maktoum college of Higher Education, American University of Ras Al Khaimah and Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government to organize the 2nd International Triple Helix Summit. It discussed the “Role of Government/Academia/Industry in Building Innovation-Based Cities and Nations”. The Summit will provide a global forum for practitioners, academics and policy makers to have a discussion on Triple Helix practical cases.

https://twitter.com/AnkaraUni_en/status/1064872189692907520

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

The Institute hosted students from Germany to participate in the course on "Uzbek Language, Culture and Every Day Life in Samarkand"

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages jointly with Humboldt University, Germany and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service Organization) organized a special intensive course entitled "Uzbek Language, Culture and Every Day Life in Samarkand".

<https://samdchti.uz/yangiliklar/course-on-uzbek-language-culture-and-every-day-life-in-samarkand>



Students from Humboldt University, Germany visiting Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Language

Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

UzSWLU International Model United Nations 2018

UzSWLU MUN is a new diplomatic event offering fresh ideas and enhancement of diplomatic skills of the youth. It is held to acquire the attitude of the youth towards Sustainable Development Goals and inspire them to contribute to the global development.

<http://uzswlu.uz/news/view/185>



UPCOMING EVENTS

The 5th General Assembly of SUN

By decision of the Executive Council of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN), the next Inaugural General Assembly of SUN will be held at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University on September 17-21, 2019 jointly co-organized by QS Worldwide 2019.



The 5th International Conference of International Association for Silk Road Studies (IASS)

Co-hosted by Moscow State Linguistic University and IASS

Date: September, 25-28, 2019

Venue: Moscow State Linguistic University,
Moscow, Russia



SUN International Summer Archaeological Campus, April, 2019, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

INTRODUCTION

The region of Chu is one of the most distinctive regions in terms of natural origin. This place is known in the world of historiography for his inexhaustible natural resources, unique historical and cultural monuments. The medieval city of Aktobe is located in the valleys of several water arteries: Chu, Sargau, Aksu, Karabalta, Tokhtash, Koragatty. There is Aksu, Tasotkel reservoirs. The physical and geographical position of this region is also diverse. The climate and the world of fauna and flora are also very interesting for researchers.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THIS PLACE

- This object belongs to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for more than 38 years.
- The medieval settlement of Aktobe (Balasagun) is on the road of the Great Silk Road and the international highway of Western China - Western Europe (VI-XIII centuries).
- It is one of the most important urban centers in the history of medieval Kazakhstan, which served as the main capital of medieval Turkic states, such as the Turgesh, the Karluk Khaganate, Karakhanid and Karakitay state.
- Burial mounds are not excavated and they are under state protection.



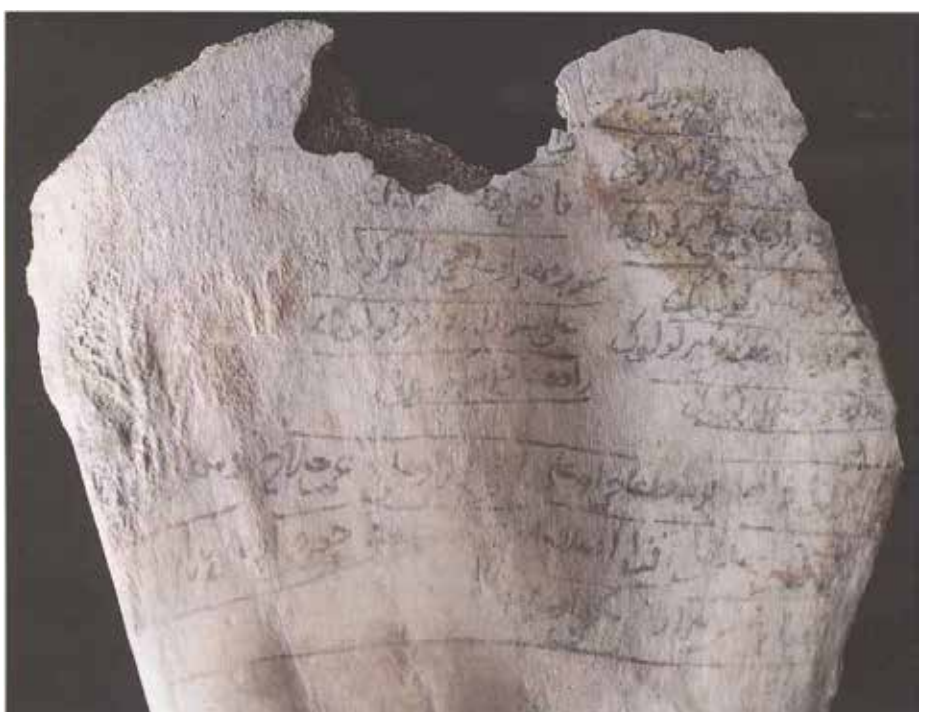


Burial mounds



**Balbal (stone statues)
from the
Kokturk period**

**Camel bone with
writing on it**



THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT

to create joint resources for our researchers in studying archeology, anthropology, ethnology and museology, in sharing experiences and in presenting innovative solutions for current tasks.



The view of the site

MISSION

to make this site a platform for meeting colleagues and sharing experiences, introducing innovative technologies and methodological solutions to applied problems.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The campus can become a platform for scientists and students meeting.

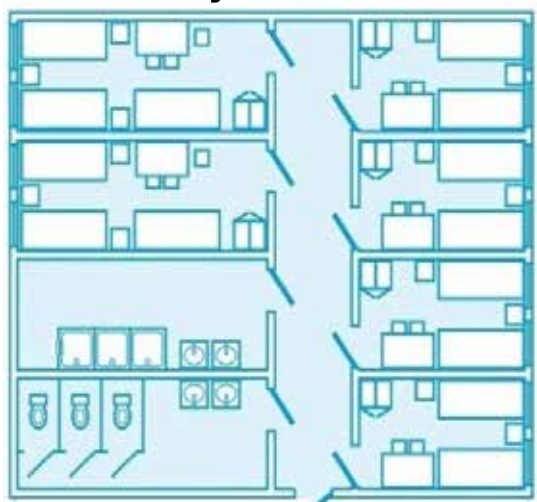
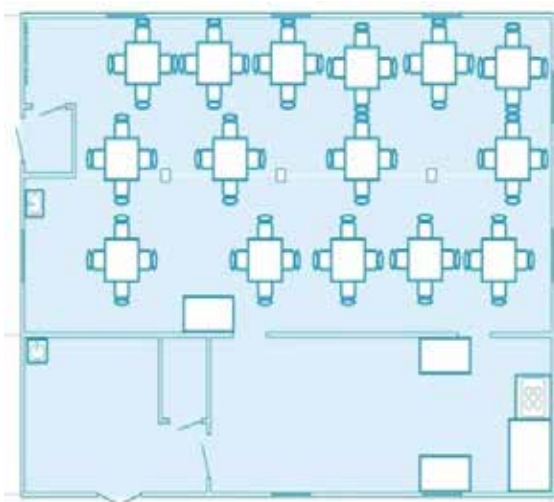
- The program will focus on lectures and master-classes.
- The program will include methodological guidelines.
- To create a platform for cooperation in the field of higher education.
- To promote regional openness and the intensification of cooperation between universities from countries and regions.

Construction time – 2 months



Hall for various events

Dormitory



Project Total Budget: \$150,000 USD

Supporter: SUN & member universities of SUN

Project Coordinator: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- Sharing experiences and modernization of the educational and research activities of the SUN universities;
- Development of an exchange student programs between universities;
- The implementation of an interdisciplinary approach in training specialists;
- Knowledge development about CA part of the Silk Road;
- Active cross-cultural communication during training at Campus;
- Designing international joint project proposals.

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University is ready to commit to:

- Providing 24 hour security;
- Landscaping (arrangement of pedestrian-walking zone);
- Installation of metal fences around the perimeter of the campus with the installation of an input group;
- Arrangement of sports grounds (volleyball, football);
- Transportation from Almaty to campus

NOTE: Based upon the decision made by the participants of the 4th Annual General Assembly of SUN in 2018, SUN is delighted to help Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with the project to construct training facilities at the archaeological site owned and managed by the above mentioned university.

Each member university is cordially expected to donate about \$2000-3000 USD for implementation of this project.

The facilities are to be used by academic scholars and students of member universities all year round free of charge.

Please send donations to:

Bank name: Woori Bank

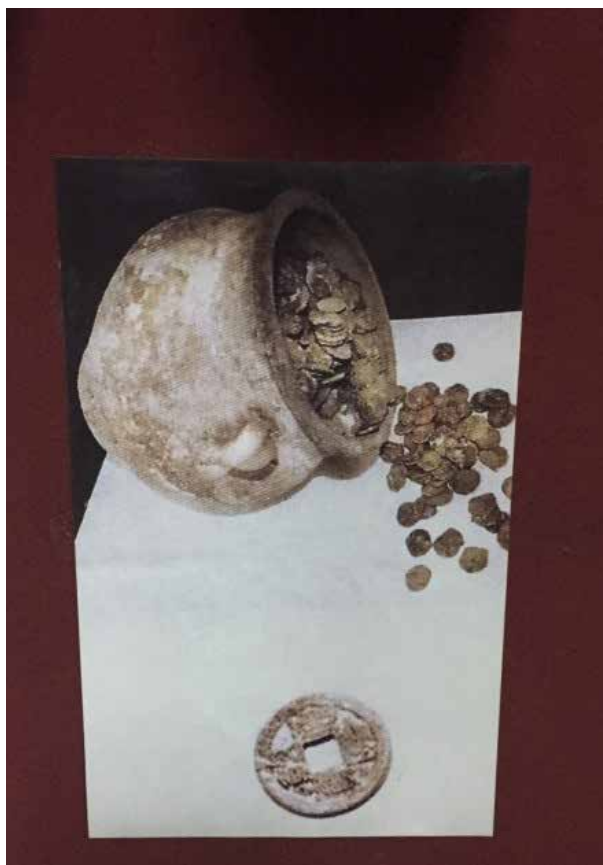
Name of account holder: Silk-Road
Universities Network

Account number: 1081-100-843274

SWIFT code: HVBKKRSEXXX

Appendix

FINDINGS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS



Dozens of houses, mosques, baths, workshops and outbuildings were cleared



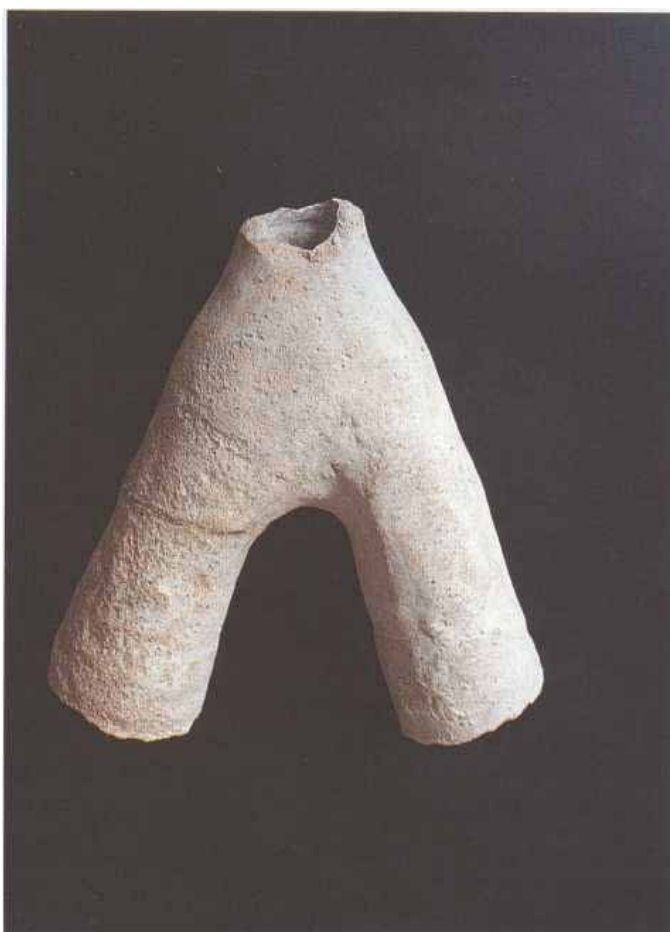
Unglazed pot with double lugs



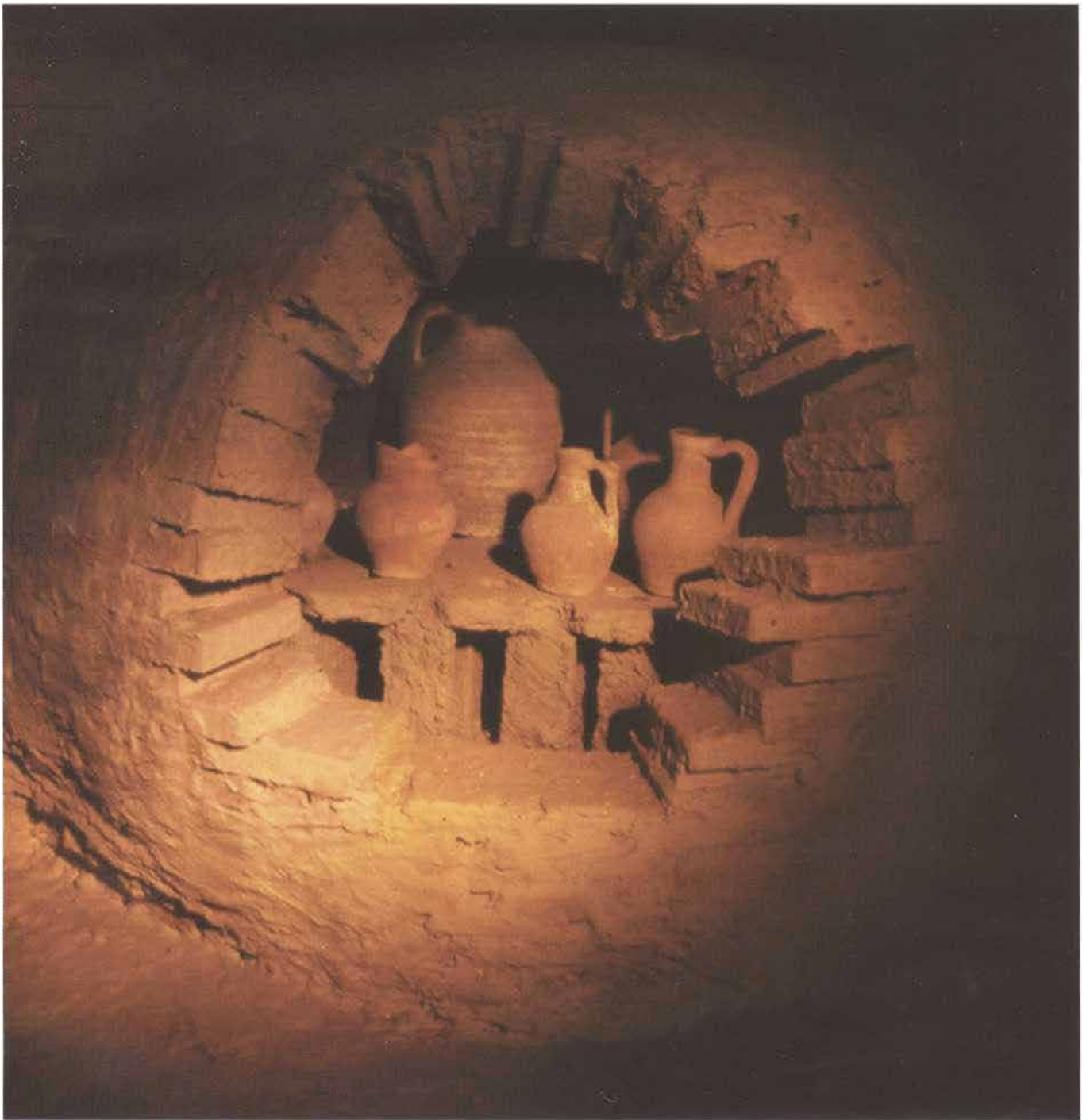
Unglazed mug with single handle (glass inlay) deep bowl, underglaze painted



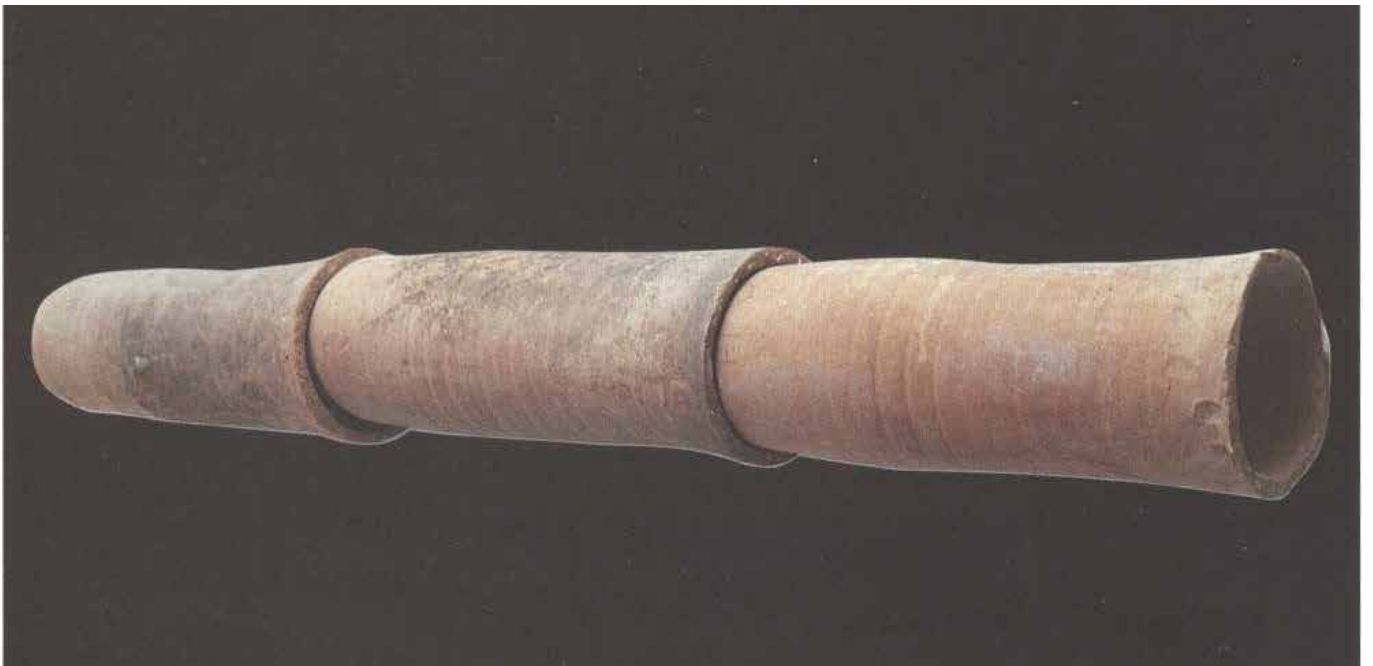
Bronze oil lamp



Ceramic water pipe



Pottery kiln



**Terra cotta,
water pipes**

BEAUTY OF DIVERSITY IN CAMPUS LIFE

Photos captured from the web sites of member universities



International University, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Royal University of Phnom Penh



University of Cambodia



Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic



University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece



**National and
Kapodistrian
University of
Athens, Athens,
Greece**



University of Delhi, Delhi, India



Universitas Indonesia, Jawa Barat, Indonesia



Allameh Tabataba'i University, Teheran, Iran



University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran

Imam Khomeni International University, Qazvin, Iran





Naples University “L’Orientale”, Naples, Italy



Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Venezia, Italy



Tenri University, Nara, Japan



Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, Japan



University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan



Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan



Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan



Kazakh National Agrarian University, Almaty, Kazakhstan



KIMEP, Almaty, Kazakhstan



Eurasian Technological University, Almaty, Kazakhstan



International Medical University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



**University of
Malaya, Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia**



**Mongolian State University of Culture and Arts, Ulaanbaatar,
Mongolia**



National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



University of Yangon, Yangon, Myanmar



University of Mandalay, Mandalay, Myanmar



Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman



Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, People’s Republic of China



Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China



Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, People’s Republic of China



Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China



Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, People's Republic of China



Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland



University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland



Nova University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal



University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal



Changwon National University, Changwon, Republic of Korea



Keimyung University, Daegu, Republic of Korea



Dongguk University at Gyeongju, Gyeongju, Republic of Korea



Daegu University, Gyeongsan, Republic of Korea



Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan, Republic of Korea



Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Republic of Korea



**Mokpo National
Maritime
University, Mokpo,
Republic of Korea**

**Handong Global
University, Pohang,
Republic of Korea**



**Pohang University of Science and Technology, Pohang,
Republic of Korea**



KDI School, Sejong, Republic of Korea



Gachon University, Seongnam, Republic of Korea



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Korea National University of Arts, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Dongyang University, Yeongju, Republic of Korea



Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Sibiu, Romania



Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov, Romania



University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania



Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg, Russia



**Moscow State
Institute of
International
Relations,
Moscow, Russia**



Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow, Russia



Irkutsk National Research Technical University, Irkutsk, Russia



University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain



University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan



National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan



Mahidol University, Salaya, Thailand



**Ankara University,
Ankara, Turkey**



Erzinçan University, Erzinçan, Turkey



Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey



British University of Dubai, Dubai, UAE



Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



Samarkand Agricultural Institute, Samarkand, Uzbekistan



Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Samarkand, Uzbekistan



**University of Social Sciences and Humanities – Vietnam
National University Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam**



Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Contribute articles to the SUMMER ISSUE

Discover the Undiscovered Aspects of the Life around You

Send us your creative, informative, involving, unique and original articles related to any topic mentioned below but not limited to:

Local food, recipes, artwork, jewelry, toys, pottery, music instruments, traditional / contemporary dress, types of dwellings, sport equipment, dance, literature, etc. ●●

Archaeological / historical heritage sites, restaurants, markets, etc. ●●

Festivals, rituals, weddings, funerals, social behaviors, table manners, taboos, etc. ●●

Value system, belief, ownership, value of sports and entertainment, education, importance of family, individual freedom and privacy, relationship, respect for others, etc. ●●

Interview with commoners such as workers, craftsmen, servants, daily wagers, taxi drivers, etc. or their daily routine ●●

Recent discoveries, inventions, innovations of your place ●●

Fictional interview with a historical person who is relevant / related to the Silk Road discussion ●●

Picture of any unique and antique object, document, book, painting, instrument, etc. taken by you along with a brief introduction / description.

Requirement: Article / photo shall be original and in accordance with the copyright rules.

Format: Language - English, font - Times New Roman, font size - 10, word limit - up to 500 words.

● *not known to general public*

● *with original photo*