The Silk Road: A New History with Documents

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments Introduction

Documents

- 1. A Walk through the Taklamakan, Charles Blackmore, 1995
- 2. A Caravan in 1895, Sven Hedin, 1925
- 3. The Han Emperor Speaks with the Explorer Zhang Qian, Ban Gu, 111 CE
- 4a-b. Documents About Sogdian Envoys from the Xuanquan Fort, 52, 39 BCE
- 5. The Kingdom of Da Qin, Fan Ye, 445 CE
- 6. Greek Description of the Lands East of India, Periplus, First Century CE
- 7. Pliny the Elder on the Country of Seres and the Silkworm, circa 77 CE

Chapter 1. At the Crossroads of Central Asia: The Kingdom of Kroraina

Documents

- 8. The Niya Site in 1901, Aurel Stein, 1907
- 9. The Niva Site in 1993, Charles Blackmore, 1995
- 10. The Kroraina and Jingjue Kingdoms, Ban Gu, 111
- 11a-h. Local Life in a Silk Road Community as seen in the Kharoshti, Documents, circa 250-350

Chapter 2. Gateway to the Languages of the Silk Road: Kucha and the Kizil Caves

Documents

- 12. Sven Hedin's Account of his 1899 Boat Trip, 1925
- 13. How the Germans Removed Paintings, Albert von le Coq, 1928
- 14. The Jataka Tale of How the Monkey King Saved His Band, Fifth Century CE
- 15. The Punyavan Jataka Tale, Fifth-Sixth Centuries CE
- 16. The Invasion of Kucha by General Lü Guang, Li Fang, 984
- 17. The Biography of Kumarajiva, Fang Xueling, 644

Chapter 3. Midway Between China and Iran: Turfan

Documents

- 18. Xuanzang's Journey out of China, Huili, 649
- 19. The Astana Graveyard in 1915, Aurel Stein, 1928
- 20a-c. The Real World Legal System in the Turfan Documents
- 21a-c.The Underworld Court System in the Turfan Documents
- 22a-d.The Tang Code, Zhangsun Wuji, 653

Chapter 4. Homeland of the Sogdians, the Silk Road Traders: Samarkand and Sogdiana

Documents

- 23a-c. The Sogdian Ancient Letters, Nicholas Sims-Williams (trans.), ca. 310
- 24. The Mount Mugh Marriage Contract and the Bride's Script, 710
- 25. The Fall of Devashtich's Fortress at Mount Mugh, Al-Tabari, 923
- 26. Xuanzang's Description of Sogdian Ways, 646
- 27. The Kingdom of Sogdiana, Liu Xu, 945

Chapter 5. The Cosmopolitan Terminus of the Silk Road: Historic Chang'an, Modernday Xi'an

Documents

- 28a-c. Epitaphs for the Two Sogdian Headmen An Jia and Shi Wirkak, 579
- 29. Christianity in China: The Nestorian Stele of Xi'an, 781

- 30. A Record Book of Accounts from a Tang-Dynasty Pawn Shop, 662-689
- 31. The Lament of the Lady of Qin, A Poem about Chang'an in 881

Chapter 6. The Time Capsule of Silk Road History: The Dunhuang Caves

Documents

- 32. Aurel Stein's Negotiations at Dunhuang, 1912
- 33. A Hebrew Prayer preserved in the Library Cave, 800-1000
- 34. A Manichean Hymn from the Library Cave, 800-1000
- 35. A Christian Hymn from the Library Cave, 800-1000
- 36. The Zhang Yichao Transformation Text, after 857
- 37a-b. Women's Lives in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries

Chapter 7. Entryway into Xinjiang for Buddhism and Islam: Khotan

Documents

- 38. Xuanzang's Description of Khotan, Huili, 649
- 39. The Pilgrim-monk Faxian's Description of Khotan, 401
- 40. The Book of Zambasta, circa 500
- 41. A Khotanese Contract Governing the Use of Irrigation Water, circa 700
- 45. The Second Jewish-Persian Letter, circa 790
- 46. A Khotanese-Sanskrit Phrasebook, Tenth Century CE
- 47. A Khotanese Account of Expenditures, Tenth Century CE

Chapter 8. A New Route through the Grasslands: Beijing

Documents

- 48. Pope Innocent's Letters to the Mongols, 1245
- 49. The Mongol Khan's Reply to the Pope's Letters of 1245
- 50. John of Piano Carpini's Description of the Mongols, 1246
- 51. The Religious Debate at Möngke's Court, 1254
- 52. The Armenian King's Report about William of Rubruck, after 1259
- 53. Rabban Sauma's Account of France, circa 1300
- 54. Marco Polo's Account of Beijing, 1299
- 55. Marco Polo's Route South of Beijing, 1299

Conclusion: The History of the Overland Routes through Central Asia

Art Credits

Index