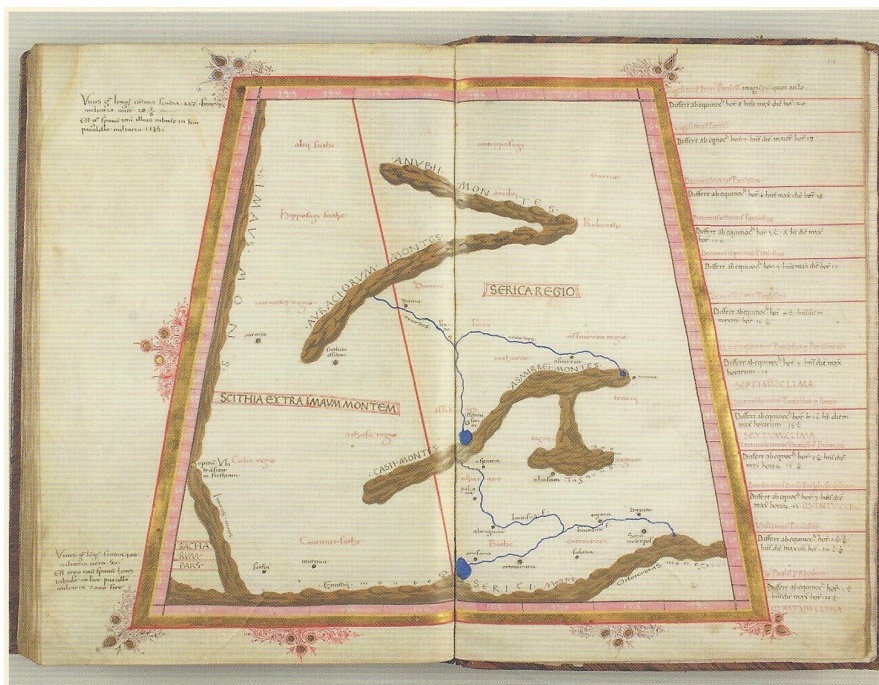


UNION ACADÉMIQUE INTERNATIONALE  
**Project 67: China and the Mediterranean World**  
Archaeological Sources and Written Documents, from the earliest times  
until the end of the fourteenth century CE

PROJECT BULLETIN 2020



**Project rationale:**

In the world today, characterized by globalization in which China is becoming an increasingly important role-player on the global scene, understanding the historical dynamics of Sino-European contacts and interaction is more significant than ever. To enhance our understanding in this regard is the fundamental purpose of the Union Académique Internationale Project "China and the Mediterranean World: Archaeological Sources and Written Documents". The project is a Category B project of the Union and is sponsored by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science and Letters and by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The co-ordinator of the project since 2014 is Professor Samuel N.C. Lieu (Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and President of the UAI 2017-2021). The members of the Advisory Committee in 2019 are:

Delegate members:

Michael Alram (Austria)  
A Representative of the Japan Academy Soichi Saito (Japan)  
Jens Braarvig (Norway)  
A Representative of CASS (China) – Li Jinxiu  
Juha A. Janhunen (Finland)  
Samuel N.C. Lieu (Australia) Co-ordinator  
Torbjörn Lodén (Sweden) Co-ordinator  
Claudia Rapp (Austria)  
Nicholas Sims-Williams (United Kingdom)

Non-delegate advisory members (Honorary):

Prof. Alison Betts (Australia)  
Prof. Geoffrey Greatrex (Canada)  
Prof. Dr. Ralph Kauz (Germany)

Assoc/ Prof. Hyun-Jin Kim (Australia)  
Prof. Rong Xinjiang (Beijing)

### **Aims and sub-divisions of the project:**

1. Collecting and publishing artefacts originating from one cultural sphere found in the other cultural areas through archaeology, especially of Roman artifacts found in China and vice versa. This sub-project was envisaged to be the primary task of the Chinese (CASS - Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) participants, especially of members of the Institute of Archaeology of the in Beijing. Professor Alison Betts of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, co-opted as an honorary member of the Committee in 2015, has in recent years conducted major excavations in key sites along the Silk Road, especially at Hami (Xinjiang, China) and at Tash-k'irman-tepe (ancient Chroasmia, Uzbekistan) and she will also be contributing directly to this aspect of the sub-project.

2. Collecting and translating texts on East-West contact and on mutual awareness:

(1) European (Classical and Medieval) texts on China. Some of this work has already been done by previous scholars especially by the French scholar George Coedès in his work *Textes d'auteurs grecs et latins relatifs a l'Extreme-Orient depuis le IV siecle av. J.-C. jusqu'au XIVE siècle* (Hanoi and Paris, 1910). The very first task of the UAI project team headed by Professor Samuel Lieu of the Australian Academy was to translate this important material from Greek and Latin accurately into English and to furnish it with an up-to-date commentary. (See under Publications: items 1 & 2)

(2) Chinese texts on the Ancient Mediterranean World: The first stage, comprising translations of texts up to the end of the Tang period, has been completed by Mr. Yu Taishan of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and this is now available online (see under Publications: items 5 & 7)

(3) The third major sub-project is to initiate synthetic studies on the significance of the data collected within the first two sub-projects. Work on this has already begun with the collection of textual and epigraphical data. This sub-project therefore has two special goals:

- (i) to examine and analyse evidence for East-West contacts made in the pre-Islamic period, especially through the works of PhD candidates attached to the project (see under Publications: item 3)
- (ii) to conduct comparative studies involving scholars from different parts of the world. This is specially intended to strengthen scholarly cooperation between China and Europe (see under Publications: items 4 & 6)

(4) The sponsoring of international conferences and symposia: It was recognized from the moment of launching of the project that international symposia attended by delegates and researchers who are leaders in the field of Silk Road Studies will be central to the project, especially in the sharing of the latest advances in a fast moving subject area. A number of informal conferences under the aegis of the project since the beginning but the most important formal conference is **The Silk Road and Cultural Exchange between China and Europe** held in Stockholm (3-5 October 2018) jointly sponsored by The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters and the UAI. Scholars from over a dozen countries participated in the conference including half a dozen or so of the delegate-members of the Advisory Board of the project and the proceedings will be published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters in 2021. (*v. infra*)

**Funding:** The project received a major research grant from the Australian Research Council (2010-2013) and minor and continuing grants from the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation (2011-2014, 2016-2019) and from the Union Académique Internationale (2016-2019).

**Publications:** The project has until 2016 published mainly in two established series of Brepols of Turnhout: *Studia Antiqua Australiensia* (SAA) and *Silk Road Studies* (SRS). The publishers have agreed in principle for a dedicated series - **China and the Mediterranean World** – to be inaugurated in 2019. Forthcoming volumes will include monographic studies on major inscriptions found on the Silk Road from Iran to China and on Medieval (Latin) and Byzantine (Greek) sources on China and on the Mongols in the West. Advanced publication of this material can be found on line through the SERICA Website at:

[http://mq.edu.au/research/centres\\_and\\_groups/ancient\\_cultures\\_research\\_centre/research/cultural\\_ex\\_silkroad/serica/texts\\_and\\_translations/](http://mq.edu.au/research/centres_and_groups/ancient_cultures_research_centre/research/cultural_ex_silkroad/serica/texts_and_translations/)

The volumes published by Brepols for the project to date (in two different series) are:

1. G. COEDÈS, *Texts of Greek and Latin Authors on the Far East, From the 4th C. B.C.E. to the 14th C. C.E.*, trans. John SHELDON

ISBN: 978-2-503-53366-7 (Brepols: Turnhout: 2009)

[http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod\\_id=IS-9782503533667-1](http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503533667-1)

2. John SHELDON, *Commentary on George Coedès' Texts of Greek and Latin Authors on the Far East XVIII*+321 pp. (Brepols: Turnhout: 2012 publ. early 2013) ISBN: 978-2-503-54602-5

[http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod\\_id=IS-9782503546025-1](http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503546025-1)

3. J. MARKLEY, *Peace and Peril : Sima Qian's Portrayal of Han-Xiongnu Relations*, *Silk Road Studies* (SRS) 13 (Turnhout: 2016), ISBN: 978-2-503-53083-3

[http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod\\_id=IS-9782503530833-1](http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503530833-1)

4. S.N.C. LIEU and G. MIKKELSEN (eds.), *Between Rome and China: History, Religions and Material Culture of the Silk Road*, *Silk Road Studies* (SRS) 18 (Turnhout: 2016), ISBN: 978-2-503-56669-6

[http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod\\_id=IS-9782503566696-1](http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503566696-1)

**Not published by Brepols:**

5. YU Taishan (CASS) *China and the Mediterranean World in Ancient Times*, edited by Victor Spinei, *Florilegium magistrorum historiae archaeologiaeque Aitniquitatis et Medii Aevi XIV*, Romanian Academy – Institute of Archaeology of Iași 2014

<http://www.arheo.ro/florilegium-magistrorum-historiae-archaeologiaeque-antiquitatis-et-medii-aevi/>

**Related publication:**

6. YING WANG and David MONEY, *Fashioning the Elusive Self – Autobiography in China and the West* (Cambridge: Bringfield's Head Press, 2015) ISBN 978-1-910730-01-0

**Publications in preparation in the new series *China and the Mediterranean World* (Brepols 2019ff.):**

S.N.C. LIEU and G. THOMPSON (eds.) *The Church of the East in Central Asia and China*, approx. 250 pp. (to appear mid-late 2020) (in press)

S.N.C. LIEU and G. MIKKELSEN (eds.), *A Dictionary of Christian Chinese Texts*, Fasc. 1 *The Xi'an Monument and the Luoyang Stele* = *Fontes Christianae Sericae I/1*, approx. 200pp. (to appear early 2021)

**ONLINE publication of the project include:**

7. YU Taishan (CASS) *China and the Ancient Mediterranean World: A Survey of Ancient Chinese Sources*, Sino-Platonic Papers 242, November 2013, 268pp.:  
[http://sino-platonic.org/complete/spp242\\_china\\_mediterranean.pdf](http://sino-platonic.org/complete/spp242_china_mediterranean.pdf)

8. S.N.C. LIEU *et al.* (eds.) *Inscriptiones Palmyrenae Selectae ad Commercium Pertinentes - Select Palmyrene inscriptions on Commerce*  
[http://www.mq.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/24525/106178.pdf](http://www.mq.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/24525/106178.pdf) and  
<https://docplayer.gr/53785401-Inscriptiones-palmyrenae-selectae-ad-commercium-pertinentes.html>

9. S.N.C. LIEU *et al.* (eds.) (Monumentum Sericum) *The Xi'an (Nestorian) Monument* (Chinese and Syriac)  
[http://www.mq.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/55987/Xian-Nestorian-Monument-27-07-2016.pdf](http://www.mq.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/55987/Xian-Nestorian-Monument-27-07-2016.pdf)

10. P. ZIEME *et al.* *Aesop Fable along the Silk Road – an UAI pilot project*  
[http://www.academia.edu/1809998/Aesops\\_fables\\_in\\_Central\\_Asia\\_A\\_contribution\\_to\\_projectChina\\_and\\_the\\_Mediterranean\\_worldof\\_the\\_Union\\_Académique\\_Internationale\\_Participation\\_of\\_the\\_Turfan](http://www.academia.edu/1809998/Aesops_fables_in_Central_Asia_A_contribution_to_projectChina_and_the_Mediterranean_worldof_the_Union_Académique_Internationale_Participation_of_the_Turfan)

11. S.N.C. LIEU (ed.) *Byzantine Authors on Central Asia and the Silk Road* (Theophylact Simocatta, Cosmas Indicopleustes, Laonikos Chalkokondylas *et al.*):  
[https://www.academia.edu/25166776/BYZANTINE\\_SOURCES\\_ON\\_LANDS\\_AND\\_PEOPLES](https://www.academia.edu/25166776/BYZANTINE_SOURCES_ON_LANDS_AND_PEOPLES)

**In preparation:**

12. S.N.C. LIEU and P. McKechnie (eds.) *Hellenism in the East – Greek, Aramaic, Bactrian and Parthian inscriptions from Asia*. To be mounted in January 2021.

**Symposium:** A successful symposium ‘The Silk Road and Cultural Exchange between China and Europe’ co-sponsored by The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Union Académique Internationale (UAI) was held at Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Participants from almost ten national academies took part in a program in which a number of important papers on East-West contacts along the Silk Road were presented and key issues discussed. The papers will be published in the proceedings of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities in 2021.

Program

October 3, 2018:

14:30-15:00 Opening and a brief introduction to the UAI Project  
“China and the Mediterranean World: Archaeological and Written Sources”.

Professor Anders Cullhed, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

Emeritus Professor Samuel Lieu, President of the UAI.

Emeritus Professor Torbjörn Lodén, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

15:00-15:50 Professor Nicholas Sims Williams: “Sacred language, sacred script? Syriac and its competitors in the Christian and Manichaean texts from Turfan”.

15:50-16:30 Mr. Håkan Wahlquist: “Albert Herrmann, Sven Hedin’s missing link in reviving the Silk Road as a concept for trans-Eurasian networks of trade and contact.”

16:30-18:15 Free time

18:15 Dr. Peter Frankopan: “How about ‘Gunnar Jarring and the state of Central Asian Studies.’” Co-arranged with Professor Ingela Nilsson.

19:30 Reception at the Academy.

October 4:

9:30-10:10 Professor Li Jinxiu: “Maritime history between Tang and ‘Persia’: As seen from the Silver

Ingot of a 'Dead Persian named Ishaq' Excavated from Xi'an of Tang Dynasty.”

10:10-10:50 Professor H.K. Chang: “Cultural encounters between the Persian world and China 200 BCE to 1600 BCE.”

10:50-11:10 Coffee

11:10-11:50 Dr. Gunner Mikkelsen: “Buddhism and the Manichaean mission to China.”

11:50-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:10 Dr. Zhang Zhan: “Ways to avoid corvée work in eighth-century Khotan.”

14:10-14:50 Dr. Michael Alram: “The coinage of Kabul Shahis.”

14:50-15:20 Coffee

15:20-16:00 Professor Jens Braarvig: “The importance of Buddhism as a cultural commodity on the Silk Road.”

16:00-16:40 Professor Yutaka Yoshida: “Sogdian and Khotanese texts as evidence of cross-cultural contact.”

16:40-17:10 Professor Samuel Lieu: “From Qin to Cathay - names for China and the Chinese on the Silk Road.”

17:10-17:50 Professor Zhang Longxi: "Marco Polo in China: Revisiting the question of the veracity of Marco Polo's Travels."

18:00 Dinner at the Academy

October 5, 2018:

9:00 Visit to the Museum of Ethnography and introduction to the Sven Hedin collections.

12:00-13:00 Lunch at the Museum of Ethnography.

13:30-14:10 Professor Joakim Enwall: "Reflections on sociolinguistic issues in Serindia/East Turkestan/Xinjiang".

14:10-14:40 Professor Juha Janhunen: "The languages of the Silk Road: The ethnohistorical perspective."

14:40-15:00 Coffee

15:00-15:40 Dr. Hyun-Jin Kim: “The Xiongnu Huns from China to Rome.”

15:40--16:20 Professor Nils Arne Pedersen: “The Book of Giants and the spread of Manichaeism.”

16:20-16:50 Discussion on the future direction of the project “China and the Mediterranean World: Archaeological and Written Sources”



China and the Mediterranean World: The main speakers at the Stockholm Symposium (Oct. 2018)