

Plan for the exhibition and symposium of *Silks from the Silk Road: Origin, Transmission and Exchange*

In June 2014, the Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor jointly nominated by China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan was inscribed on the World Heritage List, making the ancient Silk Road a common wealth of human beings.

In order to display the origin and transmission of silk in China as well as the exchange of oriental and occidental textile cultures along the Silk Road, and further promote the research and conservation of silks from the Silk Road, China National Silk Museum, with the support from State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, has planned to team up with domestic museums and archaeological institutions, as well as professional institutions abroad to hold the exhibition and symposium of *Silks from the Silk Road: Origin, Transmission and Exchange* from September to October in 2015.

I. Exhibition

1. Time:

Sep. 15 ~ Oct. 14, 2015

2. Exhibits:

More than 130 pcs (sets) of museum objects (silk textiles, weaving tools, pottery figurines, etc.) from 26 museums and archaeological institutions of Zhejiang, Xinjiang, Henan, Hebei, Hunan, Hubei, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

3. Outlines:

- The archeological relics from the Neolithic Age to the Shang and Zhou dynasties unearthed in Henan and Zhejiang will be exhibited to indicate the origin of silk in China.
- The silk relics, terracotta figures and silk-carrying camel figurines excavated in Shaanxi will be showcased to highlight Xi'an as the center in the Silk Road in the history, especially in the Han and Tang dynasties.
- The silk relics of Han and Tang dynasties discovered in the Gansu and Qinghai sections of the Silk Road will be displayed to indicate that both sides of the Qilian Mountain were the arteries of the Silk Road.
- Silk and relics unearthed in Xinjiang will be presented to show the prosperous silk trade in history and the bi-directional exchanges and influences of silkworm breeding and silk weaving techniques in the area.
- Also, the silk fabrics which are still being produced and used in the countries along the Maritime Silk Road will be showed to reflect the prosperity of the route and the tremendous influence of silk on these countries.

II. Symposium

1. Time:

October 11 ~ 14, 2015

2. Themes

Origin and technical progress of silk; silk relics along the Silk Road; exchanges of textile technologies and arts along the Silk Road; silk cultures along the Silk Road

3. Participants:

About 40 domestic and foreign experts in silk archeology, conservation and research will make presentations on the symposium.

4. Legacy:

It is planned to establish the International Association for the Study of Silk Roads Textiles on information sharing, cooperative research and conservation of the Silk Road textiles.

V. Post-symposium Investigation

October 14: Visiting silk production in Hangzhou and neighboring areas, and leaving for Chengdu by air in the evening

October 15 – 25: Two-day stay in Xi'an, three-day stay in Gansu, five-day stay in Xinjiang, etc.