

中國佛教石經

Buddhist Stone Sutras in China

叢書主編 雷德侯
海德堡科學院重點項目

Series Editor Lothar Ledderose
on behalf of
Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

2013



山東省石刻藝術博物館
Shandong Stone Carving Art Museum



海德堡科學院
Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

山 東 省
第 一 卷

Shandong Province
Volume 1

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2013

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

This volume has been promoted by the Joint Science Conference of the Federal Government and the governments of the states of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Academies' Programme from the joint fundings of the Federal Government of Germany (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and the state Baden-Württemberg (Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts).

Cover and frontispiece show a detail of Mount Ergu, rock carving EG 1.

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

For further information about our publishing program consult our website <http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de>
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Printed on permanent/durable paper.
Printing and binding: Memminger MedienCentrum AG
Printed in Germany
ISBN 978-3-447-06931-1

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前言一

王永波

中華文明源遠流長，是人類世界唯一綿延傳承、未曾中斷的古老文明。山東地區則是中華文明最重要的發祥地之一。文化發達、古蹟眾多，其石刻文物更是獨具特色。此地保留有在中國乃至全世界都堪稱最為豐富的秦代刻石、漢畫像石、漢魏碑刻和摩崖刻石等遺存，具有很高的歷史、藝術及科學價值。

山東省石刻藝術博物館作為專門機構，自成立以來就以石刻文物的調查登記和收藏保管為己任，持續不斷進行石刻文物的田野調查、傳拓著錄和保護工作，完成了山東秦漢至隋代碑刻、漢畫像石、北朝摩崖刻經、南北朝隋唐墓誌和歷代佛教造像的調查著錄和初步研究。先後出版了《雲峰刻石全集》（1989年）、《北朝摩崖刻經全集》（1992年）、《中國美術分類全集·漢畫像石全集》三卷（2000年）等一大批學術專刊，為山東石刻的深入研究奠定了堅實的資料基礎。同時，其他中外學者也作了很多重要的研究。但是石經研究仍然缺乏以現代科技手段進行野外調查記錄，以及吸取海外研究方法的經驗，相關遺產的數字化工程尚在起步階段。

德國海德堡大學有600多年歷史，是德國著名的高等學府，也是歐洲漢學研究的重鎮之一。雷德侯教授（Prof. Dr. Lothar Ledderose）則是中國古代藝術研究的資深學者。2003年，雷德侯教授訪問山東石刻博物館，雙方對上述山東石刻調查研究的議題達成了共識，經反覆協商論證，山東省石刻藝術博物館與德國海德堡大學東亞藝術史研究所擬訂了“中德合作山東北朝摩崖刻經調查與研究”的合作協議，並徵得德國科學基金會（Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft）對該項目前期的經費支持。

經中華人民共和國國家文物局和有關部委批准，“中德合作山東北朝摩崖刻經調查與研究”項目於2004年正式啓動。2005年，海德堡科學院將該

項目列為巴登符騰堡州（Baden-Württemberg）的重點課題並提供經費。該項目歷時五年，先後進行了六次較長時間的田野調查，於2008年10月結束，完成了對東平洪頂山、銀山、司里山，鄒城鐵山、崗山、葛山、嶧山、尖山、陽山，泰山經石峪、新泰徠山，平陰天池山、書院東山、大寨山、二鼓山、雲翠山，寧陽鳳凰山，汶上水牛山，濟南黃石崖，滕州陶山、龍山等21個地點摩崖刻經的田野調查和圖書資料收集工作。

整個田野調查和資料收集工作分前後兩期：第一期於2004年3月31日啓動，2005年3月31日結束，由中國社會科學院世界宗教研究所張總研究員任領隊，德國海德堡大學東亞藝術史研究所所長雷德侯教授任副領隊。第二期領隊由山東省石刻藝術博物館館長王永波研究員出任。項目組中方成員有：山東省石刻藝術博物館原館長焦德森（1期）和賴修田（賴非）、萬良，鄒城市文物局原副局長胡新立（2期），泰安岱廟博物館張鵬（2期），東平縣文化局原副局長吳緒剛（1期）、東平文管所李明治（1期）、楊浩（2期），平陰縣博物館喬修罡（2期）。德方成員有：海德堡科學院蔡穗玲、溫狄婭（Claudia Wenzel），攝影師柯林歌（Ingeborg L. Klinger），以及負責地理測繪的卡爾斯魯厄應用科技大學地理信息系赫爾教授（Günter Hell）和史英（Thorsten Schwing）。

為培養和儲備石經研究人才，在考察過程中，還特別吸收了國內外青年學者和在讀研究生參與。作為學術顧問，中國社會科學院世界宗教研究所羅炤教授、考古研究所趙超教授給項目組提供可貴的支持與協助；由於山東省石刻藝術博物館副館長李靖、辦公室主任楊愛國及副主任陳安寧等人的努力，項目工作得以順利進行。

“中德合作山東北朝摩崖刻經調查與研究”項目的研究對象是山東境內北朝時期（439 - 589）的佛教石刻，包括摩崖刻經、石窟和碑碣。為更進一

步理解刻石的含義及鑿刻原因，調查中特別注意刊刻文物與所處環境的關係，採取了全面、系統、完整、立體的調查、測繪、及記錄方式。項目的主要目標有三個：第一個目標是對每處刻經進行深入細緻的調查、測繪和全面的資料記錄。調查記錄主要圍繞兩方面進行，首先是繪製刻經布局圖，對每處刻經的現狀，包括地理位置、分布特點、刻經時代、石質結構、經文釋讀、規格尺寸、行字數、鑿刻技法、書法特點、完殘程度、殘字辨識等逐項考察登記，拍攝數字照片等；再利用 GPS 全球定位系統、全站儀和攝影測量的方法對每處刻經的地理地貌及其與題記和其他刻經之間的相互關係進行測繪，為製作刻經點的二維平面地圖和三維立體模型採集地理信息數據。

第二個目標是針對刻經的歷史、政治、宗教、藝術等含義進行綜合分析研究，探討刻經的時代背景。具體方法包括文獻查詢、走訪群眾等，在嚴謹準確全面的田野調查數據基礎上（包括夜間人工光源明暗對比獲得的資料），參考《大正藏》經文和以往學者的研究成果對殘損漫漶的字跡進行復原，核對刻經出處及其與原典的出入。

第三個目標是用中英文雙語出版書面調查報告和研究專著，完成項目刻經的數字化，建立刻經內容和實地環境地貌三維立體圖像的免費網絡數據

庫，為全世界刻經研究同仁和愛好者提供一個研究交流平臺。

按計劃，全部田野調查資料將彙成四本報告集，分為東平平陰地區、鄒城地區、兗州地區及泰安地區。這本報告集就是東平平陰地區田野調查資料的彙總報告。

在山東省文化廳、文物局和刻經所在地有關部門的大力支持下，中德雙方學者秉持爭創一流科研成果的決心，精誠合作，全力投入，取得了一系列重要成果：如《文物》2006年12期刊載的《山東東平洪頂山摩崖刻經考察》、《考古》2009年1期刊載的《山東泰山經石峪摩崖刻經及周邊題記考察》。2004年及2008年，項目組在德國海德堡成功地舉辦了兩屆有中國、德國、法國、英國、瑞士、美國、日本等國學者參與的“中國佛教刻經國際學術研討會”，2007年在山東濟南舉辦了“山東北朝摩崖刻經報告會”等學術活動，交流國際石經研究的最新成果，將中國石經研究推向更廣闊的領域。

作為項目的成果之一，項目組多次邀請中國訪問學者和青年學者赴海德堡大學講學或進修，為促進中德文化交流，利用科學手段提升我國石經研究總體水平，以及弘揚中華優秀傳統文化寫下了有益的篇章。

(2013年1月)

前言二

雷德侯

山東境內的佛教摩崖刻經是一組非比尋常的文化遺產。世界上沒有任何其他地方擁有數量如此眾多大面積刊刻在露天岩石上的神聖文字，其規模真是宏偉！如刻鑿於泰山上的金剛經，有兩千多字，覆蓋面積逾兩千平方米。

通過這些石經，公元六世紀活動於山東境內的僧侶們開啓了佛教文獻、書法實踐以及景觀設計史上的新篇章。然而，中國文化構架中這一驚人的成就卻除了專家以外鮮為人知，其在世界文化史上的重要意義也被忽略。為了使這組文化遺產被更多的人知道和了解，並使其得到重視，中德合作的山東石刻佛經調查研究項目應運而生。本書即為該項目的首批成果。

我從 1986 年就已經對石刻佛經著迷。當時中國社會科學院世界宗教研究所的羅炤教授首次將北京房山的雲居寺介紹給我。注視著這批世界史上規模最龐大的石經板，我的激動之情難以言喻。這些始刻於公元 616 年的經板，在其延續了五百多年的刻鑿時間裏，形成了數百萬字佛經的典藏。後來我得知在河北和山東還存在六世紀的石刻經文。當山東洪頂山的摩崖刻石於 20 世紀 90 年代被發現後，同樣來自中國社會科學院世界宗教研究所的張總教授帶我實地考察了那裡的摩崖石刻。在這次旅行中，我們還看到了山東境內其他多處刻經，例如在崗山，《楞伽經》的開篇經文被分刻在遍布於全山的三十多塊巨石和懸崖上。我再次確信有必要讓世界大眾了解這批物質文化的重要性。

歷年來，座落於濟南的山東石刻藝術博物館致力於石刻經文的調查與研究。其成果於 1991 至 2006 年發表，即對北朝刻經研究具有開創意義的《北朝摩崖刻經研究》三卷。我意識到，這三部研究論文集已經為這一重大研究項目的啓動奠定了紮實的基礎。當我向張總教授和焦德森館長提出了合作調查研究山東境內的佛教刻經的建議時，他們欣然地接

受了我的提議。於是，我們於 2004 年開始進行這個國際合作項目。

焦德森館長從一開始就積極地推動這個項目。2005 年起山東省文物局王永波副局長兼任山東石刻藝術博物館館長一職，同樣竭力於我們的合作。該館研究員賴非先生帶領我們前往所有的刻經點進行田野調查。李靖副館長和萬良先生則是我們最可靠的後勤保障。山東省文化廳的謝治秀副廳長及文物處游少平處長都極力促成這個國際合作項目。

在各個刻經點，當地文物管理單位的各位領導與其團隊都給予這個合作項目大力的支持。其中，泰安市文物局李景泰局長、泰山景區管理委員會劉慧副主任、泰安博物館柳建新館長、濟寧市文物局的孫美榮局長及樊存常副局長、鄒城市文物局的邵澤水局長及胡新立副局長、東平縣文物管理所歷屆所長吳緒剛先生、李明治先生、楊浩先生以及平陰縣博物館喬修罡館長的熱情幫助，保障了合作考察的順利進行。其他參與合作的衆多當地同仁，很遺憾不能在此一一列舉，但正是他們無私的協助使得我們每次的田野調查不但成果豐厚而且充滿樂趣。

中國國家文物局不僅欣然批准了這個項目，還建議我們聘請羅炤教授和中國社會科學院考古研究所的趙超教授擔任學術顧問。對在這次國際合作中所有中國同事展現的專業和慷慨，謹此致以我最衷心地感謝！

在德國，我們於 2004 年先取得了德國科學基金會 (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) 的支持。2005 年，海德堡科學院 (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften) 將我們的研究計劃列為其長期研究項目之一。這樣我們就可以提前對之後數年的研究進行規劃。我們項目不但有三位固定研究員：邁豪朗先生 (Wolfgang Meier)、蔡穗玲博士和溫狄婭 (Claudia Wenzel) 博士，同時還邀請了來自不同國家的專家學者前來海德堡作客座訪問。羅炤教授、張總教授、王永波局長、賴非教授等均以訪問學者身

份來過海德堡，其中幾位甚至應邀來訪數次。他們不但在德國進行科學研究，還為海德堡大學東亞藝術史系的學生講課。這幾年來，項目一直旨在培養學生和青年研究者。我們邀請了中國的專業人員及研究生參與我們的田野調查工作，如濟南考古所的高繼習先生以及北京大學的徐津先生。同時，來自海德堡大學的同仁和學生也都參與了田野調查，其中很多是在海德堡大學就讀的中國學生，他們是安逸凡 (Matthias Arnold)、白安麗 (Angelika Borchert)、施夢 (Simone Griessmayer)、蘇珊 (Susann Henker)、柯鵬、柯林歌 (Ingeborg L. Klinger)、方斌 (Fabian Münter)、劉銘、雷瑪麗 (Josie-Marie Perkuhn)、曲藝、石翠 (Petra Rösch)、王平國 (Manuel Sassmann)、吳素蓓、張涼、張少華、趙洲及朱韜。

我們從許多不同角度研究這些摩崖刻經，藉以獲得最豐富的信息。第一步是完整記錄每一處刻經的現狀。石上刊刻的每一個字都經過嚴謹地辨認、測量和抄錄。刻文和拓片都通過拍攝存檔。同時，還特別重視刻經和所處空間的關係，因而對每一個刻經點進行了全方位的測量。卡爾斯魯應用科技大學 (Hochschule Karlsruhe - Technik und Wirtschaft) 的赫爾 (Günter Hell) 教授及其帶領的測繪小組對所有刻經點進行了包括全球定位在內的測量工作。他們製作了刻石的攝影測量圖和一些刻經地點的三維模型，並繪製了本書中所有的地圖。海德堡科學院的教授阿爾特赫 (Rainer Altherr) 對岩石樣本進行了礦物學鑑定。

我們接著分析並且詮釋這些基本信息。對於每處刻經地點，我們首先在“空間”、“時間”和“題刻”三個標題下展開對主要問題的討論。隨後是編製刻經調查資料細目。在這一項裏我們同樣以盡可能全面為目標。在每一刻經點調查細目的“討論”部分，我們評析了現存所有的傳統金石學家和現代學者的著作。

我們工作的一大原則是研究不限於特定地點的刻經，還包括所有隨著時間推移而逐漸增加的題刻。這樣我們得以理解主要刻文在歷史中得到的評價、這些評論以及該刻經點的地貌所發生的變化。此外，我們把所有題刻都翻譯成英文。如此，這些偉大的文化遺產可以在全球各地被廣泛認識。翻譯工作由海德堡項目研究組進行。數年來，除了我們的研究員外，許多專家參與了我們的工作，其中包括京都大學人文科學研究所的船山徹教授、芝加哥大學的柏剛教授 (Paul Copp)、哈佛大學的歐銳恩博士 (Ryan Overbey)、京都龍谷大學的倉本尚德博士以及香港中文大學的何偉明博士。

李慧聞博士 (Celia Riely) 給予了我們很有價值的意見，京都大學的維習安教授 (Christian Wittern) 在項目數據庫的建立方面，給我們提供了極其寶貴的建議。紐約的韓文彬教授 (Robert E. Harrist Junior) 和布裏斯托的柯嘉豪教授 (John Kieschnick) 對引言的內容慷慨地提供了他們的專家建議，牛津大學的羅森教授 (Jessica Rawson) 不但是我們汲取不盡的信息源泉，她還在文字潤色方面給出了極富幫助的建議。孟德羅先生 (Manuel Montero Pineda) 和王德義先生 (Victor Wang) 貢獻了他們在設計上的專長。謹此，我向所有參與了這個合作項目的、以上提及和未提及姓名的專家學者，致以衷心地感謝。

完成山東省的工作後，我們祈願開展位於其他省份石刻佛經的研究。有幸在山東進行密集地田野調查，我們更直接地感受到了這些大面積刊刻於自然山林間文字的非凡魅力——它們在世間可謂獨一無二！更難能可貴的是，不僅山東的摩崖石刻舉世無雙，我們與山東學者之間和諧的國際合作也是空前的。能在山東開始石刻佛經的研究，真是我們難得且特別的緣分！

(2013年1月)

Preface I

Wang Yongbo

The long tradition of Chinese civilization is the sole ancient civilization of the human world that has been passed down continuously and unbroken. With its flourishing culture and multitude of historical sites, the region of Shandong is one of the most significant places of origin for Chinese civilization. Here, among the flourishing culture and abundance of historical sites, the stone cut cultural relics are unique. Abundant cultural relics are preserved in Shandong: the stone carvings of the Qin dynasty, the pictorial reliefs of the Han dynasty, the stone stelae of the Han and Wei dynasties, and the historical sites of rock carvings. All of these are of the most historical, artistic and scientific value.

The Shandong Stone Carving Art Museum serves as a special agency for such relics and has taken over responsibility for the survey and documentation as well as collection and conservation of stone carved relics since its foundation, persistently conducting surveys of stone carved relics, transmitting rubbings and transcriptions, and undertaking conservation and restoration to provide surveying reports and preliminary research on stone stelae from the Qin and Han to the Sui dynasties, stone reliefs from the Han dynasty, stone inscriptions from the Northern Dynasties, tomb inscriptions from the Southern and Northern Dynasties to the Sui and Tang, and historical Buddhist sculptures in Shandong. Successively, three large academic compendia, the *Compendium of the Yunfeng Stone Scriptures* (1989), the *Compendium of Northern Dynasties Stone Sutra Inscriptions* (1992), and the *Compendium of Classified Chinese Art—Compendium of Stone Reliefs from the Han Dynasty* (2000), were published and established a solid material

foundation for in-depth studies of Shandong stone carvings. Even though scholars from inside and outside China have contributed significant and valuable research, the use of modern technologies for documentation in field campaigns and working methods introduced from abroad is still not fully developed, and digitalization in the field of historical heritage is still in its initial stage.

Heidelberg University in Germany, with more than six hundred years of history, is a famous institute of higher education and an important centre of Chinese studies in Europe. Professor Lothar Ledderose is an eminent scholar of Chinese ancient art. In 2003, Professor Ledderose paid a visit to the Shandong Stone Carving Art Museum. Both sides then reached an agreement on the matters mentioned above in the research and investigation of stone carvings in Shandong. On the basis of repeated negotiations and verifications, the Shandong Museum of the Art of Stone Carving and the Heidelberg Institute for East Asian Art History drew up the cooperative agreement of the “Chinese-German Co-operation in Research and Survey of Stone Sutras from the Northern Dynasties in Shandong” and gained the financial support for the first stage of this project from the German Research Foundation (DFG, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft).

Approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China and relevant ministries and commissions, the project “Chinese-German Co-operation in Research and Survey of Stone Sutras from the Northern Dynasties in Shandong” was officially launched in 2004. In 2005, the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

classified this project as one of the key projects in Baden-Württemberg and provided the substantial funding. This project took five years, with field research conducted on six occasions, and was brought to an end in October, 2008. Researchers had finished the field research and the assembling of bibliographic references for stone inscriptions at 21 locations, including Mount Hongding, Mount Sili and Mount Yin in Dongping; Mount Tie, Mount Gang, Mount Ge, Mount Yi, Mount Jian and Mount Yang in Zoucheng; Stone Sutra Valley at Mount Tai; Mount Culai in Xintai; Mount Tianchi, East Mount Shuyuan, Mount Dazhai, Mount Ergu and Mout Yuncui in Pinyin; Mount Fenghuang in Ningyang; Mount Shuiniu in Wenshang; Huangshi Cliff in Ji'nan; Mount Tao and Mount Long in Tengzhou.

The work of field research and collection of references is divided into two phases. The first phase was launched on March 31st, 2004 and was ended on March 31st, 2005, with Zhang Zong, senior researcher at the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences as team leader, and Lothar Ledderose, head of the Institute for East Asian Art History at Heidelberg University as deputy team leader. Wang Yongbo, curator and researcher of the Shandong Museum of the Art of Stone Carving, acted as team leader of the second period. The Chinese members of the project are: Jiao Desen, the previous director of the Shandong Museum of the Art of Stone Carving (1st phase) and the museum's staff members Lai Xiutian (Lai Fei), and Wanliang; Hu Xinli, the previous deputy chief of the Zoucheng Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage (2nd phase); Zhang Peng of the Daimiao Museum in Tai'an (2nd phase), Wu Xugang, the previous deputy chief of the Cultural Bureau of Dongping County (1st phase), Li Mingzhi (1st phase) and Yang Hao (2nd phase) from the Dongping Administration of Cultural Heritage, and Qiao Xiugang from the Museum of Pingyin County (2nd phase). The German members are: Tsai Suey-Ling, Claudia Wenzel, and Ingeborg L. Klinger (photography), all from the Institute for East Asian Art History, Heidelberg University, as well as Prof. Günter Hell and Thorsten Schwing from the Faculty of Geomatics, Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, who were in charge of the topographical survey.

In order to train more researchers in the study of stone inscriptions, participation in the field-work of young scholars and graduate students from China and abroad was encouraged. As academic consultants, Prof. Luo Zhao from the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Prof. Zhao Chao from the Institute of Archeology have provided valuable support and help for the project team. Li Jing, vice director of the Shandong Stone Carving Art Museum, as well as Yang Aiguo, director of the office, and Chen An'ning, deputy director of the office, made every effort for the smooth implementation of the project.

The research objectives of the project of "Chinese-German Co-operation in Research and Survey of Stone Sutras from the Northern Dynasties in Shandong" are the Buddhist stone scriptures from the Northern Dynasties (439 - 589) in Shandong, which include sutras carved on polished rocks, in caves, and on stelae. To better understand the significance of these stone scriptures and the motives for their carving, special attention was paid during the investigation to the relationship between the inscribed cultural relics and the location of their surroundings, adopting comprehensive, systematic, complete, and three-dimensional methods of survey, measuring and recording methods. The project has three major goals: The first goal is to provide a detailed, in-depth investigation and survey, as well as a comprehensive recording of data for each inscription site. The investigation and recording focus on two aspects. First, a square grid is used to draw a plan of the inscriptions, and the condition of the inscription is checked in all its aspects; included is the topographical position, dating of the inscription, stone texture, an annotation of the text, standardized measurements, number of characters in each line, carving techniques, calligraphic characteristics, extent of damage, and identification of damaged characters; all of these are studied item by item and recorded and photographed digitally. Second, a survey is conducted with Differential Global Positioning System (GPS), total station, and photogrammetry, to collect data about the topographical features of each inscription site, as well as the relations between inscriptions and colophons for the creation of 2D maps with the inscriptions' positions and 3D models.

The second goal aims at a combined analysis and research of the historical, political, religious and artistic significance of the inscriptions and to probe into their historical background. Concrete methods include an investigation of literary sources, interviews with local people, and the reconstruction of damaged and weathered characters on the basis of the rigorous, accurate and comprehensive data obtained during field campaigns (including the results of applying high-contrast artificial light sources at night). All texts have been compared with versions in the *Taishō*. The history of the sites has been examined through the work of previous scholars, who identified the sutras and explored their textual history.

The third goal is a written investigation report and research monograph published in both Chinese and English, the complete digitization of the inscriptions in the project, and the creation of a free internet data base with the inscriptions' content and the 3D models of their topographical surroundings to provide a research platform for epigraphic studies.

Four volumes are planned, covering the areas of Pingyin and Dongping, Zoucheng, Yanzhou, and Taishan. The present volume contains the collected reports on the materials from the field campaigns in the area of Pingyin and Dongping.

With the vigorous support of the Bureau of Cultural Affairs and the Administration of Cultural Heritage of Shandong Province, as well as the local

departments in charge of the inscription sites, the Chinese and German scholars have presented two important publications: “A survey of rock inscriptions at Mount Hongding in Dongping, Shandong” in *Wenwu* (no. 12, 2006), and of “A Survey of the Cliff-side Inscription and Its Colophons in Stone Sutra Valley, Mount Tai, Shandong” in *Kaogu* (no. 1, 2009). In 2004 and 2008, the project team successfully held two “International Academic Conferences on Buddhist Stone Scriptures in China” in Heidelberg, Germany, with participants from China, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States, and Japan. In 2007, the academic symposium “Meeting on Rock cut Inscriptions from the Northern Dynasties in Shandong” was held in Ji'nan, Shandong, to exchange the latest results of international epigraphic research, and to widen the field of research in Chinese stone scriptures.

As one of the objectives of this project, the project team has several times invited visiting scholars and young scholars from China to give lectures and engage in advanced studies at Heidelberg University, thus stimulating scholarly exchange between China and Germany, and, by applying techniques of the natural sciences, improving the general proficiency of research on stone scriptures in China, as well as writing valuable articles to carry forward China's excellent civilization.

(January, 2013)

Preface II

Lothar Ledderose

The Buddhist inscriptions on rock cliffs in Shandong are an extraordinary group of monuments. Nowhere else in the world has such a large number of sacred texts been engraved on the bare rock under the open sky. They are on a truly grand scale. The *Diamond Perfection of Wisdom Sutra* (*Vajracchedikāprājñāpāramitā-sūtra*, *Jingang bore boluomi jing* 金剛般若波羅蜜經) on Mount Tai comprises more than two thousand characters covering an area of more than two thousand square meters.

With these inscriptions, the 6th century monks in Shandong opened new chapters in the handling of Buddhist texts, the practice of calligraphy, and the history of landscape design. Yet this amazing achievement in the Chinese cultural fabric is little known outside specialist circles, and its significance in a global context is not appreciated. To make the monuments more widely acknowledged and understood and to foster respect for them, an international cooperative project has been set up between China and Germany. This volume is one of its first results.

My personal fascination with Buddhist sutras engraved on stone began in 1986, when Luo Zhao from the Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing first introduced me to Cloud Dwelling Monastery in Fangshan. I was overwhelmed when gazing at the stone slabs of the largest epigraphic undertaking in world history, where millions of characters had been engraved over more than five hundred years, beginning in 616. Later, I learned about the 6th century predecessors in Hebei and Shandong. When, in the 1990's, new and completely unknown rock cliff inscriptions were discovered on Mount

Hongding in Shandong, Zhang Zong, also from the Institute of World Religions, CASS took me there. On this trip, we also saw many other inscriptions in Shandong, among them the examples on Mount Gang, where the opening text passage of the *Sutra of Arrival in Laṅkā* (*Laṅkāvatāra-sūtra*, *Ru Lengqie jing* 入楞伽經) is carved in short consecutive sections across more than thirty boulders and cliffs, spread out over the entire mountain. Again I was convinced that the importance of this material needed to be made known to a wide international audience.

In those years, the Shandong Stone Carving Art Museum in Jinan conducted intensive investigations on the stone sutras. The results were published between 1991 and 2006 in three groundbreaking volumes, *Research on Rock Cut Inscriptions of the Northern Dynasties* (*Beichao moya kejing yanjiu*). These publications, I recognized, provided the foundation on which to launch a major research project. When I suggested this to Zhang Zong and the Director of the Museum, Jiao Desen, they were warmly receptive to the proposal. Thus, in 2004, we embarked upon an international cooperative project.

From the beginning, Director Jiao Desen fostered the project energetically. His successor, Director Wang Yongbo, who in 2005 became head of the Administration of Cultural Heritage of Shandong Province, wholeheartedly continued the cooperation. Mr. Lai Fei, the expert researcher of the Museum, traveled with us to all sites to undertake field work. Li Jing and Wan Liang very helpfully provided continuous logistical backup. The Deputy Director of the Cultural Agency of Shandong, Xie Zhixiu,

and the Chief of the Cultural Heritage Division, You Shaoping, both strongly promoted this international project.

At all the sites with engraved sutras, the local leaders and their teams gave this cooperative project their continuous support. Among them, the Director of the Agency of Cultural Heritage of Tai'an, Li Jingtai, the Deputy Director of the Committee for the Administration of the Taishan Scenic District, Liu Hui, the Director of the Tai'an Museum, Liu Jianxin, the Director of the Municipal Bureau of Cultural Heritage of Jining City, Sun Meirong, with Deputy Director, Fan Cunchang, the Director of the Municipal Bureau of Cultural Heritage of Zoucheng City, Shao Zeshui, with his Deputy, Hu Xinli, the Directors of the Administration of Cultural Heritage of Dongping County, Wu Xugang, Li Mingzhi, and Yang Hao, and the Director of the Pingyin County Museum, Qiao Xiugang, all made unstinting contributions to the collaborative research. We regret not to be able to list individually all the other colleagues in the localities who participated in this large-scale project; only with their kind assistance was our field work achieved so successfully.

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage in Beijing approved the project and asked Luo Zhao and Zhao Chao of the Archeological Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences to act as advisors. I am immensely grateful for the expertise and unstinting work of all Chinese colleagues in this international cooperation.

In Germany we first secured the support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft in 2004. In 2005 the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften added our scheme to its program of long term research projects. This agreement allowed us to plan ahead for many years. We were able to employ three permanent research staff members, Wolfgang Meier, Tsai Suey-Ling and Claudia Wenzel, as well as to invite experts from various countries for shorter visits. Luo Zhao, Zhang Zong, Director Wang Yongbo, and Lai Fei all came to Heidelberg, some of them several times; they undertook research in Germany and taught our students. Throughout the years, we have used the project to train students and young researchers. We invited young scholars in China to participate in our field work, among them Gao Jixi from the Jinan Institute of Archeology and Xu Jin from the Peking University. On all campaigns, we have had col-

leagues and students from Heidelberg University working with us, Matthias Arnold, Angelika Borchert, Simone Griessmayer, Susann Henker, Ke Peng, Ingeborg L. Klinger, Fabian Münter, Liu Ming, Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Qu Yi, Petra Rösch, Manuel Sassmann, Wu Subei, Zhang Liang, Shaohua Grasmück-Zhang, Zhao Zhou, and Zhu Tao.

We study the rock cliff inscriptions from many different angles, and our objective is to acquire as much information on them as possible. The first step is a complete documentation of each inscription. Every character in an inscription is identified, measured, and transcribed. Photographs are taken of the stone and of the rubbings. We consider the inscriptions to be material objects in space and take complete measurements. Günter Hell of the Hochschule Karlsruhe - Technik und Wirtschaft and his team have undertaken the measurements, including GPS techniques, at all the sites; they have produced photogrammetric views of the engraved stones, 3-D models of some sites, and have drawn all the maps in this volume. The final preparation of the maps was completed by Daniel Söder and Michael Auer of the Geographical Institute of Heidelberg University. Rainer Altherr of the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften contributed the mineralogical identifications.

From this documentation emerge analysis and interpretation. For each site, we first discuss general issues under the three headings 'space', 'time', and 'inscriptions'; then follows the catalog of the inscriptions. Here, too, it is our aim to be as comprehensive as possible. A critical study of all available literature by both traditional epigraphers and modern scholars is presented in the 'discussion' sections of the catalog of each site.

It is one of our principles to study not only the sutra at a particular site, but also all secondary inscriptions that were subsequently added over time. This allows us to understand, how the primary inscription was appreciated through history, and how this appreciation and the topography of the site may have changed. Another principle is that we translate every engraved inscription into English, so that these grand monuments will become better known to the world. The translation work was done by teams in Heidelberg. In addition to our own staff, many experts took part in the translation over the years, among them Funayama Toru of the Institute

for Humanistic Studies, Kyoto University, Paul Copp of the University of Chicago, Ryan Overbey of Harvard, Kuramoto Shotoku of Ryukoku University, Kyoto, and Ho Waiming of the Chinese University of Hongkong.

Celia Riely gave valuable suggestions, Christian Wittern of Kyoto gave us most helpful advice in setting up the data base for the project. Robert E. Harrist Junior in New York and John Kieschnick in Bristol generously gave their expert advice on the text of the introduction, Jessica Rawson of Oxford was ever helpful providing information and suggesting improvements in the text. Manuel Montero Pineda and Victor Wang contributed their design expertise. I offer our heartfelt thanks to all participants in our entire project, named and unnamed.

After completion of the work in Shandong Province we intend to study the Buddhist stone sutras in other provinces. Now that we have had the privilege of undertaking extensive field work in Shandong, we appreciate even more the extraordinary quality of the inscriptions on the mountains, whose immense size in the open landscape, is not duplicated anywhere else. Moreover, not only are the polished cliff inscriptions of Shandong unique, also unique has been the gratifying international collaboration with the scholars in Shandong. To begin in Shandong was our good fortune.

(January, 2013)

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