

## Cluster 1.1 Annual Report 2018

Under the theme of “From Oral to Digital”, Cluster 1.1 conducted the field investigation in the city of Taiyuan and Pingyao in Shanxi Province from July 21st to 25th, 2018. The group visited Jinci Museum, Pingyao shuanglin si Monastery, Zhengguo si Monastery, Duofu si Monastery at Mount Juewei, Shanxi Museum, as well as Chongshan si Monastery and Wen miao Temple in the city of Taiyuan. The focal point of the investigation was the eighty volumes of Huayan jin engraved in a collection of stone tablets housed in Jinci Museum as well as the surrounding archaeological sites.

The group consisted of 13 scholars and students from various academic institutions including University of British Columbia, Peking University, Zhejiang University, University of Tennessee, Academy of Korean Studies, McGill University, China Academy of Art and Fujian Normal University.

From July 21st to 22nd, the group visited Jinci Museum. After a brief training on basic archaeological skills, the group divided the tasks and proceeded with high proficiency. The group examined eighty volumes of engraved Huayan jin in a collection of stone tablets, studying their current condition and general layout, measuring and recording data, interpreting the epigraphs, as well as taking a large quantity of high-resolution images. The group members also engaged in a discussion with the Deputy Director of the museum and the supervisor of the Preservation Department. The trip to Tianlongshan Grotto and Longshan Grotto was cancelled due to the road construction.

On July 23rd, the group visited Shuanglin si Monastery and Zhengguo si Monastery in the historical county of Pingyao xian. Both monasteries are Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level, and listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Site. Their architecture and Buddhist statues have precious artistic values and are highly acclaimed in China. The group members documented the epigraphs, statues and murals of both monasteries.

On the morning of July 24th, the group performed an investigation in Duofu si Monastery in Mount Juewei in Taiyuan, also entitled as a Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level. The principal objective consisted of investigating its architectural design and its murals on the life of the Buddha. In the afternoon, the group paid a visit to Wenmiao Temple in Taiyuan, documenting copious amounts of engraved stone relics.

On July 25th, the group visited Shanxi Museum, focusing on the special exhibition of *Remnant Charm of the Buddhist Culture* as well as the abundant historical relics unearthed in Shanxi. In the afternoon, the group investigated Chongshan si Monastery in Taiyuan. The monastery is also listed as a Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level. Its architecture and Buddhist statues show distinctive features. The monastery also houses valuable Buddhist collections such as Qisha Canon of Song edition and other assorted canons of Yuan and Ming edition. The group members performed a meticulous documentation of its architecture, Buddhist statues and engraved gold stele.