

## **Field Trip Report of Jidu Temple and Daoism in Mount Wangwu**

**By Liu Jie**

From May 25 to June 3, 2017, an international team of 14 people went to Jiyuan City, Henan Province, China for a ten-day field trip for the project "Buddhism and East Asian Religions." Members included professors and graduate students from the University of Oxford, the University of British Columbia, University of Macau, Southeast University, Nanjing Art Institute, Zhejiang Ocean University, University of California Berkeley, and École pratique des hautes études. This field trip included a seminar on traditional state sacrifice to the spirit of the Ji River and Daoist tradition in Mount Wangwu. This was followed by conducting investigations in the Jidu Temple, the traditional state sacrificial venue, and on Mount Wangwu, one of the sacred places of Daoism; shooting and recording preserved stele inscriptions and temple architecture; observing local religious activities; visiting Daoist priests and believers. The outcomes of the field trip include two collections of about 480 stele inscriptions (including photographs and related information) preserved respectively in Jidu Temple and Daoist abbeys on Mount Wangwu, as well as two documentaries (including narration) of the buildings and religious activities of the Jidu Temple and Daoist abbeys on Mount Wangwu respectively.

During the period of the field trip, the daily temperature was often as high as 36 °C - 40 °C in Jiyuan, but none of the team members were not discouraged the heat. We braved the sun with sweat dripping, climbed over mountains, worked diligently on the investigation, and collaborated perfectly to ensure all the tasks were successfully completed.

On May 26, our visit coincided with the temple fair in the Jidu Temple. The team recorded the festival, interviewed two Daoist priests there, and began to record the Jidu temple building complex and photograph the steles.



May 26, Team members' group photo in front of the temple



May 26, Oxford University Professor Barend ter Haar (second from right) talked with a Daoist in Jidu Temple



May 26, Southeast University doctoral student Wu Sijia was recording conversations (third from right)



May 26, University of Macau doctoral students Huang Chenxi (second from right), and Li Teng (third from right) spoke with local villagers



May 26, Professor Wang Xiaoyang (second from right) from Southeast University was instructing doctoral student Wang Shixiao (first from right) to record the Jidu Temple building



May 26, Professor ter Haar wiped the dust on the protection glass of inscription at the Jidu Temple



May 26, UBC Professor Bruce Rusk (fourth from right) was shooting inscriptions in the Jidu Temple



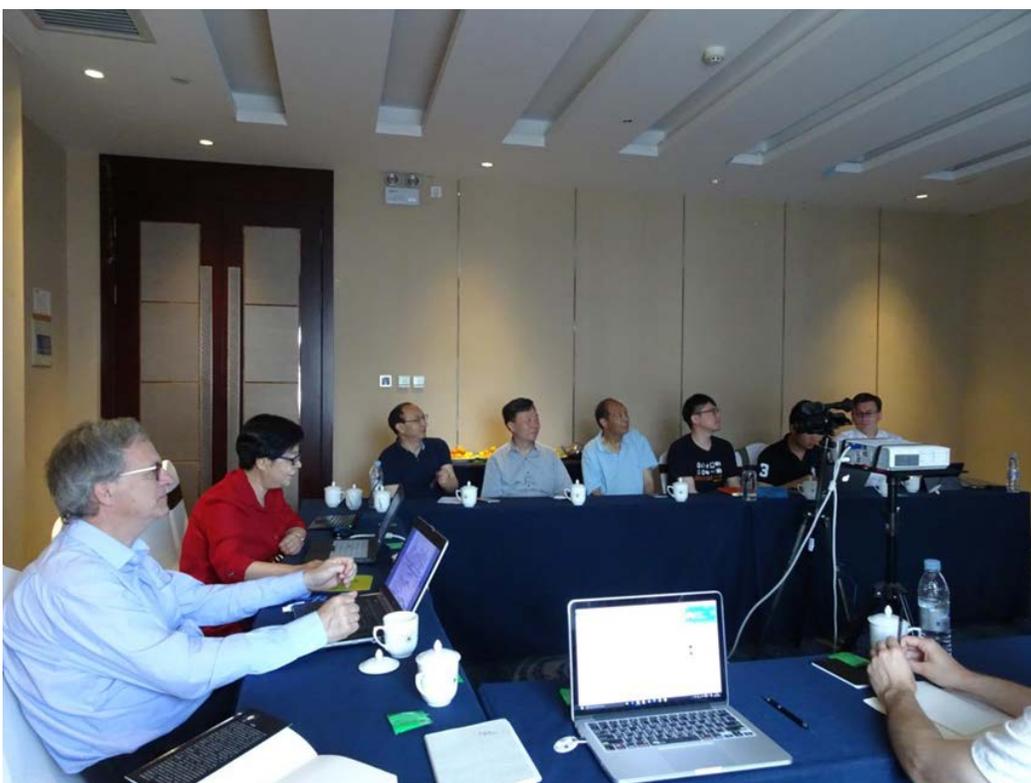
May 26, the delegation was shooting at Guangsheng hall, Jidu Temple. Ph.D. student Johan Rols (second from right) of the École pratique des hautes études was responsible for taking notes

On May 27, the team held a seminar on traditional state sacrifice to the spirit of Ji River and Daoist tradition on Mount Wangwu, at Mount Wangwu Hotel. Professor ter Haar offered a keynote speech titled "The Use of Inscriptions as Material Objects and Sources of Contents in Historical Research." He reviewed current studies on Chinese stele inscriptions by international scholars, and analyzed the features and implied information of stele inscriptions and their application in research. Professor ter Haar indicated that inscriptions not only have significance in textual research, but also should be combined with the actual context of the field in order to have more profound understanding of Daoism's influence on Chinese people's spiritual life. He also stressed that during research, in addition to the front of the stele, the back and the sides are also important, which are usually ignored by researchers. Professor ter Haar's speech had important guiding significance for the following field research. Subsequent speeches included:

- UBC Professor Bruce Rusk's "The FROGBEAR Repository: Purpose, Principles and Practices;"
- Professor Jia Jinhua of the University of Macau, "The Historical Development and Research Status of Jidu Sacrificial Ritual and Mount Wangwu's Daoist Tradition";
- Professor Kong Qingmao of Nanjing Art Institute, "Inscription Appreciation";
- Southeast University Professor Wang Xiaoyang, "Daosit Abbey Appreciation", and
- Zhejiang Ocean University Professor Jihong Cheng, "East China Sea worship."



May 27, the seminar scene



May 27, Oxford University Professor ter Haar's speech (first from right)

On the morning of May 28, the team continued to conduct research in the Jidu Temple, visited Jiyuan City Museum, and visited Fengxian Abbey.



May 28, Team working in the Jidu temple, using a variety of means to ensure clear shooting



May 28, Liu Jie from Zhejiang University, Ningbo Institute of Technology (second from right) is responsible for lighting, photography



May 28, Jiyuan City Museum



May 28, the rubbing of Ziwei Palace inscription from the Yuan Dynasty stored in Jiyuan City Museum



May 28, Team examines a sarcophagus in Fengxian Abbey

On May 29, the team visited the Yangtai Palace in Mount Wangwu, observed Daoist cultivation venues, discussed with Daoist priests, and recorded the scene of evening worship ritual by Daoists and followers.



May 29, Zhejiang Ocean University Professor Cheng Jihong is having conversation with Daoist Priests in Yangtai Palace



May 29, Daoist Priest is introducing Sanqing Hall for the team



May 29, Team members talk with Daoists in in Yangtai Palace



May 29, Professor Jia Jinhua of the University of Macau (first from right), and Johan Rols (second from right) take notes on the inscriptions in Yangtai Palace



May 29, Team photo with Daoist priests in Yangtai Palace

On May 30, the team conducted research in Ziwei Palace ruins and Tiantan Peak in Mount Wangwu. The local government is planning to rebuild the Ziwei Palace.



May 30, Team members searching scattered stones in Ziwei Palace ruins



May 30, Team members identifying and cleaning up the stones found



May 30, University of Saskatchewan Master Wang Yue (second from right) is responsible for lighting and recording



May 30, David Bratt, Ph.D., University of California Berkeley, is responsible for lighting and numbering



May 30, Professor Wang Xiaoyang (second from right) of Southeast University communicates with the local shepherd in Ziwei Palace ruins



May 30, Team photo in front of Ziwei Palace ruins

On May 31, the team conducted research in Daoist abbeys in the surrounding areas of Mount Wangwu, including the Qingxu Palace, Wangmu Dong, Lingdu Taoist Abbey, Yuqing Palace, Guandi Temple. In the Twelve Queen Mothers' Hall in Wangmu Dong, the team recorded local people's prayer ceremony.



May 31, the prayer ceremony in the Twelve Queen Mothers' Hall



May 31, Team photo in front of Wangmu Dong



May 31, Professor Kong Qingmao of the Nanjing Art Institute (second from right) communicates with the believers of Lingdu Daoist Abbey



May 31, Team members shooting and taking notes on the inscriptions in Lüzu hall, Yuqing Palace.



May 31, team members cleaning up inscriptions outside of Lüzu hall, Liuqing Palace



May 31, Team members speaking with temple managers

On the morning of June 1, the team was divided into two groups. One group went to the Jidu Temple to shoot the inscriptions, and the other group visited the Guan Yu Temple, Changchun Abbey, Qingzhen Abbey, and Daming Monastery in Zhicheng town. In the afternoon, the team carried out preliminary collating of the photos and videos in the hotel, and assigned tasks to complete the four outcomes after the field trip.



June 1, Qili villagers introduce the context of the Guan Yu temple to the team



June 1, Team discussion with Changchun temple managers

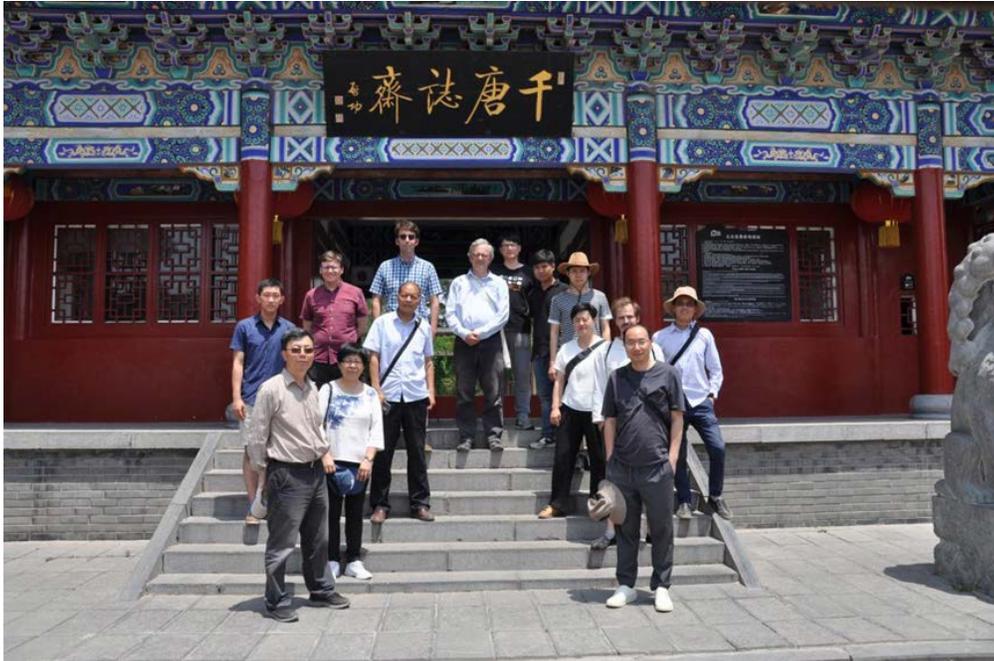


June 1, Professor ter Haar receives the “scriptures” from Qingzhen Abbey – the precious roll texts



June 1, Team exchanging information in Mount Wangwu Hotel, and assigning tasks for completing the research outcomes

On June 2, the team went to Henan Xin'an County to visit the Museum of Tang Epitaphs, Qian, Dongzhen Abbey, and Hangu Gate.



June 2, Team photo in the Museum of Tang Epitaphs



June 2, Team photo in front of Xin'an County Museum