THIRD SERIES · VOLUME 23 · PART 2

APRIL 2013

# Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society

Textiles as Money on the Silk Road



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

ISSN: 1356-1863

# Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland 14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

www.royalasiaticsociety.org

### INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL BOARD

Muzaffar Alam, University of Chicago Seema Alavi, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi Azyumardi Azra, Universitas Islam Negeri Tim Barrett, SOAS, University of London Jere Bacharach, University of Washington Edhem Eldem, Bogazici University, Istanbul Carl Ernst, University of North Carolina Richard Gombrich, University of Oxford Andrew Gordon, Harvard University Edmund Herzig, University of Oxford Sepp Linhart, University of Vienna Rana Mitter, University of Oxford
David O. Morgan, University of Wisconsin
Tariq Rahman, Quaid-i Azam University, Islamabad
Anthony Reid, UCLA
Richard G. Salomon, University of Washington
Oktor Skjaervo, Harvard University
Nancy Steinhardt, University of Pennsylvania
Roel Sterckx, University of Cambridge
Wang Gungwu, National University Singapore
Muhammad O. Zaman, Princeton University

## JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

Professor Peter Robb (President), Dr Sarah Ansari (*JRAS* Hon. Editor), Dr Gordon Johnson, Professor F. C. R. Robinson, Professor David Morgan, Dr François de Blois, Professor Anthony Stockwell, Dr Martin Worthington, Dr Weipin Tsai, Charlotte de Blois.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (ISSN 1356-1863) is published for the Royal Asiatic Society in January, April, July and October by Cambridge University Press. The Editor of the Journal invites the submission of original scholarly articles on the anthropology, archaeology, architecture, art, history, languages, literatures, philosophies and religions of all parts of Asia, together with north Africa and Ethiopia. Books sent for review in the Journal cannot be returned. © The Royal Asiatic Society 2013

Subscriptions: Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (ISSN 1356-1863) Volume 23, Series 3 subscription prices (excluding VAT), valid until 31 December 2013, are per volume, £178 UK and elsewhere (US \$308) for institutions, £48 (US \$78) for individuals ordering direct from the publisher and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. The electronic-only price available to institutional subscribers is £160 (US \$269 in USA, Canada and Mexico). Single issues cost £49 (US \$78). US dollar prices apply to USA, Canada and Mexico. Prices include delivery by air where appropriate. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or to the publishers: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK or Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, New York NY 10994–2133, USA. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Fellows of the The Royal Asiatic Society automatically receive the journal. Information about the Society is found at the end of the Journal.

Back Issues: Back volumes up to and including 1983 are available from Schmidt Periodicals GmbH, Dettendorf, D-8201 Bad Feilnbach 2, Germany. Subsequent volumes prior to the present series are available from The Royal Asiatic Society. Back volumes in the present series are available from Cambridge University Press.

Advertising: Apply to Cambridge University Press, UK or North American Branch.

**Copying:** This journal is registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA (www.copyright.com). Organizations in the USA who are also registered with CCC may therefore copy material (beyond the limits permitted by sections 107 and 108 of US copyright law) subject to payment to CCC. This consent does not extend to multiple copying for promotional or commercial purposes.

Organisations authorised by the Copyright Licensing Agency may also copy material subject to the usual conditions. *ISI Tear Sheet Service*, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, USA, is authorised to supply single copies of separate articles for private use only. For all other use permission must be sought from Cambridge or the North American Branch of Cambridge University Press.

**Internet Access:** This journal is included in the Cambridge Journals Online service which can be found at http://journals.cambridge.org. For further information on other Cambridge titles access http://www.cambridge.org.

# Journal of the

# Royal Asiatic Society

# THIRD SERIES · VOLUME 23 · PARTS 2 · APRIL 2013

# **CONTENTS**

Special Issue: Textiles as Money on the Silk Road. By Sarah Ansari	149
Acknowledgements. By Helen Wang and Valerie Hansen	151
Conventions	153
Introduction. By Valerie Hansen and Helen Wang	155
Textiles as Money on the Silk Road?. By Helen Wang	165
Determining the Value of Textiles in the Tang Dynasty In Memory of Professor	
Denis Twitchett (1925–2006). By Angela Sheng	175
Reconciling Excavated Textiles with Contemporary Documentary Evidence: a	
Closer Look at the Finds from a Sixth-Century Tomb at Astana. By Feng Zhao	
and Le Wang	197
Managing a Multicurrency System in Tang China: The View from the Centre. By	
Chang Xu (Translated by Helen Wang)	223
The Transportation of Tax Textiles to the North-West as part of the Tang-Dynasty	
Military Shipment System. By Masahiro Arakawa (Translated by Valerie Hansen)	245
A Study of the Tang Dynasty Tax Textiles (Yongdiao Bu) from Turfan. By Binghua	
Wang (Translated by Helen Wang)	263
How the Residents of Turfan used Textiles as Money, 273-796 CE. By	
Valerie Hansen and Xinjiang Rong	281
Were Textiles used as Money in Khotan in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries? By	
Qing Duan (Translated by Helen Wang)	307
The Demise of Silk on the Silk Road: Textiles as Money at Dunhuang from the	
Late Eighth Century to the Thirteenth Century. By Eric Trombert	327
Glossary of Textile Terminology (Based on the Documents from Dunhuang and	
Turfan). By Feng Zhao and Le Wang	349
ERRATUM	389