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奢華之魅:羅馬帝國的中土絲綢

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古代羅馬與中國的關係向來是熱門的學術課題,而多偏重文獻探討;透過大量的漢籍史料,眾家學者從各個面向分析了羅馬在古代中國的形象。另一方面,我們卻不太清楚古羅馬之於「遠東」的想法,自考古觀點切入的研究尤少。是故,在羅馬帝國前朝疆域發現的中土絲綢遺存,或可為中國——羅馬關係帶來更進一步的認知。

儘管羅馬世界對這些珍貴物料的產地一知半解——它們來自遙遠陌生的東方「絲國(Serica)」、「秦尼(Thinae)」——華麗的中土織物或許沒有直接影響古羅馬的中國觀,卻能反映出當時的風尚,以及它們在展現皇權威儀上的重要性。即便我們完全不談羅馬人的中國印象,這些中國絲織品在社會、經濟、文化傳播上,仍扮演著舉足輕重的角色。

Attracted to Luxury

Chinese Silk Finds in the Roman Empire

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Relations between the Roman and the early Chinese Empires have been considerably popular fields of research, however, principally from aspect of textual sources. Thanks to the relative abundancy of Chinese historical records, the Roman image in ancient China has been studied from several aspects. At the same

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time, less is known about the Roman views on the Far East, especially from an archaeological perspective. In this manner, Chinese silk remains discovered in the former territory of the Imperium Romanum might provide a better understanding on Sino-Roman relations.

Despite the fact that the Roman knowledge on provenance of these precious materials was rather vague (they were originated from the undefined East; Serica or Thinae) and therefore had no direct role in China-perceptions, yet they might reflect on special aspects of trends and highlight the importance of luxurious textiles in imperial propaganda. Moreover, Chinese silk – without having any relevant idea on the Middle Empire in Roman society – can be regarded as a significant agent from cultural, economic and social angles as well.

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可茉(Krisztina K. Hoppál)博士為匈牙利科學院絲綢之路研究群助理研究員,同時以考古學者及策劃人身分參與 Damjanich János 博物館——北京大學考古文博學院雙邊合作計畫。其主要研究興趣為中國——羅馬帝國關係史、古代文化交流、跨帝國往來、長程貿易,以及東亞與東南亞社會的境外工藝品傳入。

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