

## The Special Issue of the Journal of Quaternary Science on the Quaternary of the North Sea

The special issue stems from the Quaternary Research Associations Annual Discussion Meeting that staff from BGS Edinburgh organised in 2015. BGS scientists feature as authors on a significant number of the papers.

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## Make cultural relics tell their own stories in 2017



Lu Qiong accepts the exclusive interview of CIIC.[Photo/China.org.cn]

The *Key Tasks for State Administration of Cultural Heritage in 2017* has recently been released on the official website of State Administration of Cultural Heritage. It elaborates on the 32 steering instructions and specific measures to be exercised for strengthening the protection of cultural relics, promoting popular accessibility to the results of heritage protection and exploring approaches to the protective utilization of cultural relics in six areas for the year 2017. Among them, “enlivening cultural relics” is particularly eye-catching to the present reporter.

## **Promoting popularization of Chinese civilization by joint efforts of “Big Vs” via “Internet+”**

Back in 2015, official accounts of museums including “Palace Museum,” “Shaanxi History Museum” and “Sichuan Guanghan Sanxingdui Museum” appeared in social media circles one after another. Those official accounts quickly rose to fame. “China Cultural Heritage,” the official microblog account of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, went so far as to win the prize of “2016 Top 10 Influential Topics of Government Affairs Microblogs.”

During the holiday season for primary and secondary school students in the summer of 2016, “China Cultural Heritage” organized a romantic event—Appointment with Museums. The event was enthusiastically disseminated, attracting a readership of nearly 700 million, a figure demonstrating the strong social influence of museums as an important front for the construction of the public cultural service system.

“We are justified in being culturally self-confident, since we have such a broad mass base. Enhancing cultural self-confidence should be rooted in the soil of excellent traditional Chinese culture,” said Lu Qiong, deputy director of the Department of Policies and Laws, State Administration of Heritage. It proved that “Appointment with the Museum” was a successful action.

Probably because of the favorable results of Internet dissemination, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued at the end of 2016, *The Three-Year Action Plan for “Internet+ Chinese Civilization,”* turning the down-to-earth Internet dissemination into a macroscopic steering opinion.

According to the *Action Plan*, the Internet will be drawn on to seek alternative approaches for the inheritance, innovation and development of traditional Chinese culture and for exploration and expansion of the unique historical and artistic significances of cultural relics – enabling them to tell their own stories.

In fact, the concept of “enlivening cultural relics” has been put to practice in more fronts including the “Internet+.” Development of creative products is another “tonic” for giving life to cultural relics and bringing them closer to the people.

In the past year, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage selected 92 museums as pilot units for developing a series of eye-catching products. Lu Qiong told reporters that at Dunhuang International Cultural Expo in September 2016, a scarf printed with Dunhuang fresco instantly became popular among visitors, many of whom were full of praise for the elegant item capable of telling its own story.

**Making cultural relics tell their own stories by staging exhibitions in Hong Kong and New York**

As the relationship between the preservation of cultural relics and the promotion of social and economic development becomes closer, the cultural relics of China are keen to tell their stories not only to the people of the Chinese mainland.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong SAR to China and to support the “Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum” to be held in Hong Kong SAR in late November 2017, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage will hold an exhibition of Silk Road Heritage at the Hong Kong Museum of History, in collaboration with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) of Hong Kong SAR.

Focusing on “Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an–Tianshan Corridor,” is a program inscribed in the World Heritage list. Thanks to the joint efforts of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the exhibition will draw on existing research and exhibitions and will be the first of its kind after the successful inscription of the program. It is expected to offer a sumptuous cultural feast for Hong Kong people.

In addition, to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-US relations, 31 heritage collection units from 13 provinces (cities) will display 283 pieces of cultural relics witnessing “the civilization of the Qin and Han dynasties” in 164 sets at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, starting late March, 2017.

It is said that the exhibition will retell the stories of the classic period of Chinese civilization in the Qin and Han dynasties, exploring the formation of “Chinese culture” while focusing on the Silk Road connecting ancient China to the West and the Maritime Silk Road spanning South and Southeast Asia. It is expected to inspire scholars from home and abroad and deepen the knowledge of China by the Western public.

“Heritage work means protection, conservation and inheritance of public valuable resources. It is everyone’s obligation. Common support from all walks of life is needed to make it a success.” Lu Qiong told the reporter.

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## **Getting things done – Douglas Street**

At the request of residents, I have asked the City Council’s Rapid Response Team to remove graffiti at the south end of Douglas Street – see below :



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## Old man, with 14 broken ribs dies in custody

A 64-year-old man suspected of attempting to set a fire died on Jan. 19, 2017, while in custody at a detention center in Xinning Police Bureau, Hunan Province, the local police confirmed on Feb. 8.

According to the police, the suspect Xu Yunbo, died from a combination of respiratory and adrenal failures, electrolyte disturbance, alcoholic liver cirrhosis and ascetic fluid.

But Xu Hongmei, Xu's daughter, was skeptical of the official declaration.

"My father could not live a life by himself. He was unable to control himself and spoke ambiguously. But the police insisted that he confessed to attempting to set a fire, ,"Xu said.

Insisting on his father's innocence, Xu obtained a forensic examination about 20 days after his detention, from which her father was confirmed to have a mental illness. This illness can mislead him indistinguishing between right

and wrong.

He was still held in custody after this judicial evaluation.

According to his daughter, Xu was admitted to hospital on Nov. 16, 2016, with 14 broken ribs, almost three months after his detainment. But he was sent back to the detention center only one month after being hospitalized which infuriated Xu' family, who believed that he had not yet fully recovered.

Xu did not return to hospital until Jan. 18, after he experienced fatal symptoms caused by the complications of his health condition.

The post-mortem exam is underway and the result is expected to be announced in due course.

According to the local police bureau, the posthumous issues of Xu should proceed in line with the regulations on the death of people in police custody, a legal framework mandated by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

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## **Rural boy commits suicide due to father's blame**

A new tomb without a tombstone chills the festive air of a family in Yanxi Village, Zhenxiong Town, Yunnan Province. The family lost a son to suicide on the Eve of Spring Festival, which fell on Jan. 27 this year.





Xiao Bao's father collects his son's effects. [Photo:China Youth Daily]

The boy was named Xiao Bao (pseudonym), a [left-behind child](#) growing up with his paternal grandparents in the village while his parents worked odd jobs in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province.

In his last words, Bao claimed, "I was still young and I didn't want to die, but I can't handle the complaints. Dad, you must be happy when I die. It is you rather than anyone else to be blamed for my death."

In a dilapidated house, Bao's grandmother couldn't help shedding tears when talking about the tragedy of her eldest grandson, who was raised up by her and her husband since he was one year old.

Despite his rare opportunities to be reunited with his parents, Bao never ignored his responsibilities at the family farm.

His grandparents never imagined that their eldest grandson would have swallowed pesticide to end his life.

The two recalled that after dinner on that particular day, Bao shut himself alone in his room, where the ceiling is spotted with cobwebs. Later in the night, his grandma heard him vomiting. When she opened the door she was shocked by a strong smell of pesticides – the boy had drunk down half a bottle of dichlorvos.

The grandparents, who tried to send the agonized boy to hospital, were only informed by the doctor through a phone call that it was too late.

Some villagers later recalled that they had spotted Bao buying pesticides and even two chicken legs.