



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 2 - Spring 1991

FROM THE EDITOR

After its initial preparatory phase, the Silk Roads Project became operational in 1990 with the departure of the first of a major series of expeditions: the Desert Route in China in July/August. This was followed by the Maritime Route from Venice to Osaka in October. A third international team of scholars has just returned after retracing the Steppe Route in Soviet Central Asia. This new concept of intellectual cooperation, strongly supported by all Governments concerned, is bringing together scholars from a wide range of fields to travel the ancient routes, visit sites and museums, and meet and compare knowledge with their counterparts, and is proving to be an invaluable scientific exercise. 23 international seminars, and some 200 academic meetings have been held so far during the expeditions. These are contributing to present knowledge, and will serve to stimulate and facilitate research programmes in the many disciplines covered. The wealth of material generated by the expeditions will result in publications, educational materials, exhibitions and documentary films, as well as a data base for an international network of specialists and institutions. This network will encourage links between specialists and provide up-dated information on on-going research projects.

We would like to express here our deep appreciation to all the scholars, institutions, and national and local authorities, particularly the National Coordinating Committees for the Project, in more than 30 countries, for their unfailing support, which attests to their strong commitment to the aims and objectives of this first integral study ever made of the silk roads network.

D. Diène
Coordinator

and other religious monuments (temples and mosques) and burial sites, as well as 14 museums, and participated in some 10 academic meetings with the Chinese specialists accompanying the team. In Dunhuang a symposium was held, chaired by Prof. Duan Wenjie, head of the Dunhuang Research Institute, and Prof. A.H. Dani, scientific co-leader of the expedition. A closing international seminar took place in Urumqi on **Land Routes of the Silk Roads and the Cultural Exchanges between East and West before the Xth Century**. Forty-one papers were given on themes such as the art, archaeology, history and geography of Xinjiang; cultural exchanges, scripts and languages in the region; Chinese rock inscriptions in the Indus Valley; and the preservation of cultural identity. The Proceedings are shortly to be co-published by UNESCO and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. During the expedition, the interna-

PROJECT NEWS 1990/1991

Main Programme

EXPEDITIONS

The Desert Route Expedition, China (20 July - 22 August 1990), organized jointly with the Chinese Coordination Committee for the Project. Given the importance of this route in the history of the Silk Roads, this was the first of the land route expeditions. A motor caravan of 33 scholars from China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Mexico,

Mongolia, Netherlands, Rep. of Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, U.K., U.S.A. and USSR followed the northern silk road from Xian across the Gobi desert and around the rim of the Taklamakan desert. The long journey of some 5.000 miles took the team through Qianxian, Qianling, Maoling, Famen, Zhoutain, Tianshui, Lanzhou, Wuwei, Jiuquan, Dunhuang, Hami, Turfan, Kurla, Kuqa, Aksu and Kashgar. The scholars visited major archaeological and historical sites including old settlements, Buddhist caves

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tional team also had the occasion to see the living cultures and traditions which reflect the heritage of the different regions.

The Maritime Route Expedition from Venice to Osaka between 23 October 1990 and 8 March 1991. This marathon Expedition of four and a half months, covering 15,500 miles, took place thanks to the generosity of H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman who placed at the disposal of UNESCO the 'Fulk al Salamah' (Ship of Peace), with its crew. The international team was composed, on a rotating basis, of 90 scholars from 25 countries specialized, inter alia, in archaeology and underwater archaeology; ethnology; ethnomusicology; anthropology; history; maritime history, navigation and shipbuilding; history of art, medicine and religions; sociology; museology; Arabic literature; ceramics.

A number of cultural events were held in Venice for the departure of the expedition, and an international seminar was organized by International PEN on **Travel Literature or the Travels of Literature**. After an inauguration ceremony at the Palazzo Ducale, in the presence of H.H. Sayyid Faisal, Minister of National Heritage and Culture of Oman, the

ship, flying the flag of the United Nations, set sail from Venice accompanied by a flotilla of historical boats and heralded by a fanfare of trumpets. She called at 21 ports in 16 countries: Venice (Italy); Athens (Greece); Kusadasi (Turkey); Alexandria (Egypt); Salalah and Muscat (Oman); Karachi (Pakistan); Goa (India); Colombo (Sri Lanka); Madras (India); Phuket (Thailand); Malacca (Malaysia); Surabaya (Indonesia); Bangkok (Thailand); Brunei; Manila (Philippines) where the international team was welcomed by Mrs. Corazon Aquino, President of the Republic; Guangzhou and Quanzhou (China); Pusan (Rep. Korea); Hakata and Osaka (Japan). In Osaka, ceremonies were held in the presence of H.I.H. Prince Mikasa of Japan to close the expedition. The Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, attended the ceremonies in Venice, Muscat, Colombo and Osaka. At all ports, the National Coordinating Committees and scientific institutions organized programmes of international seminars or symposia, visits to sites, monuments and museums, exhibitions and cultural performances of music and dance. Of the some 150 sites visited during the expedition, 14 are on UNESCO's World Heritage List. At

the 19 seminars and symposia, two hundred and seventy three academic papers were read on many themes related to the maritime trade routes and the cultural interactions which took place along them, centering on new evidence provided by recent archaeological discoveries. The scholars had the opportunity to meet and exchange views with their local counterparts, and proposals to initiate research programmes and studies were made.

On board the ship between ports a full programme was organized each day comprising brainstorming sessions, discussion groups to evaluate the seminars and cultural programmes, academic lectures by team members, slides and video presentations. Altogether some 180 sessions were held, in addition to meetings of the Bureau of the Expedition and UNESCO staff. Several countries and individual scholars gave books to the library on board for the use of the team, and these books are now to be donated to the Alexandria Library.

The Steppe Route Expedition in Soviet Central Asia, from Ashkhabad to Alma Ata, (19 April – 17 June 1991), organized jointly with the USSR National Committee for the Project. An international team of 44 scholars from 23 countries — Afghanistan, Canada, Chad, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, U.K., and USA — including some 45 Soviet scholars, has just completed this Expedition. Some scholars followed the whole route, and some the portion Ashkhabad-Tashkent or Tashkent-Alma Ata. The itinerary has taken them through Merv, Chardzhou, Tashauz, Nukus, Urgench, Khiva, Bukhara, Karshi, Termez, Dushanbe, Samarkand, Leninabad, Osh, Namagan, Tashkent, Turkistan, Chikment, Dzhambul, Frunze, Cholpon-Ata, and Panfilov. The team has visited archaeological and architectural sites, monuments and museums, and held academic

FUTURE EXPEDITIONS

The Bureau of the Consultative Committee has approved a provisional list of future expeditions:

- **The Steppe Route** - USSR, second stage from Odessa to Baku
- **The Nomads Route** - Mongolia, from Kobdo (Jirgalanta) to Ulan Bator
- **The Buddhist Route** - India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China
- **The Altaic Route** - USSR, Mongolia, China, Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Japan
- **Continuation of the Desert Route** - from Istanbul to Merv or vice versa, through USSR, Iran, Irak, Turkey and other European countries
- **The Southern Silk Route (Atisn Dpankar Route)** - in China and Myanmar.

Proposals have been made concerning other portions of the Maritime Route not so far considered; for example the route to East Africa, and the transpacific route from Manila to Acapulco. The Unesco Secretariat, at the request of the Bureau, is currently discussing the organization of future expeditions with all the countries concerned. The final decision on the itineraries and dates of expeditions will be made by the Consultative Committee.

meetings and discussions on the way. They were also able to see some of the living cultures and traditions of the 5 Soviet Republics traversed. Two international seminars took place: one at Khiva on **The Importance of Caravanserais and Cities along the Northern Silk Route**, and one in Alma Ata on **The Interrelation between Settled and Nomad Cultures on the Great Silk Roads**.

MEETINGS

January 1990 in Islamabad: At the invitation of Pakistan, meetings of the Bureau of the Consultative Committee and the Sub-Committee for the Land Routes to prepare the Desert Route Expedition in China. Visits to sites and museums linked to the Silk Roads.

March 1990 in Baghdad: At the invitation of Iraq, meetings of the Consultative Committee, the Bureau and the Sub-Committee for the Maritime Route to prepare the Maritime Route Expedition. Visits to sites and museums linked to the Silk Roads.

June 1990 in Venice: Hosted by Venetian institutions, meetings of the Bureau and the Sub-Committee for the Maritime Route, with representatives of all participating countries, to finalize the programmes of seminars and visits during the Expedition, the list of candidates for the international team, technical arrangements concerning the ship, and the departure ceremonies planned in Venice.

September 1990 in Tehran: At the invitation of the Institute for Cultural Studies and Research of the Islamic Republic of Iran, meeting of the Bureau to evaluate the Desert Route Expedition in China, approve the provisional list of participants for the Maritime

Route Expedition, and make recommendations concerning future expeditions, research programmes, and Associated Projects. A seminar on the Silk Roads was held in Tehran.

The next plenary session of the Consultative Committee is foreseen during 1991, at the invitation of a Member State. On its agenda will be the scientific assessment of the three expeditions held to date. In order to extend and strengthen the intellectual dialogue initiated by the specialists, the Secretariat is requesting each national Coordinating Committee to make an assessment of the material resulting from the expeditions. Meetings of the Sub-Committees for Exhibitions and Publications are also foreseen.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS, STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES, SCHOLARSHIPS

SEMINARS HELD DURING EXPEDITIONS

Desert Route in China

Dunhuang, July 1990.
Dunhuang and the Silk Roads

Urumqi, August 1990.
Land Routes of the Silk Roads and the Cultural Exchanges between East and West before the 10th century

Maritime Route

Venice, October 1990.
Travel Literature or the Travels of Literature

Athens, October 1990.
Commercial and Cultural Exchanges between the Orient and the Greek World

Izmir, October 1990.
The Influence of the Silk Roads on Turkish Art and Culture

Cairo, November 1990.
Cultural Exchanges between Egypt and other Countries of the Silk Roads during the Islamic Period

Muscat, November 1990.
Significance of Omani Maritime Heritage to Silk Roads

Karachi, November 1990.
Al-Sind and Arab Seafaring: Culture Commerce and Urbanization

Goa, December 1990.
Maritime Encounter of East and West during 15th-16th century A.D.

Colombo, December 1990.
Sri Lanka as the mid-point in the East-West Silk Route and the Centre of Convergence of the Cross Currents of Buddhist Philosophy

Madras, December 1990.
Theme A: India and the Roman World between the 1st and 4th century A.D. Theme B: India's Cultural Relationship with East and Southeast Asia between 4th and 13th centuries A.D.

Malacca, January 1991.
Malaysian Maritime Traditions

Surabaya, January 1991.
Harbour Cities along the Silk Roads

Bangkok, January 1991.
Ancient Trades and Cultural Contacts in Southeast Asia

Brunei, January 1991.
Effects and Influence of the Maritime Route on Brunei Culture

Manila, February 1991.
Manila as an entrepot in the Transpacific Commerce

Guangzhou (Canton), February 1991. Colloquium,
Guangzhou and the Maritime Routes of the Silk Roads

Quanzhou, February 1991.
China and the Maritime Silk Route

Kyongju, Rep.Korea, February 1991.

Korean Culture and the Silk Roads

Hakata, Japan, February 1991.
Symposium, **Hakata - Crossroads of the Silk Road, Ocean Routes and Continental Interchange**

Nara, Japan, March 1991.
Nara Symposium '91: Silk Roads and Japan; The Silk Roads and Shosoin; Ceramics carried along the Maritime Silk Roads

Steppe Route

Khiva, May 1991.
The Importance of Caravanserais and Cities along the Northern Silk Route

Alma Ata, June 1991.
The Interrelation between Settled and Nomadic Cultures on the Great Silk Roads

INDEPENDENT SEMINARS

• USSR Organized by the Soviet Committee for the Silk Roads Project:

Samarkand, September 1990.
The Formation and Development of Routes of the Great Silk Route Itinerary in Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Dushanbe, October 1990.
Cultural and historical contacts and spiritual communication between East and West along the Great Silk Route

• Islamic Republic of Iran, organized by the Islamic Research Foundation, Astan Quds Razavi:

Tehran, September 1990.
The Silk Road: Khorasan Part

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS PROGRAMME SEMINARS

Cultural European Itineraries: Silk Roads, seminar organized by the Council for Cultural Cooperation, Council of Europe, and launching of the Spanish project, in Barcelona 6 - 12 May 1991

Turfan and Tun-Huang (Dunhuang): The Texts, ISMEO, Department of Asian Studies of the University of Naples and Fondazione Cini, 15-17 January 1990, Venice, E. Talentino

Languages and Scripts of Central Asia, SOAS, University of London, 9-10 April 1990, Dr. S. Akiner

The Maritime Routes and Trade Networks, October 1991, Sagres, Portugal, Prof. L. de Albuquerque

Marco Polo and his book: China and Europe in the Middle Ages, third symposium, Venice, June 1990, University of New Hampshire and the Conference Group on China and Europe in the Middle Ages, U.S.A., Prof. W.R. Jones

STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The following are some of the 12 projects which have been integrated into the main programme of the Silk Roads Project in view of their scientific or cultural relevance and interest:

The Petroglyphs Programme: Corpus and Study of the petroglyphs of Central Asia. International scientific coordinator: H.P. Francfort, C.N.R.S., France

Language and Scripts Programme: a study of the means of communication used along the Silk Roads. Professor Denis Sinor, Secretary General of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference, Indiana University, U.S.A.

Epics along the Maritime Silk Route: comparative studies. Director of Research: Mrs. N. Revel, C.N.R.S., France

Programme for the Study and Preservation of Caravanserais, and the postal system, will be implemented by the Silk Roads Project in collaboration with the main countries concerned.

Research, exhibition and symposium: **Use of Teledetection for the Study of Archaeological Sites and the Paleo-Environment on the Silk Routes**, P. Gentelle, Director of Research, CNRS, and the National Centre for Space Studies (France)

One of the proposals put forward by scholars during the Maritime Route Expedition was to set up a research group for an international, multi-disciplinary study of relations between South-East Asian countries. This group will be composed of scholars from countries of the region. A conference and publication are foreseen.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hirayama Silk Roads Scholarship Fund. Ten scholarships each year over a period of 10 years have been offered by the National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in Japan (NFUA), thanks to a generous contribution by the Japanese artist, Ikuo Hirayama, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO. The scholarships of an amount of US\$ 10.000 each, are financed from the sale of specially created works by Dr. Hirayama. The aim of the fund is to encourage and help young researchers, mainly from developing countries, to carry out specific research in one or more countries of their choice. The theme of their research should correspond to the aims and objectives of the Silk Roads Project in fields such as history, history of art, archaeology, anthropology, ethnology, ecology, museology, musicology, restoration of cultural heritage, and others.

EXHIBITIONS

During the Desert Route Expedition in China, exhibitions were held in the Regional Museum of Lanzhou and in Kucha. In Venice, for the departure of the Maritime Route Expedition, a photographic exhibition was presented on board the ship comprising three parts: one on the activities of UNESCO, one on the heritage of Oman, and one by the Namikawa Institute (Japan) entitled 'Images of the Silk Roads'. This exhibition, carried on board the ship, was also displayed at Muscat, Karachi, Colombo and Bangkok. Also in Venice, the well-known Venetian textile firm Ditta Rubelli organized a special exhibition of silks and other materials for the International Team. During the Expedition, exhibitions were presented by host countries in Karachi, Colombo, Madras, Phuket, Brunei, Manila, Guangzhou and Kyongju. In Karachi, the Coordinator inaugurated the new wing of the National Museum of Pakistan devoted to Islamic art and architecture. He also inaugurated in Quanzhou the new Museum of History of Maritime Communications.

An exhibition at the Textile Museum of Terrassa (Barcelona) on 'Silk: Legend, Power and Reality' is taking place from March to December 1991. An illustrated catalogue has been published.

From 27 March to 22 April 1991 an exhibition of paintings of the Silk Route by the Japanese artist Ikuo Hirayama was held at the Musée Guimet in Paris. An illustrated catalogue has been published.

From 29 April to 10 May 1991 in UNESCO Headquarters, the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture of Oman presented the photographic exhibition by André Stevens entitled 'Oman between sands and sea', together with some photographs of the recent Maritime Route Expedition. The exhibition, with the accompanying photo-

graphic album, is an Associated Project of the Integral Study.

A travelling exhibition entitled 'Looking at UNESCO', which has a section on the Integral Study of the Silk Roads, is being presented in Ostend (Belgium) by the editors of the Dutch-language version of The UNESCO Courier from 14 to 30 June 1991. It will then be circulated in Belgium during the rest of 1991, before going on to the Netherlands.

THE SILK ROADS FESTIVAL 1993

Among the activities foreseen during the Silk Roads Festival in Paris in 1993, a prestigious exhibition is being organized by the Musée Guimet on **Buddhism in Upper Central Asia, from 1st to 10th Century**. Art collections from museums in USSR, China, India and Western Europe will be exhibited at the Grand Palais from September to November 1993. This promises to be one of the highlights of the Project, and a major contribution to the history of Buddhism. A catalogue of the exhibition will be published by the Getty Conservation Institute.

An exhibition of collections of contemporary art and crafts will be presented by the Musée de l'Homme, Paris, entitled **The Silk Roads: Encounters between Cultures**. This Museum will also present collections from China, Mongolia, USSR, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan, illustrating the theme **A Thousand Years of a City of Art: Herat in Afghanistan**.

The Musée de la Marine, Paris, will present an exhibition entitled **The Silk Roads: Misappreciations and Convergences**, on the theme of the encounter in the late 15th Century between the multiseular and multicultural Oriental maritime tradition and the new Occidental experience of the Portuguese.

Concerts, theatre and danse performances on the theme of the Silk Roads will be held, including a series of manifestations organized by the Maison des Cultures du Monde, Paris.

An international symposium will be organized by the French CNRS on **The Methodology of Survey: the Taxonomy and Interpretation of Central Asian Petroglyphs**, with an exhibition of photographs, stampings and mouldings of Central Asian petroglyphs.

A colloquium organized by the Musée des Tissus, Lyons, on **Inventory and Conservation of Textile Archives**.

An international seminar on **Epics along the Maritime Silk Route** in the framework of the Project directed by Mrs Nicole Revel, CNRS, with the National Institute for Oriental Civilizations and Languages.

An organizing committee is now being set up to coordinate the various activities and to ensure the widest intercultural dimension of the Festival which will highlight the living traditions of the peoples along the Silk Roads. A preparatory meeting will shortly be held in UNESCO Headquarters.

PUBLICATIONS

Since the first issue of the Newsletter, the following publications and periodical articles have been published, either as Associated Projects or because they stemmed directly from the Integral Study itself:

Die Seidenstrasse : Handelsweg und Kulturbrücke zwischen Morgen und Abendland. H. J. Klimkeit. duMont, Köln, 1988. 270 p. (The English and French versions will be published as Associated Projects)

Silk Road on Land and Sea. China Pictorial Publications, Beijing, 1989. (There is also a Chinese version).

- **Le Vie della Seta e Venezia.** Leonardo-De Luca Editori, Rome, 1990. 126 p.
- **Tapis: présent de l'Orient à l'Occident.** Institut du monde arabe, Paris, 1989. 199 p. (Catalogue of the Exhibition held at the Institut du monde arabe, 1989. Associated Project)
- **Die Seidenstrasse der Meere.** L. de Rosa, W. Ziehr. Motovun, Luzern, 1990. 255 p. (Associated Project, also in Italian, see below)
- **Viaggio lungo la via della setta.** L. de Rosa, W. Ziehr. Motovun, Luzern et Touring Club Italiano, Milano, 1990. 255 p. (Associated Project)
- **Oman: Citadelles entre sable et mer/Citadels between sand and sea.** André Stevens. Terra Incognita, Winksele, 1990. 144 p. 82 colour photographs, also with Arabic text. (Associated Project. An exhibition of the photographs was held in UNESCO from 29 April to 10 May 1991)
- **Sri Lanka in the Maritime Silk Route.** Published by the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka.
- **La route de Samarcande au temps de Tamerlan.** Ruy Gonzales de Clavijo, translated by Lucien Kehren. Collection: Voyages et découvertes. Imprimerie nationale, Paris 1990 352 p (Published as a contribution from France to the Integral Study)
- **Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue.** Magazine co-published by UNESCO and Aramco World, 1990. 58 p.
- **Sources, UNESCO.** (Magazine published in English and French). No 18, September 1990, pp. 9-16.
- Silk Roads: A dialogue renewed.** No 20, November 1990, pp. 20-21. Sue Williams. **All aboard...Sailing the Silk Roads.** No 22, January 1991, pp. 18-19. Maha Bulos. **Oman: digging into the sands of time.** No 25, April 1991, pp. 20-21. **Latika Padgaonkar. 15,500 sea miles later...**
- **The UNESCO Courier.** January 1991, pp. 48-49. François-Bernard Huyghe. **In the wake of Marco Polo.** March 1991, pp. 48-49. François-Bernard Huyghe. **Threading through the past.** April 1991, pp. 47-48. François-Bernard Huyghe. **Ambassadors, adventurers and empires.** May 1991, pp. 46-48. François-Bernard Huyghe. **The fabulous land of Cathay.**

- **UNESCO Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue.** Winter 1991, Bulletin of the North American Scholarly Committee for the Project.
- **The Month at UNESCO.** January-March 1991, No 140, pp. 1-4

Several members of the international teams following the expeditions have published articles in specialized magazines in their countries: for example, Admiral François Bellec ('Cols bleus'), Thomas Höllman ('Antike Welt'), André Gunder Frank (World History Bulletin, Philadelphia, Vol. VII, No 3).

Papers given at the various seminars will be published, with selected material proposed for inclusion in volumes of the **Bulletin of the Asia Institute**, headquarters of the North American Scholarly Committee for the Project (Prof. C. Altman Bromberg, Wayne State University)

Previews

- Amongst the publications presented as Associated Projects, but which have been integrated into the Main Programme, 'East and West', a series of 4 childrens' books by theme to be published by Belitha Press, London, is making good progress. Over 10 publishers around the world are expressing interest, and the first 2 titles, 'Exploration by Land' and 'Exploration by Sea' will appear in September 1992.
- **History and Cults of Pre-Islamic Central Asia.** The Proceedings of the International Colloquium organized in UNESCO by the French CNRS in November 1988 will be published in autumn 1991.
- **The Significance of the Silk Roads in the History of Human Civilization.** The Proceedings of the International Seminar held in Osaka from 24 - 26 October 1988 are due to be published in September by the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan.
- China Pictorial is shortly publishing a photo album entitled **From Venice to Osaka**, edited by Sun Yi Fu the photographer who

followed the Maritime Route Expedition. (Chinese and English versions, 264 p.)

- **Le Ver à Soie - La Soie - une merveilleuse histoire**, by Jean-Jacques Boucher, to be published end 1991. Proposed as an Associated Project.

PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

In order to harmonize the presentation of the Proceedings of Silk Roads International Seminars, a standard layout is being prepared by UNESCO for the cover, title and contents page, etc.. Details will be forwarded to all seminar organizers.

MEDIA

DURING THE EXPEDITIONS

Desert Route

A team of 17 representatives of the media travelled together with the scholars during the Desert Route Expedition in China. There were 3 television teams, TV Asahi (Japan), MBC (Republic of Korea) and CCTV (China), 4 photographers, 2 journalists from the written press (a third from Associated Press joined the team for the International Seminar in Urumqi), and both a journalist and the Media Team Leader from UNESCO. The press conference held in Beijing after the Expedition was attended by 22 journalists, including representatives of 'Voice of America', the 'Washington Post', 'Agence France Presse' 'Prensa Latina' and the journalist from 'Le Devoir' who had accompanied the Expedition. During the press conference the success of the Expedition was summed up in a three-worded nutshell — 'instructive, informative, exploratory!'

Maritime Route

35 media participants, representing 7 different nationalities, followed the Maritime Route, most of them on a rotating basis over the four and a half months. There were 4 television crews on board (Oman, Japan, China and Republic of

Korea), as well as journalists of the written press, radio journalists and photographers. Press conferences were held in each port of call. It is not easy to give the exact number of articles published in the world press covering the activities of the Maritime Expedition, but some 300 press clippings from newspapers in more than 20 countries have already been assembled.

As far as the media were concerned, the 'hot news' item during the voyage was without doubt the rescue in the South China Sea of 8 fishermen from Quanzhou, who had been drifting hopelessly for days without food or water, after damaging their rudder. The *Fulk al Salamah* picked them up and took them back to Quanzhou - the next port of call as it happened — thus adding a humanitarian dimension to the Expedition.

Steppe Route

The multi-media team which followed this Expedition was composed of 22 members from 6 different countries — 4 TV teams (Japan, Republic of Korea, China and local Soviet TV), journalists of the written press and photographers, some of them on a rotating basis. A press conference was held at the close of the Expedition in Alma Ata.

RADIO

□ A series of 6 programmes, prepared by Anne-Marie Lafond who travelled the fourth leg of the Maritime Route, is being broadcast on 'France Inter: Chroniques Sauvages'. The last three, on 25 May, 22 and 29 June 1991, cover Japan and the Marco Polo route.

□ Franz Grenet from the French CNRS gave a talk on his archaeological excavations in Samarkand, an Associated Project, in a programme entitled 'Chemins de la connaissance', France Culture, 17 January 1991.

□ In its programme 'Arrêt sur image' on 2 June, France Culture broadcast an interview on the Silk Roads Project with the President of the Consultative Committee and the Coordinator of the Project.

□ UNESCO has produced 2 radio programmes called *The Silk Road Story*. Part I is an interview with Jon Thompson, member of the Royal Asiatic Society, U.K., and Professors Dani and Thapar are interviewed in Part II. A series of radio programmes is being prepared featuring interviews conducted on board *HMSS Fulk al Salamah* with historians, archaeologists and a surgeon who took part in the Maritime Route Expedition.

FILMS

□ Documentary films on the Expeditions are being produced by the participating television teams for their national audience, whilst UNESCO is preparing international documentaries on the Expeditions for wide distribution.

□ 'KARAKASH - La rivière de Jade noir' produced in French by Sophie Bachelier and Luc Federmeyer is a film of the geographical expedition 'Taklamakan-Kunlun Geomorphological Programme' in Western China (Xinjiang), which, as an Associated Project, carries the UNESCO label. First showing of the film at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, on 13 May 1991.

□ Two films on travellers of the Silk Roads are being produced by Dominique Bromberger (TF1 France) in collaboration with television companies of Silk Roads countries.

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS PROGRAMME

To date, sixty-one independent projects have been accepted by the Consultative Committee as Associated Projects to the Integral Study of the Silk Roads - 16 seminars/research studies; 15 publications; 13 audio-visual programmes/documentary films; 11 exhibitions; 6 expeditions/theatre and musical performances. Nine projects have been adopted with the qualification 'under the auspices of the Silk Roads Project', and 12 have been integrated into the main programme of the Integral Study in view of their relevance and interest. Some of these projects are listed under the relevant sections of the Newsletter. Some others currently taking place are:

□ **Research on Music and Dance Performances on the Steppe Route**, International Music Council, Extra-European Arts Committee and Maison des Cultures du Monde, 1990/1991, Guy Huot, IMC

□ **Routes de la Soie**, Maison des cultures du Monde, Paris, 23 May-25 June 1991. Performances of traditional music and dances by 140 artists from a number of countries including India, USSR, Mongolia, China, Japan and Afghanistan

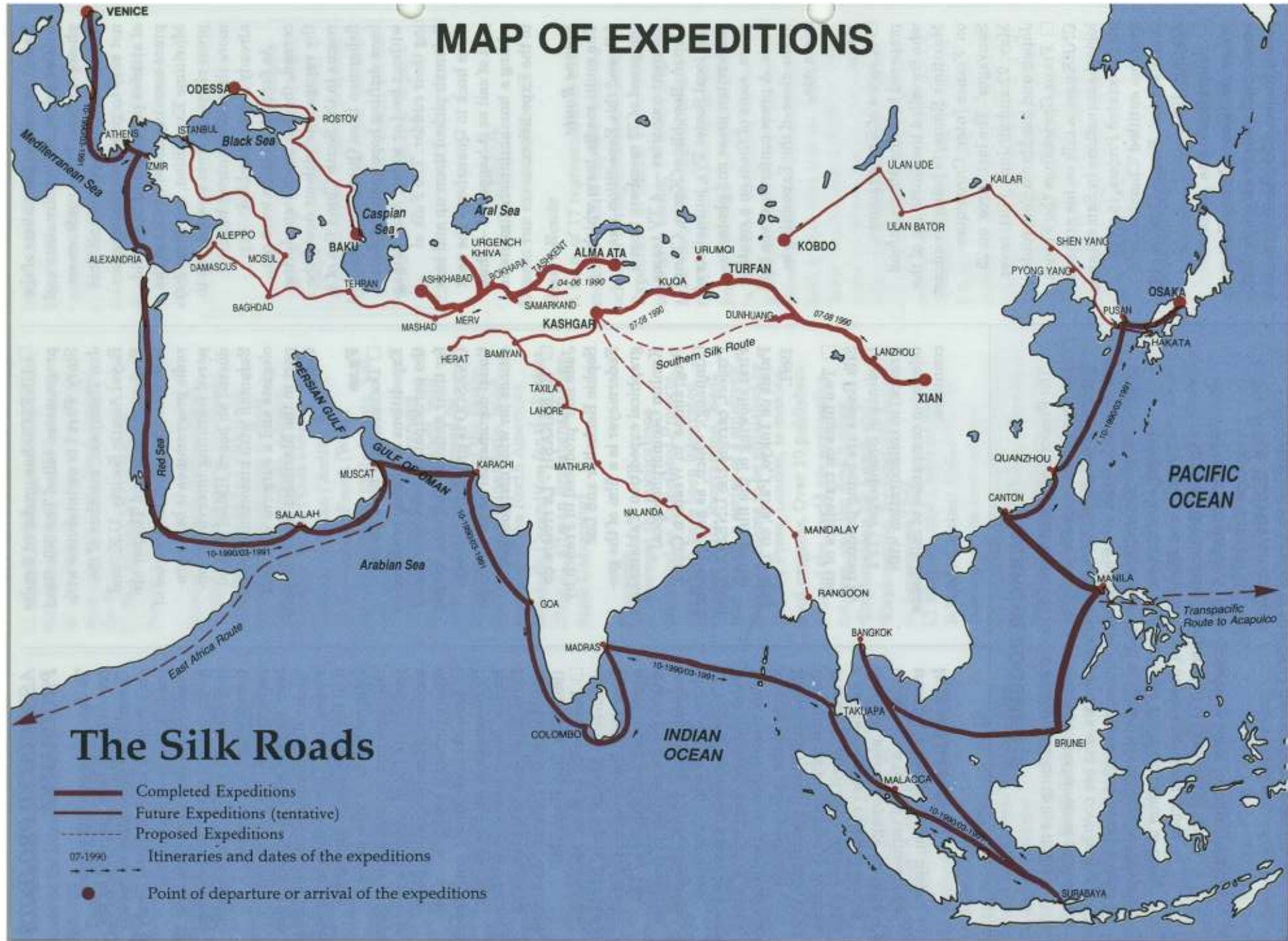
□ **Voyage en Soie**, a play by Pierre Halet which retraces part of Marco Polo's travels through the imaginary journey of the radio-journalist, Marco, and his cat *Sémiramis*. After the initial performances in Rombas, France, in April 1991, during which a number of other cultural events also took place, *Voyage en Soie* will embark on a tour of various countries including Belgium, Spain, Italy and Bulgaria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Project Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation to the many Member States, scientific institutions, universities, media representatives, public and private sector, and individual scholars who are contributing to the implementation of the programme. Among these contributors should be cited:

- H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, and the Royal Yacht Squadron of Oman
- TV Asahi and Asahi Shimbun, Japanese media group
- Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation of Republic of Korea
- Europ Assistance, France (insurance cover for all expeditions)
- Ligabue Catering Ltd., Italy
- Dr. Ikuo Hirayama, Japan
- National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
- Musée Guimet, France
- Ditta Rubelli Textiles, Venice

MAP OF EXPEDITIONS



The Silk Roads

- Completed Expeditions
- - - Future Expeditions (tentative)
- · · Proposed Expeditions
- 07-1990 Itineraries and dates of the expeditions
- Point of departure or arrival of the expeditions