



Introduction

Sightseeing and photography were naturally connected when portable cameras came to China. The rush of hand camera allowed more hobbyists and amateurs to take snapshots during their short excursions and long-distance journeys. Beyond leisure travel to scenic spots, an increasing number of Chinese intellectuals promoted a trend of nationwide tours to explore the new cultural landscape of Republican China.

Aims & Objectives

- To recreate a visual narrative of discovering the historical monuments during cultural investigation tour to the Northwestern China utilizing ArcGIS StoryMaps.
- To identify the geographic differences between wartime investigation and foreign ethnographic expeditions in the early twentieth century.

Methods & Materials

- By digital tool ArcGIS StoryMaps, linking the historical images taken by Chavannes and Wang with special locations.
- The photographs of Édouard Chavannes were collected in Paris, musée Guimet – musée national des Arts asiatiques; The photographs, travel diaries and other textual documents were collected in Shaanxi Art Museum, Xi'an, China.

Case Study Travels in Northwest China

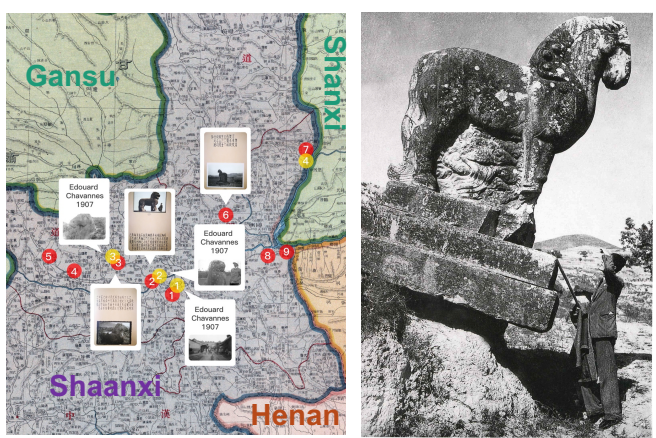


Fig.1. (Left) The travel routes of Chavannes (yellow circles) and Wang (red circles) in Shaanxi Province; (Right) Wang Ziyun in Qianling, Shaanxi Province, 1942.

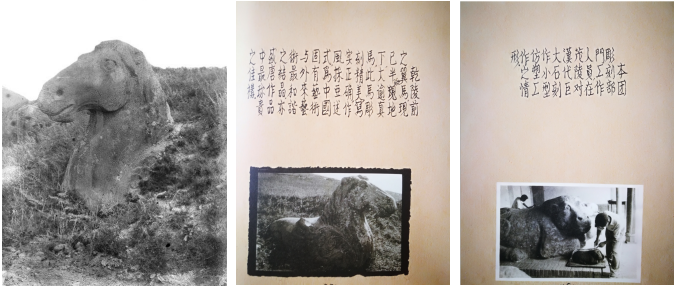
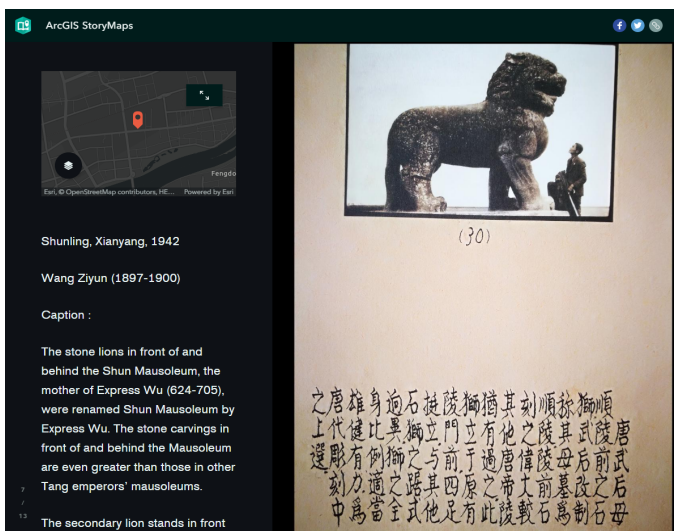


Fig.2. (Top) Web page from StoryMaps: The Historical Monuments in Wartime China: War, Travel and Modernity; (Bottom left) Édouard Chavannes, Qianling, winged horse head, 1907; (Bottom middle) Wang Ziyun, Winged horse, Qianling, Qianxian, 1942; (Bottom right) Wang Ziyun, Noting tomb motifs and architectural structures, 1942-1945.

Conclusion

Through mapping the textual-visual journey during wartime, we better understand the cultural implications of the historical monuments and its connections with the specific geographical spot. The invention of photography offered a new means of making national landscape images. The narrative map puts the documents, maps and photographs into a dynamic conversion that yield a new story of the wartime travel.

StoryMap QR code:

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