

03.25-Early treasure-hunting in China

Early **treasure-hunting** in China

To have and to hold

How America got a taste for Chinese art
Apr 25th 2015

Vocab

1. **treasure hunt** n. 寻宝 a search for treasure

The China **Collectors**: America's Century-Long Hunt for Asian Art Treasures. By Karl Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac. Palgrave Macmillan; 420 pages; \$30.

Vocab

1. **collector** n. 收集者;收藏家 A **collector** is a person who collects things of a particular type as a hobby.

e.g. His work is much sought after by **collectors**.他的作品在收藏家们那里很抢手。

IN THE 1920s a well-connected, **smooth-talking buccaneer** from the east coast of America rode a **caravan** of horses across western China. He was dressed in his **trademark** desert boots and a **stetson** hat, and he flew the Stars and Stripes. **Beneath the rough demeanour lurked an expert**. Langdon Warner was **schooled in** art and archaeology, and he had worked at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. His expedition was financed by Warburgs, Rockefellers and Forbeses, and he **was charged with** bringing home precious antiquities for both personal and public collections.

Vocab

1. **smooth-talking** adj. 能说会道的;巧舌如簧的 A **smooth-talking** man talks very confidently in a way that is likely to persuade people, but may not be sincere or honest.

e.g. ...the **smooth-talking** conman who has wrecked their lives.这个凭借三寸不烂之舌毁掉了他们的生活的骗子

2. **buccaneer** n. =**pirate** (尤指17和18世纪侵掠西班牙船只的) 海盗 A **buccaneer** was a **pirate**, especially one who attacked and stole from Spanish ships in the 17th and 18th centuries.

3. **caravan** n. (带着牲口的一群人结伴而行的)旅行队;车队 A **caravan** is a group of people and animals or vehicles who travel together.

e.g. ...the old **caravan** routes from Central Asia to China.从中亚到中国的古老的旅行线路

4. **trademark** n. a special way of behaving or dressing that is typical of sb and that makes them easily recognized (人的行为或衣着的) 特征, 标记

e.g. ...the spiky punk hairdo that became his **trademark**.成为他标志的朋克刺猬头

5. **stetson** n. (牛仔戴的)斯特森宽边帽;牛仔帽 A **Stetson** is a type of hat with a wide brim that is traditionally worn by cowboys.

6. **demeanour** n. the way that sb looks or behaves 外表; 风度; 行为; 举止

e.g. He maintained a professional demeanour throughout. 他始终保持着专业人才的风度。

7. **lurk** v. (通常指意图不轨地) 潜伏, 潜藏, 埋伏 If someone **lurks** somewhere, they wait there secretly so that they cannot be seen, usually because they intend to do something bad.

e.g. He thought he saw someone **lurking** above the chamber during the address. 他觉得自己看见有人在演讲时潜藏在会议厅顶上。

8. **schooled** adj. 受过培训的;受过教育的;有经验的 If you are **schooled in** something, you have learned about it as the result of training or experience.

e.g. They were both well **schooled** in the ways of the Army...他们俩都受过良好的陆军训练。

9. **be charged with** (usually passive 通常用于被动语态) ~ **sb with sth** (formal) to give sb a responsibility or task 赋予...职责 (或任务); 使...承担责任 (或任务)

e.g. The governing body is charged with managing the school within its budget. 学校管理机构负有在预算范围内管理好学校的职责。

Sentence

Beneath the rough demeanour lurked an expert.

描写一个人的形象: the rough demeanour 粗狂的外表, Beneath 下面, 动词 lurked, an expert 一个专家

粗犷的外表下隐藏着一个专家

Warner used crude methods to get his **loot**. At the **famed** Dunhuang caves, the **repository** of vast numbers of Buddhist paintings and sculptures, he **slapped** cloths **soaked** in barrels of thick glue in **overlapping** layers **on** the walls of **frescoes**. When they were dry, he **peeled** them **off**, removing fragments of wall painting from six caves, but ruining many. He **pried** loose a three-and-a-half-foot Tang-dynasty **bodhisattva**, wrapped it in his underwear, and then **headed** back to Beijing, **jolting** over **unmade** roads for 18 weeks.

Vocab

1. **loot** n. 盗抢而来的) 赃物, 赃物 **Loot** is stolen money or goods.

e.g. Most criminals steal in order to sell their **loot** for cash on the black market. 罪犯盗窃大多是为了把赃物在黑市上卖掉, 换取现金。

2. **famed** adj. very well known 著名的

3. **repository** n. 贮存处;存放处;仓库 A **repository** is a place where something is kept safely.

e.g. A church in Moscow became a **repository** for police files. 莫斯科的一座教堂成为警方存放档案的地点。

4. **slap** v. **slap sth 'on sth** | **slap sth ↔ 'on** to spread sth on a surface in a quick, careless way (在...上) 胡乱涂抹, 随意涂抹

e.g. Just slap some paint on the walls and it'll look fine. 在墙上随便刷点漆, 就看着漂亮了。

5. **soaked** adj. very wet 湿透

e.g. You're **soaked through**! (= completely wet) 你都湿透了!

6. **overlap** (-lapped, -lapping)[with obj.] extend over so as to cover partly 与...互搭; 与...重叠

7. **fresco** n. 湿墙画 A **fresco** is a picture that is painted on a plastered wall when the plaster is still wet.

8. **peel** v. ~ (sth) **away/ off/ back** to remove a layer, covering, etc. from the surface of sth; to come off the surface of sth 剥掉; 揭掉; 剥落

9. **pry** v. 撬动; 撬开; 撬起 If you **pry** something open or **pry** it away from a surface, you force it open or away from a surface.

e.g. I **pried** the top off a can of chilli...我揭开一罐辣椒的盖子。

10. bodhisattva 菩萨

11. head v. to move in a particular direction 朝 (某方向) 行进

12. jolt v. =jerk to move or to make sb/ sth move suddenly and roughly (使) 震动, 摇动, 颠簸

The bus jolted to a halt. 公共汽车猛地一颠停了下来。

13. unmade adj. an **unmade** road does not have a hard smooth surface (道路) 未铺路面的

Sentence

He pried loose a three-and-a-half-foot Tang-dynasty bodhisattva, wrapped it in his underwear, and then headed back to Beijing, jolting over unmade roads for 18 weeks.

主干: He pried loose a bodhisattva

wrapped it in his underwear, 这里 it 即 bodhisattva

and then headed back to Beijing 然后回到北京

jolting over unmade roads for 18 weeks. 描述时间长短用 **for 18 weeks**.

Warner is just one of a **cavalcade** of American **antiquity**-hunter-gatherers that appear in “The China Collectors”, a well-researched account of the **audacious** ways the American newly rich **plucked** paintings, sculptures, **friezes**, scrolls and manuscripts out of the **chaos** of pre-Mao China. Diplomats and their wives, traders and scholars all took what they could. The loot was transported in railway **wagons** to Chinese ports for shipping. The Americans paid, of course, but often **meagre** amounts.

Vocab

1. **cavalcade** n. 马队; 车队 A **cavalcade** is a procession of people on horses or in cars or carriages.

2. **antiquity** n. an object from ancient times 文物; 古物; 古董; 古迹

3. **audacious** adj. =**daring** willing to take risks or to do sth shocking 敢于冒险的; 大胆的
e.g. an audacious decision 大胆的决定

4. **pluck** v. to take hold of sth and remove it by pulling it 抢夺

e.g. He plucked the wallet from the man's grasp. 他抢走了那个男人紧抓着的钱包。

5. **frieze** n. a border that goes around the top of a room or building with pictures or carvings on it 饰带, 带状装饰

6. **chaos** n. a state of complete confusion and lack of order 混乱; 杂乱; 紊乱

e.g. Heavy snow has caused **total chaos** on the roads. 大雪导致道路上交通一片混乱。

7. **wagon** n. (火车的) 货车车厢, 车皮 A **wagon** is a large container on wheels which is pulled by a train.

8. **meagre** adj. small in quantity and poor in quality 少量的; 劣质的

e.g. a meagre diet of bread and water 只有面包和水的粗茶淡饭

One member of Beijing's **expat** colony was George Kates, who, like Warner, was a Harvard graduate of considerable charm who **revelled in** what the authors call an “American **addiction** to Chinese art and culture”. He **cast a discerning eye** over the scene. At the same time he **deplored** the poor taste of many of the buyers, who chose “dull and expensive **porcelains**” and “**garish** Mandarin **robes** which they **condemned** to the oddest uses”.

Vocab

1. **expat = expatriate** n. a person living in a country that is not their own 居住在国外的人；侨民

e.g. American expatriates in Paris 居住在巴黎的美国人

2. **revel** v. **PHR V** 'revel in sth to enjoy sth very much 陶醉于；着迷于；纵情于

e.g. She was clearly revelling in all the attention. 显而易见，她对大家的关注感到十分高兴。

3. **addiction** n. ~ (to sth) the condition of being **addicted** to sth 瘾；入迷；嗜好

4. **discerning** adj. able to show good judgement about the quality of sb/ sth 有识别力的；有眼力的；有洞察力的

5. **cast...eye** 瞥；飞快看(一眼);扫视 If you **cast** your eyes or **cast** a look in a particular direction, you look quickly in that direction.

e.g. I **cast** my eyes down briefly...我向下瞥了一眼。

6. **deplore** v. to strongly disapprove of sth and criticize it, especially publicly 公开谴责；强烈反对

e.g. Like everyone else, I deplore and condemn this killing. 我同所有人一样强烈谴责这桩凶杀案。

7. **porcelain** n. 瓷器 A **porcelain** is an ornament that is made of porcelain. You can refer to a number of such ornaments as **porcelain**.

e.g. ..decorative 17th and 18th century **porcelains**. 17和18世纪装饰用的瓷器

8. **garish** adj. very brightly coloured in an unpleasant way 俗艳的；花哨的；炫目的

9. **robe** n. a long loose outer piece of clothing, especially one worn as a sign of rank or office at a special ceremony 袍服，礼袍

e.g. Mandarin robes 旗袍

10. **condemn** v. ~ sb (to sth) to say what sb's punishment will be 宣判；判处（某人某种刑罚）

Sentence

One member of Beijing's expat colony was George Kates, who, like Warner, was a Harvard graduate of considerable charm who revelled in what the authors call an "American addiction to Chinese art and culture".

主干：One member of Beijing's expat colony **was** George Kates

who, like Warner, was a Harvard graduate... 这里其实是 who was a... 的非限定性定语从句，只是在 who 后面加入了一个插入语来解释这个 who

who revelled in what the authors call an "American addiction to Chinese art and culture". 这里的 who 的先行词指代的主语其实是同一个，都是 George Kates，这里 revelled in 所着迷的内容其实就是后面双引号的指代 Chinese art and culture，只不过用了一个从句来指出 revelled in 的内容

Kates was **no slouch** at **acquiring**, just more **discreet**. During a **stint** in Chongqing, where he worked for the Office of Strategic Services, the **forerunner** of the CIA, he **scooped up** documents for his American **spymasters** and cultural pieces for the Library of Congress. The Brooklyn Museum, where he was **curator** from 1947 to 1949, exhibited his personal collection of Ming furniture. When China **fell out of fashion** during the **anti-communist hysteria** of the 1950s, Kates fell on hard times and was forced to sell his precious Ming chairs and tables at an **auction** attended by a Rockefeller and European royalty.

Vocab

1. **slouch** v. **IDM** **be no 'slouch** (informal) to be very good at sth or quick to do sth 擅

长于；干得麻利

e.g. She's no slouch on the guitar. 她是弹吉他的好手。

2. acquiring 收购

3. discreet adj. careful in what you say or do, in order to keep sth secret or to avoid causing embarrassment or difficulty for sb (言行) 谨慎的, 慎重的, 考虑周到的

WORD FAMILY

discreet adj. (≠ indiscreet)

discretion n. (≠ indiscretion)

4. stint n. a period of time that you spend working somewhere or doing a particular activity 从事某项工作(或活动)的时间

e.g. He **did a stint** abroad early in his career. 他早先在国外干过一段时间。

5. forerunner n. a person or thing that came before and influenced sb/ sth else that is similar; a sign of what is going to happen 先驱; 先行者; 预兆; 前兆

6. scoop v. ~ sb/ sth (up) to move or lift sb/ sth with a quick continuous movement (敏捷地) 抱起, 拿起, 捡起

e.g. She scooped the child up in her arms. 她一把抱起孩子。

7. spymaster n. 间谍组织的头目 A **spymaster** is a spy who is in charge of a group of spies.

8. curator n. (博物馆或美术馆的)馆长, 负责人 A **curator** is someone who is in charge of the objects or works of art in a museum or art gallery.

e.g. Peter Forey is curator of fossil fishes at the Natural History Museum. 彼得·福雷是自然历史博物馆鱼类化石展厅的负责人。

9. fell out of fashion **be in/come into/go out of** fashion 流行; 开始流行; 不再流行

10. anti-communist opposed to communism 反共产主义的

11. hysteria adj. (一群人的) 情绪失控, 狂野情绪的爆发 **Hysteria** among a group of people is a state of uncontrolled excitement, anger, or panic.

e.g. No one could help getting carried away by the hysteria... 所有人都不由自主地受到狂热情绪的感染。

9. auction n. a public event at which things are sold to the person who offers the most money for them 拍卖

Sentence

When China fell out of fashion during the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s, Kates fell on hard times and was forced to sell his precious Ming chairs and tables at an auction attended by a Rockefeller and European royalty.

主干: Kates fell on hard times and was forced to sell his precious Ming chairs and tables 两个并列谓语

at an auction attended by a Rockefeller and European royalty. 在一个 a Rockefeller and European royalty 参加的拍卖会上

When China fell out of fashion during the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s, 这里的谓语是 fell, 主干是 China fell out of fashion 后面是时间: during the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s,

“The China Collectors” is a **racy, panoramic** read; a cultural adventure story with serious diplomatic **implications**. Should the American museums that have preserved these **acquisitions** from possible destruction during the years of civil **strife** in China be allowed to keep their collections intact? If China wants them back, what should be the terms?

Vocab

1. **racy** adj. (文风) 生动的; (举止) 活泼的; 泼辣的 **Racy** writing or behaviour is lively, amusing, and slightly shocking.

e.g. a racy novel 带荤的小说

2. **panoramic** adj. 全景的; 远景的 If you have a **panoramic** view, you can see a long way over a wide area.

e.g. The terrain's high points provide a **panoramic** view of Los Angeles. 在这个地区的制高点能够看到洛杉矶的全景。

3. **implication** n. something that is suggested or indirectly stated (= sth that is implied) 含意; 暗指

e.g. He criticized the Director and, **by implication**, the whole of the organization. 他抨击主管, 其实是间接批评了整个机构。

4. **acquisition** n. (对公司的) 收购, 并购 If a company or business person makes an **acquisition**, they buy another company or part of a company.

5. **strife** n. angry or violent disagreement between two people or groups of people 冲突; 争斗; 倾轧

e.g. civil strife 内乱

Sentence

what should be the terms?

这里 should be the terms 什么样的条款

So far, the Chinese government has allowed **the marketplace** to **take care of the problem**, encouraging wealthy Chinese to buy back the country's **patrimony** at auction and privately from dealers and collectors. But what would happen if **demagogic** nationalists in China, an **ever-louder** force, took an interest? Before deciding on any future path, the authors argue, it is important to be clear about "how and why we have collected China". As a first step, **theirs** is an astonishing tale.

Vocab

1. **marketplace** n. **the marketplace** [sing.] the activity of competing with other companies to buy and sell goods, services, etc. 市场竞争

e.g. Companies must be able to survive in the marketplace. 公司必须有能够在市场竞争中生存下去。

2. **take care of** 本意是照顾

3. **patrimony** n. (国家的) 文物, 遗产 A country's **patrimony** is its land, buildings, and works of art.

4. **demagogic** adj. 蛊惑民心的; 煽动民情的 If you say that someone such as a politician is **demagogic**, you are criticizing them because you think they try to win people's support by appealing to their emotions rather than using reasonable arguments.

e.g. ...a **demagogic** populist. 蛊惑民心的民粹主义者

5. **ever-louder** 越来越大的

6. **theirs** (the possessive form of *they* * *they* 的所有格形式) of or belonging to them 他们的, 她们的, 它们的 (所有物)

e.g. Theirs are the children with very fair hair. 他们的孩子是那些长着满头金发的。

Sentence

take care of the problem

本意是照顾问题，但是明显翻译不同，关照问题也不通，所以，引申为解决这个问题

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Early treasure-hunting in China

To have and to hold

早期中国文物盗猎：拥有它，占有它

The China Collectors: America's Century-Long Hunt for Asian Art Treasures. By Karl Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac.

《中国收藏家——美国对亚洲艺术瑰宝整个世纪的盗猎》，Karl Meyer同Shareen Blair Brysac合著。

In the 1920s a well-connected, smooth-talking buccaneer from the east coast of America rode a caravan of horses across western China. He was dressed in his trademark desert boots and a stetson hat, and he flew the Stars and Stripes. Beneath the rough demeanour lurked an expert. Langdon Warner was schooled in art and archaeology, and he had worked at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. His expedition was financed by Warburgs, Rockefellers and Forbeses, and he was charged with bringing home precious antiquities for both personal and public collections.

在20世纪20年代，一位出身名门、巧舌如簧的探险家率领大批马车队从美国东海岸出发来到中国西部。他身穿标志性的沙漠靴和牛仔帽，手里挥舞着美国星条旗，粗犷的外表下潜藏着一位专家。兰登·华尔纳在艺术和考古学领域受过训练，并且一直在波士顿艺术品博物馆工作。他的这趟探险由沃伯格、洛克菲勒和福布斯家族赞助，并奉命打着个人收藏和公共收藏的旗号，掠回一些珍贵的古董。

Warner used crude methods to get his loot. At the famed Dunhuang caves, the repository of vast numbers of Buddhist paintings and sculptures, he slapped cloths soaked in barrels of thick glue in overlapping layers on the walls of frescoes. When they were dry, he peeled them off, removing fragments of wall painting from six caves, but ruining many. He pried loose a three-and-a-half-foot Tang-dynasty bodhisattva, wrapped it in his underwear, and then headed back to Beijing, jolting over unmade roads for 18 weeks.

华尔纳用粗暴的方式获取他的掠夺物。在著名的敦煌洞窟中有着大量的佛像绘画和雕塑的宝库，他把涂有桶装强力粘着剂的多层胶布片敷于壁画表层。等干了以后撕下胶布。他用这种方法剥离了六个洞窟的壁画片段，但是很多壁画都被损毁。他还轻易撬开了一尊三英尺半的唐代菩萨像，用他的内衣包裹着，花了18周的时间在没有修建的路上颠簸着和壁画一起运回北京。

Warner is just one of a cavalcade of American antiquity-hunter-gatherers that appear in "The China Collectors", a well-researched account of the audacious ways the American newly rich plucked paintings, sculptures, friezes, scrolls and manuscripts out of the chaos of pre-Mao China. Diplomats and their wives, traders and scholars all took what they could. The loot was transported in railway wagons to Chinese ports for shipping. The Americans paid, of course, but often meagre amounts.

在《中国收藏家》一书中，华尔纳只是众多盗猎古文物的美国收藏者之一。本书在极其充分的研究基础之上对近代美国人在前毛泽东时代混乱不堪的中国胆大妄为地掠夺的大量古文物进

行了详尽的描述，包括字画、雕塑、装饰带、书法卷轴以及手稿。外交官和他们的夫人、商人以及学者在这里把能拿的文物全部带走。这些掠夺品通过铁路货车运到中国的各个码头，然后再海运到美国。这些美国人当然会支付一笔费用，但通常都微不足道。

One member of Beijing's expat colony was George Kates, who, like Warner, was a Harvard graduate of considerable charm who revelled in what the authors call an “American addiction to Chinese art and culture”. He cast a discerning eye over the scene. At the same time he deplored the poor taste of many of the buyers, who chose “dull and expensive porcelains” and “garish Mandarin robes which they condemned to the oddest uses”.

在北京生活的侨民乔治·盖茨和华尔纳一样是魅力四射的哈佛毕业生。他醉心于中国艺术和文化，作者称他是一个“对中国艺术和文化极度痴迷的美国人”。他对这一领域有极强的鉴赏力。他对那些品味很差的买主们感到扼腕叹息，因为他们会选择“那些无聊又昂贵的瓷器”和“俗艳的现代旗袍，他们总是把它用在很奇怪的地方。”

Kates was no slouch at acquiring, just more discreet. During a stint in Chongqing, where he worked for the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, he scooped up documents for his American spymasters and cultural pieces for the Library of Congress. The Brooklyn Museum, where he was curator from 1947 to 1949, exhibited his personal collection of Ming furniture. When China fell out of fashion during the anti-communist hysteria of the 1950s, Kates fell on hard times and was forced to sell his precious Ming chairs and tables at an auction attended by a Rockefeller and European royalty.

盖茨在收购古董文物方面很厉害，他要谨慎得多。在重庆期间，他曾在战略服务办公室（中情局的前身）工作。当时他曾为美国间谍头目把各类文件资料抢购一空，也为国会的图书馆抢购文化类作品。在1947至1949年间任职于布鲁克林博物馆馆长期间，他展出了自己收藏的明代家具。在20世纪50年代反共潮狂热之时，中国就变得过时了，盖茨处境艰难，不得不在洛克菲勒家族和欧洲皇室参加的拍卖会上卖掉他收藏的一些稀世明代木椅和桌子。

“The China Collectors” is a racy, panoramic read; a cultural adventure story with serious diplomatic implications. Should the American museums that have preserved these acquisitions from possible destruction during the years of civil strife in China be allowed to keep their collections intact? If China wants them back, what should be the terms?

《中国收藏家》一书是一本生动、全景式的读物，是一部暗含严肃外交意义的文化历险记。许多美国博物馆保存着这些古董文物使它们幸免于中国内乱时期可能会遭受的灾难，那么这些博物馆应该对这些藏品继续完好无损地保存下去吗？如果中国想要回这些藏品，应该签订什么协议条款？

So far, the Chinese government has allowed the marketplace to take care of the problem, encouraging wealthy Chinese to buy back the country's patrimony at auction and privately from dealers and collectors. But what would happen if demagogic nationalists in China, an ever-louder force, took an interest? Before deciding on any future path, the authors argue, it is important to be clear about “how and why we have collected China”. As a first step, theirs is an astonishing tale.

迄今为止，中国政府已让市场竞争来解决这一问题，鼓励中国富豪们在拍卖会上买下这些国家遗产以及私下从古董商和收藏家手中收购。但是如果在中国出现蛊惑民心的民族主义者

（他们是一股更加声势浩大的力量）对这些文物感兴趣怎么办？在决定未来的道路之前，本书的作者认为，搞清楚“我们为什么收藏中国古文物和怎样收藏它们”非常重要。首先，他们的故事令人触目惊心。