訶

英國倫敦大學亞非學院考古系碩士,1994年加入英國維多利亞與艾伯特博物館工作,現任職亞洲部研究員。研究領域包括外銷畫、玉器、善本書、清代帝后服飾及中國文物在英國的流傳。近年研究興趣主要為中英兩國外交禮物,透過有關研究瞭解清代時期中英兩國交流及外交關係,著有《從絲綢到瓷器:英國收藏家和博物館的故事》、《18-19世紀羊城風物:英國維多利亞阿伯特博物館藏廣州外銷畫》(Souvenir from Canton—Chinese export paintings from the V&A)等。

Mrs. Wilson received an MA degree in Art & Archaeology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She joined the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1994 and is now Senior Curator in the Asian Department. Her research interests cover Chinese export paintings, jades, books, imperial robes and the history of Chinese art in Britain. Her recent research is on Sino-British diplomatic gifts. Through the study of this topic she hopes to understand Sino-British exchange and diplomatic relationship in the Qing Dynasty. Her recent publications include From Silk to Porcelain – Stories of British collectors and museums and Souvenir from Canton – Chinese export paintings from the V&A.

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乾隆皇帝如何看待英吉利國使團貢物

乾隆皇帝執政六十年,期間收到來自外國的貢物無數。今天,學術界特別關注乾隆五十八年(1793)英國大使馬戛爾尼帶到中國的禮物。

馬戛爾尼使團有別於其他到中國進貢的外國人,因為主客雙方均留下了豐富的文字記錄。中國方面,1996年北京第一歷史檔案館出版了《英使馬戛爾尼訪華檔案史料匯編》,其中有關貢物的文件共九條。英國方面,團長馬戛爾尼、副團長斯當東、團員巴羅、亞歷山大、丁維提和安德森的日記和旅遊行紀先後被出版。另外,英國大英圖書館還保存了東印度公司購置那批禮物的單據。因此,要知道當年英使團帶去的是什麼並不困難,困難的是如何確定那批英國製品今天是否還存在。

近年來北京和台北兩地的故宮博物院陸續發表了清宮舊藏的外國文物,筆者故而了解到一套英國人物城池圖和兩桿火槍仍然存在。前者在北京第一歷史檔案館,後者在北京故宮。當年乾隆皇帝對那批"西洋事物"有什麼看法,中國傳統史書不會提及。但英國人是提到了。不獨是乾隆皇帝,連他身邊的要員如和珅,英國人對他們作出了生動的描述。

筆者會根據英文資料對這題目作較詳細的討論。

How did Emperor Qianlong view the "English tributes"

Emperor Qianlong reigned for 60 years, during which time he had received countless tributes from other countries. Today the academic world is particularly interested in the gifts presented to him by the Macartney embassy in 1793.

The Macartney embassy is different from most tribute envoys in that both countries – China the host and Britain the guest – have left to posterity an abundance of documents. In China, the First Historical Archives has published Archival material related to the British envoy Macartney visiting China in 1996, in which there are nine entries about the gifts. In Britain, the ambassador George Macartney, deputy ambassador George Staunton, embassy members John Barrow, William Alexander, James Dinwiddie and Aeneas Anderson had written diaries or memoirs, all of which have been published. The English East India Company had kept bills for the gifts, preserved in the British Library today. At present what kind of British articles were taken to Beijing is clear. What is unclear is whether those British articles have survived or not.

In recent years the two Palace Museums, in Beijing and Taipei, have gradually published their holdings of non-Chinese artefacts that were once property of the Qing court. It is now known that two of the Macartney gifts, a set of prints showing British cities and people, plus two muskets, are still extant. The former is in the China First Historical Archives and the latter in the Palace Museum, Beijing. Traditionally Chinese historic records would not describe in length how Emperor Qianlong viewed these articles from "the West Ocean". But the British visitors did, and their narratives extend to cover important ministers around Qianlong such as Heshen.

Ming Wilson will discuss the English documents in greater detail.

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