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YUAN DADU

Archaeological Report from 1964 to 1974

II

(With an English Abstract)

by

The Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Beijing Municipal Management Office of Cultural Relics

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Abstract

Yuan Dadu (the Great Capital of the Yuan Dynasty) holds a very important position in the development history of ancient Chinese capital cities. In 1963, the Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Sciences and the team of Beijing Municipal Management Commission of Cultural Relics jointly established the group of the Historical Map of Beijing and the archaeological team of Yuan Dadu, with the purpose to study and restore the history and urban planning of Beijing city, as well as to provide scientific data for the group of the Historical Map of Beijing. From 1964 to 1974, the archaeological team successively surveyed remains such as city walls, streets, as well as water systems like rivers and lakes of Yuan Dadu, which led to the understanding of the form and range of the outer city of Yuan Dadu. What's more, in coordination with the urban construction of Beijing, the archaeological team excavated Wengcheng (the barbican entrance to the city) and culvert sites of Heyimen gate and more than 10 Yuan Dynasty residential sites including the Houyingfang residential site.

The whole book consists of nine chapters, which are divided into the first part and the second part. The first part consists of four chapters, embodying the archaeological excavation materials of Yuan Dadu from 1964 to 1974 (including Chapter 1 Preface; Chapter 2 Remains of City Walls, Streets, Rivers and Lakes; Chapter 3 City Gates and Culvert Constructions; and Chapter 4 The Archaeological Excavation of Residential Sites). The second part consists of five chapters which are specialized studies (including Chapter 5 A Brief Research History of Yuan Dadu, Chapter 6 The Urban Planning and Restoration of Yuan Dadu, Chapter 7 Residential Constructions of Yuan Dadu, Chapter 8 Porcelain Unearthed from Yuan Dadu, and Chapter 9 The Stone Relief Art of Yuan Dadu). The book provides rich information for the study and restoration of the history and urban planning of Beijing, as well as for the study of the residential planning, the construction forms, along with the economic and cultural conditions of Yuan Dadu.