古彭城與中國早期佛教

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摘要

古彭城徐州不僅是陸上絲綢之路東端的歷史文化名城,也是海上絲綢之路登岸後的重鎮,在歷史上留下過意義非凡的佛教遺蹤:東漢初年的楚王劉英是史載最早的佛教信徒,或言曾建中國最早的浮屠祠阿育王寺,所以彭城是中國佛教的發祥地;東晉法顯是第一個以六十五歲高齡從陸路赴天竺取經由海路成功歸來的高僧,他在徐州修建了第一座印度佛教建築風格的龍華寺,號稱「中華第一佛寺」;彭城人淨撿比丘尼是中國第一位剃度出家為尼的女性,在她的影響下,許多女弟子投拜其門下。徐州舊志對這些佛教遺蹤或語焉不詳,或徑稱「失考」。今在縷述史跡的基礎上,通過對正史和方志史料及考古資料的分析、實地調查,探索阿育王寺和龍華寺的遺址及其建構樣式,並闡明淨撿的影響,以鉤沉出古彭城徐州在中國佛教史上的輝煌貢獻,突顯它在「一帶一路」偉大構想中和中印文化交流史上的重要地位。

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Ancient Pengcheng and Early Chinese Buddhism

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Abstract

Ancient Pengcheng is not only a historical and cultural city on the Land Silk Road, but also a major city along the Maritime Silk Road, which left behind many significant Buddhist relics. The prince Liu Ying of Chu in the Eastern Han dynasty was the first Buddhist in Chinese historical records, and he was said to have built the earliest Chinese Buddhist temple Aśoka Temple in Pengcheng, which evidently was the birthplace of Chinese Buddhism. Fa Xian in Eastern Jin dynasty was the first monk going on a pilgrimage to India by land and coming back by sea successfully. He was said to have built the earliest Indian style temple Longhua Temple in Pengcheng. Jing Jian from Pengcheng was the first Bhikṣuṇī in China. Her deeds exerted appreciable influence on many other female Buddhists. This paper is aimed at clarifying the early history of Buddhism in Pengcheng by carefully analyzing historical documents as well as archeaological discoeries, and by fieldwork investigation to explore the contribution of ancient Pengcheng to the early development of Buddhism in China.

Keywords: Pengcheng, Aśoka Temple, Longhua Temple, Jing Jian

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