



CATHAY DRAGON

國泰港龍航空

# SILKROAD

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絲路



## FORM, FUNCTION AND FANTASY

How creative design  
is shaping modern Asia

內外兼備的奇思幻想  
創意設計正在改造現代亞洲面貌

## A NEW HOME 天涯各處鄉

**CHINA AND ITS** Jewish population have a rich common history. A Jewish presence was recorded in China as early as the second century. Wayfaring Jewish traders moved merchandise between China and other countries, while some settled more permanently along the Silk Road.

The city of Kaifeng, in Henan province, was home to one of China's earliest and largest Jewish populations. Official records attest to a presence as early as the Tang dynasty (618-907), and their numbers grew under the Song (960-1127) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties.

As the capital of the Northern Song dynasty, Kaifeng was considered a major trade centre along the Silk Road. In the seventh century, the city connected to the Grand Canal, a vast waterway forming the backbone of China's internal communications and transport system.

The Jewish population prospered, building a synagogue in 1163. Records of the community were found on three stone slabs, or steles, dated 1489, 1512 and 1663. Their inscriptions revealed, among other facts, that the Jewish population came to China from India during the Han dynasty; 70 Jewish families were given Chinese surnames; and Jewish soldiers serving in the Chinese Army were 'boundlessly loyal to the country'.

Kaifeng reached its economic and political golden age during the 11th century. It then entered an era of decline, brought on by severe floods due to its proximity to the Yellow River. With the destruction of the last Kaifeng synagogue in 1860 from flooding and fire, the community nearly disappeared. But the Jews who remained managed to maintain some of their Jewish traditions over the centuries, despite their isolation from other Jewish communities.

Today, the community claims 500 to 1,000 members. Last year, five women in their 20s who studied Hebrew and Judaism in their native Kaifeng immigrated to Israel. After centuries of assimilation and intermarriage, a growing



Native sons

A photograph of Jews from Kaifeng dating back about a century

猶太子嗣

大概一世紀前的開封市猶太人照片

number of the Kaifeng Jews have begun to return to their roots. ■

*Lionel Friedfeld and Philippe Metoudi are the authors of Israel and China: From Silk Road to Innovation Highway*

**中國和國內**的猶太族群同樣擁有一段豐富而悠久的歷史。猶太人早於公元二世紀已有中國的文獻記載。當時猶太商人徒步來往中國與其他國家做生意，當中部分人在絲路沿途定居。

中國其中一個最早和最大規模的猶太移民社區於河南省開封市落地生根。官方文獻證實他們最早在唐朝出現，之後人口於宋朝和明朝持續增長。

開封市（舊稱汴京）曾是北宋首都，被視為絲路沿途的主要貿易中心。公元七世紀，縱貫南北的大運河連接開封，成為中國國內交流和運輸系統的幹道。

猶太人愈益興旺，並於1163年建成猶太教堂。近代出土的三塊石碑上，刻有猶太社區的文獻紀錄，記載年份分別為1489年、1512年及1663年。據碑文記載，猶太民族早於漢朝年間便從印度遠赴中國；共70個猶太家族獲賜予中國姓氏；為中國軍隊效力的猶太裔士兵更是「對國家忠心耿耿」。

公元11世紀，開封市的經濟和政治達至黃金時期，不過後來因鄰近的黃河氾濫引發多次水災而陷入衰退。隨著開封最後一座猶太教堂於1860年被洪水和大火摧毀，猶太社區幾乎不復存在。幾個世紀以來，儘管身處中國的猶太人與其他猶太族群天各一方，他們仍能保持部分猶太傳統習俗。

現時，開封據稱有500至1,000名猶太裔人，而去年便有五位於開封土生土長、並於當地修讀希伯來語和猶太教義的20多歲女性移民到以色列。經過數個世紀以來的同化和異族通婚，近年愈來愈多開封猶太人踏上尋根之旅。■

*Lionel Friedfeld和Philippe Metoudi是《以色列與中國：從絲綢之路到創新高速公路》的作者*



### DISCOVER ISRAEL

Cathay Pacific begins four-times-weekly flights to Tel Aviv from Hong Kong on 26 March

### 探索以色列

國泰航空將於3月26日起設有由香港飛往特拉維夫的航班，每周四班