

Unit 2
Reading C

Passage-1

“Warriors” Protect Hutong with Cameras 《“拍客”用镜头守护胡同》

Liu Weifeng 刘卫峰

1 They see themselves as warriors in a desperate battle to preserve old Beijing.

他们把自己视为一场绝望的战斗中的勇士，这场战斗是为了保护古老的北京。

2 After arranging to meet online, about 20 people gathered at exit B of the Qianmen metro station one recent Sunday morning, exchanging stories and talking about the photos they were going to take. The “warriors” are fans of hutong architecture and art, and Dashilan a famous concentration of small lanes which once filled Beijing, in the Qianmen area of the capital is one of their favorite areas. The targets of their cameras are ancient gates, courtyards, roofs and any detailed sculptures or paintings. These pictures aren’t intended for a photography contest, but rather a race against time to create a visual record of a piece of fading history. They plan to collect their images in an online hutong museum.

最近一个周日的上午，约 20 人在网上约定后，聚集在前门地铁站 B 出口，交流故事，谈论他们即将拍摄的照片。这些“勇士”是胡同建筑和艺术爱好者，而大栅栏——曾经遍布北京的著名胡同聚集地之一，位于首都前门地区，是他们最喜欢的地方之一。他们的相机镜头对准古老的大门、庭院、屋顶以及任何精美的雕塑或绘画。这些照片并非用于摄影比赛，而是一场与时间的赛跑，为一段正在消逝的历史创建一份视觉记录。他们计划将这些照片收集在一个在线胡同博物馆中。

3 According to media reports, the number of registered hutongs in Beijing has shrunk from 3,600 in 1980 to about 1,200 today. And the number is still falling. A government circular issued at the end of last year, the largest of its kind in terms of affected areas and number of people, said more hutongs would be removed, news that stung supporters of hutong culture.

据媒体报道，北京登记在册的胡同数量已从 1980 年的 3600 条减少到如今的约 1200 条。而且这个数字仍在下降。去年年底发布的一份政府通告——就涉及区域和人数而言是同类通告中规模最大的——称将拆除更多胡同，这一消息刺痛了胡同文化的支持者。

4 The announcement motivated Zhang Jinqi, the leader of the hutong “warriors”, to begin compiling a photographic record. Zhang grew up in Dashilan, a 1.26-square-kilometre area of 114 street and alleys. With more than 51,000 residents, it claims to be one of the most densely-populated residential communities in the world. Hutong life nourished Zhang from his childhood, he said, explaining his passion for the tiny alleys.

这一通告促使胡同“勇士”的领导者张晋齐开始编纂一份摄影记录。张晋齐在大栅栏长大，大栅栏是一个面积为 1.26 平方公里、有 114 条街巷和胡同的区域。这里有超过 5.1 万名居民，据称是世界上人口最密集的居民区之一。胡同生活从他童年起就滋养着张晋齐，他在解释自己对这些小胡同的热情时这样说道。

5 “I still clearly remember the peaceful and harmonious residential surroundings in which people

developed mutual understanding and close ties,” he said. “There was a 70-year-old granny, who was very kind and helped take care of neighbours’ kids, guarded their doors and filled the coal stoves for each family while they were out working.” Memories like these are a reminder of the urgency to preserve the hutong, Zhang said.

“我仍然清楚地记得那种宁静和谐的居住环境，在那里人们相互理解、关系密切。”他说，“有一位 70 岁的老奶奶，她非常善良，帮忙照顾邻居家的孩子，给邻居家看门，在邻居们外出工作时给每家每户添煤炉。”张晋齐说，这样的记忆提醒着人们保护胡同的紧迫性。

6 But for some, the significance of Dashilan’s existence makes it worth more than a simple hutong protection campaign. In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), it was a prosperous commercial district neighboring the Imperial Palace (The Forbidden City).

但对一些人来说，大栅栏的存在意义使其不仅仅是一场简单的胡同保护行动。在清朝（1644 - 1911），它是毗邻皇宫（紫禁城）的一个繁荣商业区。

7 As the gathering place for banks, theatres, high-end entertainment lounges and dozens of century-old shops, Dashilan witnessed the ups and downs of China’s economic development and its people’s lives for centuries.

作为银行、剧院、高端娱乐场所和数十家百年老店的聚集地，大栅栏几个世纪以来见证了中国经济发展和人民生活的起起落落。

8 That’s why Zhang will never forget the painful memory about six years ago when he returned to Yanjia hutong in Dashilan. “It was buried by bulldozers,” he said.

这就是为什么张晋齐永远不会忘记大约六年前当他回到大栅栏的延寿街胡同（注：这里可能原文 Yanjia hutong 有误，应为 Yanshoujie hutong）时的痛苦记忆。“它被推土机掩埋了。”他说。

9 Learning that the number of hutongs in Beijing had decreased dramatically, Zhang quit his job as a copy editor in 2000 and devoted himself to preserving them and hunting for old photos. He said that last year he took 40, 000 photos capturing the hutong scenes in Dashilan.

得知北京胡同的数量急剧减少后，张晋齐在 2000 年辞去了文字编辑的工作，投身于胡同保护以及寻找老照片的事业中。他说，去年他拍摄了 4 万张照片，记录了大栅栏的胡同景象。

10 Now, Zhang takes pictures on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and develops the film and classifies the photos on Tuesday and Thursday. That’s his entire life. Fortunately, Zhang is not alone in his passion. Volunteer photographers and people of all ages from all walks of life have been attracted by fascinating tales of the hutong, while others just want to help out.

现在，张晋齐在周一、周三和周五拍照，在周二和周四冲洗胶卷并给照片分类。这就是他的全部生活。幸运的是，在这份热情中，张晋齐并不孤单。充满魅力的胡同故事吸引了志愿者摄影师以及来自各行各业、各个年龄段的人们，而其他人们只是想帮帮忙。

11 Xue Yinong, 55, a retired public servant from Changchun, capital of Northeast China’s Jilin Province, joined the team one Sunday on a mission to find more vivid hutong scenes and stories she had read about in books and seen on television. “I’ve long been eager to visit Beijing’s hutongs, especially in Dashilan area, where the famous eight hutongs sit,” Xue said. She learnt

about the hutong tour from her son, a netizen who is attempting to earn his doctorate in software design in Beijing. It was his invitation that made her travel more than 1, 000 kilometres just to volunteer. "I never expected that my long-awaited visit to the hutong would happen this way with a group of strangers, but it seemed as if we all knew each other even before we met," she said excitedly.

55 岁的薛银农是中国东北吉林省省会长春市的一名退休公务员。一个周日，她加入了这个团队，任务是寻找她在书本上读到和在电视上看到的更生动的胡同景象和故事。“我一直渴望参观北京的胡同，尤其是大栅栏地区，那里有著名的八大胡同。”薛银农说。她从儿子那里得知了这次胡同之旅，她的儿子是一名网民，正在北京攻读软件工程博士学位。正是儿子的邀请让她不远千里来到这里做志愿者。“我从没想到我期待已久的胡同之行会以这种方式 and 一群陌生人一起进行，但我们似乎在见面之前就已经彼此认识了。”她兴奋地说。

12 As the spread of the old Beijing buildings lay before her eyes, Xue was touched by the spirit of the younger generation on the various teams. "It's hard to believe there are so many young people who care that much and do so much research on hutongs," she said.

当老北京建筑的风貌展现在她眼前时，薛银农被各个团队中年轻一代的精神所触动。“很难相信有这么多年轻人如此关心胡同，并且对胡同做了这么多研究。”她说。

13 But the photographers aren't shooting just Dashilan. Dozens of hutongs in the Qianmen area are on the urban renewal blacklist, which has caused the teams to redouble their efforts.

但摄影师们拍摄的并不只是大栅栏。前门地区的数十条胡同都在城市更新的“黑名单”上，这使得这些团队加倍努力。

14 "We are racing against time to take as many pictures as we can to preserve the original look of various hutongs," said Zhang Wei, 29, who started the website www.oldbeijing.net, a platform where the teams gather and arrange their activities.

“我们在与时间赛跑，尽可能多地拍摄照片，以保存各个胡同的原始风貌。”29 岁的张伟说。他创办了网站 www.oldbeijing.net，这是一个团队聚集和安排活动的平台。

15 In his eyes, each house and yard differs from others in decoration and layout. From these characteristics, Zhang says he can tell the original resident's family status, ethnicity, and official rank in the imperial dynasties. "Hutongs in Beijing resemble blood vessels in human beings," he said. Without hutongs, how can we prove the capital's 3, 000-year-old civilized history? The hutong has borne witness to that history in terms of the development of the city and the people.

在他看来，每一座房屋和庭院在装饰和布局上都各不相同。从这些特点中，张晋齐说他可以看出原来居民的家庭地位、民族以及在封建王朝中的官职级别。“北京的胡同就像人类的血管一样。”他说。没有胡同，我们怎么能证明首都三千年的文明历史呢？胡同在城市和人民的发展方面见证了那段历史。

16 In his eyes, the hutong is as famous and attractive as the Summer Palace, the Great Wall and roast duck. But in comparison, he said, the hutong deserves much more careful research. "You can easily find out very detailed records and stories of the Summer Palace, Beihai Park and other royal facilities from books and documents, but there is no systematic documentation for hutongs," said Zhang.

在他眼中，胡同如同颐和园、长城和烤鸭一样著名且富有吸引力。但相比之下，他说，胡同更值得进行细致的研究。“你可以很容易地从书籍和文献中找到关于颐和园、北海公园以及其他皇家设施非常详细的记载和故事，但对于胡同却没有系统的文献记载。”张晋齐说。

Passage-2

Problems of Hutong 《胡同的问题》

1 In recent years, hutongs in Beijing have had dramatic changes. Some turned into high buildings, some became colorful and prosperous commercial areas and some became wide roads. Only a small amount of hutongs have been kept. As an ancient relic in the modern society, hutong often faces some problems.

近年来，北京的胡同发生了巨大的变化。一些变成了高楼大厦，一些变成了丰富多彩、繁荣的商业区，还有一些变成了宽阔的道路。只有少量胡同被保留了下来。作为现代社会中的古老遗迹，胡同常常面临一些问题。

Interview with a city planning expert and hutong residents

对一位城市规划专家和胡同居民的采访。

2 Many hutongs have existed for a longtime. Some have a history of 100 years, some even more. It is natural for them to have problems such as old and aging equipment. They have some problems to face to fit in the modern society. It is the truth.

许多胡同已经存在了很长时间。有些有 100 年的历史，有些甚至更久。它们自然会有诸如设备老旧等问题。它们要适应现代社会确实面临一些问题。这是事实。

3 Employee: To live in hutongs is not so convenient as in an apartment building. Besides, the sanitation conditions are not so good.

员工：住在胡同里不像住在公寓楼里那么方便。此外，卫生条件也不是那么好。

4 Resident A: Why is it not convenient? Because there is no heating system. One must burn coal to heat. It is dirty.

居民 A：为什么不方便呢？因为没有供暖系统。必须烧煤取暖。这很脏。

5 Host: Does a siheyuan have a toilet?

主持人：四合院有厕所吗？

6 Middle-aged woman: Normally, it doesn't have. We have to go to a communal toilet.

中年妇女：通常情况下没有。我们得去公共厕所。

7 Resident B: Now the problems in siheyuan include water system, no toilet and no heating system in winter.

居民 B：现在四合院存在的问题包括供水系统问题、没有厕所以及冬天没有供暖系统。

8 City planning expert Mr. Zheng Yiming: After a history of hundreds of years, hutongs in Beijing carry a great deal of important information of Beijing history. At the same time, hutong is also an important symbol of Beijing. Therefore, hutong is worth preserving.

城市规划专家郑一铭先生：北京的胡同历经数百年历史，承载着大量北京历史的重要信息。同时，胡同也是北京的一个重要象征。因此，胡同值得被保护。

9 Female worker: When spring comes, it is nearer to earth. It is more convenient for us to go outside than apartment buildings.

女工人：春天的时候，离地面更近，我们出门比公寓楼更方便。

10 Middle-aged woman: It is hard for one to leave his or her home place. I have lived in siheyuan since my childhood. Now I still missed that period.

中年妇女：人很难离开自己的家乡。我从小就住在四合院。现在我仍然怀念那段时光。

11 Teacher From Tsinghua University: In my childhood, I felt that the relationship between neighbors was very close. We could visit them at any time. But now, we all live in high buildings, it is difficult for us to visit our neighbors. I think it is a pity.

清华大学教师：在我小时候，我觉得邻里关系非常亲近。我们可以随时去拜访邻居。但现在，我们都住在高楼里，很难去拜访邻居。我觉得这很遗憾。

12 I like Beijing hutong culture very much. I think it is not only a symbol of Beijing culture, but also a demonstration of Chinese national culture. Therefore, every time when I think that this hutong culture will get lost in the process of modernization, I always feel very sorry.

我非常喜欢北京的胡同文化。我认为它不仅是北京文化的象征，也是中国民族文化的一种展现。因此，每当我想到这种胡同文化会在现代化的进程中逐渐消失时，我总是感到非常惋惜。

13 Interview with an expert on folklore: There is a problem. Urban development conflict with the protection of cultural relics. If we want to preserve it, we should not remove it. We can renovate it, repair it. But once we remove it, it is hard for us to preserve it. This matter should be analyzed based on individual cases.

对一位民俗专家的采访：有一个问题，城市发展与文物保护存在冲突。如果我们想要保护它，就不应该拆除它。我们可以对其进行翻新、修缮。但是一旦拆除了，就很难再进行保护。这件事情应该根据具体情况进行分析。

14 In order to keep the style of Beijing as an ancient capital city, many famous hutongs have been preserved as cultural relics. In Beijing, more than 20 hutongs have been selected as streets of cultural and historical interests for preservation. The damages in those hutongs have also been repaired and their original appearances have been restored step by step. Therefore, the key issue is to find a rational way to balance between the preservation of an ancient city and modernization.

为了保持北京作为古都的风貌，许多著名的胡同被作为文物保留下来。在北京，有二十多条胡同被选为具有文化和历史价值的街道加以保护。这些胡同的损坏部分也已得到修复，其原有风貌正在逐步恢复。因此，关键问题是找到一种合理的方式来平衡古城保护与现代化之间的关系。

15 Hutongs have witnessed the life of elder Beijingers and are also a part of the life of modern Beijing residents. Although many hutongs still keep their original names, their appearances have changed a lot. Should we remove or keep ancient aging buildings? To what extent should we

preserve them? Conflicts like these do not only exist in the preservation of hutongs in Beijing.

胡同见证了老北京人的生活，也是现代北京居民生活的一部分。尽管许多胡同仍然保留着原来的名字，但它们的外观已经发生了很大变化。我们应该拆除还是保留古老的破旧建筑呢？我们应该在多大程度上保护它们呢？诸如此类的冲突并不仅仅存在于北京胡同的保护中。