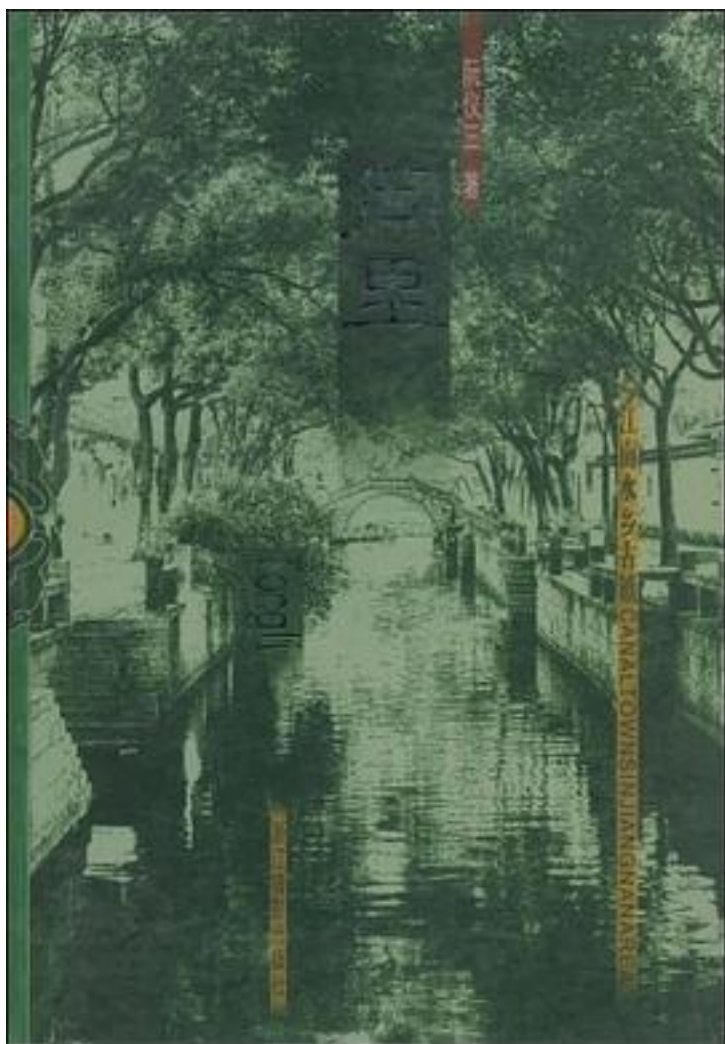


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著者:何兆兴 编

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《同里(英文)(图文版)》内容简介：The Taihu Lake Basin adjacent to Shanghai has a diversified water system and damp climate and is rich in produce. The original inhabitants planted rice and bred silkworms, and took advantage of the convenient water transportation there to develop trade relations both domestically and overseas. This part of the country is famous for its silk and herbal medicines. Since ancient times, it has witnessed rapid economic growth, and has earned the nicknames “Heaven on Earth” and “Land Flowing with Rice and Fish.” Six ancient waterside towns in this area, namely, Zhouzhuang, Luzhi and Tongli in Jiangsu Province, and Xitang, Wuzhen and Nanxun in Zhejiang Province, are the most attractive representatives of age-old towns in south-east China. Waterways have shaped the ancient towns of southeast China, their streets following the contours of the waters and their houses built on riverbanks. Small bridges, smoothly flowing rivers and tranquil residential houses form the typical natural landscape of these towns. Winding streets and lanes, ancient bridges and beautiful gardens contribute to a tranquil and simple atmosphere. These towns’ rich historical and cultural legacies are embodied in the venerable shapes of bridges, streets, lanes, residential houses, ancestral halls, temples and theaters, all with a distinctive local flavor. The philosophy of life in a waterside town emphasizes the harmonious unity of Nature and Man. The buildings appear simple, though inside they are usually splendidly decorated, and the luxury is not shown on the exterior. The main building material in these towns is wood, displaying fine carvings and other decorations. The scenery changes with the four seasons, yet the tranquility and harmony, the smartness and elegance remain unchanged. A stay in one of these age-old towns brings tourists a strong sense of history, and enchants them with graceful landscapes and a relaxing lifestyle.

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