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An Emperor's Private Paradise: The Sumptuous Garden Designed by the Qianlong Emperor for His Quiet, Personal Reflection

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Kangxi 康熙 emperor

Life 1654-1722

Reign 1671-1722

Yongzheng 雍正 emperor, son of Kangxi emperor

Life 1678-1735

Reigned 1723-35

Qianlong 乾隆 emperor, son of Yongzheng emperor

Life 1711-1799

Reign 1736-1796

Empress Dowager **Cixi** 慈禧太后, concubine of the Xianfeng emperor, mother of the Tongzhi emperor, and aunt of the Guangxu Emperor

Life 1835-1908

In power 1861-1908

Xuantong 宣統 emperor, Aisin-gioro **Puyi** 愛新覺羅 溥儀

Life 1906-1967

Last emperor of Qing dynasty. Reigned from 1908 to 1911. Lived in palace until 1924

Qing dynasty, led by Manchu (non-Han Chinese people from the region northeast of China) rulers who took the palace after the fall of the Ming

Ruled China from 1644 to 1911.

Forbidden City, or vermillion Forbidden City, 紫禁城. Imperial palace, residence and center of government. First built by the Ming Yongle emperor in 1420 when he moved the capital to Beijing from Nanjing. Constructed on approximate site of the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368) palace,

covering 180 acres, with 980 buildings.

Ningshougong - Palace of Tranquility and Longevity - district of buildings in northeastern corner of Forbidden City, constructed by the Qianlong emperor intended to be his residence after retirement.

Ningshougong garden - alternative name for the **Qianlong Garden**. Two acre garden encompassing 26 buildings, rockeries and plants, along the eastern side of the the Ningshougong palace

Buildings in the Garden

Juanqinzhai - Studio of Retirement After Diligent Service

Fuwangge — Belvedere of Viewing Achievements, tallest building in the Qianlong Garden

Sanyouxuan – Three Friends Bower

Reading Suggestions

Nancy Berliner, *The Emperor's Private Paradise*, New Haven, Yale Univeristy Press, 2010

Ji Cheng, translated by Alison Hardie, *The Craft of Gardens: The Classic Chinese Text on Garden Design*, Yale University Press, 1989

