

<<上海博物馆珍品>>

图书基本信息

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前言

Founded in 1952, the Shanghai Museum holds for China and the world a grand collection of history, art and antiquities from ancient and living cultures. The Shanghai Museum was allocated to the current site People's Avenue 201 by the Shanghai Municipal Government in 1993 and reopened to the public in 1996. Erected at the center of the People's Square, the Shanghai Museum, together with the Shanghai Grand Theatre, the City Hall, and the Shanghai City Planning Museum, makes an impressive skyline of the metropolis and contributes to its cultural and economic life. Designed in a round-cover-and-square-body style, its building embodies the traditional Chinese concept of "the heaven is round and the earth is square". With an area of 39,200 square meters and a height of 29.5 meters, the Shanghai Museum has 10 permanent galleries and 3 temporary exhibition halls. Since its foundation, the Shanghai Museum has been committed to conserving, protecting, restoring, authenticating and developing China's national culture and art treasures. Its collection continues to grow and now houses over one million works, among which 120,000 are of high value. Through five thousand years of ancient China's brilliant civilization, its magnificent works cover about 21 types, including bronzes, ceramics, calligraphy, painting, jade, ivories, bamboo and wood wares, lacquered wares, oracle bones, seals, coins, furniture, etc. Its bronzes, ceramics, painting and calligraphy collections are among the most comprehensive and finest in the world. One of the latest and the most notable additions to its collection is the Chunhua Ge Tie (a calligraphy robbing collection) purchased in 2003.

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内容概要

The Shanghai Museum became a must-go landmark for its international standing and its key role in the display of our nation ' s cultural heritage. In recent years, over 1 million people visit the Shanghai Museum every year and about half of them are foreigners. We are obliged to make the appreciation of the valuable collections possible to the great number of people from china and all over the world. In order to promote universal understanding of our collections and the culture behind them, we have been longing to introduce the Shanghai Museum in languages besides Chinese.

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插图：Initial Stage Bronze, an alloy of copper, tin and lead, can be used to fashion ritual vessels, tools and weapons. The arrival of bronze heralded a new age in the history of China. The era of the Shang and the Zhou dynasties is generally known as the Bronze Age of China. Eriitou Culture marks the beginning of Chinese bronze casting, which dated from 5,000 years ago. The range of types of vessel cast was quite broad, including containers, musical instruments, weapons, tools and personal ornaments. Ruins of foundries were also found at the site. In China, as in other societies, rituals carried a very important social function in generating social cohesion and in ruling the state. Ritual bronzes of this period were thin-walled and cast by mature techniques. Developing Stage During the early and middle Shang Dynasty (16th-13th century B.C.), bronze casting became a major state industry. Ritual vessels produced then were mainly wine containers. A feature common to this period's bronzes was their relatively thin walls. Decoration trended towards more bold and complex, and the most popular motif was the animal-mask. The mold-making process became sophisticated and an ingenious technique was developed for casting a complicated shape in a sequence of separate pouring of metal. The progress laid a solid foundation for the coming zenith of the bronze art.

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