



OI LING

FINE CHINESE ANTIQUES

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Arts & Crafts of China : Chinese Costumes



Costumes not only fulfil a material purpose, they also reflect the stages of cultural development of a society. At some stages of Chinese history, there was a strict hierarchical system of the various classes in society. Traditional Chinese costumes came in various styles and forms, owing to political and regional differences of each dynasty. At different times, big reforms in ancient Chinese costumes were influenced by the fashions of minority ethnic groups.

Yet despite the fact that costumes in each period had different characteristics, there was some continuity with regard to style, cut, design and colour.

Reference:

Traditional Chinese Costumes

by Yuan Jieying

Gallery News

OI LING Fine Chinese Antiques

We are delighted to announce that we are merging our two galleries. With immediate effect Contes d'Orient and Gallery Oi Ling will trade under one business name. The new trading name, **OI LING** Antiques, brings together the trust and quality the two



businesses have become known for in Hong Kong and around the world with our unique triple assurance guarantee. Our goal remains to position **OI LING** Antiques as a family-owned company trusted by local buyers and well-established in the international art market as a reputable dealer of high-quality antique furniture, stone, terracotta and bronzeware.

We will continue to serve discerning collectors from our two galleries on Hollywood Road - the heart of Hong Kong's antique district. The smaller shop at 85 Hollywood Road will continue to carry top-of-the-range terracotta pieces whilst the 3-level gallery formerly known as Contes d'Orient, at 52 Hollywood Road, will also feature furniture, stone pieces and archaic bronzes. We will continue to be supported by the warehouse in Aberdeen (visits available by appointment) and our own workshop in Southern China where our team of skilled artisans lovingly restores furniture using traditional methods and techniques.

We look forward to seeing you soon at **OI LING** Antiques.

Oi Ling Chan

Product Highlights

Furniture



This large stool is made of purple elm which is a dense coffee-coloured variety of Northern elm found throughout Shaanxi, Shanxi and Hebei Provinces. The thick black lacquer finish was typical throughout these regions.

The main decoration on this stool is the angular T-scroll (inspired by Qialong's appreciation of archaic bronzes). This stool shows patination with its age-worn seat, abraded lacquer and burnished edges.

Meditation stool

Material : Purple Elm

Period : 18th century, Northern China

Dimensions : 65.5 cm x 65.5 cm x 49 cm height



Stone



A pair of engraved stone panels

Material : Grey Stone

Period : Sui Dynasty (581-618 A.D.), Hebei Province

Dimensions : 231 cm L. x 63 cm H. x 8 cm D.

This pair of magnificent carved panels depicts the official farewell of a noble lady who is to embark on an important journey; in this case, to the next world which the Chinese refer to as "Dai xing".

This farewell procession allows viewers to gain a better understanding of the established social, cultural and honorific structures governing the behaviour of the aristocrats of the Sui Period.

In addition, the things depicted in the engravings serve as physical testimonies of the artistic achievement established in Sui period and how it influenced the later Tang period.



Bronze



This exquisitely crafted bronze mirror with inlaid turquoise, gold and silver is a direct reflection of the advancement of bronze production of this period.

The major decoration of this mirror is the use of the Taotie face and the thunder spirals.

An inlaid bronze mirror

Material : Bronze

Period : Warring States Period

Dimensions : 15 cm diameter



Featured Product

Terracotta

A horse with such a degree of movement is seldom seen amongst Tang pottery horses available in the market. This one in particular is considered one-of-a-kind for its unique movement and realistic portraiture.

The horse is modeled with an outstretched neck and with its head slightly turned backward. This naturalistic representation captures well the spirit and energy of the horse. In addition to the bursting motion of the upper body, the four legs also suggest the imminent outburst of motion which corresponds perfectly with the neighing motion of the upper body.

The corresponding motion of the legs and the subtle backward motion of the head are the elements which make this horse a great piece of art, far superior to other known examples. Other examples of this genre are normally portrayed standing foursquare on a plinth with head looking up straight and without such a dynamic representation of imminent motion.

An unglazed, painted early Tang grey pottery horse

Period : From around 600 -700 AD
Cheung Zhi, Shaanxi Province

Dimensions : 60 cm height, grey pottery



Terracotta pieces can only be considered genuine if they are presented along with a thermoluminescence (TL) test certificate from a reputable testing agency. The TL test confirms only that the date of last firing was in antiquity (and therefore 'consistent with the suggested period of manufacture') and not a recent phenomenon. TL testing measures radiation in solid materials - namely fired clay objects - and can determine when the clay was last fired. Because of their age, terracotta pieces are expected to have some degree of restoration. And a piece with very little or NO restoration is indeed valuable.

A TL test certificate from a reputable source is only one of the criteria for judging authenticity - minimizing the chances of technical inefficiency and corrupt practices. A knowledgeable dealer will know to look closely at the surface patina for signs of forced changes in the pottery. Of course, a reputable dealer will inform you of the level of restoration on any given piece.

Buyers of terracotta should insist on certificates from a reputable testing agency such as Oxford Authentication or Daybreak Nuclear. These agencies normally test more than one sample from any give piece (advisable if there has been extensive restoration). Reputable testing agencies will also take samples at random from different parts of the piece.

Special Event

November Exhibition

We are delighted to announce our latest exhibition, entitled "An Ode to TaiZong, the true founder of the Tang Dynasty". Taizong's wish was for a world where people of different races and tribes live in harmony. We pay tribute to this noble wish.

The exhibition will take place from the 22nd to the 29th of November 2007 at our gallery at 52 Hollywood Road. If you would like an invitation to the opening night cocktail party to be held on Wednesday 21st November, please contact antiques@oilingantiques.com



Oi Ling (centre) is interviewed for CCTV

Ask the Expert

How does one decide which piece is more collectable than another?

The following elements must be looked at closely: craftsmanship, materials, ratio/proportion, and unique characteristics not found in other pieces. If all other things are equal, when a piece is represented in a unique way then it can be considered more collectable than other pieces. In other words, the rarity value is important. A good example will be a Tang horse: a 'normal' Tang horse is represented standing straight on all 4 legs but where one finds an example of a Tang horse with greater movement - say an outstretched neck or a prancing leg - then that horse is more collectable.

Another way to look at the question is to consider items from different genres. If "collectable" is taken to mean monetary value and market potential in the sense of finding the next buyer, then one has to see what is in fashion. Gilt bronze Buddha images, for example, are currently very collectable and there are a lot of buyers looking for any manner of gilt bronze buddha icons.

Submit your questions to our expert c/o expert@oilingantiques.com. We will do our best to answer them in future issues of Gallery News.



HONG KONG galleries

52 & 85 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong.

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warehouse & showroom

12/F, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Tel +852 2815 9422 (By Appointment Only)

CHINA

Restoration workshop in Zhong Shan, Guangdong Province.

Associated Galleries

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