

Oi Ling
Size : 215mm(width)x270mm(Height)

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Antique – Scholar items

Cultural History

Beginning about the fourth century B.C., ancient texts describe Chinese society as divided into four classes: the scholar elite, the landowners and farmers, the craftsmen and artisans, and the merchants and tradesmen. Under imperial rule, the scholar elite directed the moral education of the people.

The virtues of the scholars were appreciated in the early Northern Song, and the government bureaucracy was staffed entirely by scholar-officials chosen through a civil examination system. With the growth of literacy but with limited opportunities for official employment, scholars increasingly turned to the arts, the study of which was considered a path to the cultivation of the moral self. Private collections of ancient works were amassed. Scholar-officials also became particularly associated with the Four Accomplishments: painting, poetry, chess and playing the zither (qin).

Collection Treasure

In the studio the scholar studied Confucian classics, wrote poetry, played music, practiced calligraphy, and perhaps painted. Objects important in the pursuit of these activities included writing utensils and desk accessories, for example: brush pots, brush rests, ink stone, ink cake, brushes, paper weight, seals used for painting and calligraphy, and so forth. More than mere art curios, these objects embody the highest degree of technical precision and a finely honed aesthetic sensibility. As such, they embodied the wisdom, traditions, and values of the Chinese literati who governed China for more than two millennia. Therefore, the study of Chinese history, classics and culture would allow potential collectors to better appreciate these scholar's items.

Recommendation

Meiling Chiang, owner of Oi Ling Fine Chinese Antiques, believes that the Chinese scholar's collection – calligraphy, incense, antiques manuscript – provided philosophical and moral inspiration through their symbolic content while the scholar's item on the desk reveal the beauty of Chinese artwork.



文物鉴赏 - 文房器物

文化渊源

自西元前四世纪开始，古文献记载中国社会分为士、农、工、商四个阶级。在帝制下，士人肩负着道德教育的重任。他们在北宋极受重视，政府职位全由科举中选的士人担任。但因竞争激烈，很多落选而未能担任公职的士人，纷纷将心力转投艺术方面，以达致更高的精神追求。他们收集大量古代藏品，同时向往其他的艺术成就，包括琴、棋、书、画。

典藏珍品

士人常在书房中修读儒家经典，兼及写诗、弹琴、写字、画画。文房用器应运而生，包括：笔筒、笔山、墨砚、墨条、毛笔、纸镇、印章、棋盘、古琴等等。这些文房器物不单是工具，更是实用与美感的融合，体现了中国文人雅士二千多年的智慧、传统和价值观。因此，研究中国历史、文学典籍和器物等等，能让收藏者鉴赏和体会这些文房器物之美。

店主推介

燕誉堂店主蒋美玲认为案头的书法，沉香和香炉，古籍善本丰富了古代文人的精神生活;而各类文房器物则呈现出中国古典的艺术趣味与美学品格，各有价值。



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