

A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 100 OBJECTS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

浓缩的世界史

大英博物馆百物展



上海博物馆
Shanghai Museum

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上海博物馆

致 辞

我非常高兴能够襄助“大英博物馆百物展：浓缩的世界史”在中国北京和上海先后巡展。大英博物馆不仅是英国最早的文化事业机构之一，更重要的是，它也是世界性的博物馆，从全球的视角与人们对话。该展览让中国的观众们能有机会与代表整个世界历史的各类物品面对面。

将英国的文化遗珍同全世界分享是我们博物馆工作的一个重要方面，由此我们也努力将英国塑造成全世界最具创造性和最令人兴奋的居住、参观和经商之地，使英国变得乐观、外向，向世界打开大门。我们保护和推广自己的文化和艺术遗产，通过投资创新帮助企业 and 社区发展，以此突出英国是一个值得参观和游览的胜地。我们很乐意将以上提到的这些事业与中国这样的伙伴进行合作，两国有着辉煌的历史，共享充满活力和潜能的未来。

随着中英两国的关系迈入黄金时代，两国不仅在文化领域，更在贸易、旅游业、基础建设和投资业等方面进行了合作推广。在这样的背景下，这次来华的展览就显得尤为重要，英国政府基金将继续为博物馆以及其他文化事业机构提供资助，资助他们提升各自在华的形象，同时也助力加深中英两国之间的文化联系。该展览只是众多中英合作项目之一，我们期盼着两国之间更多的合作以及更为激动人心的未来。

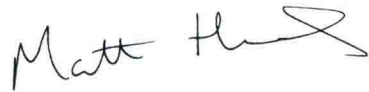
大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国数字与文化国务部长
马修·汉考克

Foreword

I am delighted to support the display of *A History of the World in 100 Objects: the Exhibition* in China, and to see the exhibition tour Beijing and Shanghai. The British Museum is one of our first institutions, but more than that, it truly is the world's museum and speaks to audiences on a global scale. This exhibition provides an opportunity for Chinese visitors to engage with the rich diversity of objects representing the history of the world we share.

Sharing Britain's heritage internationally is an important aspect of the museum's work. It is part of a much wider effort to make Britain the world's most creative and exciting place to live, visit and do business; being optimistic, outward looking, and open to the world. We protect and promote our cultural and artistic heritage and help businesses and communities to grow by investing in innovation and highlighting Britain as a fantastic place to visit. These things are best done with friends and partners like China, with whom we have an important shared history, and a vibrant shared future of great potential.

To bring this exhibition to China at this time is especially important as we enter a golden era of relations between our two countries, not only from a cultural perspective but also as we work together to promote trade, tourism, infrastructure and investment. UK Government funding continues to support some of our great museums and cultural institutions to boost their profile in China and to deepen UK-China cultural links. This exhibition represents one of many collaborations between the UK and China, and we look to an exciting future for our two nations.



Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP
UK Minister of State for Digital and Culture

致 辞

此次，大英博物馆非常荣幸将“大英博物馆百物展：浓缩的世界史”带到上海。策划这个展览的灵感来源于2010年我馆与英国国家广播公司（BBC）合制的“大英博物馆100件藏品中的世界历史”系列广播节目，该节目广受赞誉；继而，我馆与著名的企鹅图书合作出版了同名畅销书。这一独特的展览旨在向世人讲述一个异彩纷呈的世界历史的故事。这个故事并非通过文字来讲述，而是通过具体的物品——这些物品是人类长久以来创造与发明的产物，在过去的200万年间帮助人类越过了种种难关。通过这些物品，人们有机会接触和了解到那些并未留下文字记载的历史，更有幸对全球最早的人类祖先们的生活以及未被记录的文化有了初步的认识。

6 该展览从我馆百科全书般的收藏中遴选出100件重要展品，向人们全面生动地再现了人类和整个世界的发展轨迹。除了展现人类出类拔萃的工艺和艺术才能以及呈现美丽精致的物品本身之外，展览中更突出那些看似最微不足道、实际却在讲述非凡故事的展品。比方说一枚小小的石质印章引领人们再次发现某个失落的文明，被弃于非洲某一沙滩的陶器碎片向世人揭示出早期的商船曾经不远万里穿越过印度洋。所有展品聚在一起，向人们叙述着整个世界跨越各大洲、穿越千万年的精彩故事。最为重要的是，该展览证明了人类在不同时间、不同地域都面临着相同的问题，且内心怀有同样强烈的愿望。作为一馆之长的我，希望参观展览的朋友们对于我们所共享的这一世界历史产生新的感悟和认识，且从自身出发，进行一定的反思。

最后，我想对英国政府对该展览项目的慷慨资助表示最诚挚的谢意。2015年，大家已经共同见证了中国与英国之间共享文化遗产和专业知识的过程，这些都是文化交流的延伸。继2010年我馆和维多利亚与阿尔伯特博物馆在上博成功联合举办了名为“古印度文明——辉煌的神庙艺术”的展览之后，我们非常高兴能够再次与上海博物馆合作，相信该展览也会取得圆满成功。

大英博物馆馆长
哈特维希·费舍尔博士

Foreword

The British Museum is honoured to present *A History of the World in 100 Objects: the Exhibition* in Shanghai. Inspired by the highly-acclaimed 2010 radio series and book, which was produced in partnership with the BBC and Penguin Books, this unique exhibition sets out to tell one version of an extraordinary story - the history of the world. It is not told through writing, but through objects: the creations and inventions that people have made, and that have helped us to overcome the challenges that humankind has faced throughout the last 2 million years. Through these objects, we can access those parts of history that have left no written records, giving us a privileged glimpse into the lives of our earliest ancestors all around the globe, as well as cultures that never developed a need for scripts.

Using 100 key objects from the British Museum's encyclopaedic collection, this exhibition brings to life a truly global story of what it is to be human. While many are beautiful examples of human potential for technical and artistic excellence, this exhibition also highlights the remarkable stories which can be revealed through even the most humble objects. A tiny stone seal led to the rediscovery of a lost civilisation, and fragments of pottery discarded on a beach in Africa expose the vast distances travelled by early traders across the Indian Ocean. All of these objects come together to tell a global story that spans continents and millennia. Above all it demonstrates that human beings in all times and places confront the same problems, and share the same aspirations. It is my hope that visitors to the exhibition will take away a new sense of our shared history and reflect on their place within it.

I would like to express my thanks to the UK government for generously funding this project, and so many others that have seen China and the UK work together to share their cultural heritage and expertise as part of an extensive exchange program throughout 2015. This follows the success of previous collaborative exhibitions, including *India: The Art of the Temple*, presented by the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2010. We are delighted to be working with the Shanghai Museum once again.



Dr. Hartwig Fischer
Director, the British Museum

致 辞

大英博物馆此次与上海博物馆再度携手合作，将“大英博物馆百物展：浓缩的世界史”呈现给上海观众，这是一件令人为之兴奋激动的文化盛事。

我非常高兴能见到那么多来自世界各地的珍贵文物在上海博物馆展出，让全中国的观众通过这个特别的展览去了解和探讨整个世界的历史。两馆之间的通力合作是中英两国之间持续不断的文化联系之明证，我们真切期望未来能够在上海以及中国其他地方开展更多的项目。

我希望，所有参观展览的朋友们能够喜欢并享受由大英博物馆讲述的关于世界历史的故事。观看完展览之后，希望大家有机会能够对我们的过去、现在和将来有所思考。

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国驻华大使
吴百纳女爵士

Foreword

It is wonderful to welcome another collaboration between the British Museum and Shanghai Museum and to see *A History of the World in 100 Objects: the Exhibition* presented to audiences in Shanghai.

I am delighted to see so many objects from across the globe displayed in Shanghai Museum, and to invite Chinese audiences to explore this particular presentation of a history of the world. The collaborative effort shown by both museums is a testament to the important and enduring cultural relationship between China and the UK and we look forward to realising future projects both in Shanghai and beyond.

I hope that visitors enjoy this journey into the British Museum's telling of a history of our world and that the exhibition affords an opportunity of reflection on our shared past, present and future.



Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE
British Ambassador to China

致 辞

任何国家的历史学研究中都有一个困扰，那就是如何抛开我者与他者的观念，尽量客观地叙述历史。一国历史尚且如此，何况是世界史。时至今日，鲜有一部世界史著作能够摆脱以述说者所处的政治集团利益为出发点来展开叙述的。也正是因为这样，世界各地的人们头脑中总有一种错觉，觉得本国的历史与文化定是与他国不同的，总是有隔阂的。就这个意义上说，“大英博物馆 100 件藏品中的世界历史”是一个极具突破意义的项目。突破之一，在于它不落窠臼，从人类创造的物品，而非其本身就带着主观性的文字记载来讲述历史；突破之二，在于它精选了来自全世界的人造物品，早至 200 万年前，晚至我们生活的当代，打破了考古学、历史学、艺术史学传统上的学科壁垒；突破之三，也是最为重要的，它向我们展示了各个文化独立发展过程中的相似进程，以及这些文化发展到一定程度后互相间产生的联系和冲突，彻底更新了我们“全球化”的认识。

“大英博物馆 100 件藏品中的世界历史”最早是大英博物馆和 BBC 合作的系列广播节目，并于 2010 年成书。几年前，大英博物馆作为“世界的博物馆”，本着“为世界服务”的宗旨，开始了同名展览的全球巡展，将这个由来自世界各地的物品组成的展览推向世界，向全世界的人们述说着全人类共同的历史。这个展览已经辗转阿拉伯联合酋长国、日本、澳大利亚和中国台湾地区，如今飘洋过海抵达中国北京和上海。

上海一直在中国对外联结的历史中扮演着举足轻重的角色。青浦区青龙镇遗址证实了这里曾经是唐宋时期重要的对外贸易港口；开埠以后，上海一直是中国对外交流的窗口；如今，上海已然是一座活跃于国际舞台的经济、文化大都市。作为这座海纳百川的城市的文化代表，上海博物馆非常荣幸能够迎来这个展览。在此，我谨代表上海博物馆向各位为此展览顺利开幕而辛勤工作的我馆与大英博物馆的同仁们致以谢意，向慷慨资助本项目的英国政府致以敬意！

上海博物馆馆长

杨志刚 博士

Foreword

In the study of any culture, a universal conundrum is how to avoid interpreting that culture's history through a narrative of Self and Other. It is hard enough to be objective in telling the history of any one nation, not speaking of the history of the whole world. There is hardly a world history not narrated from the perspective of the political interest group the author belongs to. For the same reason, people who are told of their own history tend to believe that the history and culture of other nations must be very different from theirs. In this sense, *A History of the World in 100 Objects from the British Museum* is a remarkable breakthrough. First of all, it tells a history of all human beings not through words, which can easily be tinted by subjective opinions, but through objects created by human beings. By compiling manmade objects spanning most of the continents and a period from 2 million years ago to the present day, the exhibition also breaks through the conventional barrier between subjects of archaeology, history, and art history. Most importantly, it shows how different cultures share similar processes of development in early human history, and how they react to each other after making contact, which challenges our view of "globalization".

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"A History of the World in 100 Objects" started as a joint project of the British Museum and BBC, comprising a 100-part radio series. A book accompanying the series was published in 2010. As "a museum of the world for the world", the British Museum curated an exhibition that shares the same name. The touring exhibition is composed of objects from all over the world and has traveled to the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and Australia. It is now in China, ready to tell the story of the human history.

In China's history of foreign relations, Shanghai has been playing a role that cannot be overlooked. An archaeological discovery in the Qinglong Town, Qingpu District, has confirmed that the area was once an important trading port in the Tang and Song dynasties. In modern times, Shanghai has consistently been a window for external exchange. Today, it is an economic and cultural metropolis active on the international stage. As a cultural representative of the city, the Shanghai Museum is honored to welcome this exhibition. I would like to express my gratitude to the British Museum for loaning the exhibits, the UK government for generously funding the project, and all the staff who worked hard to bring the exhibition to Shanghai.

Dr. Yang Zhigang
Director, Shanghai Museum

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