

THE COULING-CHALEANT  
COLLECTION OF INSCRIBED  
ORACLE BONE

庫方二氏藏

甲 骨 卜 辭



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白 瑞 華 校

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The Couling-Chalfant Collection  
of Inscribed Oracle Bone

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## PREFACE

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This collection was assembled by Samuel Couling and Frank Herring Chalfant by purchases from antiquary dealers at Weihsien, Shantung. Most if not all the pieces were purchased during the years 1904-1908, and roughly in the order in which Chalfant arranged and numbered them. Although Chalfant and Couling were not so informed at the time, the pieces no doubt came from Yin Hsü, the site of the latter capital of the Shang Kingdom, at the village of Hsiao T'un near Anyang, Honan. Chalfant's sketch-plates here printed contain his facsimile drawings of 670 mammal bone pieces, 1016 plastron pieces, and one antler, a total of 1687 pieces. The collection has been distributed among four museums, two in Britain and two in America, as itemized on a following page. It is customary to cite the entire collection, irrespective of the museum divisions, by the letter C.

In addition to these fragments Couling and Chalfant bought many carved pieces alleged by the dealers to have come from the same source, but now known to be largely forgeries. These so-called amulets are therefore not published here, and this omission causes the gaps in the numbering. The pieces reproduced here are such as are typical of the Anyang excavation. The inscriptions, especially on large bones and the antler, must be used with the caution appropriate to all specimens obtained through dealers. I can not particularize on the genuineness of any of the pieces. I have not seen the Royal Scottish and the Carnegie portions of the collection, and I viewed the rest only cursorily, three years ago, without a thought of later having the opportunity to edit these sketch-plates for publication. The task of verification and definitive edition will require years, and these Chalfant drawings already have too long awaited printing.

Chalfant was the first Western student of Chinese paleography to recognize and utilize the old script as found on the oracular shell and bone. He introduced the study to the Western world in his monograph, *Early Chinese Writing*, the fourth part of which deals with the Ancient Inscriptions upon Bone and Tortoise Shell. This was published as a Carnegie Museum memoir, by a special provision of Andrew Carnegie, at Pittsburg in 1906, only three years after the first Chinese publication dealing with the oracle bone, T'ieh-yün Ts'ang-kuei, Shanghai, 1903.

After this, Chalfant commenced a larger work on the bone characters, devoting to this research such time as his missionary duties allowed. In 1911 at Tsingtao he suffered an accident, and became partially paralysed. He continued his study, however, and at his death, 23 January 1914, he had virtually completed a voluminous work entitled *Bone Inscriptions*. His friend Berthold Laufer pressed for its publication, and with W. J. Holland, director of the Carnegie Museum, formed a plan to print the book in England under the supervision of Lionel C. Hopkins who had constantly exchanged notes with Chalfant during the eight years of preparation of the work. This plan was halted by the outbreak of war in Europe in July 1914. The manuscript book remained for twenty years at the Field Museum, in the care of Laufer until his death in 1934, after which it came into my hands. Much of the work is not obsolete even now. I have selected these 132 sketch-plates of the Couling-Chalfant collection to publish first.

I wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Frank H. Chalfant and Edward N. Chalfant for entrusting the documents to me. Lionel C. Hopkins, who has been keeping Chinese paleography alive in Western sinological circles, has graciously encouraged this effort. The Carnegie Museum has renewed its former support of this work, and A. Avinoff the director and Eugenia McCalla have helped materially. Roger Howson and Janet Bogardus have assisted in the safekeeping of the documents. Wong Yun-wu has undertaken the publication of this selection in a manner admirably suited to its main purpose, which is to make this exported collection available to Chinese scholars who are working the rich field of Yin studies.

ROSSELL S. BRITTON.

Shanghai

4 November 1935.

## 序

此甲骨集爲山東濰縣兩牧師所收藏。兩牧師者，一英人庫全英先生，一美人方法斂博士是也。一九〇四年至一九〇八年間，二氏即向骨董商收購；然初不知此即殷虛遺物也。此集有獸骨六百七十片，龜甲一千零一十六片，鹿角一，共凡一千六百八十七件。分散於四博物院中。美國二所。英倫一所。蘇格蘭一所。至其分散件數，當於另表見之。全集用C字代表者，蓋C字乃二氏姓氏之第一字母也。

二氏又嘗購有刻鏤之鐘，磬，劍，貝，箭頭，龍節，龍璧，元璧，圭璧多件。此等雖經骨董商認爲與甲骨同出一源。然其中頗多顯然僞贗。因是不刊於此。然以此遂使上述四博物院中所藏之號數，不能銜接。又此集所刊之各片，均可爲河南安陽縣所發掘之代表品。然亦須審慎分辨，因此等均係購自商人也。如鹿角刻文，即聚訟紛紜。大獸骨片中，亦頗多令人懷疑者。余於各片，不能一一確言其真僞。此集中有兩部，余即未嘗目覩。其他兩部，余三年前，曾偶一寓目；然當時固未思及今日校此摹本以問世也。余頗不欲將僞物公諸世人，然久將此等摹本束之高閣，又恐未當。

方法斂博士之製成此摹本，迄今已廿餘年矣。博士爲西方人士中研究殷虛卜辭者之第一人。一九〇六年，嘗在美國發行英文書一種，討論中國古代文字；其中一部，即研究晚近發現之甲骨書契。一九〇三年，劉鶚氏始在上海將其收藏之搨片，刊行鐵雲藏龜六卷。距博士印行之書僅早三年而已。

博士書既問世，即致其餘力，從事於一更大之著作，專門研究甲骨文字。一九一一年，不幸在青島遭遇意外，以致半身癱瘓。然博士仍孜孜研究不輟。至一九一四年一月廿三日病卒時，全書已告完成。方擬刊行，然同年七月間歐戰爆發，不果。手稿存於飛爾德博物院者廿餘年，最近始交余保管。余因選庫方二氏收藏者一百卅二片，刊行此集。

中華民國廿四年十一月四日

白瑞華序於上海

# DISTRIBUTION OF THE COLLECTION

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ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM ... .. Plates 1-37

Edinburgh, Scotland

Total 760 pieces, consisting of 178 bone and 582 shell. Acquired from Couling in 1909.

CARNEGIE MUSEUM ... .. Plates 38-66

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Total 438 pieces, consisting of 208 bone and 230 shell. Acquired from Chalfant in 1909.

BRITISH MUSEUM ... .. Plates 67-131

London, England

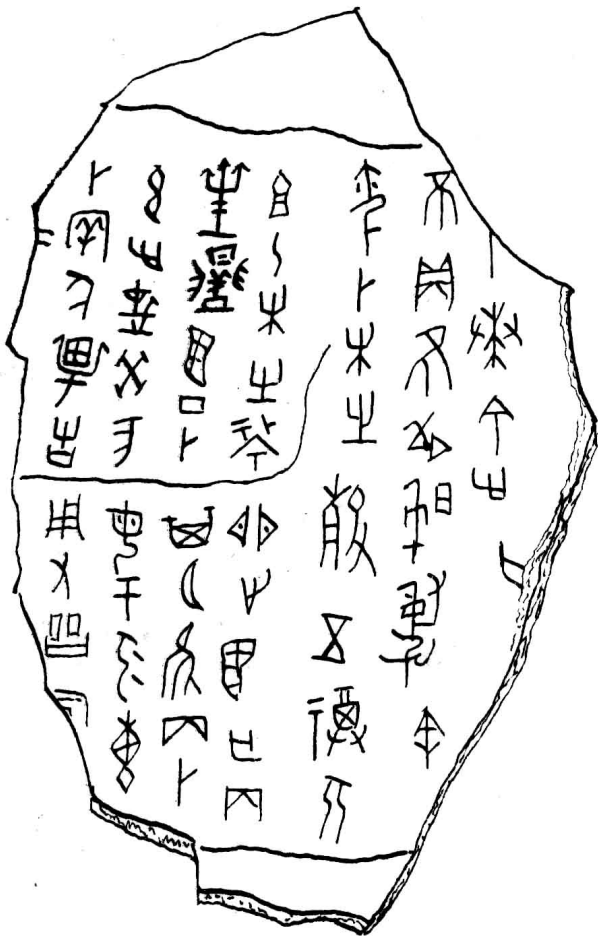
Total 485 pieces, consisting of 282 bone, 202 shell, and one antler. Acquired from Couling in 1911.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ... .. Plate 132

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Total 4 pieces, consisting of 2 bone and 2 shell. Acquired from Chalfant in 1913.

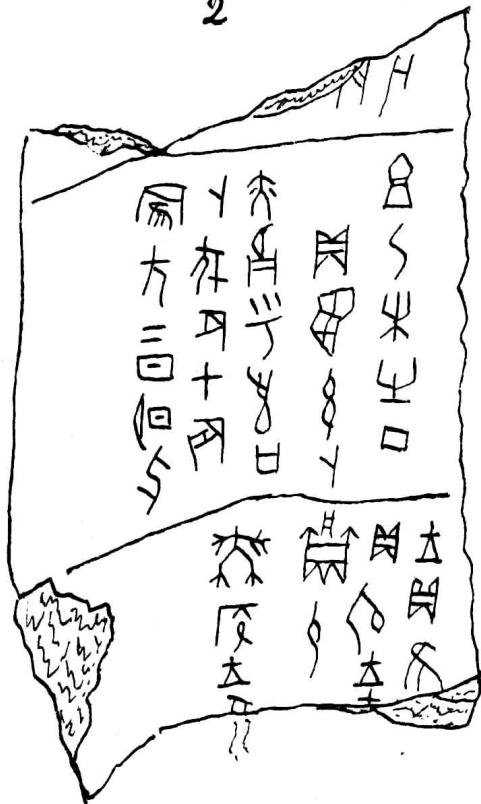
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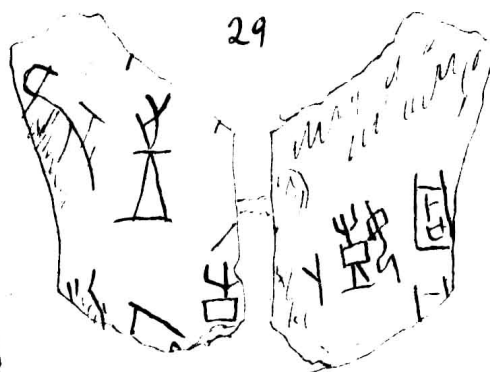
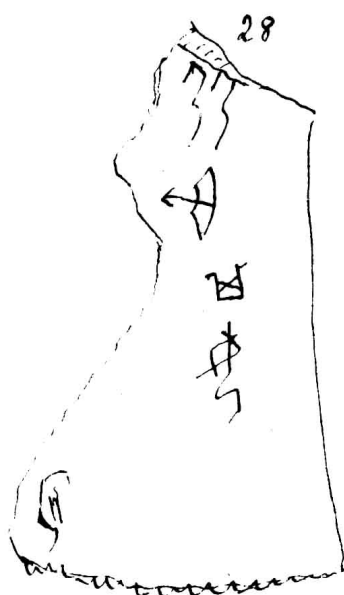
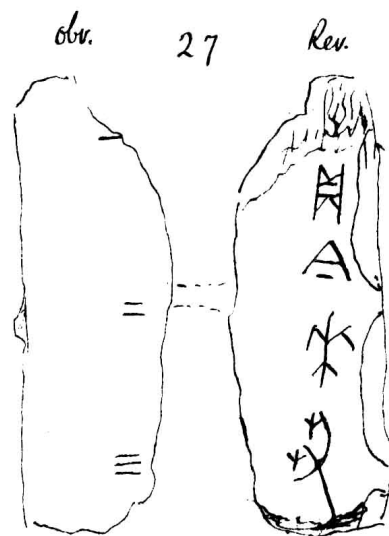
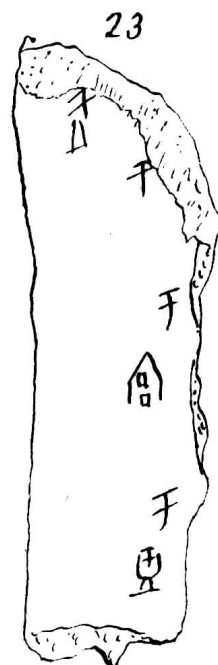
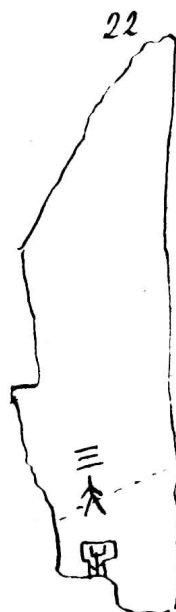
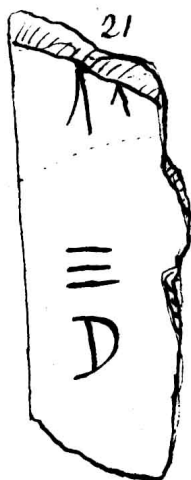


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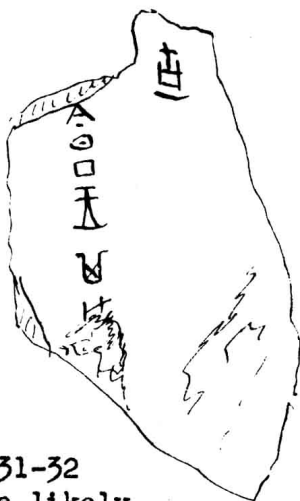




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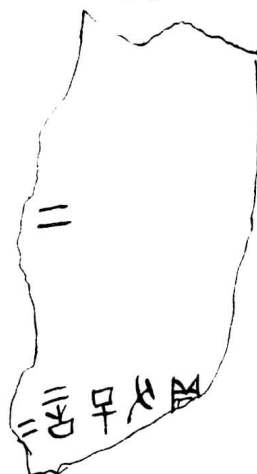


34 (Rev.)



C 31-32  
are likely  
related to  
C 4½, 56, 113, 119.

36



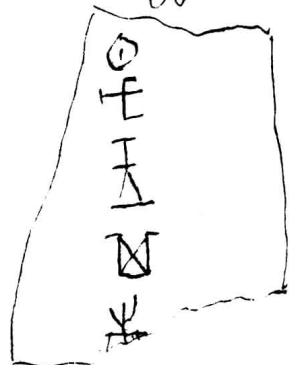
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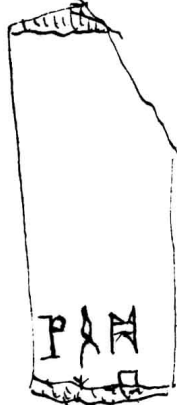
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42



