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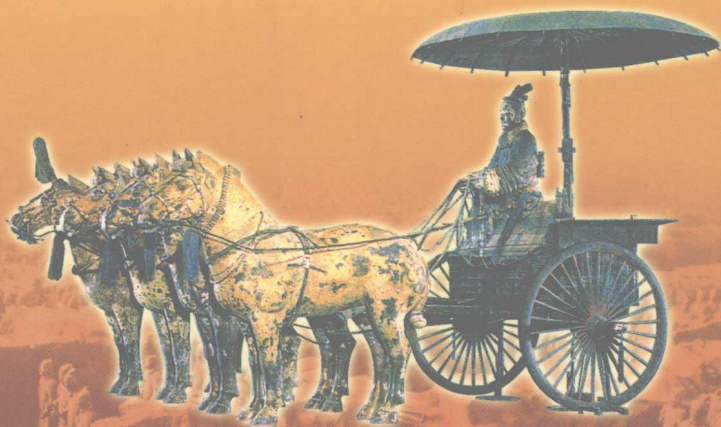
Cultural Relics

文物

教育部基础教育课程教材发展中心编

◎中文 吕建昌 张玉茹

◎英文 柯文礼



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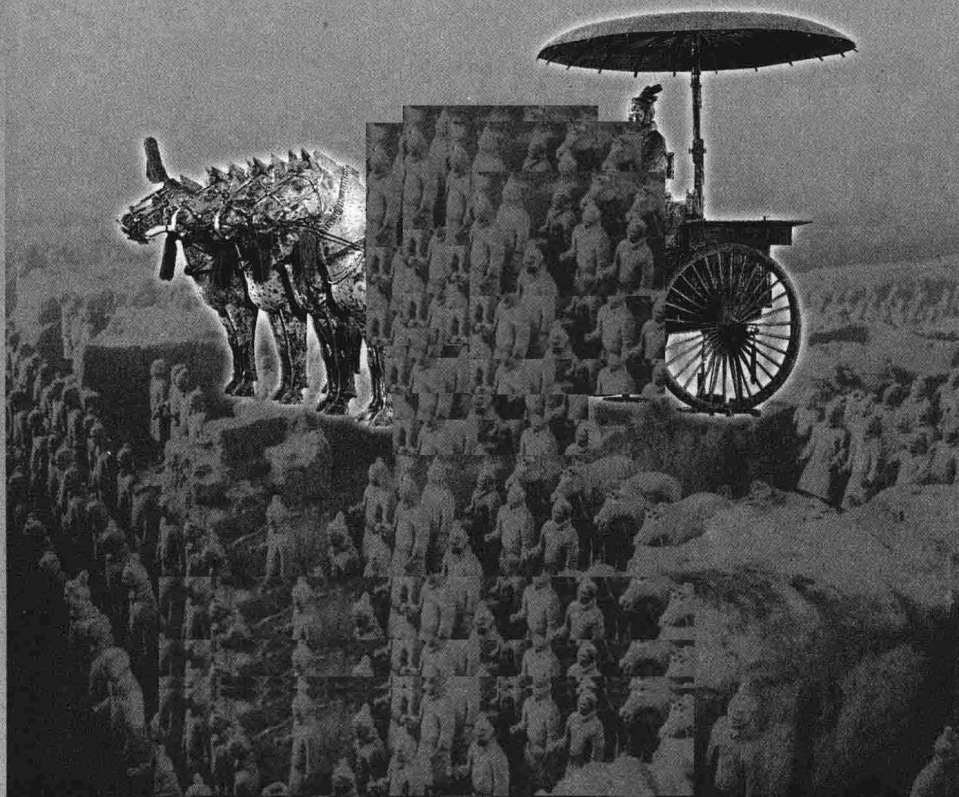
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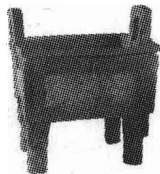
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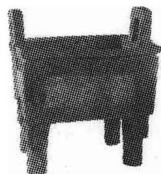
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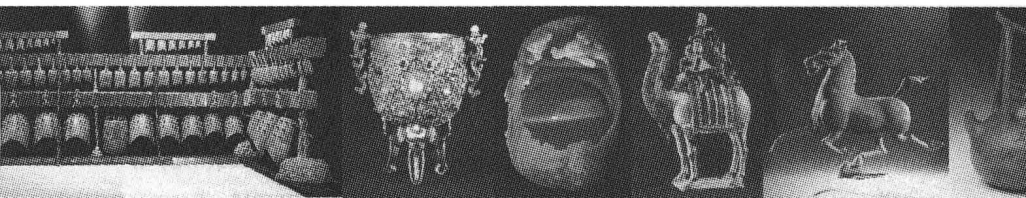
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文 物



Cultural Relics

I . Ancient Bronze Wares

1. Si Mu Wu *Ding*

After Chinese history entered the age of civilization, bronze *ding* (cauldron; tripod) became a mark representing slave-owners' noble status and the symbol embodying the rulers' power.

The bronze *ding* was in most cases round, with three feet and two ears or with four feet. The earliest *ding* was modeled on pottery *ding*. The pottery *ding* was used by ancient people for cooking food and dishes while the bronze *ding* was mainly used to contain beef, mutton and pork when offering sacrifices to gods and ancestors, a sacrificial vessel exclusively used by slave-owning aristocrats.

At the end of the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th—11th century B. C.), the king of Shang indulged himself in seeking pleasure all day long to the neglect of State affairs. One day he suddenly thought of commemorating his mother and therefore ordered his slaves to make a rectangular *ding* with four feet. Before the making, he had several hundred slaves killed and offered the blood from the slaves as a sacrifice to Heaven and Earth and his ancestors, hoping to get protection therewith.

After the sacrificial ceremony was over, the king of Shang ordered the slave-owner to supervise the making of the huge *ding*. Several hundred slaves were divided into over seventy groups and started forging with more than seventy crucibles under the scorching sun. They poured the melted metal into the earthen mould to cast the main body of the huge *ding*. Then they further made its feet and ears and finally assembled the several parts into the huge *ding*.

Inside the huge *ding* were cast three Chinese characters " Si Mu

一、青 铜 器

1. 司母戊鼎

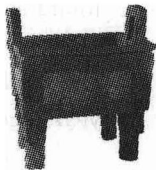
自中国历史进入文明时代起,青铜鼎就成为
一种表示奴隶主贵族身份等级的标志和统治者
权力地位的象征。

青铜鼎大多是圆形的,有三个足和两个耳,
也有四足的方鼎。最初的青铜鼎仿自陶鼎,陶鼎
是古人用来烧饭菜的,而青铜鼎则主要用于祭祀
时盛放牛羊猪等物品,是奴隶主贵族专用的礼
器。

商朝末年,商王整天吃喝玩乐,不管国家大
事。有一天他突然想到要纪念自己的母亲,于是
命令奴隶们制造一个有四只脚的长方形大鼎,在
铸鼎以前他下令屠杀了几百个奴隶,用奴隶的血
来祭祀天地和祖先,希望能得到庇佑。

祭祀以后,商王命令奴隶主监督奴隶制造大
鼎,在火热的太阳底下,几百个奴隶分成七十多
个小组,用七十多个坩埚,同时开始冶炼。他们把
熔解的金属,倒进用泥土制成的模具里,先铸好
大鼎的主体,再铸好大鼎的脚和耳朵,然后把这
几部分合起来,铸成了一个大鼎。

这个大鼎的腹内,铸有“司母戊”三字。这是



Wu”, because the name of the king’s mother was “Wu”, and the huge *ding* was specially made by the king of Shang as a sacrifice to offer to his mother. That was why it was called “Si Mu Wu ding”. It was unusually magnificent and exquisite. There were dragon-head-patterns on its belly and unique decorations on its feet. It had been buried for several thousand years before it was finally discovered in the big tomb of the Shang Dynasty by archaeologists in Wuguan Village, Anyang, Henan Province in 1939.

Among the bronze *ding* excavated so far in China, the “Si Mu Wu ding” is the largest one, 133 cm in height, 110 cm in caliber, 78 cm in width, and 875 kg in weight. The bronze ware with the longest inscription of 410 characters on it seen so far is the Mao Gong *ding* cast in the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100—771 B. C.). All these show that several thousand years ago, Chinese copper-smelting technology had already reached a rather high level, and such magnificent and exquisite huge *ding* was the crystal of the wisdom and the blood and sweat of the Chinese laboring people.

2. Human Face Statues of Ancient People of Shu Found in Guanghan County

In the summer of 1987, archaeologists discovered more than 70 life-size bronze human face statues in a large pit of sacrifice-offering of the Shang Dynasty located in Sanxingdui Village, Guanghan County, Sichuan Province. This discovery shook the whole world and triggered a global “Sanxingdui fever”.

The bronze human face statues excavated in Sanxingdui Village, Guanghan County are the earliest bronze statues the world has ever found so far, which have filled in a gap in ancient China’s casting of large bronze human statues. The ancient people of Shu (in what is now Sichuan) left this world-shaking work to us three thousand years ago.



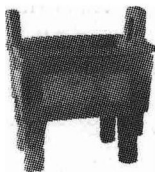
因为商王的母亲叫“戊”，而且这个大鼎又是商王特地为祭祀母亲而铸造的，所以称为“司母戊鼎”。司母戊鼎不仅非常雄伟，而且十分精致，它的腹部还铸有龙头的花纹，鼎脚上也有奇特的纹饰。这件大鼎在地下埋藏了几千年之后，终于在1939年在河南安阳武官村的商代大墓中被考古工作者发现了。

迄今为止，在中国出土的所有青铜鼎中，“司母戊鼎”是最大的，它通高133厘米，器口长110厘米，宽78厘米，重875公斤。而目前所见铭文最长的青铜器是西周时期铸造的毛公鼎，器物上有铭文四百一十一个字。这一切都说明，几千年前，中国的冶铜技术水平已经相当高了，这样雄伟精致的大鼎是中国古代劳动人民智慧和汗血的结晶。

2. 广汉古蜀人面雕像

1987年夏，考古学家在四川省广汉县三星堆村的一个商代大型祭祀坑中，发现了七十多件与真人一般大小的青铜人面雕像。这一发现轰动了整个世界，从而引发了一场世界性的“三星堆热”。

广汉三星堆出土的青铜人面雕像，是目前世界上年代最早的青铜铸造雕像，填补了我国古代大型青铜人像铸造的空白。这一惊世之作是三千多年前的古蜀人留下的。



The ancient people of Shu who created the world-renowned silk lived in the west of China's Sichuan Province. Legend has it that the founder king of the State of Shu was named "Can Cong". He tamed wild silkworms into domestic silkworms and taught people how to cultivate mulberry trees to feed silkworms, for which he was worshipped as a god of silkworm. It was said that Leizu, the ancestress of silk was the daughter of Can Cong. The image of the god of silkworm as described in historical records was "lengthwise eye"-featured, so he was regarded as having three eyes. But the bronze human face statues excavated in Sanxingdui Village, Guanghan County provided a new explanation to the "lengthwise eye". The eyes of the excavated bronze human face statues are very large, with the eyeballs protruding. The eyes of the exceptionally large bronze human face statue in particular are exaggeratedly protrusive, who looks like the image of "a visitor from another planet". So some people advanced the opinion that "lengthwise eye" meant the protrusion of eyes, and the exceptionally large bronze human face statue was the divine statue of the god of silkworm. As for the use of the divine statue, public views were divergent.

At the first sight of the bronze human face statues, do they make you think of anything?

3. Li Gui

Gui was an ancient vessel used for containing cooked food such as broomcorn millet, millet, rice and sorghum, functioning like the large bowl of the present day. *Li Gui* is the earliest bronze ware of the Western Zhou Dynasty China has ever discovered so far. Its significance to us is not only that it is an ancient bronze ware, but also that it is a witness of a major event in Chinese history—the War of Muye.

On a certain day (the day of *Jiazi*) of February of a certain year of the 11th century B. C. , King Wu of Zhou led his army formed by

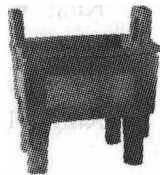
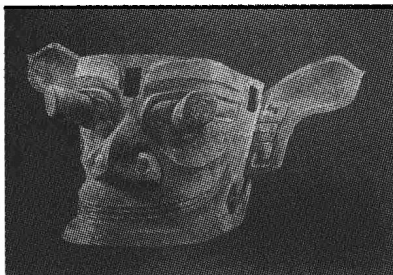
古蜀人生活在中国四川西部，举世闻名的丝绸就是古蜀人创造的。相传古蜀国的开国之君名叫“蚕丛”，他将野蚕驯养成家蚕，教会百姓育桑养蚕。因此，蚕丛被尊为蚕神。据说丝绸的祖先嫫祖就是蚕丛的女儿。对于蚕神的形象，史书记载他有“目纵”的特征。于是，人们认为他是三只眼。而广汉三星堆青铜人面雕像的出土则为“目纵”提供了新的解释。三星堆青铜人面雕像的眼睛都很大，眼珠向外突出。尤其一件特大的青铜人面雕像眼睛突出的十分夸张，好像人们传说的“外星人”形象。于是，有人提出“目纵”就是眼珠突出，那件特大的青铜人面雕像就是蚕神的神像。至于这些神像的用途，更是众说纷纭。

乍看之下，这些青铜人像是不是让你想到了什么？

3. 利 簋

簋(guǐ)是古代一种用以盛放煮熟的黍、稷、稻、粱等饭食的器具，相当于现在的大碗。利簋是目前我国所发现的西周最早的青铜器，它对于我们的意义不仅仅在于它是一件古代青铜器，更在于它是中国古代历史上一项重大事件——牧野之战的见证物。

公元前十一世纪某年二月的一天(甲子日)，



the allegiant States from all quarters and arrived at Muye, the suburbs of Chaoge, capital of the Shang Dynasty, where they launched the final attack on the king of the Shang Dynasty. The slave soldiers of King Chou of Shang changed sides one after another in the battlefront, and surrendered to King Wu of Zhou. The Shang army was completely defeated and King Chou of Shang fled to Lutai where he committed suicide.

This was a decisive battle in which King Wu of Zhou overthrew the Shang Dynasty. From then on, the Shang Dynasty with a standing of nearly 600 years disappeared and the Western Zhou Dynasty was established. On the matter of when the War of Muye took place, *Shang Shu* and *Yi Zhou Shu*, two pre-Qin historical books, gave the records that it had taken place on the morning of the day of "*Jiazi*", but historically many people discredited the statements of these two books. They believed that the writings of these two books were modern and easy to understand, and their grammar was in disagreement with the style of the Zhou times, therefore they could not have been written by people of the Zhou times. So people had been suspicious of whether the War of Muye took place on the day of "*Jiazi*" or not.

One day in March of 1976, a peasant of Lintong County, Shanxi Province who was digging earth discovered the bronze gui. At the bottom of *Li Gui* were four lines of inscriptions, consisting of 32 Chinese characters, which clearly recorded the War of Muye and its exact date. The rough meaning of the inscriptions is as follows: King Wu of the Western Zhou went on a punitive expedition against the Shang Dynasty on the daybreak of the day of "*jiazi*". It was on this very day that King Chou of Shang was defeated and overthrown. Up to the day of xinwei (the seventh day after *jiazi*), King Wu of Zhou awarded the generals and soldiers who had performed meritorious service in the war. One of them who was called Li was granted gold (that is, the modern copper) by the King. Li felt very proud of himself and cast the bronze gui with the



周武王率领由多个方国联盟组成的大军直达商朝都城朝歌郊外的牧野，向商王朝发起了最后的进攻。战斗中，商纣王军队里的奴隶士兵纷纷阵前倒戈，投向周武王。商军大败，商纣王逃到鹿台自杀而死。

这是周武王灭商的一次决定性战役。立国近六百年的商王朝从此灭亡，西周建立。关于牧野之战发生的时间，先秦史书《尚书》和《逸周书》都记载发生在“甲子”日这天早上，但是历史上很多人都不相信《尚书》和《逸周书》的说法，认为这两部书文字浅近，文法与当时时代风格不一致，不是周代人写的书。这样一来，人们对牧野之战是否发生在“甲子”日就产生了怀疑。

1976年3月的一天，陕西省临潼县的一位农民在取土时发现了这件青铜簋。利簋的底部铸有四行铭文，共三十二字，明确记载了牧野之战及其具体日期。铭文大意是：西周武王征伐商朝，时间在甲子的这天黎明。就在当天，打败了商朝国君纣王，推翻了商王朝。到辛未这天（甲子日后的第七天），周武王对有功的将士进行嘉奖，其中有一个叫“利”的人得到了周武王赏赐的金（即现代的铜），他感到很荣耀，于是就铸了这件铜簋，并铸上铭文把这一件事记



inscription on it to record the event as a keepsake.

The discovery of *Li gui* has undoubtedly confirmed the exact date of the War of Muye, which is in accord with the records of *Shang Shu* and *Yi Zhou Shu* and proved that what the two historical books had recorded were well founded. With the excavation of *Li gui*, the suspicion people had harbored of the date of the War of Muye recorded in historical literature was completely dispelled.

Thus the importance of inscriptions on ancient bronze wares to prove historical events through reflection can be seen from here.

4. *Guo Ji Zi Bai Pan*

Pan was a water container in ancient China. *Pan* of the earliest times was made of pottery, but up to the Shang and Zhou dynasties, there was the *pan* made of bronze and its size became bigger and bigger, the largest one being so large as to be able to serve as a bathtub. Reputed as one of the three large bronze wares of the Western Zhou Dynasty, *Guo Ji Zi Bai Pan* is a large rectangular *pan* similar to a modern bathtub, which is the largest water container among the cultural relics excavated so far in China. At the bottom of the *pan* is the inscription of 11 Chinese characters recording its origin.

During the Zhou Dynasty, a national minority called “Xianyun” (the ancient *Xiongnu*; *Hsiung-nu*; the Huns) in the north often encroached upon the Central Plain. The prince who was enfeoffed in Baoji, Shanxi was called Guo Zhong. His third son who was named Bai was ordered by the King of Zhou to go on an expedition against the Xianyun and won a great victory. For this the King of Zhou specially offered a banquet to express his congratulation on Bai’s success and granted him many weapons in honor of his military exploits. Guo Ji Zi Bai (Bai the third son of Guo) felt greatly honored and specially cast a *pan* as a keepsake. So this treasure was