

# 故宮青銅兵器圖錄

Illustrated Catalogue of Ancient Bronze  
Weaponry in the National Palace Museum



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國立故宮博物院  
National Palace Museum



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# 序

左傳曰：「國之大事，在祀與戎。」戎之爲用，特所以衛社稷，闢土宇，壹以服敵禦寇焉。故器械不精，不可以言兵，而器械多端，譬之斧用以伐，斤用以斫，劍用以劈，戈戟用以刺，矢鏃用以射……剛柔之妙，或且繞指，或且摧堅。至於斧斤之所以不同於戈戟，戈戟之所以不同於矢鏃，實繫乎鑄金之劑之或多或少。先民冶金，至青銅而能事畢矣。顧兵器亦非止用於相砍而已，上至於王侯，下及於豪俠，晉接投贈，可謂兼具禮讓威儀，季札掛劍，世以爲美談。而兵器雕鏤攻錯，心智所靡，正不亞於鼎彝重器。至若需求多方，產地廣袤，又遠非禮器所能方駕。春秋名物，若鄭之刀、宋之斤、魯之削、吳越之劍，今之視昔，非徒材美工巧，要攸關乎一代之天時，一境之地利，一方之才智，推而廣之，戎政制度，戰陣攻取，名物相證而外，以至於藝術之風格，文化之變遷，科學之技法，雖云箋箋一物，實鑿鑿在其中矣。

宮廷夙以爲兵者兇器，以是故宮度藏商周青銅兵刃實少，博學如孔子尙謂：「胡簋之事嘗學之矣，甲兵之事未之聞也。」此種古兵器學術之研究，不正有待於今日之闡揚乎？本院器物處副研究員陳芳妹女士，以院藏兵器爲範疇，本其專長，參證近日考古發掘、援引科學測度，爬梳條貫，重爲編次，遂成商周青銅兵器研究一篇，斯則藉新知以發舊學之幽潛者也。顧其成書，亦實出衆力，如倫琴放射線攝影出楊源泉編纂，成色分析出余敦平助理研究員，圖版攝影出林傑人技正，美術編輯出黃秀碧女士，英文翻譯出明涓女士、徐臻浩先生，拓片傳摹出張銀武先生，庫藏提取出朱仁星副研究員、朱林澤先生，皆有足多，特識於此，以眡不忘其辛勤云。

中華民國八十三年履端之吉。衡山秦孝儀序。

## Preface

According to the *Tso Chuan*, a commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals, “the most important affairs of the State are sacrifice and warfare.” The function of warfare was to defend one’s kingdom and enlarge its territory through a combination of aggressive expansion and strong defense. Hence, if one’s weapons were not well-made, one would have no military strength. There were a great variety of weapons, each with different functions, for example: the *fu* axe, used for truncating; the *chin* axe, used for chopping; swords, used for slicing; the dagger-axe and the halberd, used for piercing, and arrows, used in archery. Some weapons were ingeniously strong, able to destroy armor; others were subtly pliable, able to be wound around one’s finger. It is the proportion of metals used in fusing the alloys that accounts for differences in hardness or strength between weapons such as axes and dagger-axes, halberds and arrows. In ancient metallurgy, bronze casting techniques were highly perfected. Amongst the aristocracy weapons were not only used for battle, but they also had ritual functions in matters of decorum and regalia as well. Weapons served as ceremonial gifts, as when Chi Cha placed his sword on his friend’s grave as a final gift, an exemplary deed of the age. In fact, in ancient times the forging and engraving of weapons was not secondary in importance to the manufacture of sacrificial vessels. Weapons were also more versatile and widespread than ritual vessels. Looking back at well-known products of the Spring and Autumn period, such as knives of the state of Chen, *chin* axes of Sung, *hsüeh* knives of Lu, and swords of Wu and Yüeh, we find that the materials used are beautiful and the techniques employed are masterful, manifesting the geographical advantages of their respective kingdoms and the energy of their craftsmen. Furthermore, such artifacts can document the military and political systems of the time, along with the methods of warfare. Finally, although these objects are often overlooked by art historians, they are implicitly connected to developments in artistic style, technology, and material culture.

Weapons were traditionally thought of as menacing, ominous objects. As a result, the National Palace Museum’s collection contains very few ancient bronze weapons. Even such an erudite man as Confucius said, “I once studied ceremonial vessels, but I have never heard of studying armor and weapons.” Why has the research of ancient weapons had to wait until today to be advanced? Ch'en Fang-mei, an Associate Research Fellow in the Antiquities Department of the Museum, has used modern methods to go beyond the vague scholarship of the past. Consulting recent archaeological excavations and employing scientific analysis, she has expertly and systematically re-organized the objects in the museum’s collection. Her work has led to this volume on ancient bronze weapons. This book has been completed through the industry of many people whose efforts should not be forgotten. I would like to thank X-ray photographer Yang Yüan-ch'üan, chemical analyst Yu Teng-ping, plate photographer Lin Chieh-jen, artistic designer Huang Hsiu-pi, English translators Natasha Pierce, Hsü Chen-hao and Antonio C.Tavares, rubbings expert Chang Yin-wu, and storage technicians Chu Jen-huang and Chu Lin-tse.

November 1994

Ch'in Hsiao-yi  
Director of the National Palace Museum

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