TREASURES OF CHINA



中国國寶

TREASURES OF CHINA

Du Feibao and Du Minglun





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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Du Feibao was assigned to work in the National Tourism Administration of China upon graduation from the French Department of the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Languages in 1964. Although he has retired, he remains keen on traveling. Over the years, he has traveled all over the country. He is an enthusiastic promoter of China's

tourism and has a strong love for Chinese culture. His publications include China Travel Guide, Beijing Travel Guide, Tibet Travel Guide, West China Travel Guide, World Records, China Records. ABC of Buddhism for Travelers in China, A Dictionary of Places of Interest in China, Things Chinese and Treasures of China, the last two being published in English.

Website: www.photour.cn E-mail: dufeibao@yahoo.com.cn Telephone: 0086-10-51986651 Fax: 0086-10-51986652

Du Minglun, born in Beijing in 1969, graduated from the College of Tourism Administration in Beijing in 1989 and received his EMBA from the Changjiang College of Commerce in 2005. He is now president of the Beijing AQL International Investment Co., Ltd. He has obtained from the Chinese government patents on



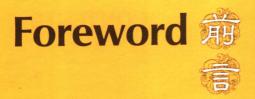
the wireless earphone and other inventions. His hobbies include traveling and taking photographs. He is also a co-author of *China Travel Guide*.



责任编辑: 谭 燕 (lyty2004@163.com)

责任印制: 冯冬青 装帧设计: 吴 涛

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A few years ago, We published *Things Chinese*, a book about Chinese cultural relics. I am very pleased that the book has been favorably received by readers ever since its appearance. *Treasures of China* is also a book about Chinese cultural relics and can thus be regarded as a companion to *Things Chinese*.

Chinese cultural relics can be divided into two categories. The first category consists of immovable cultural relics such as the Great Wall, the Imperial Palace and the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. The second category contains movable cultural relics such as those on display in museums. This book only deals with movable cultural relics belonging to different historical periods. They are all rare treasures either handed down from ancient times or discovered in recent decades.

Chinese cultural relics are grouped into classes A, B and C according to their value. Those rated as class A are fine works of art and are valued as national treasures of China. National treasures are cultural relics but cultural relics are not necessarily national treasures. The cultural relics talked about in this book are among the best of class A items.

According to statistics, China has a collection of more than 100,000 class A cultural relics. This book contains some 160 short



articles with color illustrations about Chinese cultural relics in the following 11 groups: stone carvings, jades, pottery ware, porcelain ware, bronzes, silver and gold articles, wooden and lacquer articles, paintings, calligraphic works, seals and ancient China's science and technology. As the Chinese saying goes, "A drop of water can reflect the sun." I sincerely hope the book can help the reader gain an insight into the rich Chinese culture although it deals with only a small part of Chinese cultural relics.

The articles in this book are independent of each other. However, in order to enable the reader to appreciate Chinese culture in a systematic way, the cultural relics described in this book are arranged in chronological order.

We are neither historians nor archeologists. We are but general scholars. We like to visit museums and have taken lots of photographs of rare cultural relics in their collections. We regard it a great honor to have been able to see with our own eyes many national treasures of China and also regard it a great honor to be able to present them to the reader through this book.



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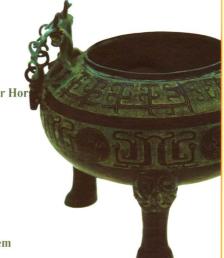
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