

CHINA'S LINGBI RARE STONE

中国灵璧奇石

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前 言

灵璧奇石,因产于安徽灵璧县而得名,是开发较早的一种奇石,是我国四大奇石(灵璧石、太湖石、昆石、英石)之一。她以悠久的历史、绚丽的色彩、迷人的图案、嶙峋的肌肤、斑驳的纹理、委婉的孔洞,悦耳的金玉之声和奇特的造型,而名传中外、誉满四海,成为了流芳千古的“天下第一名石”。

灵璧奇石鬼斧神工,美妙天成,常见山峦奇峰之状、飞禽走兽之势,石体清润光滑,无枯涩感。灵璧奇石古朴坚贞。常言道:黄金有价石无价。黄金万两易得,灵璧珍品难求。红花艳美但多事,石虽无语最可人。石使人坚贞、仁智、礼让、恭俭、谨慎。石为生命之源,石为人类之母。石是无情的,从不怜悯那些虚心假意的人;石又是有情的,谁拿出真心,它就会将全部美丽奉献给谁。石为真君子,道是无情胜有情。灵璧奇石是大自然的杰作,是天然的艺术品,是无声的诗,不朽的画,是大自然的缩影,具有小中见大,芥纳须弥的功效。

灵璧奇石的美是独特的,不能复制的,她所表现出的天籁呈象的丰富多彩,早已超出了人们的想象天地。天下奇石无双绝,怪石珍品独生辉。石可以毫无夸张的说是地球上现存最古老的“活字典”,远远早于人类自身的历史,人类面对奇石往往顿生一种思古之幽情,所以古人大有“石令人古”的感慨。玩物中最有灵气的三位是“兰花、紫砂壶和奇石”。兰花有病虫害,需要常换盆换土,且难照理。紫砂壶易碎,不易搬运,且难以存放。奇石无此二者之虞。奇石通灵,玩石长寿。以石为媒可广交朋友。仁者乐石,智者也乐石。石玩是一个不断发现美的过程,是一门发现的艺术,是一种文化积淀深厚的艺

术活动。“迭迭高峰映碧流,烟岚水色石中收。人能悟得其中趣,确胜寻山万里游”。山无石不名,庙无石不灵,路无石不坚,水无石不澈,园无石不秀,斋无石不雅。

灵璧奇石以其特有的地理环境和地质结构,使其形表现出“瘦、透、漏、皱、丑”的特征。自古以来,历代的文人雅士和达官贵人都特别钟爱灵璧奇石,无不拥以为荣。例如:南唐后主李煜的“灵璧研山”,宋徽宗强掠灵璧奇石修“艮岳”,明朝开国皇帝朱元璋随身佩带灵璧石饰物辟邪,清朝开明皇帝乾隆为灵璧石御书“天下第一名石”。石玩界公认的历史上第一部石谱《云林石谱》,将灵璧石列在了上卷头条,赞称灵璧石为石玩之最。

古人喜爱灵璧奇石,当今之人不逊古人。新中国诞生以来,灵璧奇石文化如枯木逢春,灵璧奇石艺术和灵璧奇石工艺品得到很大的发展,灵璧奇石收藏馆,也如雨后春笋,遍布全国。灵璧奇石爱好者、石玩家、收藏家也层出不穷。以灵璧奇石产地为主的灵璧石市场也日趋活跃。灵璧奇石的美名已走出亚洲,风靡欧美,誉满海内外。

《中国灵璧奇石》一书,从灵璧石的形成过程、历史渊源到灵璧石的主要特征和文化意趣,从灵璧石的欣赏、题名到灵璧石的采集、收藏、保养,采取图文并茂的形式,广泛而详细地进行了阐述,是关于灵璧石的第一部专著。此书既可作为灵璧奇石的石玩手册,同时也对其它奇石爱好者有着一定的借鉴作用。愿《中国灵璧奇石》一书,能为广大灵璧奇石爱好者解渴,能为灵璧奇石文化的继承和发展作出一定的贡献。

2000.8.21

Preface

Lingbi Stone, which takes its name from the producing area, Lingbi County, Anhui Province, is a rare stone with many years of development. Lingbi Stone ranks first among the four major rare stones in China: Taihu Stone, Kunshan Stone and Yingde Stone. Lingbi Stone is endowed with virtues of a long history, magnificent colour, charming patterns, jagged skins, mottled veins, mild cavities, euphonious sound and peculiar shapes. For this reason, Lingbi Stone has become famous the world over and has acquired an everlasting name: "The Best Stone under Heaven".

Lingbi Stone enjoys superlative craftsmanship and natural beauty. It displays the shapes of mountain chains and peaks, and the force of flying birds and running animals. It is sleek and smooth with no feeling of dullness and heaviness. As the saying goes, the gold can be priced while the stone is priceless. It is easy to get gold but difficult to find Lingbi Stone. Colour flowers are beautiful but apt to bring troubles. By contrast, the rare stones, though silent, are best loved. The stone can make people faithful, kind and wise, polite and thoughtful, frugal and careful. The stone is the origin of life and the mother of mankind. To those who have false-hearted love, the stone is merciless; but to those who have true love, the stone is kind and offers accordingly all its beauty. The stone is indeed a man of virtue who has more love than he shows. Lingbi Stone is a masterpiece of nature, or rather a natural work of art, a silent poem, an immortal painting; in short, it is a miniature of nature in which the

great is communicated by the little and the whole by the small.

Lingbi Stone has a beauty too unique to be reproduced. The rich colours and the natural sounds it demonstrates are beyond imagination. A rare stone has no parallel under the sky, and a strange stone is a treasure glittering alone. It is safe to say that the stone is the oldest "living dictionary" on the earth, for it has a history much longer than human beings. A man with a rare stone is suddenly prompted to think of the past, which explains why the ancients would comment emotionally, "The stone makes one feel the past." Among all the playthings, the orchid, the Zisha pot and the rare stone possess the highest intelligence and the greatest wisdom. The orchid is difficult to look after as it often suffers diseases and pests, and requires a regular change of pots and soil. Being fragile, the Zisha pot is difficult to handle and store. The rare stone, however, has none of the above worries. The rare stone leads to intelligence and wisdom. Stone playing does health good and helps make more friends. Not only the benevolent but the wise love the stone. Stone playing is an art of finding, a process of discovering beauty and a kind of artistic activity with a century - old cultural heritage. "Mirrored in blue streams are mountain peaks, one after another; collected in rare stones are mist and water colour. Anyone who realizes the interest and pleasure there, will be relieved of a ten - thousand - li journey anywhere." Without stones, a mountain would lose fame; a temple would lose sacredness, a road would not be firm; a stream would not be clear; a garden would not be beautiful, and a room would have no taste.

Thanks to its special geographic surroundings and geological

structure, Lingbi Stone holds a variety of features: slim, transparent, leaky, crumpled and unusual. Since early times, men of letters, refined scholars, high officials and nobles of the past dynasties, all cherished Lingbi Stone and prided themselves on having some. To cite some examples here, Li Yu (571 - 649), the last head of the Southern Tang, studied the mountains through Lingbi Stone. Hui Zhong, Emperor of the Song Dynasty seized by force the Lingbi stones to build his Gen Yue, a hill in the northeast of the capital city, Kai Feng. Zhu Yuan Zhang, the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, wore ornamental articles made of Lingbi stones to ward off the evils. Qian Long, the enlightened emperor of the Qing Dynasty, praised Lingbi Stone by inscribing "The Best Stone under Heaven". Lingbi Stone is described as the No.1 playing stone in the first entry of Volume I, "Yun Lin Stone Manual", which is considered by the stone players as the first stone guidebook in history. People now play stones no less than the ancients who showed much love for this plaything. After the founding of New China, Lingbi Stone culture was given a new life just like the weathered trees in spring. Since then Lingbi Stone art and handicraft have seen a great development. Museums of Lingbi Stone collections have sprung up across China like mushrooms. Lingbi stone lovers, players and collectors are emerging one after another. The markets of Lingbi rare stones surrounding the producing area become more and more active. Lingbi Stone has won a reputation both at home and abroad. It has walked out of Asia and become fashionable in Europe and America.

This book entitled "China's Lingbi Rare Stone" is the first one on Lingbi Stones. It has offered in words and illustrations an exten-

sive and detailed description of Lingbi Stone's formation, history, main features, cultural interest and significance as well as its appreciation, inscription, production and collection. This book may serve as a handbook for Lingbi Stone playing or as a guidebook for lovers of other rare stones. The author desires that "China's Lingbi Rare Stone" satisfy Lingbi Stone lovers' thirst and need, and in the meanwhile make some contributions to the continuity and development of Lingbi Stone culture.

August 21, 2000



灵璧秀峰（昆明世博会金奖）



独角瑞兽（中国灵璧奇石展特别奖）



昂首阔步（中国灵璧奇石展特别奖）



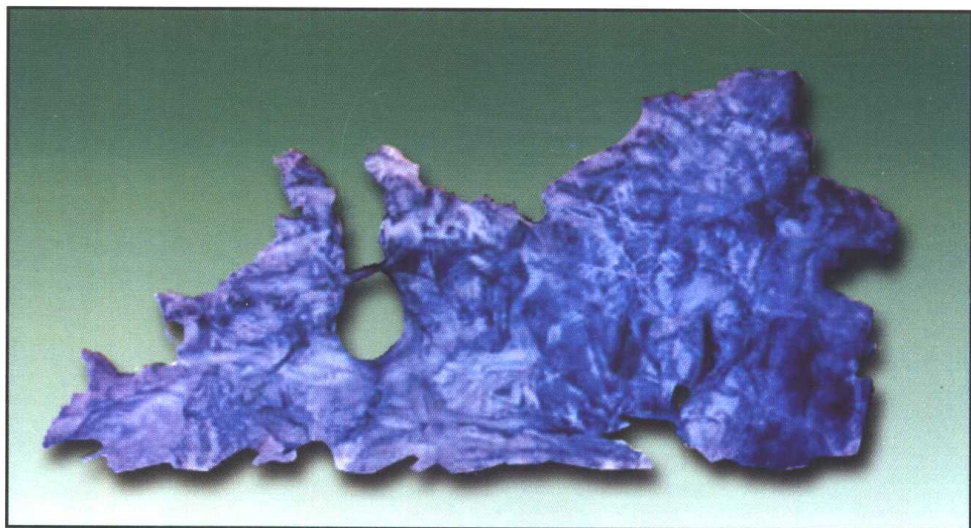
无限风光（中国灵璧奇石展优秀奖）



犀牛逐月（中国灵璧奇石展特别奖）



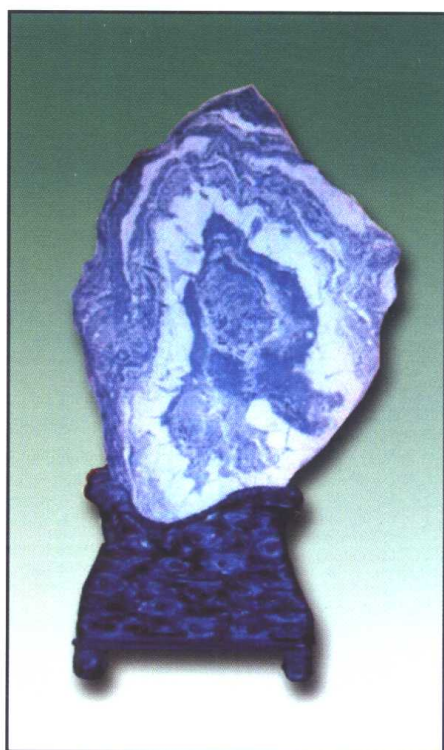
层峦叠翠（中国灵璧奇石展优秀奖）



狮王一吼（中国灵璧奇石馆收藏）



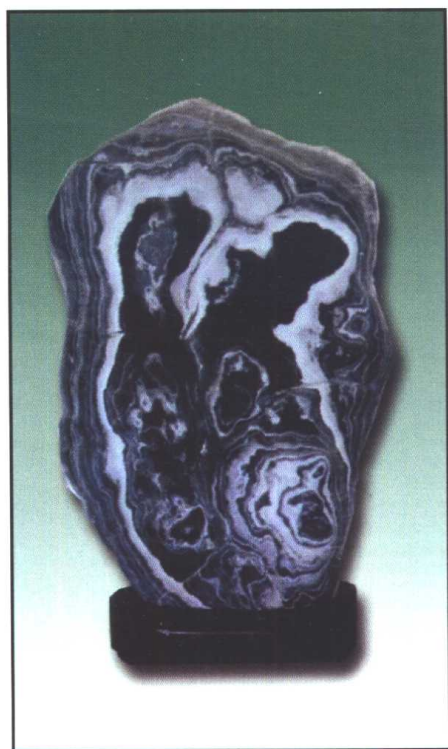
穿山甲（昆明世博会优秀奖）



钟馗神威图（中国灵璧奇石馆收藏）



鼠年大吉



钟馗嫁妹



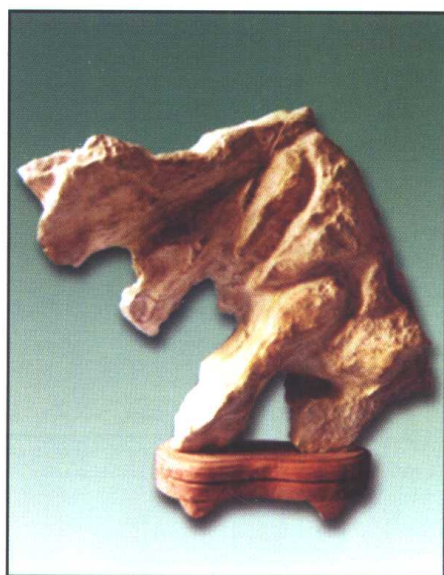
谜中谜



月是故乡明



回首



寻觅



泳坛健将



大力神



山顶洞人



畅游

澳洲来客

报晓



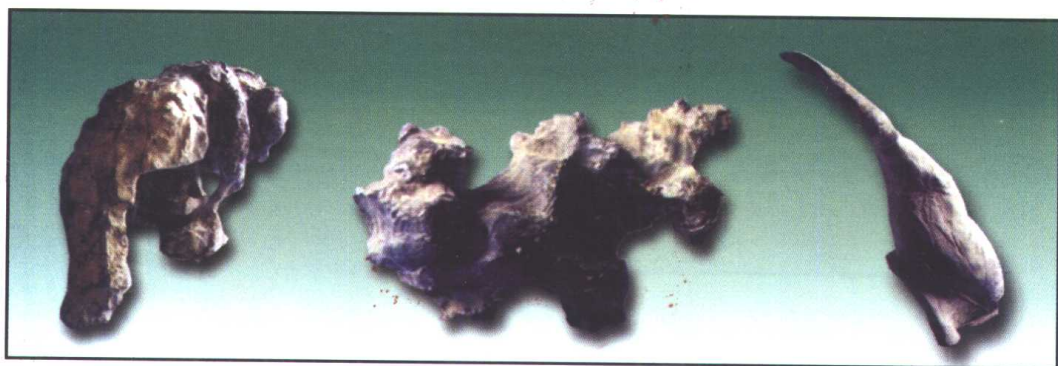
红恐龙 (昆明世博会铜奖)



西汉壁画 (昆明世博会优秀奖)



海狮浴日 (昆明世博会铜奖)



国宝之弟

凤舞九天

灵蛇出洞

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