

Treasures of the World's Cultures

世界文明珍宝 大英博物馆之250年藏品



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世界文明珍宝

Treasures of the World's Cultures: The British Museum after 250 Years

大英博物馆之250年藏品



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首都博物馆馆长致辞

本书是首都博物馆举办的“世界文明珍宝——大英博物馆之250年藏品”展的辅助读物。这是一次很有意义的展览。

古希腊人有句箴言叫作“认识你自己”。人类认识自己的过程没有止境，认识自己的方式可谓多种多样，但通过对过去的认识来认识自己，肯定是人类自我认识的重要途径之一。这是因为现实的人是由过去的人脱胎而来，因此与过去保持着无法割裂的遗传变异关系，不了解过去就失去了认识现在的前提，至于合理地推测未来更无从谈起了。

认识过去需要依赖过去遗留下来的各种证据，也就是“文物”。博物馆事业之所以能在近代以来得到广泛发展，就在于人们普遍认识到文物在人类自我认识方面的重要价值，需要像博物馆这样的集文物收集、保管、整理、修复、研究、展示功能为一体的公共和私人机构。

我国博物馆目前虽然拥有无与伦比的有关中华文明的文物收藏，但也存在着不小的缺憾。由于近代中国积贫积弱，我们在考古学的黄金世纪（19世纪和20世纪前半期）错过了在世界范围内广泛收集文物的机遇，所以目前我国博物馆非常缺乏世界其他文明的藏品。这当然不利于我们对外部世界进而对自身的全面了解。

随着我国经济的快速发展，社会的深刻变化，人们的文化需求也在日益增长，其中包含着认识外部世界的强烈期望。我们的博物馆有责任积极开展对外交流来满足这种日益增长的需求，让观众不出国门便可以接触外国历史与文化的物证。但以往引进的国外文物展，都是某个国家或地区、某一文明、某个国家或地区的某个时段的文物展，缺乏多个国家、多种文明、多个时段的综合展。首博这次举办的“世界文明珍宝——大英博物馆之250年藏品”展弥补了这方面的不足，这恐怕是此次展览的最大价值所在。

大英博物馆建馆时间早，迄今已经253年。在它开馆的初期和中期，正值大英帝国崛起为日不落帝国的时期，这为它在世界各地搜求文物藏品提供了极其有利的条件，从而形成了源自全球各地的庞大藏品体系，使该馆成为名副其实的世界历史、考古、艺术与民俗学博物馆，可谓“博采旁搜，综括万汇，悉备一庐”（19世纪中叶参观过大英博物馆的文人王韬语）。我们的这次展览借助大英博物馆的这一藏品优势，使观众可在同一时间和地点目睹世界各地不同时间、不同形式的文明成果。只要稍许注意大英博物馆提供的文物分类表便可以发现这种普遍的特征：就空间而言，几乎所有在上古、中古时代出现的

重要文明地区和国家，如非洲的埃及、苏丹、迦太基、贝宁、刚果，西亚的苏美尔、阿卡德、亚述、腓尼基、巴勒斯坦，南亚的印度，东亚的朝鲜、日本（中国按协议未收），古典希腊、罗马与中世纪的欧洲，北美、中美、南美洲，大洋洲的复活节岛、新西兰、澳大利亚，都涵盖其中。就时间而论，可上溯史前时代，下至近现代。

此外，上展文物形式的选择也颇具匠心，尽量体现了多样化的特征，包括石器、青铜器、铁器、金银器、陶器、瓷器、木器、雕塑、绘画、钱币等多种形态。虽然参展文物仅仅 272 件，数量只是大英博物馆 600 多万件藏品中微乎其微的一部分，但它们却弥足珍贵，是大英博物馆普遍性馆藏的典型代表。从这些世界文明的断简残篇中，我们可以发现人类历史文化的多样性和共同性，发现人类巨大的想象力、创造力、表现力等其他生命所无法比拟的能力，从而对一切历史文化遗产，无论是中国的还是外国的，均表示由衷的敬意。

我们感谢大英博物馆选择首都博物馆新馆作为它在中国巡展的第一个合作伙伴，我们也欣赏大英博物馆人员的专业素质与敬业精神。我同 N·MacGregor 先生一样，希望这次合作仅仅是更多的合作的开端。

首都博物馆馆长
郭小凌

FOREWORD

The catalogue is an auxiliary reading of The Tour Exhibition of The World Cultural Treasures of the British Museum sponsored by the Capital Museum and British Museum. This exhibition is significant.

A Greek saying goes, knowing yourself. For human beings, the process of knowing themselves is endless. Though the ways knowing yourself are various, the way that is taken through knowing past is surely one of important ones because present man comes from past man, who keeps the inseparate relations of inheritance and variation with past. Thus, there is no precondition of knowing present without knowing past.

Knowing past needs to use different evidence, i.e. past remains. The reason why the large development of Museums around the world has been occurred is that people knew the important value of the remains and required a kind of institution like museum to collect, preserve, repair and display them.

Although our museums so far have a great amount of unique collections, there is a common lack of foreign historical and cultural relics in them. Owing to the weakness and poorness of modern China, we lost the chance of collecting past remains all over the world in the golden age of archaeology (19 and the early 20th centuries), which has affected our knowledge of external world to certain extent.

With the rapid development of economy and change of society in China, the cultural needs from public are going up increasingly, including the strong requirement of acquaintance with outer world. Our museums should meet the needs by more foreign exchange programs. But most exhibitions from abroad in recent 20 years concentrated on one nation or one area or one civilization or some stages of one civilization, there were no exhibition such as bringing several nations or civilizations together by a display. The exhibition will fill the gap, I am afraid, that is the biggest value of it.

Relatively speaking, the British Museum has a longer history with 253 years. During its early and middle periods when the British grew up as a global empire, the museum gathered up cultural

objects from abroad easily, in comparison with present, which resulted in a huge system of collections from all over the world, and made it a museum of world history, archaeology, arts and ethnology. If we take a glance at the catalogue, it is easy to find the universal feature: as far as space goes, nearly all major civilizations appearing in the ancient and medieval ages, such as Egypt, Sudan, Carthage, Benin and Congo in Africa; Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, Phenicia, Palestine in west Asia; Korea, Japan in east Asia; classical Greece and Rome, medieval Europe; New Zealand, Australia and Pascua in Oceania etc., are comprised into the exhibition.

Moreover, the selection of the patterns of displayed items shows craftsmanship of our British colleagues. They take more attention to the feature of diversification, including stone tools, bronzes, ironware, golden and silver wares, ceramics, sculptures, paintings, coins etc. Though there are just 272 objects displayed, they are of rarity very much and a typical embodiment of universal collections in the British Museum. We are able to find, from the fragments of the civilizations, the multiformity and intercommunity of the history and culture of mankind, and huge imagination, creativity, expressive and destructional force of human those can not be compared by other beings. Therefore, we should pay sincere respect to both Chinese and foreign cultural heritage.

We should say many thanks for that the British Museum made choice of the Capital Museum as a first associate of its tour exhibition in China. We also appreciate the professional and specific attainments of our British colleagues. I agree with N. MacGregor that we hope this exhibition is only a beginning of more cooperations in near future.

GuoXiaoling
Director
Capital Museum, China

大英博物馆馆长致辞

为了使每一位公民都能够有了解全世界的机会，1753年，英国议会创立了大英博物馆。它是当时世界上第一所国家博物馆。它的目标是把世界上所有的东西，无论是过去的还是现在的，都集中到一座建筑物中来。这样参观者就可以比较不同社会的形态，以及不同的人群提出的关于人类的普遍问题。

1753年的伦敦可能是当时世界上惟一适合设立这样一个机构的地方。它的贸易往来与船舶运输遍及当时已知的整个“世界”，并且它还积极地支持参与对未知地区的考察与探险。只有这样才有可能获得人类的“所有”，并把人类各种人工制品汇聚到一个屋檐下来。经历了超过250年的持续不断的收集与研究，今天，大英博物馆形成了超过世界上任何一个机构的收藏——从大约两百万年以前，我们的祖先在非洲制作的第一批工具，到来自欧洲和全世界的现代艺术品。在欧洲没有另一座建筑可以宣称它代表着人类的记忆。今天，大英博物馆仍然在继续扩大它在历史与现代方面的收藏。现在，大英博物馆每年接待大约五百万名观众。成百上千的人们通过参观大英博物馆来了解世界。

此次展览试图给北京的观众们一个全面、系统的感受，就好像他们在伦敦身临其境一样。他们将会看到每个大陆、每个时代的展品。他们将会发现对所有人都熟悉的主题，以及关于这些主题由不同的人群与个人所创造的丰富、辉煌的表现形式。这也正是英国议会1753年创立大英博物馆的初衷：从一开始，它的收藏就是提供给世界上任何国家的每一个人的，让他们可以自由地参观、研究。大英博物馆的藏品不属于一个国家和她的人民，它属于全世界。但如果这次展览也展出中国文物就显得多余了，因为首都博物馆内已经陈列着许多丰富而精彩的中国文物。因此，本展览重点展示来自其他文明的珍品。

非常荣幸大英博物馆可以在新落成的首都博物馆新馆举办这个展览。我们也非常感谢馆长与北京市文物局允许我们在这里举办展览。我们相信，中国公众一定会很高兴有这个机会来探索一下世界文明的精华。并且我们也希望它标志着我们两座城市与两个国家之间的友好交往与合作迈进了新阶段。

大英博物馆馆长
尼尔·麦克雷戈

In 1753 the British Parliament, wanting to enable every citizen to find out about the world, created the British Museum. It was the first national museum in any country. The aim was to gather into one building things from the whole world, past and present, so that visitors could compare the ways in which different societies had organised themselves and different peoples had addressed the common problems of humanity.

London was perhaps in 1753 the only place where such an enterprise could be launched. Its trading and shipping connections spanned the whole of the known world, and it was actively engaged in exploring many of the parts that were then still unknown. It was thus possible to gather the whole of mankind, through the artefacts that they had made, under one roof. Over 250 years of steady collecting and research, the result today is a collection that more than any other allows the whole world to look at what it has made-from the very first tools that our ancestors crafted in Africa nearly two million years ago, to contemporary art from Europe and around the world. In Europe there is no other building that may so truly be said to house the memory of mankind. The Museum still adds both historical and modern objects to its collections, which are visited every year by nearly five million people in London alone. Many hundreds of thousands more see the exhibitions that tour the world.

This exhibition attempts to give visitors in Beijing a sense of the whole collection as it might be experienced in London. They will find objects from every continent and from all ages, will discover the themes that are common to all peoples, and the magnificently various expressions created by different groups and individuals. And this too is what Parliament intended in 1753: from the beginning, this collection was to be made available for study by anybody from any country. It was to be held, not for one nation and its citizens, but for the whole world. The British Museum has, of course, from its foundation, had important Chinese collections, but it would have been superfluous to bring them, when some of the great possessions of the Palace Museum are being exhibited in the adjoining galleries. We have therefore focussed here on the rest of the world.

It is a great honour for the British Museum to be able to present this exhibition in the new Capital Museum, and we are grateful to the Director and to the cultural authorities in Beijing for allowing us to do so. We trust that the Chinese public will enjoy the chance to explore this selection of world cultures. And we hope that it will mark a further step-to be followed by many more-in the friendly collaboration between our two cities and our two countries.

Neil MacGregor
Director
The British Museum

FOREWORD

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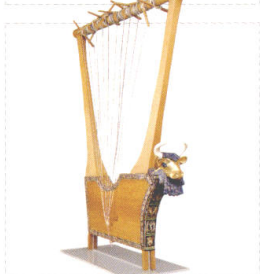
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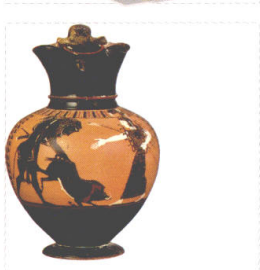
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王后的竖琴



黑绘彩陶酒坛



饰有族名的银盘

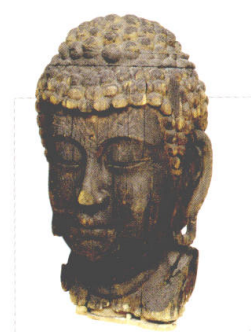


萨顿胡头盔（复制品）



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阿弥陀佛头像



珐琅釉描金玻璃灯



纪念头像



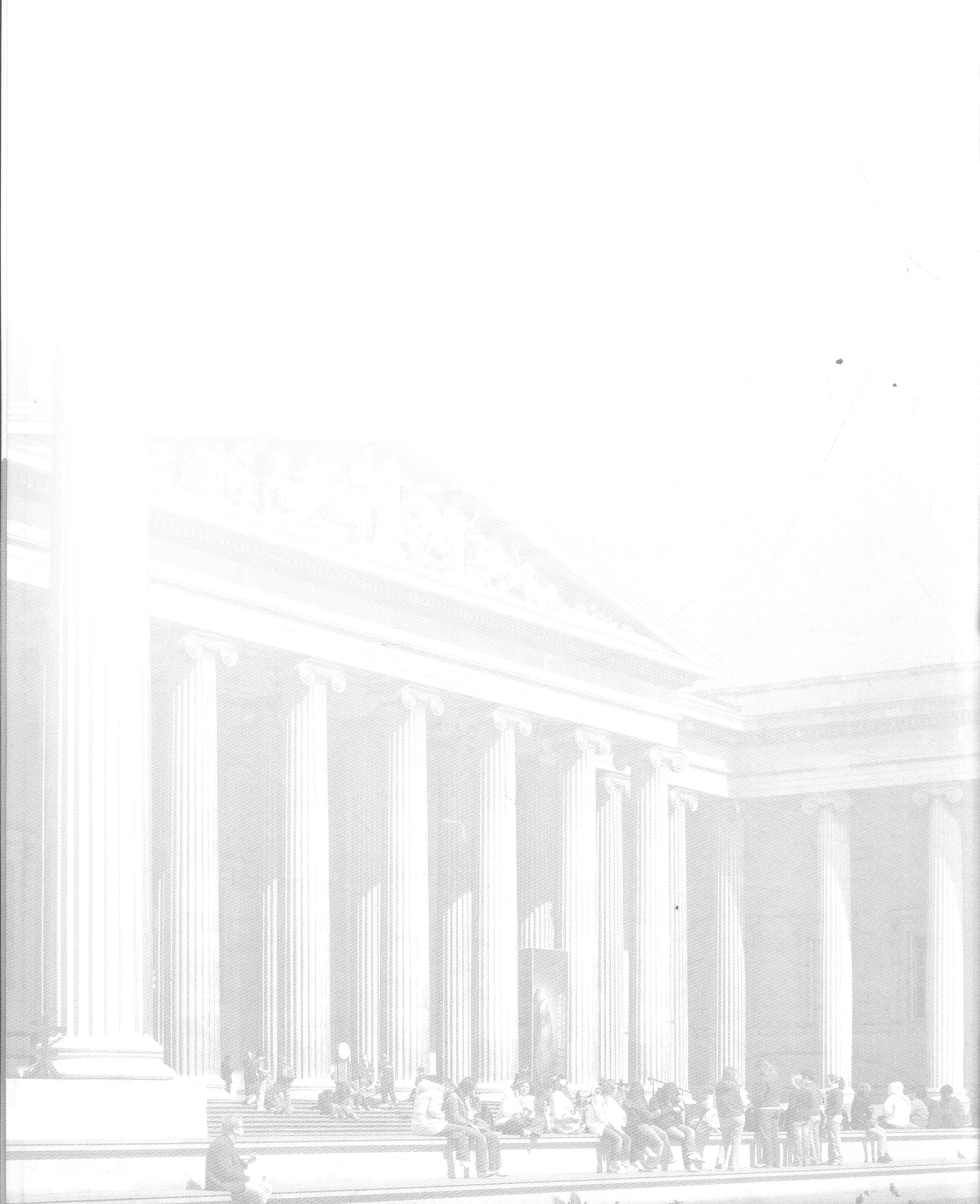
石雕人像



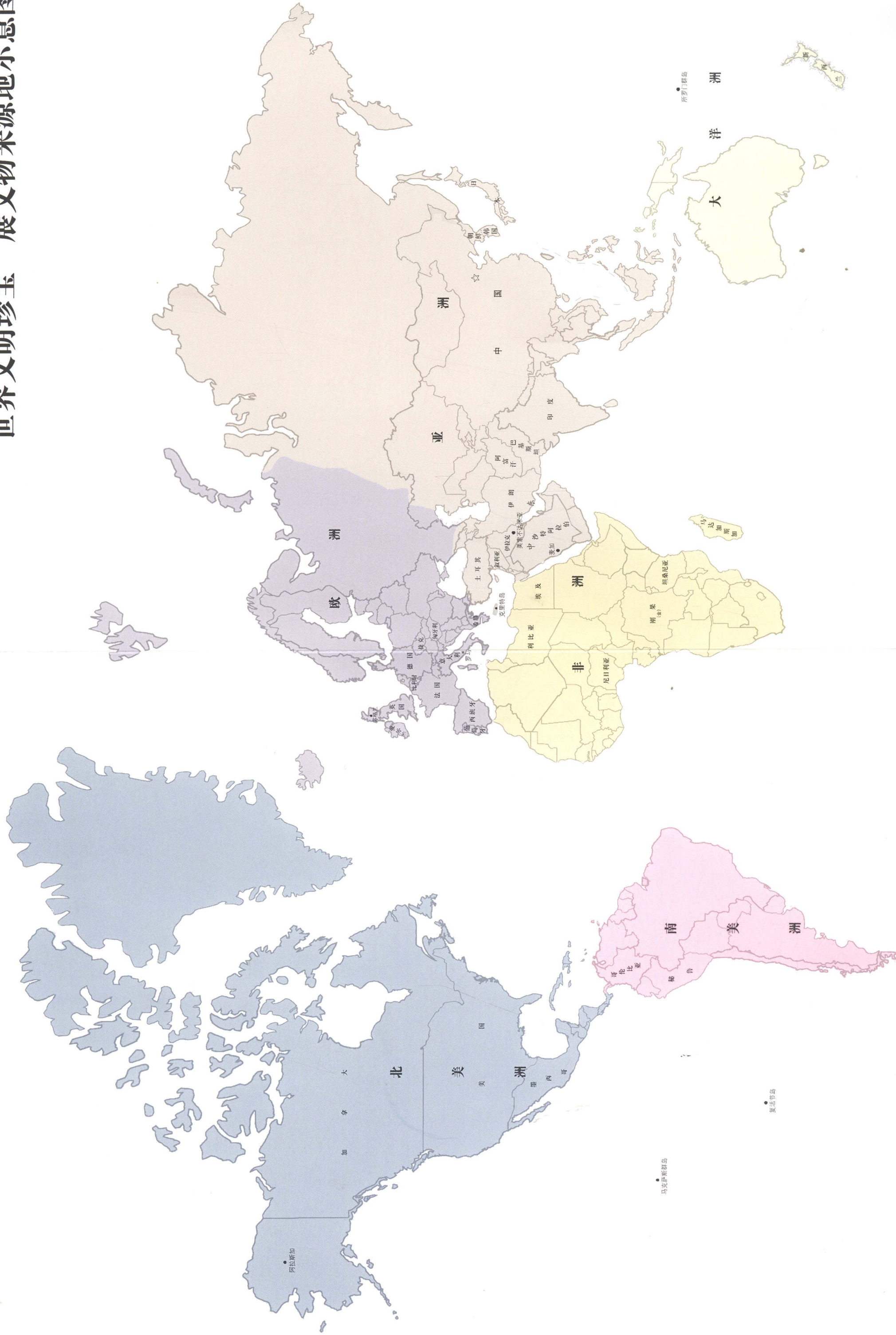
浮雕金头盔



国际象棋棋子



“世界文明珍宝” 展文物来源地示意图



世界文明示意图表

