

he 100th Anniversary of he First Discovery of Oracle Bone Inscriptions



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### 前

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### 前言

殷墟甲骨文字的發現至今整整一百周年。

甲骨文出土于河南省安陽市小屯村,史稱"殷墟",為商代晚期(公元前十三世紀~前十一世紀)都城,自盤庚遷都于此至帝辛,歷經八代十二王。周滅商后,此都荒蕪,直到一八九九年(清光緒二十五年)甲骨文才被王懿荣等金石學家所認定,并揭示于世。

甲骨文是契刻在龜甲和獸骨上的占卜文字。殷墟甲骨文 是我國迄今發現最早的系統文字,是三千多年前商代社會的 第一手記載。甲骨文的發現,揭開了我國燦爛文化和悠久歷 史的光輝一頁。

百年來,殷墟出土了十五萬片以上的甲骨,蔚爲大觀,爲 研究商代的社會、經濟、文化、藝術、思想、科學等提供了 確鑿而豐富的史料。

上海博物館以館藏甲骨舉辦此次特展,隆重紀念甲骨文發現這一學術史上劃時代的大事。

#### **Forward**

It has been one hundred years since the first discovery of oracle bone inscriptions at *Yinxu*.

The oracle bone inscription was unearthed from Xiaotun Cun, Anyang City, Henan Province which was historically called *Yinxu*. Since *Pangen* moved his capital to *Yinxu* till the reign of *Dixing*, *Yinxu* had been the capital of the late Shang dynasty for twelve kings for eight generations (13th century to 11th century B.C.). After the Zhou dynasty overthrew the Shang dynasty, this place had been deserted till the year 1899 (the twenty fifth year of the Guangxu reign of the Qing dynasty) when the oracle bones were discovered and revealed to the public by Wang Yirong, one of the epigraphists.

Oracle bone inscriptions refer to the characters inscribed on the tortoise plastrons and animal bones in the practice of divination. The inscriptions on oracle bones found in *Yinxu* are the earliest systematic written characters ever found in China and they are the first-hand data of the Shang dynasty society three thousand years ago. The discovery of oracle bone inscription revealed a glorious page of our magnificent culture and long history.

Over the past century, one hundred and fifty thousand pieces of oracle bones have been unearthed, providing conclusive and abundant historical material for the study of society, economy, culture, art, ideology and science.

To commemorate the discovery of oracle bones, an epoch-making historical event, the Shanghai Museum has its collection in this field to organize this special exhibition.

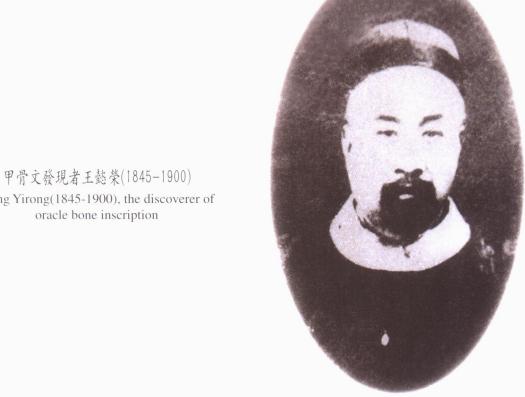
前

#### 甲骨文的發現

光緒初葉已有農民刨地得甲骨,一八九九年金石學家王懿 榮偶然發現并部分鑒識了甲骨上的文字,推定為"商代卜骨", 其文字"在篆籀之前"。至此,被湮没三千多年的秘密開始 得以揭示。因為是契刻在龜甲、獸骨上的占卜文字,故甲骨 文亦稱"甲骨刻辭"、"甲骨卜辭"。

## The Discovery of Oracle Bone Inscriptions

In the early Guangxu reign, farmers had occasionally found bones when digging the ground. In 1899, Wang Yirong, an expert on ancient inscriptions on bronzes and stone tablets, accidentally found some oracle bones and recognized part of inscriptions on them. So he came to the conclusion that they were the "divine bones of the Shang dynasty" and the characters were "earlier than the Zuan and Zhou scripts". Thus the mystery buried for three thousand years has been revealed. Because the inscription of divine practice being carved on the tortoises plastrons and animal bones, so it is named oracle bone inscription and it is also called "inscriptions carved on oracle bones" or "divine inscriptions on oracle bones".



Wang Yirong(1845-1900), the discoverer of oracle bone inscription



殷墟 Yinxu

#### 甲骨的整治和占卜

殷墟出土的甲骨, 多數是"卜甲"和"卜骨"。供占卜用的龜甲和骨版一般都經過整治。甲骨用于占卜大致經三個過程:一,取材;二,鋸削、刮磨;三,鑿、鑽、灼兆。鑿是甲骨背面開挖出的棗核形的凹槽;鑽是在鑿槽的一邊用刀或鑽頭鑽挖出圓形的穴;灼是用火在鑽鑿處燒灼,以使因鑿鑽致薄的甲骨正面出現爆裂的卜兆。根據灼兆辨吉凶禍福,并將之刻于甲骨之上。

#### Processing Oracle Bones and Divination

The oracle bones unearthed from *Yinxu* are mostly "divine tortoise-plastrons" and "divine animal bones". The tortoise-plastrons and animal-bones for divination should be specially treated. Processing oracle bones and divination follow these three steps: 1.choose material 2.cut and saw into a desired shape; scrap and polish the surface; 3.chisel on the back and fire to cause cracks on the bone. Chisel refers, by using knife or drill, to make a round hole on the back and then fine on the chiseled hole to cause cracks on the front surface. Interpret the cracks to determine good luck or ill luck and carve these interpretations on the bones.

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商 祖庚·祖甲 (公元前十二世紀) Zugeng·Zujia Kings of the Shang (12th century B.C.)



鑿(聚核形凹槽)、鑚(圓凹槽形) Drill (in the cylinder shape), Chisel (in the shape of date's pip)





卜兆(灼後兆豐) Cracks after firing for divination

#### 甲骨文的内容

甲骨上的占卜文字記録了有關國家制度、階級關係、軍事、農業、畜牧業、手工業、商業、交通,以及醫學、天文、藝術、思想等方面的原始資料。從中可以看出,商代的社會經濟建立在相當規模的農業、畜牧業基礎上,手工業分工頗細,有高度發展的青銅鑄造業,天文氣象記録豐富,其中日食記録為世界天文史之最早記録。

## Content of the Oracle Bone Inscriptions

The inscriptions of divination on the oracle bones were the first-hand information recording the state policy, relations among the different social classes, military, agriculure, livestock husbandry, handicraft industry, commerce, transportation, medical science, astronomy, art and ideology. From these inscriptions, we saw prosperous social economy of the Shang dynasty, which includes a large scale of agriculture and livestock husbandry, a quite specific division of handicraft industry and an advanced bronze casting industry. Specifically among the records of the astronomy and climate, the record of solar eclipse are the first one found in the history of world astronomy.

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商 祖庚·祖甲 (公元前十二世紀)

Zugeng · Zujia Kings of the Shang (12th century B.C.)

#### 甲骨文的收藏

上海博物館建館以來,從原孔德研究所、原上海歷史博物館、武進文獻徵集社以及其他文物收購處和民間收藏家中,接受移交并徵集了總計七十三批五千版甲骨。其中包括甲骨文第一發現人王懿榮所藏甲骨,第一部甲骨文著録書劉鶚《鐵雲藏龜》中的原版甲骨,王國維撰《戬壽堂所藏殷虚文字·考釋》中所用哈同舊藏的甲骨,以及近年所獲的大版套卜甲骨。

# Collection of the Oracle Bones

After the founding of the Shanghai Museum, five thousand pieces of oracle bones in seventy three groups were taken over from the collections of former Kongde Research Institute, former History Museum of Shanghai, the Wujing Historical Documents Collection Society and purchased from antique dealers and private collectors, which include the oracle bones collected by Wang Yirong; the original oracle bones mentioned in the book "Tie Yun Cang Gui", the first book on oracle bones by Liu E; the oracle bones indicated in the book "Jian Shou Tang Suo Cang Yinxu Wen Zi Kao Shi" written by Wang Guowei based on the possession of Hardoon and sets of big-sized oracle bones that survived in the Cultural Rovolution.



第一部甲骨文著録書《鐵雲藏龜》 Tie Yun Cang Gui, the first book on the oracle bone inscription



《鐵雲藏龜》中之原物 The original pieces in the book *Tie Yun Cang Gui* 



王國維 (1877-1927) Wang Guowei (1877-1927)





#### 甲骨文的書法藝術

商代甲骨文可謂后世篆隸楷之源緒、歷代書契之先河。甲骨文書法的表現形式主要為單刀契刻,即以刀代筆施于甲骨之上;也有直接用毛筆蘸墨或硃砂在甲骨上書寫。另有復刀鐫刻、據字迹精雕而成。此外,尚有字劃中塗朱、墨或褐色者,各具風采。

# The Calligraphic Art of Oracle Bone Inscriptions

The oracle inscription of the Shang dynasty should be regarded as the origin of Chinese calligraphic scripts of seal, official and regular scripts. The calligraphic form of inscriptions on oracle bone is mainly the carvings by single cut, that is, the fluent turning and natural flowing of the carving on the oracle bone performed by a single cutting blade. Seldom-seen inscriptions are written by brush with ink or cinnabar on the bones, in clear brush strokes and smooth turnings, and then carved by double-cutting blades following the ink traces on the bone. So the inscriptions appear to be bold and forceful. Besides these, there are craved inscriptions filled with colors. The carved inscriptions are painted in red, black or brown color. These colored inscriptions have their own effect: painted in red, the inscriptions are dazzlingly eye-catching; in black, the inscription has its own spirit and in brown paint, the inscriptions look elegant and graceful.



りかみ 神水 中



骨背墨書 Ink writing on the back

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王受又三



商 廪辛·康丁 (公元前十二世紀)

Linxin · Kangding, Kings of the Shang (12th century B.C.)



商 武乙·文丁 (公元前十二世紀——十一世紀)

 $\mathit{Wuyi} \cdot \mathit{Wending}$ , Kings of the Shang (12th century - 11th century B.C.)