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Gold and
Silver Articles

金银器

「奢华之色，器用之极」

晋敏◎编著



全国百佳图书出版单位
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黄金拥有天然艳丽的色彩和炫目耀眼的光泽，白银则以洁白纯亮的色泽受世人喜爱，它们是金属中自然天生的贵族。用金银打造的器具，是大自然的创造与人类智慧的完美结合，拥有灿烂炫目的色彩和千年不变的高贵品质。高贵的金银器不仅美化了人们的生活，还影响了人类的思想；不仅代表了财富，还是身份地位和富贵等级的标志。

中国古代金银工艺历史悠久，金银器制作的重点始终是其审美价值。即便是实用性，也是巧妙地隐藏于审美价值之中，从而使人们在欣赏金银器的形象、色泽的同时，满足



The gold possesses natural gorgeous color and glaring luster when the silver is beloved for its spotlessly white tincture, both of which are the born nobles in metals. Utensils forged in gold or silver ideally combine the work of nature and human intelligence, and has the brilliant color and perdurable high-class quality. The noble gold and silver articles not only embellish our life, but also impact the way we think. Furthermore they are also the symbol of social status, riches and honor.

China has a long history of gold and silver handicraft. The aesthetic value is the most important in the forging of gold and silver articles, even the practicability is skillfully remained

现实需要。现在，就让我们步入金碧辉煌、银光闪耀的世界，阅读那多彩的金银器画图，感受中国深厚的金银文化。

under the cover of the aesthetic value, so that people can meet the real life when appreciating the beauty. Now, let's step into this magnificent world, learn the colorful history, and experience the profound gold and silver culture of China.





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中国金银器概述

Overview of China's Gold and Silver Articles

黄金和白银是古代最贵重的金属，古人对其开采利用的历史几乎与文明史同步。金银器，即用金、银制造的器具，拥有华美珍贵的材料与精致繁复的技艺，富丽堂皇，光灿辉耀。

Gold and silver are the most valuable metals in ancient times, when our ancestors started to exploit them since the civilization emerged. These palatial and flamboyant articles were made of colorful precious materials and by elaborate skills.





> 源远流长的金银文化

中国人对黄金和白银的认识和利用有着悠久的历史 and 光辉灿烂的文化。古代先民自从认识了金银，就将其应用于首饰装饰业、货币制造业和工艺品制造业等诸多领域中，打造出一件件精美绝伦的金银器，创造出了灿烂的金银文化。

在古代的中国，金银是高贵身份的象征。据《汉书》记载：帝王死后穿金缕玉衣，王侯、后妃等



• 错银鎏金壶（战国）

此壶扁圆形，直筒颈，圆口有盖，盖正中设置有半环形纽，肩部有对称的衔环，底为长方形圈足。此壶的纹饰精美，褐底白纹，壶盖、口沿和圈足鎏有一层黄灿灿的金色，与壶体银白纹样交相辉映。

Mixed Silver and Gilding Pot (Warring States Period, 475 B.C.-221 B.C.)

This oval-shaped pot has a straight tube cover, round bottleneck with cap, semicircular knob in the center, balanced holding rings, rectangle shaped bottom with ring foot. The decoration of this pot is exquisite, skewbald body embellished with gilding on the cap, bottle rim and ring foot, and the silver white pattern on the main body.

> Long History of Gold and Silver Culture

The knowledge and utilization of the gold and silver has a long history in China and generated a brilliant culture. The ancient ancestors applied gold and silver into many fields like jewellery industry, monetary production, handicraft manufacturing and so on since they were discovered. With the countless exquisite gold and silver articles forged, a gorgeous gold and silver culture was created.

Gold and silver are the symbol



• 金碗（唐）

Gold Bowl (Tang Dynasty, 618-907)



• 鎏金铜龙（五代）

龙是中国古代的祥瑞之兽，身长若蛇，有鳞似鱼，有角仿鹿，有爪似鹰，能翻江倒海，吞风吐雾。因此在中国封建时代，龙是帝王的象征。

Gilding Copper Dragon (Five Dynasties, 907-960)

Dragon is one of the auspicious divine beasts in ancient China. It has snakelike body with fishlike scales and deerlike horns and hawklike claws. It has an overwhelming force. In Feudal Times of China the dragon is the symbol of the emperor.

人穿银缕玉衣，公主等人穿铜缕玉衣。这就是用金丝、银丝或铜丝把玉片连缀在一起制成葬服。从唐代开始，金银器更成为使用者等级地位的象征，如一品以下的官员不可

of the noble identity in ancient China. According to the record in the *Book of Han*, passed away emperors were buried in jade suits sewn with gold thread. Silver thread was used for high-ranking aristocrats and queens. Copper thread was used for princesses and so on. The jade burial suits were made of jade pieces joined with gold, silver or copper thread. Gold and silver articles even became the symbol of social status since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). For example, only the highest-rank officials could use gold dining utensils. The officials of the sixth-rank and above could use silver dining utensils. Those under the sixth-rank were not allowed to use silver ones.

Ancient Chinese adored the gold and silver to an ultimate level, especially for the gold. There were many old phrases relevant to "gold". For example, *Jade Sayings from a Gold Mouth*, describes the promises couldn't be broken. *As Strong as Gold* describes the firm city walls. *Golden Boy* refers to a smart cute boy and *Golden Branch* refers to a noble girl. *Lost in Gold and Drunk in Paper* means living a life of luxury and dissipation. *Golden Rules* means the principles are not susceptible to alteration. And there also are *A Thousand Pieces of Gold Can't Buy*



以金做食器，六品以下的不可以银做食器等。

中国古人对金银极其崇拜，尤其黄金的地位更是至高无上。古代有很多词汇都与“金”字有关，如“金口玉言”形容承诺永不改变，“金科玉律”形容原则不容更改，“一刻千金”形容时间宝贵，“固若金汤”形容城池坚固不摧，“金童”指的是聪明可爱的男孩，“金枝”则指身份高贵的女孩，形容奢华而腐朽的生活即为“纸醉金迷”，形容一个人由坏向好的转变即为“浪子回头金不换”……

古人之所以如此崇拜金银，不仅仅因为其稀有，还由于使用金银器有益健康。经现代科学考证，银离子有很强的杀菌作用，经常接触对人体很有益处。中国古代会使用银针来检测食物是否有毒，这是由于银与许多的毒素能发生化学反应，毒素可使银变黑。此外，古人还利用白银来加速伤口愈合、净化水质及防腐保鲜等。

古人甚至认为金银可以使人生不死，很多炼丹家认为金银性质稳定，不易发生朽坏，故人服用金



• 乾隆款金爵（清）

爵为古代的一种饮酒器，在青铜器中较为多见，类似于后世的酒杯。

Gold Jue of Qianlong (Qing Dynasty, 1644-1911)

Jue is a kind of ancient wine cup, which can be seen more as bronze articles.

a Moment, A Prodigal Who Has Mended His Ways Is More Precious Than Gold.

The ancients' adoration of gold and silver not only due to their rareness, but also because the wholesomeness for users. The modern medicine discovered that the silver ion can effectively destroy the germs. Using silver articles is good for health. Ancient Chinese used to test food with silver needle to see if it's poisoned. Because silver can produce chemical reaction and turn black when met with a great majority of poisons. Besides, the ancients also use silver for healing wound, purifying water and preventing

银就能将其性质转移到人体内，使血肉之躯也同样不败朽。因此，古代的一些皇帝命人为自己炼制金丹用来服食，以求长生不老。当然，所谓金丹并非由黄金制成，而是一种将汞（水银）与铅、铜、铁等金

decay and so on.

The ancients even considered gold and silver can help human to live forever. Many alchemists believed that the steadies of gold and silver could make immortal human body by taking them. So some ancient emperors took elixirs



• 嵌宝石金刻龙纹壶（明）

此壶束颈，鼓腹，圈足，盖以链与柄相系。壶盖、壶颈及近底部篆刻有蕉叶纹、卷草纹、如意云头纹、莲瓣纹等纹样；腹部两侧火焰形开光内刻四爪翼龙两条。盖顶、流、把上皆镶嵌有红蓝宝石，共27颗。

Jeweled Gold Pot with Carved Dragon (Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644)

Collected bottleneck, drum abdomen, ring foot, the cap was connected to the handle with chain. Banana-leaf, grass, cloud and lotus-petal patterns carved on the cap bottleneck and near bottom; two four-claws dragons separately carved on the both flame shaped abdomen flanks. 27 rubies and sapphires are inlaid on the cap, chain, and handle.





属按不同比例配方烧炼成的黄色或白色的丹丸。

除此之外，金银器珍贵的材质及其所散发出的璀璨夺目的光泽和其精美的工艺，都是人们喜爱它们的原因。

attempted to get immortality. Of course the so called golden elixirs were not made of gold. In fact they are white or yellow pills burned from different ratios of mercury, lead, copper, iron, etc.

Beyond that, people are fond of gold and silver articles also because of their bright and dazzling gloss, precious materials and the fine craft.

古人对金银的开采

据唐代史料记载，中国古代的先民寻找金银矿是根据植物来辨别的，即山上如果有野生的葱，其下多半会有银矿；山上如果生长有冬青树，其下多半会有金矿。经现代科学验证，土壤中含有不同的金属元素会影响植物的生长。宋代史料记载，如果掘地时遇到“粉子石”，此石一头焦黑，则表明其下有金矿；如果遇到一堆堆微带褐色的小石头，则其下有银矿。

古人开采金银矿的方法主要为淘洗法和地下井巷挖掘法两种。淘洗法主要用于砂金的提取；而地下井巷挖掘法则适用于山金及银矿的开采。

Gold and Silver Exploitation in Ancient Times

In the historical records of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the ancient Chinese searched for gold and silver mines through surveying the vegetative cover. The silver mines usually exist in the mountains where wild green shallots grow; the gold mines can be found in the mountains where Common Hollies grow. The modern sciences researched that the metallic elements in the soil can affect the growing of plants. In the historical records of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), in exploitation finding *Fenzi* stone, which is burned black on one side, means there would be a gold mine underneath; finding piles of little rocks in light brown, there might be silver mine below.

The ancients' methods of gold and silver mines exploiting can be mainly divided into elutriation method and underground mining method. The elutriation method was used to pick up gulch-gold; the underground mining method was used in the exploiting of mountain gold and silver mines.



• 《天工开物》中古人冶炼金银的绘图

《天工开物》为明代科学家宋应星所著，是一部综合性的科学技术著作。书中收录了机械、陶瓷、纸、兵器、火药、纺织、采煤、榨油等生产技术，其中包括金属的铸锻过程。

Pictures of Ancients' Smelting of Gold and Silver from *Exploitation of the Works of Nature*

Exploitation of the Works of Nature was written by Song Yingxing, a famous scientist in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It was a comprehensive science and technology work, embodied technologies like machinery, ceramics, paper, weaponry, powder, spinning, coal mining, and oil manufacture and so on, including casting processes of metals.



> 历代金银器的特点

中国的金银文化绵久而辉煌，早在距今约三千多年的商周时期就已出现了黄金制品，春秋战国时期则开始了对白银制品的使用。逐渐地，金银器不仅代表财富，而且还被用来作为身份地位和富贵等级的标志，成为皇家贵族的珍宠。

商周金银器

中国的金制品出现的时间比银器要早。据考古发现，商代时已有黄金制品了，其分布范围主要是以商周文化为中心的中原地区，以及商周王朝北部、西北部和偏西南的少数民族地区。这一时期的金器，形制工艺简单，器形小巧，纹饰少见，且大多为装饰品。

商代的黄金制品多为金箔、金

> Characteristics of the Gold and Silver Articles in Different Dynasties

The history of China's gold and silver culture is long and glorious. Gold articles emerged about three thousand years ago, in the Shang and Zhou Dynasties. Silver articles were put in use in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Period (770B.C.-221 B.C.). Gradually, the gold and silver articles not only represented the wealth, but also be the symbol of social status and wealth levels, and were favored by the imperial families and nobilities.

Gold and Silver Articles of the Shang and Zhou Dynasties

The gold articles in China emerged earlier than the silver articles. According to excavations, China began to make gold articles during the Shang Dynasty



• 金笄 (商)

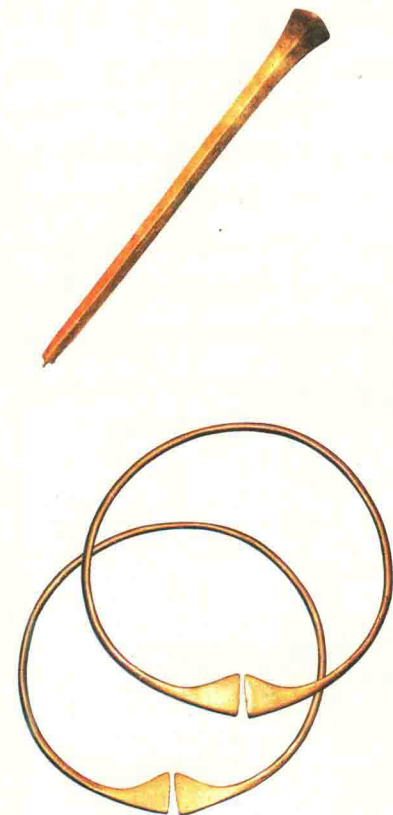
笄是古代用于盘发挽髻的簪。早在新石器时代，中国妇女已用骨制的发笄。在中国社会，女子插笄，标志着成年，需举行仪式，称为“笄礼”。此金笄器身两面不一，一面光滑，一面有脊，截断面呈纯三角形，头部宽，尾部逐渐变窄，便于穿插。其尾端有一长约0.4厘米的榫状结构，可能是用于镶嵌其他的装饰品。

Gold Hairpin (Shang Dynasty, 1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.)

Ji is a kind of the hairpin in ancient times. Early in the Neolithic Period, the Chinese women started to use hairpins made of bones. In ancient China, women wearing *Ji* indicated they grew up, an adult woman's coming-of-age ceremony was known as *Ji* Ceremony. The two sides of this Gold *Ji* are different, one is smooth and the other is backbone-raised. The truncation face is pure triangle, broad head, gradually narrows down to the end, easy to wear. There is a 0.4 centimeters long tenon shape structure on its end, might be designed for other inlays.

(1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.). The distribution range covered the Ancient Central Plain Area where the Shang and Zhou Culture generated, and the northern, northwestern and southwestern areas of the Shang and Zhou Dynasties where the minority nationalities lived. The gold articles in this period were simple in craft, shaped tiny and had few patterns, mostly were adornment.

The gold articles in the Shang Dynasty were mostly made of gold foil, gold leaf and gold plaque, and were mainly used to decorate articles. The most important gold articles in this period were the ones excavated from the *Sanxingdui* in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, not only because the numerous number, but also for their peculiar shapes.



• 金臂钏 (商)

臂钏是古代一种套在上臂的环形首饰，一般为女性佩戴，能够表现女性上臂丰满浑圆的魅力。

Gold Arm Bracelet (Shang Dynasty, 1600 B.C.-1046 B.C.)

Arm bracelets were usually worn by ancient women, showing the charm of their chubby upper arms.

叶和金片，主要用于器物装饰。这一时期的金器中最令人瞩目的是四川广汉三星堆出土的一批金器，不仅数量多，而且形制别具一格。当

然，商周处于青铜铸造业的巅峰时期，所以处于滥觞阶段的金银器工艺并没有对时代产生较大影响。

Of course, as the bronze manufacturing was in its noontide in the Shang and Zhou Dynasties, the new born gold and silver articles didn't generate great influence.

三星堆金器

三星堆遗址位于四川广汉南兴镇，于1980年开始发掘。三星堆文明是中国长江流域早期文明（蜀文化）的代表，被誉为“长江文明之源”。

三星堆出土的文物包括中原地区常见的大型礼器、兵器及大量青铜人物雕像。此外，三星堆出土的金器也同样精美绝伦，不仅工艺精湛，还被赋予高度的政治、宗教意义。其中当属金面罩、金臂钏、金笄、金杖等最有特点，由此不难看出，那时人们已经开始把金制品用作装饰物了。

Sanxingdui Gold Articles

The *Sanxingdui* site locates in Nanxing Town, Guanghan, Sichuan Province, the excavation started in 1980. The *Sanxingdui* Civilization is a delegate of the China's early civilization in the Yangtze River basin (the Shu Culture), as well as the known "The Origin of Civilization in the Yangtze River".

The unearthed cultural relics from *Sanxingdui* include large sacrificial vessels, weapons and vast of bronze statue of human, which were common in the Central Plains Area. Again, these gold articles are exquisite beyond compare not only for its craftsmanship, but also possess high political and religious significances. The most significant articles are gold mask, gold arm bracelet, gold hairpin and gold truncheon. Therefore, it is pretty sure that people started using gold articles as ornament since then.



• 金面罩 (图片提供：全景正片)

金面罩与青铜人面像相结合，用纯金皮模压而成，眉眼镂空，鼻部凸起，贴于青铜头像的面部。

Gold Mask

This gold mask is mould pressed of pure gold, with hollowed eyes and brows and bulged nose, attached to the face of the bronze statues.