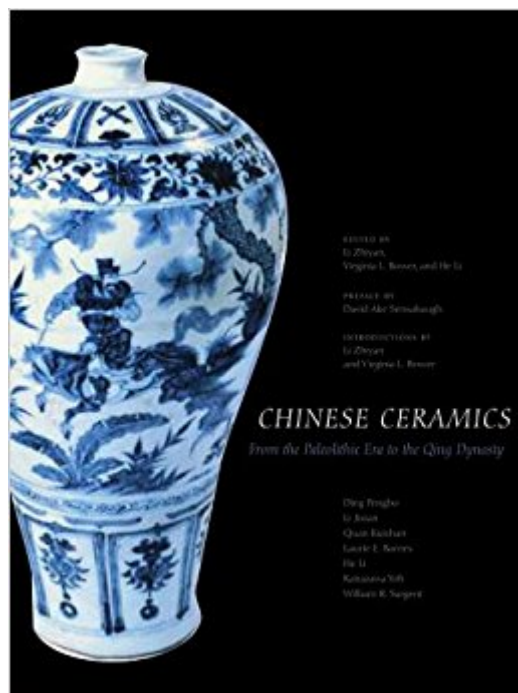




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# Chinese Ceramics: From The Paleolithic Period Through The Qing Dynasty (The Culture & Civilization Of China)



## Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated catalogue is a comprehensive historical review of Chinese ceramics covering newly excavated discoveries from the Paleolithic era thousands of years ago to the end of the Qing dynasty in 1911. Throughout China's history there has been an ongoing practice of invention and innovation in the forms, materials, decorations, and functions of ceramics made in China, both for the domestic market and for its ever-growing trade with foreign markets. The creation of ceramic ware holds a special and very important place among the many arts and inventions that characterize Chinese culture, society, and civilization. The product of a ten-year collaboration among eminent American, Chinese, and Japanese scholars, *Chinese Ceramics* offers a new perspective in interpreting the oldest and one of the most admired Chinese art forms, from its technological aspects to its aesthetic value. The volume includes a chapter on Chinese export ceramics that delves into Chinese trade activities and ceramic wares made for export as well as a chapter about the authenticity of Chinese ceramics, discussing issues related to connoisseurship of this Chinese art. As author He Li writes, "Despite the rich variety of Chinese ceramics around the world, no fully illustrated, photographed survey of a complete history has been attempted in English. [This volume] will convey the excitement of encountering these specially chosen examples for the first time."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is essential for scholars and admirers of Chinese ceramics, the history of Asia, and art in general." — David McClelland, Library Journal "In-depth overview . . . of value not only to scholars of Chinese ceramics but to collectors as well. The many full-color illustrations . . . as well as the very recent scholarship included in the discussions are what will make this book a most valuable addition to any library collection and a standard work for years to come." — ARLIS/NA Reviews "Impressive in size and scope, this book is the ultimate reference on Chinese ceramics. . . . essential." — Choice. . . a most valuable addition to any library collection on Chinese art and very likely a standard work for years to come." — Daniela Yew, Art Libraries Society of North America

Li Zhiyan is senior research fellow at the National Museum of China and former vice president of the Association of Chinese Ancient Ceramics. Virginia L. Bower is an adjunct associate professor at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia. He Li is associate curator of Chinese art, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. David Ake Sensabaugh is the Ruth and Bruce Dayton Curator of Asian Art at the Yale University Art Gallery. Ding Pengbo is research fellow at the National Museum of China. Li Jixian is research fellow at the Chinese Institute of Art and a member of the Chinese Society of Archaeology. Quan Kuishan is professor at the School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University. Laurie E. Barnes is Elizabeth B. McGraw Curator of Chinese Art at the Norton Museum of Art. Kanazawa Yoh is a curator at the Idemitsu Museum of Arts, Tokyo. William R. Sargent is an independent scholar and curator, and the former curator of Asian export art at the Peabody Essex Museum.

Having trawled through many descriptions of books on Chinese ceramics, looked at books and websites, I wanted a solid, comprehensive introduction for someone who is fairly new to the topic, but keen to gain an intelligent overview. Solid indeed! It is a weighty and beautiful tome. The publisher's name was a good guide to the quality expected. The text is informative and gives every appearance of being authoritative. I will return again and again to read, consult, and just savour this book. The photographs and line drawings are well chosen and beautifully (re)produced. I particularly appreciated the clear indication provided with the photo (not just in an appendix) of where each item is held, as well as its dimensions (in centimetres, for those of us outside the USA/UK). I learn that Yale UP has a series on Chinese Civilization and Culture, of which this book is part. I certainly intend to buy further volumes in the series: the price, delivered to my door on the other side of the world, was very reasonable indeed.

Bought this book to ooooh and aahhh at beautiful Chinese ceramics I have seen in various museums around the world. I wanted to learn more about the history and background of what I had seen. This is a fantastic book for that, and the price was right. You can't get a better reference on Chinese ceramics, this will be your best guide through the ages. Now to find that proverbial 'needle in the hay stack' and find that treasure at a garage sale or swap meet and I'll be set.

The history of Chinese ceramics stretches back for at least 14,000 years. This hefty volume describes this history and discusses some of the ceramics produced over the centuries in great detail. The individual chapters discuss ceramics manufactured during the various dynastic periods and the book ends with sections on "the export and trade of Chinese ceramics" and "ten lectures on the authentication of Chinese ceramics". The writing is clear, scholarly, comprehensive and full of interesting detail. This book would be of great appeal to those with a specialised interest in this area of decorative art. It would also be a desirable addition to the library of people with more general interest in the subject (myself included). The generalist would be attracted to this book in part because of the numerous and often large sized illustrations of the various ceramics under discussion. The examples of works chosen are of the highest quality and are often extraordinarily beautiful. The quality of printing and photographic reproduction is very satisfactory. Books on this subject are often restricted to specific historic periods. They tend also to be much more expensive. At the present asking price of \$54 this volume represents a virtual giveaway.

This was the book I needed to explain to me most of everything I needed to learn about Chinese Ceramics. I have not finished reading as I only received shortly, but it has helped me understand the evolution of Chinese Ceramics. Exactly what I was looking for on this subject. I only wish there were more color photos to view the evolution of the paint colors. Thank You!

There are literally dozens of books on Chinese ceramics published over many decades of time. Many or most make a unique contribution to a collector's knowledge of this broad and complex topic. This book comes the closest to being comprehensive. Granted that for any one topic they may be material that could have been added. However that would have required a library sized series of books. I was particularly impressed with the chapter on the Ming dynasty ceramics obviously written by an expert who has great knowledge of his subject. I might add this is a heavy weight tome that challenges my muscles every time I pick it up which fairly frequently.

Superb photography and intelligent, well articulated essays by the contributing authors make this massive book a must-have. For the price the production quality is stunning, and it's the sort of book that you will keep for a lifetime.

Very good book.

great reference

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