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Heavyweight Exhibition of Ancient Chinese Civilization Arrives in Ningbo

A special exhibition curated by Ningbo Museum in collaboration with Shanghai Museum - "Ancient Chinese Civilization: Rites, Faith, and Diversity" - was unveiled on December 5th.

12月5日起,宁波博物院携手上海博物馆,推出“古代中国文明展:礼制·信仰·多元性”特展。

The exhibition showcases a total of 198 assembled (pieces/sets of) artifacts. Included are bronze wares from Shanghai Museum's collection, jade artifacts typical of the Hangzhou's Liangzhu neolithic culture (3,300 - 2,300 BC), bone inscriptions from the Shang Dynasty (c.1,600 - 1,046 BC), coins from the Warring States (475 - 221 BC), and various pottery pieces from the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). Diverse in types and spanning many ages, these relics reveal the multifaceted nature of Chinese civilization in its early stage, and narrate the interactions between different regions throughout their development, elucidating the harmonious diversity within this ancient civilization.

本次展览共计展出文物198件/套,以上海博物馆馆藏青铜器为主,兼有良渚文化玉器、商代骨刻辞、战国钱币以及多件汉代陶器。展品跨越多个文物门类,时间跨度自史前至秦汉,在“古代中国文明”这一核心主题下,展示中华文明曙光初现时的多元面貌,讲述各文明起源区域在发展中的开放互动,阐释史前至两汉时期中华文化多元一体的特性。

As a grand exhibition of Ningbo Museum ringing during the New Year, this exhibit will run until March 3, 2024.

作为宁波博物院跨年大展,本次展览将持续至2024年3月3日。

Comprised of four sub-themes, the exhibition offers an immersive exploration into the roots of this ancient civilization through the lenses of politics, rites, pictographs, and faiths. Representative items include pottery from the Longshan culture (2,500 - 2,000 BC) and Majiayao culture (ca. 3,300 - 2,050 BC), bronze ritual vessels from the Shang Dynasty to the Warring States period, jade wares - such as Jade Cong (for rites and ceremonies), Jade Bi (symbolizing power) and Jade Huang (arc-shaped pendant) - with divine emblem designs from the Liangzhu culture and the Songze culture (4,000 - 3,300 BC), and wares with motifs like the Chinese dragon and phoenix, animal masks, and birds.



Eastern Han Dynasty (25- 220) mirror with linked arc patterns and inscriptions wishing for prosperous offspring.



Single-handled Jue (goblet) with animal mask design from the middle Shang Dynasty.



Grid-patterned ceramic pot featuring Majiayao culture.

本次展览分为四大板块,分别从政治、礼制、文字、信仰四个层面出发,为观众提供一场沉浸式的古代文明探源之旅。展品涵盖龙山文化、马家窑文化的陶器,从商代延续到战国时期的大量青铜礼器,神像纹玉琮、玉璧以及玉璜等来自良渚文化与崧泽文化的玉器,含有龙凤纹、兽面纹、鸟纹的器物等。

The displayed artifacts are deemed heavyweights considering their scale, quantity, grade, and academic value. Notable pieces include a National First-Class Cultural Relic known as the Yuan Square Ding (bronze food vessel) from the Western Zhou (1,046 - 771 BC), and the edict plate issued by Emperor Qin Er Shi (the second Emperor of the Qin Dynasty) in the first year of his reign - known as the Edict Plate of Emperor Qin II - which reiterated the measurement and weight standardization policies commanded by his predecessor Emperor Qin. Another must-see exhibit is the special and cute owl-shaped bronze You (wine vessel) with an impressive design.

本次展览所展出文物,无论从规模、数量、展品等级及学术价值上,都堪称“重磅”二字。如国家一级文物西周员方鼎,秦二世元年为重申度量衡政策而发布的诏书——秦二世诏版,纹饰华丽繁复、造型略显可爱的青铜戈鸢鸟等都是本次展览的必看展品。

Along with their academic value, the

artifacts possess exceptional artistic merit. Attendees of the exhibition will have the chance to marvel at a multitude of displays adorned with intricate and exquisite embellishments.

除却较高的学术价值,文物的艺术价值也令人瞩目。在展览中,可以看到诸多纹饰精美繁复、制作考究的展品。

The Eastern Han Dynasty mirror remains radiant and reflective after nearly two thousand years. As a vivid embodiment of the aesthetic beauty and craftsmanship of its time, it features a round knob with a persimmon-shaped knob base. Within the knob base, there is an inscription with the four characters “长宜子孙” (Chang Yi Zi Sun), conveying a beautiful sentiment of prosperity for descendants.

东汉长宜子孙连弧纹镜展现出令人惊叹的审美与技艺。这面铜镜为圆钮,柿蒂形钮座,钮座间有铭文“长宜子孙”四字,生动唯美,历经近两千年依然光可鉴人。

Another distinguished item is a gilded dragon-patterned mirror stand from the Eastern Han Dynasty. It is fully gilded, featuring a curved groove to support the bronze mirror. The two parts complementing each other perfectly with practicality and aesthetics combined and are a fine embodiment of the wisdom and craftsmanship of ancient artisans. In a rare opportunity, the exhibition presents a complete set

of the mirror, allowing the audience to catch a glimpse of the authentic living scenes of ancient people.

另外一件东汉鎏金龙纹镜架,通体鎏金,弧形的凹槽用于承托铜镜,镜架与铜镜完美匹配,既实用又美观,充分体现了古代工匠的智慧和技艺。本次展览难得地将“铜镜+镜架”全套一同展出,让观众能够从中窥见古人真实的生活场景。

“The current exhibition marks another collaboration between Ningbo Museum and Shanghai Museum after a hiatus of 14 years,” said Zhang Liang, director of Ningbo Museum. Fourteen years ago, the Shanghai Museum presented 119 pieces/sets of European glass and ceramic artifacts as a “welcome gift” during their first joint exhibition with the newly established Ningbo Museum. As such, the bond between the two museums has grown stronger since then.

“这次展览是宁波博物院时隔14年后再一次与上海博物馆合作。”宁波博物院院长张亮表示,14年前,上海博物馆携119件/套馆藏欧洲玻璃陶瓷器作为“见面礼”赴甬,与新亮相不久的宁波博物院(时称宁波博物馆)首度联展,自此两馆友谊不断深化。

This year, the Shanghai Museum once again brings “Ancient Chinese Civilization” - an original exhibition with a significant collection of treasures - to Ningbo Museum as a celebration of its fifteenth anniversary. “The display of significant bronze artifacts in the southern regions is relatively rare. As essential ritual objects in early China, bronze vessels reflect many ways in which ancient people understood the world and their tangible expressions of the concept of ‘rites’. We believe that the audience will gain more insight after a visit to the wonderful and immersive exhibition,” stated Zhang.

今年,上海博物馆再度携原创展览“古代中国文明”赴甬贺宁波博物院十五周年庆,带来了大量馆藏珍品。“青铜重器在南方展出相对比较少,作为早期中国的重要礼器,青铜器上体现了许多古人理解世界的方法,以及他们对‘礼’这个字的具象化表达,相信观众看完展览会有收获。”张亮表示。

Journalists: Gu Jiayi, Pan Wenjie
Correspondent: Xiang Congyin
Translator: Yao Zhanhong (intern)
Proofreaders: Fan Yeping,
Fan Naxi, Jason Mowbray