

CONTENTS

Preface

1. The Subject and Objectives of <i>A General History of Chinese Art</i>	XVII
2. Traditional Thought and Traditional Art in China	XXII
3. Integration of the Arts of Different Nations and Exchanges between Chinese and Foreign Art	XXX

Part One

Prehistoric Era

Introduction

1. The Emergence of Art	3
2. Definition, Distribution and the Transformation of the Chinese Primitive Arts	5
3. Basic Characteristics of Chinese Primitive Arts	9

Chapter I

Prehistoric Music

Section 1

Discussion on the Origin of Prehistoric Music	11
1. Several Theories on the Origin of Music	11
2. Studies on the Origin of the Forms and Elements of Music	14

Section 2

The Characteristics of Prehistoric Music and Its Social Functions	17
1. Myths and Historical Records	17
2. Modes of the Existence of Prehistoric Music	18
3. Social Functions of Prehistoric Music	19

Section 3

Archaeological Findings of Ancient Chinese Musical Instruments	22
1. Percussion Instruments	22
2. Wind Instruments	26
3. Combinations of Prehistoric Musical Instruments	32

Chapter II Prehistoric Dance

Section 1

The Origin and Characteristics of Prehistoric Dance	33
---	----

Section 2

Prehistoric Chinese Dance through Archaeological Findings	36
---	----

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Painted Pottery | 36 |
| 2. Rock Art | 39 |

Section 3

Traces of Prehistoric Dance in Modern Folk Activities	42
---	----

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Celebrations of Life and Nature | 42 |
| 2. Sacrifices to Heaven and Earth, Ghosts and Deities | 44 |
| 3. Fertility Rites | 44 |
| 4. Other Dances Related to Sacrifices | 44 |

Section 4

Prehistoric Dance in Historical Documents and Myths	45
---	----

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. The Creation of Music and Dance | 45 |
| 2. Music and Dance during the Times of the
»Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors« | 45 |

Chapter III Prehistoric Architecture

Section 1

Basic Forms of Prehistoric Architecture in China	48
--	----

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. The Earliest Known Artificial Dwellings in China | 49 |
| 2. Basic Forms of Prehistoric Architecture: Cave-Dwellings
and Nest-Dwellings | 51 |

Section 2

The Origin of Chinese Wooden Architectural Structures: Nest-Dwellings	52
--	----

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. The Development of Nest-Dwellings:
From »a Nest Built on Wood« to Stilt Houses | 53 |
| 2. Stilt Houses of Hemudu Culture | 54 |
| 3. The Art of Prehistoric Architecture Based on Nest-Dwellings | 55 |

Section 3

Cave-Dwellings, Origin of Architectural Structures Built with Hybrid Materials 57

1. The Development of Cave-Dwellings 57
2. Remains of Prehistoric Architecture 58
3. Settlements of the Well-Developed Matriarchal Societies of the Yellow River Basin 59
4. Form and Function in Prehistoric Architecture 63
5. The Art of Prehistoric Architecture Based on Cave-Dwellings 67

Section 4

Diverse Early Forms of Ritual Architecture 69

Chapter IV Prehistoric Sculpture

Section 1

Periodization of Prehistoric Sculpture 73

1. Paleolithic Sculpture 73
2. Neolithic Sculpture 74

Section 2

Engravings on Potteries and Other Objects 77

1. Carvings on Potteries 77
2. Carvings on Teeth, Bone, and Wood Objects 78

Section 3

Forms and Motifs of Jade Sculpture 79

1. Forms of Prehistoric Jade Sculpture 80
2. Decorative Motifs on Jade Sculpture 82

Section 4

Prehistoric Figurative Sculpture 85

1. Prehistoric Figurative Sculpture in China 85
2. Artistic Development of Prehistoric Sculpture 87
3. Cultural Significance of Prehistoric Sculpture 88

Chapter V

Prehistoric Pottery Making and Unpainted Potteries

Section 1

Prehistoric Potteries	89
1. Characteristics of Prehistoric Pottery Making in China	91
2. The Distribution and Development of Prehistoric Pottery Cultures in China	95

Section 2

Forms and Motifs of Unpainted Potteries	99
1. The Distribution of the Development of Unpainted Potteries	99
2. Typical Objects and Their Cultural Connotations	101
3. Diverse Varieties of Pottery Forms	105
4. Major Factors Leading to the Transformation of Pottery Forms	107
5. Decorated Parts of Pottery and Major Decorative Techniques	109

Chapter VI

Prehistoric Painted Potteries

Section 1

The Distribution and Development of Painted Potteries	111
1. Cultures of Painted Potteries	111
2. Artistic Characteristics and the Development of the Decorative Motifs of Painted Potteries	114

Section 2

Representational Decorations	119
1. The Creation of Representational Decorations	119
2. The Development of Decorative Motifs	121
3. The Connotations of Decorative Motifs	122

Section 3

The Implications of Rhythms and Images	124
1. From Dots and Lines to Patterns	124
2. The Rhythm of Lines	127
3. The Implications of Images	132

Chapter VII

Prehistoric Rock Art

Section 1

Rock Art in China and Its Discovery 138

Section 2

Rock Art in Northern China 138

1. Rock Art of the Yinshan Mountains 138
2. Qinghai Rock Art 140
3. Gansu Rock Art 141
4. Xinjiang Rock Art 142

Section 3

Rock Art in Southern China 143

1. Rock Art of Jiangjunya Cliff, Lianyungang 143
2. Cangyuan Rock Art 144
3. Zuojiang Rock Art 145

Section 4

The Subject Matter of Rock Art 147

1. Animals and Hunting 147
2. Prayers and Sacrifices 148
3. Regarding Sex 148
4. Footprints 149
5. Human Faces 149

Section 5

Artistic Characteristics of Rock Art 150

1. A Strong Sense of Realism 150
2. Mysterious Symbolic Images 150
3. Flexible Compositions 151

Chapter VIII

Conclusion: The Influence of Prehistoric Art in China on the Art of Later Periods

Section 1

Prehistoric Arts Set the Foundation for the Concept of
»Harmony Between Nature and Human« 152

Section 2	
Freehand Depictions that Capture the Spirit of Prehistoric Art	153

Section 3	
Symbolism in Prehistoric Art	155

Part Two

Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties

Chapter I

Overview of the Arts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1	
Social and Cultural Backgrounds of the Arts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	159

1. The Bronze Age in Chinese History	160
2. The Formation, Development, and Disintegration of Slave Society, and the Transition to Feudal Society	161
3. The Formation and Transformation of Ritual and Music Culture	161

Section 2	
Basic Characteristics and Transformations of the Arts of Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	164

1. The Establishment of New Types of Arts	164
2. The General Characteristics of the Arts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties, and Their Transformations over Time	166
3. The Development of Art Forms from Mixed to Differentiated During the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	171

Section 3	
The Achievements and Historical Significance of the Arts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	173

1. The Brilliant Accomplishments of the Arts of Music and Dance, and Bronze Art	173
2. The Enduring Values of the <i>Classic of Poetry</i> and <i>Verses of Chu</i>	174
3. Achievements in Various Other Categories	177
4. The Formation of the Fundamental Traditions of Ideas about Art in China	178

Chapter II

Overview of the Arts of Music and Dance in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1

Music and Dance of the Xia Dynasty 180

1. Music and Dance in Honor of Yu the Great 180
2. Legends of Heavenly Music and Dance 181
3. The Indulgences of King Qi and King Jie 182
4. Exchanges in Music and Dance Among Central Plains States and Surrounding Tribes 183

Section 2

Music and Dance of the Shang Dynasty 183

1. Sacrificial Music and Dance of the Shang Dynasty 183
2. The Luxurious Music and Dance of the Shang Rulers 186

Section 3

Music and Dance of the Western Zhou 187

1. The Establishment of the Ritual and Music System of the Zhou Dynasty 187
2. Institutions and the Hierarchical System of Music and Dance 191

Section 4

Music and Dance in the Spring and Autumn Period 194

1. The Destruction of the Hierarchical System of Music and Dance 194
2. Cultural Decentralization 195
3. The Preservation and Development of Folk Music and Dance 196
4. The »New Music« That Became Popular Across States 197

Section 5

Music and Dance of the Warring States Period 199

1. Further Deterioration of Classical Music and the Full Prosperity of Secular Music 199
2. The Burgeoning Scene of Folk Music and Dance 202
3. New Achievements in the Art of Dance 205

Chapter III

Song and the Art of Singing in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1

Song of the Xia and Shang Dynasties 210

1. Song Before Xia 210
2. Legendary Songs of the Xia Dynasty 211
3. Songs of the Shang Dynasty 212

Section 2

The Art of Song in the Western Zhou and the Spring and Autumn Period 213

1. The *Classic of Poetry*, a Collection of Lyrics from the Western Zhou to the Spring and Autumn Period 213
2. Main Types of Song in the *Classic of Poetry* 214
3. Some Speculations about Song Style in the *Classic of Poetry* 215
4. The Use of the Songs of the *Classic of Poetry* in Social Life 216
5. The Many Styles and Forms of Singing the *Classic of Poetry* 218
6. Other Folk Songs of the Spring and Autumn Period 219

Section 3

Vocal Arts of the Warring States Period 220

1. The Flourishing of Folk Singing 220
2. The Emergence of Famous Folk Singers during the Warring States Period 223
3. The *Songs of Chu* 224

Chapter IV

The Art of Instrumental Music in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1

Instrumental Music and Musical Instruments in the Xia and Shang Dynasties 227

1. Instrumental Music and Musical Instruments of the Xia Dynasty 227
2. Instrumental Music and Musical Instruments of the Shang Dynasty 227

Section 2

The Development of Instrumental Music and Musical Instruments during the Western Zhou 230

1. The Numerous Zhou-dynasty Musical Instruments in Historical Records and the Classification System of the »Eight Sounds« 230
2. Western Zhou Musical Instruments Through Archaeological Findings 233
3. Representative Achievements in the Musical Acoustics of Western-Zhou Instruments 235

Section 3

The Development of the Art of Instrumental Music during the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period 237

1. The Collapse of the Ritual and Music System and the Development of the Music of Metals and Stones 237
2. A Thriving Folk Instrumental Music Scene 238
3. The Unique Music of the *Qin*-Zither 239
4. Various Developments of Instrumental Music and Musical Instruments 245
5. Representing the Glory of Pre-Qin Musical Culture: Instruments from the Tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng 247

Chapter V

Overview of Bronze Art in China

Section 1

The Origin of Bronze Art in China and the Formation of the Traditional Characteristics 253

1. The Emergence of Bronze Art 253
2. The Formation of Bronze Art Traditions in China 255

Section 2

The Historical Development of Bronze Art in China 257

1. Periodization of Bronze Art in China 258
2. Characteristics and Causes for the Transformation of Bronze Art in China 267

Section 3

Regional Differences of Bronze Art in China	273
1. Rooted on the Loess Ground: Bronze Art of the Central Plains	274
2. Redolent of the Steppe: Bronze Arts of the North	275
3. Born Amidst the Waters and Mountains: Bronze Arts of the South	277

Chapter VI

Categorized Discussions of Bronze Art in China

Section 1

Majestic Bronze Ritual Objects	279
1. <i>Ding</i> and Other Objects with Supporting Feet	282
2. Solemn and Centrosymmetric Objects with Ring Feet	284
3. Non-Centrosymmetric Forms with Profound Meanings	290
4. Vivid Animal Forms	292

Section 2

Mysterious Bronze Statues	300
1. Frightening Bronze Statues of Deities	300
2. Elegant and Dignified Bronze Human Figures	304
3. Bronze Animal Figures with Double Meanings	308
4. Bronze Sacred Trees with Symbolic Significance	310

Section 3

Vivid and Flexible Bronze Ornaments	313
1. Magnificent and Exaggerated Bronze Parts in the Forms of Mythological Beasts	313
2. Realistic Animal-shaped Bronze Parts	314
3. Light and Exquisite Bronze Parts and Adornments for Belts	315

Section 4

Calculated Bronze Decorations	317
1. Major Techniques of Bronze Decoration	317
2. Basic Types of Decorative Patterns on Bronzes	320

Chapter VII

Crafts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1

Jade Work of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	333
1. The Peak Development of Jade Carving	334
2. Types of Jade Objects of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	339
3. Artistic Achievements of Jade Carving of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	347

Section 2

Lacquer Work of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	351
1. Innovation and Development of Lacquer Work during Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	352
2. Solemn and Dignified Classical Lacquer Art	352
3. The Splendid Lacquer Art of the Eastern Zhou	354

Chapter VIII

Calligraphy, Painting, and Architecture of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties

Section 1

The Rich and Varied Arts of Writing	361
1. From the Invention of the Writing System to the Emergence of Calligraphy	362
2. The Three Forms of the Calligraphic Arts of Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	364
3. General Characteristics of the Calligraphic Arts of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	369

Section 2

The Quaint and Unadorned Art of Painting	371
1. The Genres and Forms of Paintings in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	371
2. The Achievements and Features of Paintings in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties	376

Section 3

The Art of Architecture That Sets the Foundation 377

1. The Formation of the Basic Characteristics of Chinese Architecture 377
2. The Diverse Architecture of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties 381
3. Artistic Styles of Architecture in the Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties 387

Chapter IX

The Theories of the Philosophers and Schools of Thought on the Arts

Section 1

Confucian Theories of Art 388

1. Confucius' Summary and Adaptation of Theories on Art After the Western Zhou 388
2. Main Elements of Confucius' Theory of Art 389
3. Status and Influence of Confucian Theories of Art 390

Section 2

Laozi and Mozi on the Arts 390

1. Laozi on Art 391
2. Mozi's »Condemnation of Music« 393

Section 3

Zhuangzi and Daoist Theories of Art 395

1. Zhuangzi's Disapproval and Criticism of Ritual Music and Secular Art 395
2. On Dao and Beauty 395
3. On the Highest Level of Art: The »Heavenly Music« 396
4. Valuing Truth and Returning to Human Nature 397
5. The Place of Daoist Theories of Art in Chinese Intellectual History 399

Section 4

Further Development of Confucian Ideas by Mencius and Xunzi 400

1. Mencius's Theory on Art 400
2. Xunzi and the Systematic Theory of the »Discourse on Music« 402