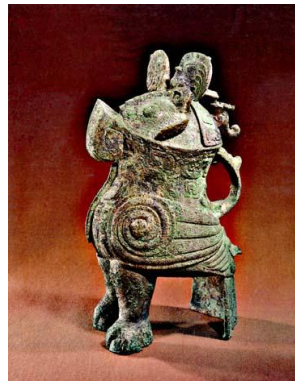


Bard Graduate Center Research Guide:  
Ancient and Medieval China (to c. 1000 C.E.)



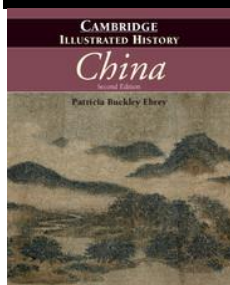
This guide lists resources for researching the arts and material culture of ancient and medieval imperial China, to c. 1000 C.E. This time period begins with the neolithic and bronze ages (c. 4000 - 200 B.C.E.) and continues through the end of the Five Dynasties period (960 C.E.), including the Xia, Shang, Zhou, Han, and T'ang dynasties.

Although art history and material archaeology resources are emphasized, research on this topic is very interdisciplinary, and some resources for history, philosophy, religion, and literature are also included in the guide.

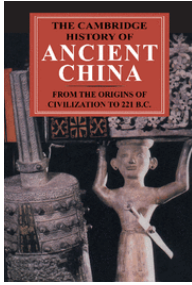
This guide was compiled by Karyn Hinkle at the Bard Graduate Center Library.

*Images above, left to right: a gold cup from the Warring States period, jade deer from the Zhou dynasty, a bronze wine vessel from the Shang dynasty, all described in Patricia Buckley Ebrey's [Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization](#).*

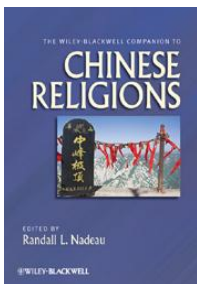
Reference sources for ancient and medieval China



Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, and Kwang-Ching Liu. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. [DS 706 .E37 1996](#)



Loewe, Michael and Edward L. Shaughnessy. *The Cambridge History of Ancient China: From the Origins of Civilization to 221 BC*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. [DS 741.5 .C35 1999](#); also available [online through Bard College](#)



Nadeau, Randall Laird, ed. *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Chinese Religions*. Wiley-Blackwell Companions to Religion. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. Available [online through Bard College](#)

## Gold Monster



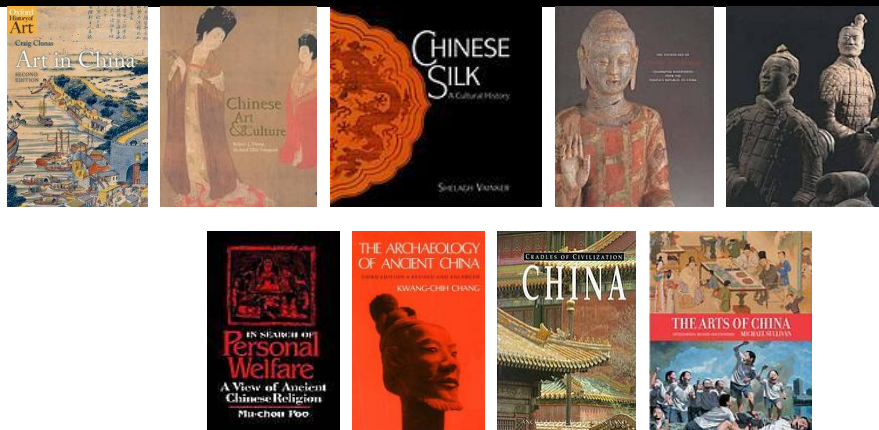
- [Shaanxi Museum](#)

The Han Dynasty

Length:11 cm Height:11.5 cm

Unearthed in 1957 from Gaotucun, Shenmu County, Shaanxi Province

Important books on ancient and medieval China, and good general introductions to Chinese history and art



Boyd, Andrew. *Chinese Architecture and Town Planning: 1500 B.C. - A.D. 1911*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962.

Chang, Kwang-chih. *The Archaeology of Ancient China*. 4th ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1986. (BGC Library: DS 715 .C38 1986)

Clunas, Craig. *Art in China*. London and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. (BGC Library: N 7340 .C59 1997)

Murowchick, Robert E. *Cradles of Civilization: China*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994.

Poo, Mu-chou. *In Search of Personal Welfare: A View of Ancient Chinese Religion*. SUNY Series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.

Schirokauer, Conrad. *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. (BGC Library: DS 721 .S3675 1991)

Shaughnessy, Edward L. *China: Empire and Civilization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. (BGC Library: DS 706 .C4945 2000)

Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. (BGC Library: N 7340 .S92 1984)

Thorp, Robert L., and Richard Ellis Vinograd. *Chinese Art & Culture*. New York: Abrams, 2000. (BGC Library: NX 583 .A1 T49 2000)

Vinkler, Shelagh. *Chinese Silk: A Cultural History*. London: British Museum, 2004. (BGC Library: TS 1655 .C6 V35 2004)

Yang, Xiaoneng, ed. *The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology: Celebrated Discoveries from the People's Republic of China*. Washington, DC: National Gallery of Art, 1999. (BGC Library: DS 715 .G65 1999)

Yang, Xiaoneng, ed. *Chinese Archaeology in the Twentieth Century: New Perspectives on China's Past*. 2 vols. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004. (BGC Library: DS 715 .N58 2004 v.1 and v.2)

Find others in the [BGC Library catalog](#) or [WorldCat](#). Good subject headings to search for Ancient and Medieval China include:

- China -- Antiquities
- China -- Civilization -- To 221 B.C
- China -- Civilization -- 221 B.C.-960 A.D
- Archaeology and history -- China

## Female Dancer



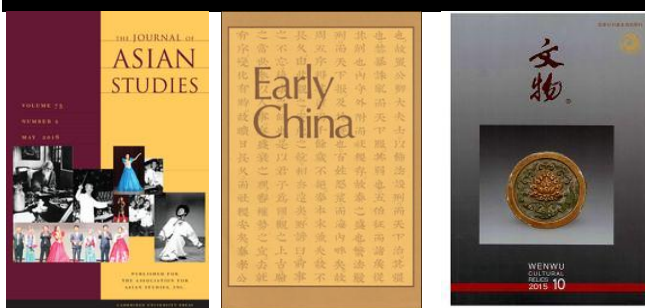
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Western Han dynasty (206 B.C.–9 A.D.), 2nd century B.C.  
Earthenware with slip and pigments (1992.165.19)

Good subject headings to search for Ancient and Medieval China include:

- [China -- Antiquities](#)
- [China -- Civilization -- To 221 B.C](#)
- [China -- Civilization -- 221 B.C.-960 A.D](#)
- [Archaeology and history -- China](#)

Important periodicals for ancient and medieval China--those with a particular focus on visual art/material culture, or on the ancient and medieval periods:



[Artibus Asiae](#)  
[Archives of Asian Art](#)  
[Ars Orientalis](#)  
[Arts Asiatiques](#)  
[Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities](#)  
[Early China](#) \*  
[Early Medieval China](#) \*  
[Journal of East Asian Archaeology](#) \*  
[Journal of Asian Studies](#)  
[Oriental Art](#)  
[Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society](#)  
[Wen Wu](#)

\* The BGC does not yet subscribe to this title or has only limited access to it, but it can be found at the library at the [Met](#).

**Other important journals for Chinese studies:**

(compiled by [Paul Goldin](#), professor of Chinese Thought at Penn--his list also includes most of those in the shorter list above)

AcA	Acta Asiatica
ACQ	Asian Culture Quarterly
AF	Altorientalische Forschungen
AFS	Asian Folklore Studies
AHR	American Historical Review
AM	Asia Major
AcO(B)	Acta Orientalia (Budapest)
AcO(C)	Acta Orientalia (Copenhagen)
AP	Asian Philosophy
ArOr	Archiv Orientální
AS	Asiatische Studien/Études asiatiques
AsM	Asian Medicine
AsP	Asian Perspectives
ATS	Asian Thought and Society
BCAR	B.C. Asian Review
BEFEO	Bulletin de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient
BIHP	Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology
BJOAF	Bochumer Jahrbuch zur Ostasienforschung
BSOAS	Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
CAAAL	Computational Analyses of Asian and African Languages
CAJ	Central Asiatic Journal
CC	Chinese Culture
CCEMG	Cahiers du Centre Marcel-Granet
CCT	Contemporary Chinese Thought
CEA	Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie
CHHP	Tsing Hua Journal of Chinese Studies
CL	Comparative Literature
CLAO	Cahiers de linguistique: Asie orientale
CLEAR	Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews
CP	Comparative Philosophy
CRI	China Review International
CS	Chinese Science
CSH	Chinese Studies in History
CSP	Chinese Studies in Philosophy
DRHS	Daoism: Religion, History and Society
EAA	Estudios de Asia y África
EAF	East Asia Forum
EAH	East Asian History
EASCMN	European Association for the Study of Chinese Manuscripts N
EASTM	East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine
EOEO	Extrême-Orient, Extrême-Occident
EtC	Études chinoises
FEQ	Far Eastern Quarterly
FHC	Frontiers of History in China
FPC	Frontiers of Philosophy in China
GBA	Göttinger Beiträge zur Asienforschung
HJAS	Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies
HR	History of Religions
IPQ	International Philosophical Quarterly
IRCL	International Review of Chinese Linguistics
JA	Journal Asiatique
JAA	Journal of Anthropological Archaeology
JAAR	Journal of the American Academy of Religion
JAH	Journal of Asian History
JALH	Journal of Asian Legal History

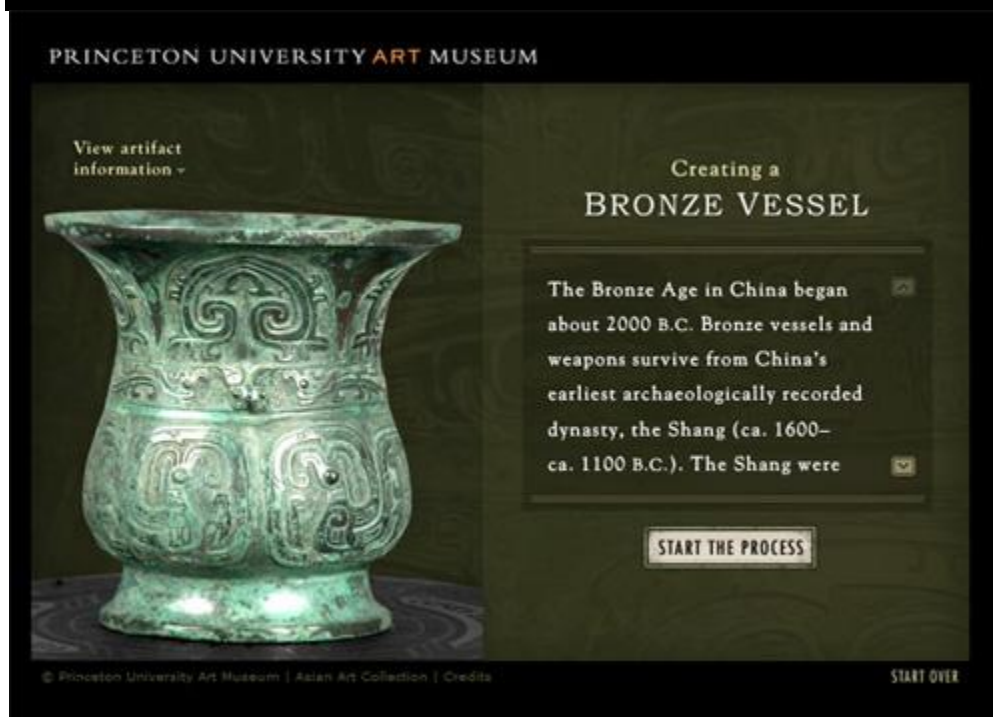
JAOS	Journal of the American Oriental Society
JCL	Journal of Chinese Linguistics
JCLTA	Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association
JCP	Journal of Chinese Philosophy
JCPC	Journal of Chinese Philosophy and Culture
JCR	Journal of Chinese Religions
JCS	Journal of Chinese Studies
JDS	Journal of Daoist Studies
JES	Journal of Ecumenical Studies
JESHO	Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient
JET	Journal of East-West Thought
JICS	Journal of the Institute of Chinese Studies
JNCBRAS	Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society
JOS	Journal of Oriental Studies
JOSA	Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia
JRAS	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
JRE	Journal of Religious Ethics
MCB	Mélanges chinois et bouddhiques
mis	minima sinica: Zeitschrift zum chinesischen Geist
MRDTB	Memoirs of the Research Department of the Tōyō Bunko
MS	Monumenta Serica
MSOS	Mitteilungen des Seminars für Orientalische Sprachen
NN	Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in Early and Imperial China
NZJAS	New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies
OE	Oriens Extremus
OL	Orientalistische Literaturzeitung
PEW	Philosophy East and West
PFEH	Papers on Far Eastern History
RBS	Revue bibliographique de sinologie
RO	Rocznik Orientalistyczny
SPP	Sino-Platonic Papers
SR	The Silk Road
TP	T'oung Pao
TkR	Tamkang Review
TR	Taoist Resources
WSP	Warring States Papers
ZAS	Zentralasiatische Studien
ZDMG	Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft

### Cocoon-shaped Hu



[National Palace Museum](#)

Warring States (475-221 BC) to Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220) period



- [Princeton University Art Museum: Bronze Casting](#)

The Princeton University Art Museum has developed a great animated website that illustrates how ancient Chinese cast bronze objects were made:

- [Asian Historical Architecture](#)

A photographic survey of Asia's architectural heritage with over 17,500 photos and virtual tours of 848 sites in twenty-one countries, including China. The website is a non-profit collection of photos from many different contributors.

- [The Yale Silk Road Database](#)

The Yale Silk Road Database presents over 11,000 images of major sites in the Silk Road region taken during faculty site seminars led by Mimi Hall Yienpruksawan (Professor, History of Art) under the auspices of the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University in the summers of 2006-2010.

- [Patricia Buckley Ebrey's Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization](#)

This teaching resource for teachers of Chinese history, compiled by an eminent scholar of the field, includes a database of images of Chinese material culture, categorized by chronological period and topic. The section for the ancient world concentrates on tomb objects.

- [Image collections at the Bard Graduate Center](#)

The BGC's own Shared Shelf image management system holds thousands of images of ancient and medieval Chinese material culture (available onsite at the BGC, or offsite with a BGC ID).

- [Museum collections](#)

Many museums have digitized images of their collections of ancient and medieval Chinese art -- see the Institutions page of this guide for places to begin.

#### Important research databases for ancient and medieval China

- [Bibliography of Asian Studies](#)

BAS is the most widely-used database for all topics of Asian studies, including ancient and medieval China. It contains more than 800,000 records on all subjects (especially humanities and social sciences) pertaining to East, Southeast, and South Asia published worldwide from 1971 to the present, referencing principally western-language articles and book chapters. Of note for material culture and ancient China, the indexing of *Artibus Asiae*, *Archives of Asian Art*, *Early China*, and *Journal of Asian Studies* are "fast-tracked" in this database, and most of the other journals listed in this LibGuide as most important for the field are also at least partially indexed here.

#### Six graduated bells (yong zhong)



- [Freer/Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution](#)

ca. 6th century B.C.E.  
Eastern Zhou dynasty Bronze  
Gift of Arthur M. Sackler S1987.4-9

#### Important Institutions and Repositories for the Art of Ancient and Medieval China

- [Society for the Study of Early China \(SSEC\)](#)

The Society for the Study of Early China (SSEC), established in 1975, is a scholarly, non-political, and non-profit professional association open to all persons interested in the culture and civilization of China from earliest times down to and including the period of the Han dynasty [AD 220 (CE)]. The Society publishes the annual journal *Early China* as well as the *Early China Special Monograph Series* and maintains the *Early China* website.

- [The Freer/Sackler Gallery \(Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC\)](#)
- [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Institute of Archaeology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences \(IA CASS\)](#)



Established on 1st August in 1950, the Institute of Archaeology was one of the earliest research institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. During its more than fifty-years-long history, the institute has conducted fieldwork in most of the provinces in China and has published more than 100 important monographs and reports.

- [The National Museum of China \(Beijing\)](#)
- [Shanghai Museum](#)
- [The National Palace Museum \(Taiwan\)](#)
- [Hubei Provincial Museum](#)
- [Sanxingdui Museum](#)
- [Shaanxi History Museum](#)
- [Famen Temple / Famensi Museum \(Fufeng / Shaanxi Province\) - wikipedia link](#)
- [The Terracotta Army Museum \(Xi'an / Shaanxi Province\) - wikipedia link](#)

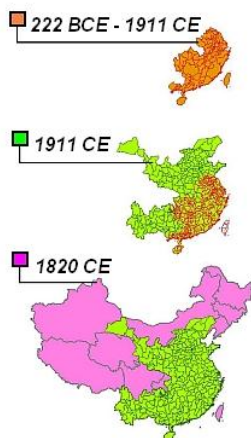
### Jade Ornament in the Shape of Dragon and Phoenix



- [National Museum of China](#)

Shang Dynasty (c. 16th–11th centuries BC), King Wu Ding's reign  
Unearthed from tomb of Fu Hao at Yinxu, Anyang, Henan Province, 1976

### Other Online Resources for the material culture of ancient and medieval China



- [China Historical GIS](#)

The China Historical Geographic Information System, CHGIS, project was launched in January 2001 to establish a database of populated places and historical administrative units for the period of Chinese history

between 221 BCE and 1911 CE. CHGIS provides a base GIS platform for researchers to use in spatial analysis, temporal statistical modeling, and representation of selected historical units as digital maps. Having downloaded the CHGIS datasets, the user can search the database for administrative units and capitals for any given time in Chinese history, can create customized digital maps for particular times and places, or can join their own datasets for spatial analysis, thematic mapping, or other specialized statistical modeling according to their own interests. The CHGIS project has received major funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and additional assistance from Harvard Yenching Institute and Harvard Asia Center.

- [IDP, The International Dunhuang Project: The Silk Road Online](#)

IDP is an international collaboration to make information and images of all manuscripts, paintings, textiles and artefacts from Dunhuang and archaeological sites of the Eastern Silk Road freely available on the Internet and to encourage their use through educational and research programmes.

IDP partner institutions which both provide data for and act as hosts to the multilingual website and database are: The British Library, London; The National Library of China, Beijing; The Institute for Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg; Ryukoku University, Kyoto; The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities; The Dunhuang Academy, Dunhuang; Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris; and the Research Institute of Korean Studies, Seoul. Major IDP partners providing data include: The Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest; The British Museum, London; The Victoria & Albert Museum, London; The Museum for Asian Art, Berlin; and Guimet Museum, Paris.

- [The Internet Guide for Chinese Studies \(IGCS\)](#)

Maintained at the Sinological Institute, Leiden University, Netherlands, with support from the Institute of Chinese Studies (Heidelberg University), the Berlin State Library, and the German Research Foundation.

- [China's Terracotta Warriors on the PBS series "Secrets of the Dead"](#)

From PBS: "An amazing archaeological find, the terracotta warriors date back more than two thousand years ... Secrets of the Dead investigates the story behind China's Terracotta Warriors and documents their return to former glory." Originally screened May, 2011. Behind-the-scenes photos, a transcript, and the full episode can be viewed on the website.

#### Terracotta Warriors



- [PBS, "Secrets of the Dead"](#)

Restored figures on display in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province.  
Photo by Felix Feng