

中國文化博大精深，在世界各大文明中享有悠久的歷史。自新石器時代迄今，發展未嘗間斷。學者普遍認為，雖然古代中國在不同時期皆受到外來文化的影響，但中國文明的發展卻主要來自其獨特的根源。大量的考古發現證實，中國在距今至少八千年前已有陶器的製作。

本展覽所展示的文物上起公元前四千年的新石器時代，下至清代（1644—1911），其間縱橫六千年。此外，在同一時代的不同地區又出現相異的風格，如唐代由黃河以北至長江以南，即已產生多種風格的陶瓷器。還有一部分展品來自一些較為時人所忽略的朝代，如遼（907—1125）、金（1115—1234）及歷史上動盪紛亂的時期，如南北朝（317—589）。為了讓大家了解中國與世界不同文明的互動關係，部分外國文物——如古羅馬玻璃器皿、波斯三彩碗、江戶時代（1603—1867）的日本瓷器——亦一同展出，以供比較參考。

China is a nation of rich cultural tradition, having enjoyed the longest continuous development, extending from the Neolithic period up to the present day. It is prudent to conclude that even though outside influences entered China at various stages in ancient times, Chinese civilization developed mainly from its distinctive roots. Vast archaeological discoveries have proved that the great ceramic sunrise occurred at least 8,000 years ago.

The time span of this exhibition runs from the Neolithic period in the fourth millennium B.C. to Qing dynasty (1644-1911). In many periods, varying types of ceramics were made simultaneously in different areas; for example, in the Tang dynasty kilns stretching from Hebei in the north to Zhejiang in the south produced wares of great importance. This exhibition

is remarkable in exploring the fascinating lesser known periods of Liao (907-1125) and Jin (1115-1234), and the complexities of the Northern and Southern dynasties (317-589). Some other objects such as ancient Roman glass, Persian tri-colored pottery, and Japanese ceramics from the Edo period (1603-1867) are offered as comparative examples in this exhibition.

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