

<<中国印章>>

图书基本信息

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## 前言

People usually regard Chinese seals as an artistic phenomenon, but they are primarily, in my opinion, an institutional device deeply involved in the political and economic activities of Chinese society. This dual identity entails a very different research and analytical approach from that used in the study of other art forms such as calligraphy and painting. Compared with the development of seals in other parts of the world, the particularity of Chinese seals is that they gave birth to the art of seal engraving, a form created by men of literature and art that could work in association with calligraphy and painting. Therefore, for a fuller exposition of the development of Chinese seals and interpretation of seal works, we must not only pay attention to the external elements, but also go deep into political, economic and cultural elements as well as provenance. Direct elements include the evolution of characters and changes to seal systems, whilst indirect elements have to do with social stability or disorder, political reforms, economic prosperity or decline, ethnic conflict or integration, and changes in cultural fashion over the course of some 3,000 years. Only by understanding all this information in depth can we touch the special character and soul of Chinese seals, find the internal agent causing artistic styles to change, and illustrate why Chinese seals have continued being used and developed right to the present day, whilst early seal systems in other regions stopped or disappeared.

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### 内容概要

从印鉴的起源开始,《中国印章:历史与艺术(英文)》将系统梳理中国印鉴自商周以来的发展历程,展现各种印鉴的形态,并从中国传统文化的角度去观照印鉴背后的内涵和文化,如印鉴与书法、绘画的关系,与中国古代职官制度甚至与历史考古的关系等。

《中国印章:历史与艺术(英文)》将以活泼生动、富有趣味的语言和故事来贯穿对印鉴历史和知识的叙述,以1000幅左右的精美的印鉴实物图片展示给读者,达到图文互释的作用。

《中国印章:历史与艺术(英文)》在资料的丰富、论述的详细、制作的精美等方面,将是对现有关于印鉴方面图书的一个突破。

## 作者简介

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插图：The textual content of seals comprises two elements, namely: character form ( 字体 ) and script style ( 书体 ) . Over the pre-Qin and Han dynasty period, the characters on seals gradually evolved into a special stylistic form, becoming a script subject to the provisions of governmental systems. For instance, in the early Han Dynasty, in the examination used by the Office of the Grand Historian to test students among the "six scripts" ( 六体书 ) was one known as mo seal script ( 摹印章 ) . Government regulations resulted in a long-lasting historical custom, so that zhuan seal script ( 篆体 ) remained the basic script for Chinese seal characters for over two millennia. During this period, the Chinese characters also saw the evolution of different calligraphic styles.

## 媒体关注与评论

The art of seal design and carving is the last major Chinese art form that has not received much attention in the West. At last, there is now an authoritative exposition on the history and aesthetics of the art of the Chinese seal. It should be required reading by all students of Chinese art as another path to reach an understanding of an underlying principle of all Chinese art and the knowledge gained will be of immeasurable help in connoisseurship of Chinese paintings and calligraphy. For people who are interested in graphic design, and who possess an elementary knowledge of the structure of Chinese characters, the book will be a great source of inspiration. —James C. Y. Watt, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

From ancient times to the present day, the countries of East Asia, led by China, have produced great quantities of seals. China has been regarded as the world's seal producer par excellence. Since the Ming Dynasty, the practical application of the seal has been in decline, but its aesthetic qualities have dramatically improved. Over time this has led to the development of a new category of Chinese art - seal engraving. Scholars thus address the seal from two different standpoints: historians, paleographers and archaeologists are more concerned with the practical use of ancient seals, while art historians and lovers of arts are more interested in the art of seal engraving. All will welcome the completion of this first comprehensive work written independently by an individual on the 2,500-year history of Chinese seals. It addresses such topics as historiography, epigraphy and artistic history. An additional contribution of what is by any standards an outstanding book is the collection of hundreds of invaluable, clear, and detailed pictures depicting genuine items. This is a monumental work on the significance and distinctiveness of Chinese seals in the field of world seal history. I sincerely hope it will enjoy wide-spread popularity among the readers. —Michio Matsumaru, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo

The striking feature of the book lies in its interpretation of the special character of Chinese seals with the combination of such information as the evolution of script in Chinese seals and the seal system through 3,000 years of social order and disorder, political reforms, economic prosperity and decline, ethnic conflicts and integration, and changes in cultural fashion. Many original academic conclusions are drawn and the latest thinking in modern seal theory is incorporated in the book. The book includes more than 1,400 pictures, and all the seal samples selected come from precious collections of museums at home and abroad, invaluable as seals marking events of the past dynasties and representative works of various artistic styles. It represents the richest compendium of seal history that has so far been made available to the public. —Hart Tianheng, Vice-president of Xiling Seal Society and Dean of the A~t institute of Chinese Seal Carving

## 编辑推荐

《中国印章:历史与艺术(英文)》 : Major Works of Sun Weizu: On Official Seals of the Western and Eastern Han Dynasties ( Hong Kong Daye Publishing Company, 1993 ) Compilation of Ancient Sealing Clays ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 1994 ) Seals ( Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House, 1998 ) Essays on Seals by Sun Weizu ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 1999 ) The Complete Works of Chinese Seal Engraving. Volume on the Han Dynasty ( Heilongjiang Fine Arts Publishing House, 2000 ) Seals by Deng Shiru ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2000 ) Collection of Private Seals of Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2001 ) Sealing Clay: Discovery and Research ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2002 ) China's Ancient Sealing-clay Pieces, Studies of Shanghai Museum Collection ( Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2002 ) New Essays on Seals ( Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2003 ) A Third Collection of Essays on Seals ( Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2007 ) Seals by Chen Hongshou ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2007 ) Illustrated Handbook of Seals of Past Dynasties ( Jilin Fine Arts Press, 2010 ) An Overview of Seal Engraving Art ( co-author. China Higher Education Press, 1988 ) Extracts of Ancient Jade Seals ( co-author. Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 1989 ) Collection of Bronze Script of Qin and Han Dynasties ( co-author. Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 1997 ) Inside and Outside Seals ( co-author. Taiwan Wencai Co. Ltd., 2000 ) The Complete Works of Chinese Seal Engraving ( member of the editorial board. Shanghai Fine Arts Publishers, 1999 ) Seal Engraving by Modern Famous Artists ( chief editor. Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2004 ) Selected Papers on Contemporary Chinese Calligraphy-Sigillography ( 1949-2009 ) ( chief editor. Rongbaozhai Publishing House, 2010 ) Seals by Sun Weizu ( Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House, 2000 ) Selected Seals by Sun Weizu ( Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House, 2006 ) Collection of Seals by Sun Weizu ( Xiling Seal Society Press, 2008 ) Years in Seals—Imprints for Renewing Old Memories ( Jilin Fine Arts Press, 2008 )



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