



THE LIPPENS' COLLECTION  
OF  
ANCIENT CHINESE BRONZES

CHRISTIAN DEYDIER

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Our first memory of antique Chinese bronzes was a visit, in the mid-1980's to the old Shanghai Art Museum. We arrived shortly before closing time and after some persuasion, were given access to the Shang and Zhou Dynasties rooms. As we entered the dark rooms, we were fascinated by the very mysterious and powerful bronze vessels we discovered that afternoon and were determined to know more about their purpose and meaning.

We visited more museums and art galleries and gradually became acquainted with a group of antique dealers and collectors who specialized in that field. It was the beginning of a most enjoyable relationship with these experts and fellow collectors. Christian Deydier certainly played a central role in our search for Chinese bronzes and we are very thankful we benefited from his very wide knowledge.

The pursuit of each object brought us a lot of joy. Visiting exhibitions, reading catalogues, researching in books, discussing the merits of each object, then touching and examining them before making choices and finally installing "our latest acquisition" at home were always very rewarding.

With this catalogue, we are very happy to share our discoveries and hope every reader will find some interest in these incredible objects produced four thousand years ago in China by extraordinary craftsmen.

Yolanda and Paul Lippens

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01 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JUE**

XIA DYNASTY, ERLITOU CULTURE  
CIRCA 19<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 9.5 CM L.: 14.2 CM

Ritual bronze wine vessel *jue* supported on three short legs. The vessel's oval-shaped, constricted at the waist, has a flat base and ends at its top in a curved, folded lip. A long narrow pouring spout extends from one side of its top rim while the other side ends in a horn-of like point. A semi-circular loop handle is attached to one of the *jue*'s sides above one of its three legs. It is important to note that this primitive *jue* has no decoration and no upright knobs as are usually found on later bronze *jue*. The vessel has a patina composed of a heavy encrustation of reddish cuprite on top of green malachite.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK.
- Meiyintang Collection, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2006.

#### PUBLISHED

- Wang Tao, *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection*, London 2009, cat. no. 3.
- Deydier Ch., *China's Earliest's Bronze Vessels, The Erlitou Culture of the Xia Dynasty*, Paris 2018, p. 37 and 41.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *jue*, is illustrated in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 13, p. 14.
- Another *jue* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 3, no. 3.
- Similar examples found in tombs dating to the third phase at the Erlitou site, are illustrated in *Yinxu de faxian yu yanjiu* 1999, p. 251-2.

- A quite similar *jue* but with small legs, now in the Shanghai Museum, is illustrated by Chen Peifen: *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 6-7.
- Others *jue* are published by Deydier Ch., *China's Earliest's Bronze Vessels, The Erlitou Culture of the Xia Dynasty*, Paris 2018, p. 23, 24, 38, 44.

#### NOTE

- The *jue* is commonly described as a “wine-drinking vessel”, but in reality, it was used specifically for heating wine.
- The origin of the *jue* is still enigmatic. Pottery *jue* have been found in the second phase of the Erlitou culture and in the Lower Xiajadian Culture (circa 2300 – 1600 B. C.) in Inner Mongolia.



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## 02 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JIA

XIA DYNASTY, ERLITOU CULTURE  
CIRCA 19<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 24 CM D.: 15.5 CM

Ritual bronze tripod vessel *jia* used for warming fermented beverages. The vessel's flat-bottomed body is composed of two parts: an upper part with a tall recessed neck that gradually opens outwards, and a lower part cast as a slightly bulging belly. Two small upright knobs emerge from the rim. A semi-circular loop handle embellishes one side of the vessel. The darkly patinated vessel is supported by three hollow triangular cone-shaped legs that gradually extend outwards and become thinner as they descend to end in points at their lower extremities.

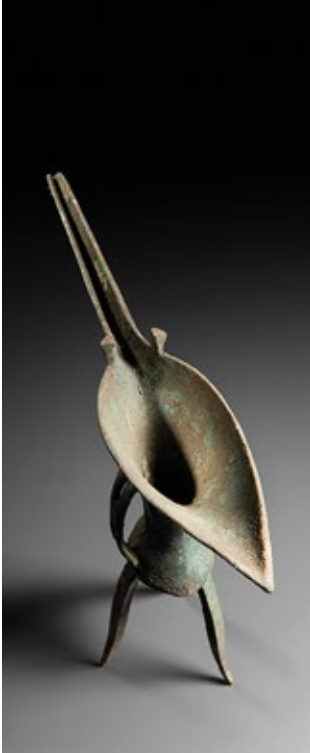
### PROVENANCE

– Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2017.

### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– Some bronze vessels *jia*, but with round bottoms, now in the Shanghai Museum, are illustrated by Chen Peifen: *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 10 to 14.  
– A similar *jia*, is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 3 no. 3.





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### 03 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JUE

XIA DYNASTY, ERLITOU CULTURE  
CIRCA 19<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 30.5 CM L.: 22.5 CM

Large-sized ritual bronze wine vessel *jue*, supported by three long, thin triangular legs that gradually become thinner and extend outwards as they descend to end in points at their lower extremities. Its oval-shaped body, constricted at the waist, has a flat base and ends at its top in a folded lip-shaped rim. Its very long narrower pouring spout extends from one side of its upper rim, while the opposite side narrows into a rising pointed bird-tail-like protrusion. A semi-circular loop handle is attached to one of its sides, a short distance above one of its legs. The vessel has a grey-green patina.







#### PROVENANCE

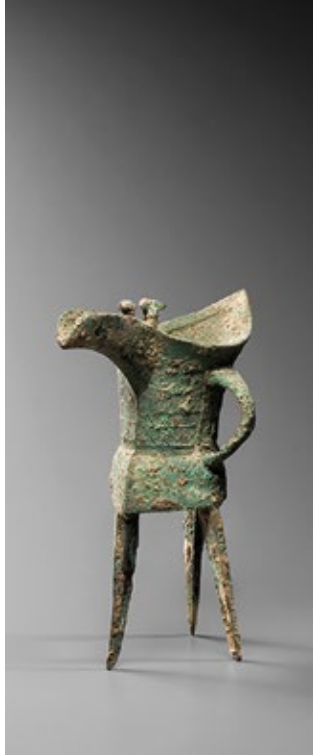
- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2018.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *jue* is illustrated in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 14, p. 68.
- Another *jue* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 5 to 7, nos. 5, 6 and 7.
- Another one from the Meiyintang Collection is published by Wang Tao, *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection*, London 2009, no. 2 p. 18-19, and Deydier Ch., *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection, vol. 1 – annex*, Hong Kong 2013, p. 10-11, no. 2.

#### NOTE

- This type of very large-sized *jue* appeared during period IV of the Erlitou Culture.



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### 04 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JUE

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 17 CM L.: 16.5 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel *jue* supported on three thinly cast triangular legs that gradually extend outwards and become thinner as they descend to end in pointed blade-like extremities. The vessel's flat-bottomed oval-shaped body tightens at its waist as it rises towards its top. One side of the vessel is decorated with two bands of multiple X-shaped motifs separated by horizontal lines in low relief. Similar horizontal lines in low relief and a loop handle are found on the *jue*'s opposite side.

Two knobs topped by mushroom-like whorl buttons extend from inside of the *jue*'s rim just above the area where the vessel's spout begins to extend outwards.

The vessel has a nice green patina.

#### PROVENANCE

- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France, 1997.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1997.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLE

- The same X-shaped motifs appear on an Erligang period *jue* now in the Shanghai Museum, and illustrated by Chen Peifen: *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 30-31.





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05 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL GU**

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 14.3 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel *gu* cast with a trumpet-shaped neck and a large widening foot. The central section of the vessel is decorated with a frieze of large bands in the shape of primitive *taotie* masks of a design that is sometimes called Loehr's style II. The vessel has a green patina with cuprite and sand incrustations.

PROVENANCE

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1995.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1997.

EXHIBITED

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Le Banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, London Dec. 1995 – Paris, Jan. 1996, cat. no 1.

PUBLISHED

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Le Banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, London Dec. 1995 – Paris, Jan. 1996, cat. no 1.

SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– Two very similar bronze vessels *gu* from the Shanghai Museum are illustrated by Chen Peifen: *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 39 and 41.  
– Another *gu* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 149 no. 150.



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06 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE POURING VESSEL HE**

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 22.5 CM L.: 16 CM

Ritual bronze vessel *he*. The vessel's lower section consists of three bulbous cone-shaped hollow legs that extend outwards as they descend. The *he*'s mid-section is decorated with a frieze of primitive *taotie* masks cast in Loehr's style II and is surmounted by a dome-like rounded top from which a long cylindrical spout rises. Behind the spout there is a large round opening through which the vessel could be filled with liquid.

A semi-circular handle is fixed to one side of the *he*.

The vessel has a light green-greyish patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Wui Po Kok, Hong Kong.
- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France, 2008.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2008.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- Some similar bronze vessels *he* are illustrated in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 102 and 103, nos. 103-104.

#### NOTES

- Scholars agree that the *he* was used for liquid, but there is a debate among them as to whether the *he* was used to hold fermented beverages, water or a mixture of both.
- According the *Shouwen jiezi*, (a dictionary cum encyclopaedia written by Xu Shen in the Han dynasty which features descriptions of shapes and types of ritual vessels and explanations of their uses) the *he* was used to mix sauces.
- Most modern scholars believe the *he* was used to mix water with fermented beverages.

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07 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL DING**

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 22 CM D.: 16 CM

Archaic bronze food vessel *ding* supported by three hollow cone-shaped legs that gradually extend outwards as they descend. The upper part of the vessel's bowl-shaped body is decorated with a narrow frieze of three primitive *taotie* masks cast in what is sometimes termed Loehr's style II. The rim of the vessel is set on opposite sides with two upright loop handles facing each other. The vessel has a light green patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1995.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1997.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Le Banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, London Dec. 1995 – Paris, Jan. 1996, cat. no. 3.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Le Banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, London Dec. 1995 – Paris, Jan. 1996, cat. no. 3.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *ding* is illustrated in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 40, p. 76.
- A quite similar bronze vessel *ding* from the Shanghai Museum, is illustrated by Chen Peifen: *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 54.
- Another *ding* vessel is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 2 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 1 no. 1.





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### 08 – ARCHAIC BRONZE RITUAL BASIN PAN

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 8 CM D.: 24 CM

Archaic bronze basin *pan* used for ritual ablutions during ceremonies. The well-rounded sides of the basin's body, which is topped by an everted lip, is supported on a low conical foot. The central rounded section of the vessel is cast in deep relief with a frieze of five primitive *taotie* masks, each composed of two *kui* dragons confronting each other across a vertical flange. The vessel's conical foot is decorated with a simple horizontal line in high relief. The *pan* has a greyish patina with areas of malachite and azurite encrustation.



#### INSCRIPTION

- A five-character inscription inside the vessel reads: “X Zuo Fu Yi Yi”, “X (clan name) made for Father Yi this vessel”

#### PROVENANCE

- Roger Keverne, London, UK, 2003.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2003.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2003.

#### EXHIBITED

- Roger Keverne, *Fine and rare Chinese works of art and ceramics*, Winter Exhibition, London, 6 Nov. 2003, cat. no. 2.

#### PUBLISHED

- Roger Keverne, *Fine and rare Chinese works of art and ceramics*, Winter Exhibition, London 2003, cat. no. 2.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A *pan* with similar decoration excavated in the 1950s from tomb M2 at Baijiazhuang, Zhengzhou, is illustrated in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 57.
- Another *pan*, but bearing a quite different decor, is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 1165 no. 166.

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09 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL LI

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 21 CM D.: 15 CM

Ritual tripod bronze vessel *li* used for cooking food. The bottom two-thirds of the *li*'s body is composed of three udder-shaped sections, each supported by a low, cone-shaped hollow foot. A motif resembling the top part of a triangle and formed of two separated parallel lines in low relief rises from the bottom of each pair of conjoined udder-shaped sections to join in a point near the top of the mid-section where the udder-like parts join. The upper part of the vessel's body is decorated on each side with a primitive *taotie* mask bordered above and below by a line of small circles. Two semi-circular handles are set on the vessel's flared upper rim. The vessel has a dark-green patina.

PROVENANCE

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1999.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2000.

SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– A very similar vessel *li* is illustrated in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 54, p. 81.  
– A quite similar vessel, but with a hooked spirals motif, now in the Guimet Museum, Paris, is published by Girard-Geslan M., *Bronzes Archaiques de Chine*, Trésors du Musée Guimet, Paris 1995, p. 4-5.

– Another *li* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 55, no. 56.  
– A quite similar vessel, but with a hooked spirals motif, now in the Guimet Museum, Paris, is published by Girard-Geslan M., *Bronzes Archaiques de Chine*, Trésors du Musée Guimet, Paris 1995, p. 4-5.  
– Another *li* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 55, no. 56.



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10 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE OR WATER VESSEL LEI**

SHANG DYNASTY, ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 17<sup>TH</sup> / 16<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 14.9 CM D.: 9.5 CM

Rare, small, archaic bronze vessel *lei*, used to hold either wine or water. The sides of the vessel's well-rounded body rise from a low conical foot ring to a concave neck and terminate in a flared rim. The body is cast with a frieze of three *taotie* masks in low relief with round and protruding eyes. Pairs of horizontal lines in high relief encircle the neck and foot.

The silvery-grey patina of the vessel bears some smooth malachite encrustation.





#### INSCRIPTION

– A four-character inscription inside of the rim was added later.

#### PROVENANCE

– Private American Collection, USA.  
– Roger Keverne, London, UK, 2005.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2005.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2005.

#### EXHIBITED

– Roger Keverne, *Fine and rare Chinese works of art and ceramics*, Summer Exhibition, London, 17 Jun. 2005, cat. no. 1.

#### PUBLISHED

– Roger Keverne, *Fine and rare Chinese works of art and ceramics*, Summer Exhibition, London 2005, cat. no. 1.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– For closely related examples, see The Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, *The Panlongcheng Site: Report of Archaeological Excavation from 1963-1994*, Beijing 2001, pl. 13, fig. 2 (PLZM2:75), and pl. 31, fig. 1 (PYWM4:1).  
– Another, excavated in 1960 from Baijiazhuang, Zhengzhou, Henan province, and now in the collection of the Henan Museum, is illustrated in Wu Zhenfeng, *Ancient Chinese Bronze*, Wuhan 2001, no. 69; and in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 1 – Xia Shang*, Beijing 1996, p. 121 no. 122.  
– A larger *lei*, but of slightly earlier dating is published by Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, no. 1, p. 144-6.

#### NOTES

– According to classical texts, the *lei* was used to hold either fermented beverages or water.  
– Some experts believe that the *lei* first appeared in bronze during the Erligang period (17<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries B. C.) of the Shang dynasty, but they seem to be confusing the vessel with the earliest form of the similar-looking *zun*, which is also shaped like a large vase with a ring foot and has a concave shoulder as well as a constricted, short neck.

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### 11 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL LI JIA

SHANG DYNASTY, LATE ERLIGANG PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.  
H.: 21.6 CM D.: 13.5 CM

Ritual bronze vessel *li jia* (hybrid shape), sometimes called *jia*, used to heat fermented beverages. The body is composed of three clustered bulbous udder-shaped sections, similar to a *li*, and supported by three hollow feet. Each udder-shaped section is decorated with a large *taotie* mask with round and protuberant eyes.

The vessel's high neck, decorated with a band containing a Loehr Style II primitive *taotie* mask, ends in a flared lip. Two pillars ending in conical mushroom-shaped knobs rise from the vessel's upper rim. The piece is embellished on one side with a flat semi-circular handle. The vessel is covered with a green and blue patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1998.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *L'Art et la matière*, Paris, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1998, cat. no. 3.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., *L'Art et la matière*, Paris 1998, cat. no. 3.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *jia* from the Shanghai Museum is illustrated in *Ancient Chinese Bronzes in the Collection of the Shanghai Museum Exhibited at the Hong Kong Museum*, Hong Kong 1983, cat. p. 43 no. 3, and in Chen Peifen, *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 86-87.
- A bronze vessel *li* with the same décor, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, is published by Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes in the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, fig. 64, p. 84.

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12 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JIA**

SHANG DYNASTY, EARLY ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> / 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 35.6 CM D.: 19.1 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel *jia* supported by three triangular shaped legs that gradually extend outwards and become thinner as they descend to end in points at their lower extremities.

The *jia*'s body is cast with two wide bands, each of which is decorated with three elaborate *taotie* masks on a *leiwen* background.

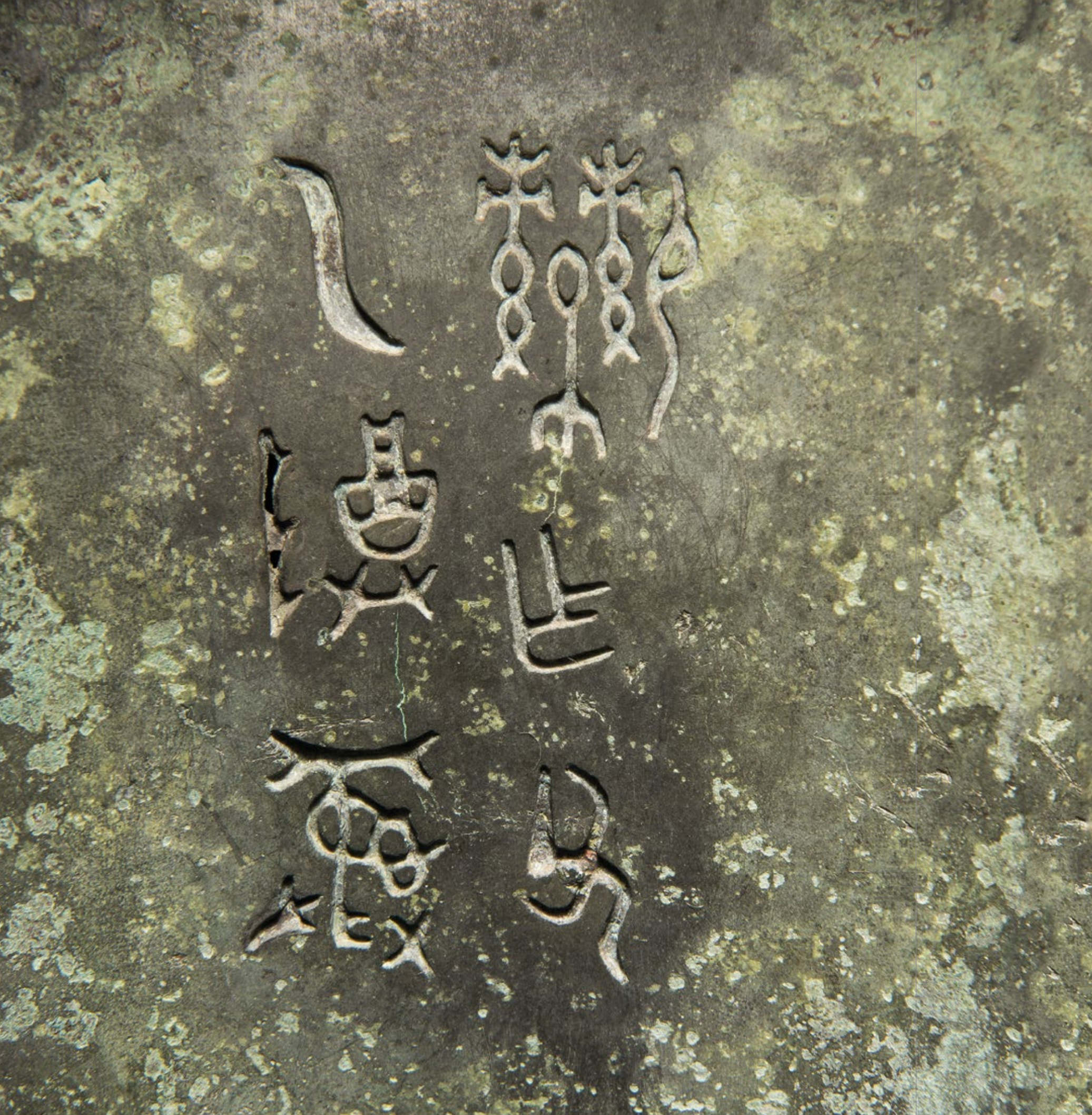
Each *taotie* is formed of two beaked *kui* dragons with sumptuously feathered raised tails, confronting each other across a shallow flange.

A simple semi-circular handle extends from one side of the vessel and two upright pillars supporting mushroom-shaped whorl caps rise from the vessel's upper lip.

The *jia* has a nice pleasant greyish-green patina.







#### INSCRIPTION

– A six-character inscription inside the vessel reads: “*X zuo Fu Yi bao yi*”, “*X made for Father Yi this precious vessel*”.

#### PROVENANCE

– The Estate of William H. Wolff, USA.  
– Eskenazi Ltd, London, UK, 1996.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1996.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– Two quite similar jia are illustrated in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 3 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 38 and 39, nos. 38 and 39.

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## 13 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JUE

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 20.5 CM L.: 18.2 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel supported on three triangular legs. The vessel's deep U-shaped body is intricately cast in high relief at the central upper section of one of its sides with a large *taotie* mask on a *leiwen* background divided into two sections by a horizontal notched flange. The top outwardly expanding part of the vessel is embellished with three triangular protrusions decorated with a stylized cicada motif. The other side of the vessel bears the same design but is embellished by a semi-circular loop handle surmounted by a bovine head in high relief. The vessel's long pouring spout and its opposite horn-like pointed side are cast on their undersides with long blade-shaped designs decorated with stylized cicada motifs. Two upright pillars supporting mushroom-shaped whorl caps rise from the rim of the vessel just above the area where the spout extends from the body. The vessel has an attractive green patina.





#### INSCRIPTION

– The inscription cast beneath the handle can be read “Fu”, probably a clan name.

#### PROVENANCE

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1995.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1995.

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## 14 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL JIAO

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 24.7 CM L.: 18.3 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel supported on three triangular legs, each decorated with a vertical band of cicadas filled with *taotie* masks on a *leiwen* background.

The vessel's deep U-shaped body is cast in high relief with two *taotie* masks formed with protuberant rectangular eyes, hooked scrolled ears, high relief horns, and an upper jaw with teeth, all on a *leiwen* background, and interspersed, on one side of the vessel with a vertical flange and on the other by the vessel's semi-circular handle. The two rising peaked points on each side of the vessel's upper rim are decorated on their undersides with stylized cicada blade motifs.

The vessel's loop handle is surmounted by a bovine head in high relief. The vessel has a green patina.





#### INSCRIPTION

– A four-character inscription under the handle reads: “Yao Fu Yi Gan”, “Father Yi Gan of Yao” (which may have been a clan name).

#### PROVENANCE

– Cunliffe Collection, UK.  
– Bluett & Sons Ltd, London, UK, 1973.  
– Private Collection, New York, USA.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, before 1996.  
– Private European Collection.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2002.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2002.

#### EXHIBITED

– Bluett & Sons Ltd, Early Chinese Art, London 1973.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, Le banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China, Paris, 11 – 19 Jan. 1996, cat. no. 6.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, Rituels pour l'éternité, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 – cat. no. 2.

#### PUBLISHED

– Bluett & Sons Ltd, *Early Chinese Art, A Catalogue of Early Bronzes, Jades and Allied Decorative Works of Art from the Cunliffe Collection*, London 1973, Catalogue, colour pl. 1.  
– Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois, Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia & Shang*, Paris 1995, p. 77, colour pl.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Le banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, Paris, 11 – 19 Jan. 1996, cat. no. 6.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Rituels pour l'éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 – cat. no. 2.  
– A photo of this *jiao* is published by Wu Zhenfeng, *Shang Zhou Qingtongqi Mingwen Ji Tuxiang Jicheng*, Shanghai 2012, vol. 7, p. 194, no. 08757, but the rubbing of the inscription and the provenances mentioned are from another bronze vessel *jiao*.



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15 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL GU**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 32 CM

Archaic bronze wine vessel *gu*, with a high trumpet-shaped neck decorated in high relief with four slender upright blade-like stylized cicada motifs decorated with *leiwen* and emerging from a horizontal band of stylized silk-worms with triangular heads and hooked tails, all on a *leiwen* background.

The vessel's central section is decorated with two *taotie* masks on a *leiwen* background, divided down their centres and on their sides by notched flanges that rise high from the vessel's body.

The vessel's sprayed foot, with similar *taotie* masks topped by a band of *kui* dragons and with outwardly curving flanges down their centres and on their sides, is supported by a plain high cylindrical foot.

The vessel has a light green patina.

PROVENANCE

– Zen Gallery, Belgium, 1995.

– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1995.



盃

16 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE / WATER VESSEL HE**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 27.5 CM L.: 23.5 CM

Archaic bronze wine / water vessel supported by three legs. The vessel's tri-sectioned bulbous body is supported by three thick rounded trunk-like flat-bottomed legs. Each of the body's lobes is decorated with a very large *taotie* mask cast with bulbous eyes, powerful horns and a lower jaw, all on a *leiwen* background. The neck of the *he* is cast with a frieze decorated with *kui* dragons, shown in profile, on a *leiwen* background. A cylindrical upwardly rising spout emerges from the side opposite the vessel's semi-circular handle decorated with its masterfully cast buffalo's head at its top. The vessel's domed cover is decorated with a band of three *taotie* masks formed of pairs of confronting *kui* dragons shown in profile on an elaborate background of *leiwen* and geometrical patterns, and is surmounted by a flat-topped circular knob. A double-link chain attaches the cover to the top of the vessel's handle. The *he* has a dark-green patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Private Collection
- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2019

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *he* now in the Avery Brundage Collection is illustrated by Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois, Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia & Shang*, Paris 1995, p. 232, pl. 1.
- Another *he*, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, is published by Hayashi M., *In Shu Jidai Seidoki no Kenkyu (In Shu Seidoki Soran Ichi), Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes*, vol. I – plates, Tokyo 1984, p. 207, no. 35.

#### NOTES

- The exact use of this ewer or kettle-like vessel in ancient times is difficult to determine. Every scholar agrees that this type of vessel was designed to hold and pour liquid but the question is which kind, water or fermented beverages, or a mixture of both? According to the *Shuowen jiezi* (the 'Analytical Dictionary of Characters', one of China's earliest dictionaries, compiled by the lexicologist Xu Shen during the Han dynasty), the *he* was used to mix sauces. However, modern scholars like Wang Guowei and Li

Xueqin class the *he* in the category of vessels used to mix water and fermented beverages during the Shang dynasty but believe its function changed during the Zhou dynasty, when it was used to hold and pour water during ritual ablutions.

- Known in pottery as early as the Dawenkou (4300 – 2500 B. C.) and Longshan (3000 – 2000 B. C.) cultural periods of the Neolithic age, the first *he* cast in bronze appears during Erlitou stage IV (circa 17<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> centuries B. C.). It strongly resembles the pottery vessels of similar shape of the same period, i.e., it has a tri-partite body in the shape of a bulbous *li*, a cylindrical spout, a semi-circular handle and a wide round opening at its top.



鼎

17 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL DING**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 24 CM D.: 18.8 CM

Archaic bronze vessel *ding* used for cooking. The round bowl-shaped body is decorated with three large *taotie* masks in high relief on a *leiwen* background. Each mask is formed of a pair of *kui* dragons, shown in profile, and confronting each other over a vertical flange and cast with large bulbous eyeballs, protruding snouts and long eyebrows or horns curled downwards at their ends. The upper part of the vessel is decorated with a band of pairs of *kui* dragons shown in profile on a *leiwen* background, confronting each other across a shorter vertical flange.

Two semi-circular handles are set on the vessel's thick upper rim. The vessel is supported by three thick, outwardly slanting cylindrical feet, each decorated with a triangular motif in the shape of a stylized cicada.

The whole vessel is covered with a light green and red patina.





#### INSCRIPTION

– A three-character inscription inside the vessel reads: “X Fu Yi”,  
“Father Yi of X (clan name)”.

#### PROVENANCE

– Private Collection, Japan.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, before 1998.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *L'Art et la matière*, Paris,  
Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1998, cat. no. 5.

#### PUBLISHED

– Deydier Ch., *L'Art et la matière*, Paris 1998, cat. no. 5.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– A similar *ding*, but without the upper frieze, is published by Soper A.,  
*Early, Middle and Late Shang: A Note*, *Artibus Asiae*, vol. 28,  
1966, fig. 11.  
– Another similar *ding* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji –*  
*2 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 37 no. 37.

## 鬲鼎

### 18 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL LIDING

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 21.2 CM D.: 17.5 CM

Archaic bronze food vessel *liding* supported by three thick, hollow legs. The body is composed of three udder-shaped sections, each decorated with a large high relief *taotie* mask, with large bulbous eyeballs, protruding nostrils and long eyebrows cast like powerful C-shaped horns curled downwards at their ends, all on a *leiwen* background. Each mask is composed of two *kui* dragons confronting each other across a vertical flange.

A narrow band of long curly-tailed dragons shown in profile on a *leiwen* background decorates the upper part of the vessel.

Two thick semi-circular handles are set on the vessel's thin-lipped rim. The whole vessel is covered with a dark green patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- C. T. Loo Collection, Paris, France.
- L. Jacob Collection, Paris, France, 1956.
- Deydier Ch., Paris, France, 1980.
- Gogfrey James B., San Antonio, USA.
- Private Collection, Midwestern, USA.
- Christie's, New York, USA, 20 Mar. 1997, lot 289.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, before 1998.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

- San Antonio Museum of Art, Feb. – Nov. 1996, loan no. L.84.5.1/132.
- Christie's, New York, 20 Mar. 1997, lot 289.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, L'Art et la matière, Paris, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1998, cat. no 4.

#### PUBLISHED

- Beurdeley M., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois*, Connaissances des Arts, Paris Aug. 1957, p. 3, 54, 59 and colour illustration on cover page.
- Christie's, New York, 20 Mar. 1997, lot 289.
- Deydier Ch., *L'Art et la matière*, Paris, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1998, cat. no 4.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A very similar *liding* but with decoration on the legs and now in the Freer Gallery, Washington D.C., is illustrated by Pope J.A. & others, *The Freer Chinese Bronzes*, vol. 1, Washington D.C. 1987, p. 176-179, pl. 31.
- According to Huang Jun, *Yezhong pianyu chu ji* (Beijing 1935), *Yezhong pianyu er ji* (Beijing 1937) and *Yezhong pianyu sanji* (Beijing 1942), several similar *liding* were found in Anyang between the 1920s and 1930s.



## 方鼎

### 19 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL FANGDING

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 21.5 CM L.: 16.9 CM W.: 13.8 CM

Rectangular ritual bronze food vessel *fangding*, supported by four cylindrical legs. Each side of the vessel's body is decorated at its centre with a large area of intricately cast geometric patterns surrounded on three sides by neat rows of sharply cast protruding bosses. This central section is topped by a rectangular frieze of design featuring a pair of frolicking *kui* dragons masterfully cast in high relief on a *leiwen* background, facing each other over an attractive vertical flange.

The vessel's thick round feet are decorated in high relief with *taotie* masks with vertical flanges down their centres.

Two loop handles are set on the rim.

The vessel has a nice green patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A two-character inscription inside the vessel reads “*Ya Niao*”, probably a name.





#### PROVENANCE

- Private European Collection.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2002.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2002.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, XXI<sup>e</sup> Biennale des Antiquaires, Paris, 20 – 29 Sep. 2002, cat. no. 36.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois, vol. I : Xia & Shang*, Paris 1995, colour plate p. 81.
- Deydier Ch., *XXI<sup>e</sup> Biennale des Antiquaires*, Paris, 20 – 29 Sep. 2002, cat. no. 36.

#### SIMILAR EXEMPLES

- Two *fangding* of similar design and in the Shanghai Museum, are published by Chen Peifen, *Xia Shang Zhou qingtongqi yanjiu*, Shanghai (no date), vol. 1, p. 134 to 137.

鬲

20 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL LI**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 23 CM D.: 14.5 CM

Ritual bronze vessel *li* used to cook food. The body is composed of three udder-shaped sections decorated with large *taotie* masks with bulbous eyes topped by large C-shaped horns on a *leiwen* background. The vessel's three small legs seem to merge from the mouth of the *taotie*.

Two semi-circular U-shaped handles are set on the vessel's upper rim. The vessel has a green patina.





#### INSCRIPTION

– A three-character inscription inside the vessel reads “*Shu Fu Ding*”, “Father Ding (of the clan of) Shu”.

#### PROVENANCE

– J. Ortet Collection, Paris, France.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd., London, UK  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2008.

#### PUBLISHED

– Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Chinois*, Fribourg 1980, p. 3, no. 15.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLE

– A similar *li* is illustrated in Wang Tao & Liu Yu, *A Selection of Early Chinese Bronzes with Inscriptions from Sotheby's and Christie's Sales*, Shanghai 2007, no. 46; and by Deydier Ch., *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection*, Hong Kong 2013, vol. 1 Annexe, p. 151, no. 93.



盂

21 – **ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL YU**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 14 CM D.: 19.5 CM

Archaic bronze ritual food vessel *yu*. The body is cast with three large *taotie* masks on a tightly spiralled *leiwen* background. Each mask is formed of a pair of *kui* dragons shown in profile confronting each other over a vertical notched flange.

The everted neck of the vessel is decorated with a band of triangular stylized cicada in the form of scroll-filled blades above a frieze of pairs of *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a small *taotie* or animal mask in the round, on a *leiwen* background.

The vessel's pedestal base is decorated with three pairs of addorsed long-tailed dragons, their crested heads turned backwards from the dividing flange.

The vessel has nice green patina.





#### INSCRIPTION

– A two-character inscription on the interior can be read: “*Fu Gui*”, “Father Gui”.

#### PROVENANCE

– Simone & Alan Hartmann Collection, New York, USA.  
– Christie’s New York, USA, 25 Mar. 1998, cat. lot 50.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

– Christie’s New York, 25 Mar. 1998, cat. lot 50.

#### PUBLISHED

– Christie’s New York, 25 Mar. 1998, cat. lot 50.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– A handleless *yu* with similar decoration and flanges at the lower body and foot, but without the band of triangular scroll-filled blades below the rim and now in the Shanghai Museum is illustrated by Ma Chengyuan, *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, Oxford 1986, p. 26.

– Another *yu* of similar decoration, including the band of triangular scroll-filled blades, but with flanges that divide the entire height of the vessel and from the Freer Gallery of Art, is illustrated by Ackerman P., *Ritual Bronzes of Ancient China*, New York 1945, pl. 34.

– A quite similar *yu* from The Mount Trust is illustrated by Watson W., *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, London 1962, pl. 4a.



盂

22 – **BRONZE FOOD VESSEL XIAO XING YU**

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 18 CM D.: 25 CM

Archaic bronze ritual food vessel *yu*. The bowl-shaped body with an everted lip is cast on its lower round section with two large *taotie* masks on a tightly spiralled *leiwen* background. Each mask is formed of a pair of *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a vertical flange.

The neck of the vessel is decorated with a band of triangular stylized cicada in the form of scroll-filled blades above a frieze of pairs of *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a small *taotie* or animal mask in the round, on a *leiwen* background. The pedestal base is decorated with *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting one another over a vertical flange to form a *taotie* mask, all on a *leiwen* background.

The vessel has a green patina

INSCRIPTION

– One single character, probably a clan name, is cast inside the vessel.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2002.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2004.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, XXI<sup>e</sup> Biennale des Antiquaires, Paris, 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2002, cat. no. 37.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., XXI<sup>e</sup> Biennale des Antiquaires, Paris, 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2002, cat. no. 37.

# 甗

## 23 – ARCHAIC BRONZE VESSEL BU

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 18 CM D.: 26 CM

Ritual bronze vessel *bu* used to hold fermented beverages. The vessel's globular body is supported by a ring foot.

The *bu*'s body is entirely covered with lozenge motifs, each of which is filled with *leiwen* encompassing a sharply cast protruding bulbous-eye-like boss. The vessel's sloping shoulder is decorated with a frieze of *kui* dragons shown in profile on a *leiwen* background. Both the upper and central friezes of the vessel's body's decoration are enclosed in narrow bordered bands of small circle motifs.

The *bu*'s ring foot is decorated at its bottom with a wide band of stylized spirals.

The vessel has a nice green patina.

### PROVENANCE

- Michon Collection, Paris, France.
- Private European Collection.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2001.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2001.

### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Rituels pour l'éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 – cat. no. 4.

### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., *Rituels pour l'éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001 – cat. no. 4.

### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A *bu* now in Guimet Museum, Paris, is published by Girard-Geslan M., *Bronzes Archaiques de Chine, Trésors du Musée Guimet*, Paris 1995, p. 124-127
- A similar *bu* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 3 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 76 no. 75.
- Another very similar *bu* from the Meiyintang collection is illustrated by Deydier Ch., *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection*, Hong Kong 2013, vol. 2, p. 142-143 no. 182.

### NOTE

- There is some controversy regarding the exact use for which the *bu* was employed, with many claiming it was used to hold fermented beverages, while others, citing the *Zhan Guo Ce* (*Warring States Annals, compiled between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C.*) say it was used to hold various sauces, and still others claim the *bu* was used to hold water. According to the *Han Shu* (*History of the Han, completed in 111 A.D.*) the *bu* was used to hold food-stuffs such as minced meat and grains.





# 甗

## 24 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL BU

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
 CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
 H.: 26 CM D.: 34 CM

Globular ritual bronze vessel *bu* (*pou*) supported by a high ring foot. The body is cast with a large *taotie* mask on a *leiwen* background. Each mask is formed of a pair of “large” *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a vertical flange. Each dragon is cast with a bulbous eye, curved horn, a hook-like lower jaw and a long body ending in a raised curved tail.

The *bu*'s shoulder is cast with a frieze of *kui* dragons shown in profile, on a *leiwen* background, confronting each other over a large *taotie* mask in high relief. The vessel's neck is decorated with two horizontal thin lines in high relief.

The *bu*'s high circular foot is decorated with stylized *kui* dragons with crested heads turned backwards on a *leiwen* background. The vessel has a light green patina.

### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, before 1999.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1999.

### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A similar *bu* from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is illustrated in Hayashi M., *In Shu jidai seidoki no kenkyu (In Shu seidoki soran ichi)* — *Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes* — Tokyo 1984, vol. 1, part: plates, p. 313, no. 43.

- Other similar *bu* are published in Hayashi M., *In Shu jidai seidoki no kenkyu (In Shu seidoki soran ichi)* — *Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes* — Tokyo 1984, vol. 1, part: plates, p. 312, no. 36 and p. 313, nos. 45 and 47.
- Another *bu* is published in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 4 – Shang*, Beijing 1998, p. 102, no. 105.



## 方彝

### 25 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL FANGYI

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 19.5 CM W.: 10.2 CM

This archaic rectangular bronze vessel *fangyi* with a sloping-roof-like cover was used to hold fermented beverages. Each side of the body is decorated in its centre with a large *taotie* mask in high relief on a *leiyen* background with a wide frieze of confronting *kui* dragons on a *leiyen* background above and below it. The roof-like cover with slightly concave sides is cast with an inverted *taotie* mask on its front and reverse sides and with owl-shaped masks on its narrower sides. The cover is surmounted by a small knob consisting of a thick pillar supporting a miniature roof-shaped top incised with small *taotie* masks. The vessel has a nice green patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– The two-character inscription inside the vessel reads “*Ya Zhou*”, probably a clan’s name.





#### PROVENANCE

- John Sparks Ltd., London, UK, 1954.
- R.E. Luff Collection, UK.
- Bluett and Sons Ltd, London, UK.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1989.
- Ph. Wahl Collection, Italy, 1993.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1999.

#### EXHIBITED

- John Sparks Ltd, Apr. 1954, cat. no. 4.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, Archaic Chinese bronzes from Shang and Zhou Dynasties, London, 12 – 30 Jun. 1989, cat. no. 4.
- Guimet, Musée National de arts asiatiques, Chine des origines, Hommage à Lionel Jacob, Paris, 1994, p. 98-99, no. 33.

#### PUBLISHED

- John Sparks Ltd. *A Small Exhibition of Fine Early Chinese Bronzes, acquired by a private collector over a number of years while resident in the East.* London, Thursday Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> 1954, cat. no. 4.
- Watson W., *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, London 1962, pl. no 17; the inscription is recorded on p. 78, fig. 5, no. 15.

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Archaic Chinese bronzes from Shang and Zhou Dynasties*, London 1989, cat. no. 4.
- Guimet, Musée National de arts asiatiques, *Chine des origines, Hommage à Lionel Jacob*, Paris 1994, no. 33, p. 98-99.
- Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaïques Chinois – Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia – Shang*, Paris 1995, p. 215, no. 1.
- *Yin Zhou Jinwen Jicheng (Xiu Ding Zeng Buden)* Ed. Zhonghua Shiyu 2007, no. 09846.
- Wu Zhenfeng, *Shang Zhou Qingtongqi Mingwen Ji Tuxiang Jicheng*, Shanghai 2012, vol. 24, p. 357, no. 13481.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A similar *fangyi* is recorded by Huan Jun, *Yezhong pianyu erji*, Beijing 1937, vol. I, no. 12.
- A quite similar *fangyi* in the Avery Brundage Collection, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, no. B60B997, is published by d'Argencé R.Y.L., *Bronze Vessels of Ancient China in the Avery Brundage Collection*, San Francisco 1977, p. 50, pl. 17.
- Another *fangyi* is illustrated by Hayashi M., *In Shu jidai seidoki no kenkyu (In Shu seidoki soran ichi) – Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes* – Tokyo 1984, vol. 1, part: plates, p. 270, no. 13.





## 壺

### 26 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL HU

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 32 CM

Archaic bronze food vessel *hu* with a pear-shaped oval body, lug handles on its upper sides and a high conical hollow foot. The *hu*'s body is decorated on each side with two large *taotie* masks set one above the other and separated by a plain, narrow indented band. Each *taotie* mask is decorated with protuberant round eyes cast in intaglio on a *leiven* background and is composed of a pair of confronting *kui* dragons centered on a vertical flange. Small handles decorated with incised bovine heads extend from the top sides of the vessel just below its undecorated rim. The vessel's high conical hollow foot is decorated with a monocular pattern. The *hu*'s has an olive-green patina with malachite incrustations.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A five-character inscription inside the vessel near its upper rim reads: “*Zuo Fu Ding bao yi*”, “Made for Father Ding, this precious sacrificial vessel”.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1989.
- F. Arts Collection, Belgium.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium 2011.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Archaic Chinese Bronzes from Shang and Zhou dynasties*, London 1989, p. 14-15, no. 2.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Archaic Chinese Bronzes from Shang and Zhou dynasties*, London 1989, p. 14-15, no. 2.
- Deydier Ch., *Archaic Chinese Bronzes: Xia & Shang*, Paris 1995, p. 75.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A similar *hu* in the A. Sackler Collection is published by Loehr M., *Ritual Vessels of Bronze Age China*, New York 1968, p. 50-51, no. 17.
- Another *hu* from the Idemitsu Museum of Arts is illustrated in *15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Catalogue*, Tokyo 1981, p. 243, no. 1.

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27 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL YOU

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 28.8 CM

Archaic bronze wine container *you* with cover. The vessel's pear-shaped body is supported by a ring-shaped foot decorated with two bands of juxtaposed spirals. Each side of the vessel is ornamented with two *taotie* masks of different sizes on a *leiwen* background. The lower one, large and powerful, with globular protuberant eyes, is centred on a vertical flange. The upper one, triangular in shape, is composed of two *kui* dragons on a *leiwen* background confronting each other across a vertical flange.

The *you*'s cover is decorated with revolving flame motifs on a *leiwen* background.

The vessels' elegant moveable upright handle is covered with pierced raised flanges and ends in horned, open-mouthed teathed dragons at each of its extremities where it joins the sides of the vessel.

The *you* is covered with a nice green patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, before 1998.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *L'Art et la matière*, Paris, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1998, cat. no. 6.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., *L'Art et la matière*, Paris 1998, cat. no. 6.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- *You* of similar shape from the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (B60B1008) and Arthur Sackler Gallery (V316) are illustrated by Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois / Archaic Chinese Bronzes*, vol. 1, Paris 1995, p. 263, no. 2 and p. 265, no. 1.



## 尊

### 28 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL ZUN

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H: 33.5 CM D.: 36 CM

Rare archaic bronze wine vessel *zun*. The wide-shouldered vessel, with a large body and a much narrower neck that flares outwards as it rises, is supported by an outwardly spreading ring foot. The body and the foot are each cast with three large *taotie* masks on a tightly spiralled *leiwen* background. Each mask, formed of a pair of *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a vertical flange, is separated from its neighbour by vertical notched flanges. The *taotie* masks on the vessel's body are each topped by a frieze decorated with pairs of confronting long-tailed birds on a *leiwen* background.

The *zun*'s narrow sloping shoulder is sumptuously decorated with three large horned bovine masks cast in the round surrounded by *kui* dragons on a *leiwen* background separated from each other by short notched flanges.

The vessel's widely flaring neck is cast in low relief with a band of three pairs of stylized confronting *kui* dragons on a *leiwen* background, topped by large upright cicada-shaped lappets.

The *zun* has a black patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A single pictograph cast in the interior of the vessel reads “*Bi*”, probably a clan name.





#### PROVENANCE

- Mrs. Félix Guggenheim Collection, Beverly Hills, USA.
- Alan & Simone Hartman Collection, New York, USA.
- Christie's New York, USA, 25 March 1998, lot 36.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1998.

#### EXHIBITED

- Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum, *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, 1976, no. 10.
- Christie's New York, 25 Mar. 1998, lot 36.

#### PUBLISHED

- Kuwayama G., *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, Los Angeles County Museum, 1976, cat. no. 10.
- Christie's New York, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> 1998, lot 36.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A similar *zun* is illustrated by Karlgren B., *Some Characteristics of the Yin Art*, B.M.F.E.A., no. 32, Stockholm 1960, pl. 22(b).
- Another *zun* with the same decoration cast in relief rather than flat cast is also illustrated by Karlgren, *op. cit.*, pl. 20(b).

- Other similar *zun* with some variations in the subsidiary bands are in
  - the British Museum, illustrated by Watson W., *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, London 1962, pl. 9a;
  - the Metropolitan Museum of Art, included in the exhibition *Ritual Vessels of Bronze Age China*, the Asia Society, New York 1968, Catalogue, p. 74 and 75, no. 29;
  - the Avery Brundage Collection, illustrated, by Lefebvre R.Y. d'Argencé, *Bronze Vessels of Ancient China*, San Francisco 1977, p. 40 and 41, pl. 12 (top left).
- One similar *zun* was included in the Hong Kong O.C.S. exhibition, *Ancient Chinese and Ordos Bronzes*, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Oct. 12 – Dec. 2 1990, cat. no. 12.



## 觶

### 29 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL ZHI

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 11.5 CM L.: 11.7 CM

Ritual bronze vessel used for dinking fermented beverages. The bulging round body with a flared neck is supported on a ring foot and decorated on each side with a large owl. Each of the four sections of the vessel is decorated with one part of the bird: the vessel's foot is cast with the legs of the bird, the lower section of the body with its wings, the upper part with the creature's round eyes, beak and ears and the vessel's neck with its horns or large ears. All are cast in high relief on a *leiwen* background. The vessel has a dark patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A two-character inscription inside the vessel reads “*Fu Ding*”, “Father Ding”.

#### PROVENANCE

– Alan & Simone Hartman Collection, New York, USA.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1999.

#### PUBLISHED

– Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois, Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia & Shang* – Paris 1995, p. 122.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

– A very similar vessel *zhi* with a cover, from the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, is illustrated by Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois – Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia – Shang*, Paris 1995, p. 270.  
– Another *zhi* also with a cover, is published in *Zhongguo qing-tongqi quanji – 2 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 143, no. 193.

#### NOTE

– According to early Chinese chronicles, the people of the Shang worshipped a mystical bird called a *chixiao* or owl which they believed was endowed with extraordinary mystical powers and served as a medium between the world of the living and the world of the dead.



### 30 – BRONZE AXE YUE

SHANG DYNASTY, ANYANG / YINXU PERIOD  
CIRCA 14<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
L.: 16.9 CM

Very rare bronze axe. The round-edged blade is perforated by a large circular hole across its median ridge and a smaller hole in its handle. Each side of the blade is decorated with two *kui* dragons shown in profile on a *leiwen* background and facing each other across the large circular hole.

The rectangular handle is decorated on one side with a stylized dragon wrapped around itself, and on the other side with a stylized pictograph.

Bronze with green patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A single character cast on one side of the handle reads: "Wei" (probably a name).

#### PROVENANCE

– C.T. Loo, New York.  
– Dr Franco Vannotti Collection, Lugano, Italy.  
– Eskenazi Ltd, London, UK, 1989.  
– Sotheby's New York, USA, Sep. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998, lot no. 145.  
– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2007.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2007.

#### EXHIBITED

– Staatenhaus, Köln, 1953.  
– Rietberg Museum, Zurich, 1975-1976.  
– Eskenazi Ltd, London, June 1989.  
– Sotheby's New York, USA, 1998.

#### PUBLISHED

– J.P. Dubosc, *Une collection d'art chinois*, Formes et couleurs no. 3, séries XI, Lausanne 1950, fig. CI.  
– W. Speiser, *Ostasiatische kunst und chinoiserie*, Köln 1953, no. 67.  
– H. Brinker, *Bronzen aus dem alten China*, Rietberg Museum, Zurich 1975, no. 65.  
– Eskenazi Ltd, *Chinese and Korean Art from the Collections of Dr Franco Vannotti, Hans Popper and others*, London, Jun. 1989, no. 10.  
– Sotheby's New York, USA, Sep. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998, lot no. 145.  
– Li Xueqin & Allan Sarah, *Chinese Bronzes: A Selection from European Collections*, Beijing 1995, photo no. 63, text p. 331 & 386.  
– Wang Tao & Liu Yu, *A Selection of Early Chinese Bronzes with Inscriptions from Sotheby's and Christie's Sales*, Shanghai 2007, no. 348.  
– *Yin Zhou Jinwen Jicheng (Xiu Ding Zeng Buden)* Ed. Zhonghua Shiyu 2007, no. 11727.





# 鼎

## 31 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL BLADE-LEGGED DING

LATE SHANG DYNASTY, CIRCA 12<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 27.6 CM D.: 25.8 CM

Archaic bronze food vessel supported by three blade-shaped legs cast in the shape of stylized dragons, their bodies decorated with spirals. The *ding*'s round bowl-shaped body is cast with a frieze of *kui* dragons shown sideways on a *leiwen* background, confronting each other over a vertical flange.

The vessel's averted rim is topped by two upright loop handles. The *ding* has a dark-green patina.

### PROVENANCE

- Yamanaka and Co, Osaka, Japan.
- Neiraku Bijutsukan, Nara, Japan.
- S. Nakamura Collection, Kobe, Japan.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1995.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1995.

### EXHIBITED

- Kyoto Imperial Museum, Kyoto, Japan.
- Neiraku Bijutsukan, Nara, Japan 1969.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, Dec. 1995.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, Paris, France, Jan. 1996.

### PUBLISHED

- Umehara S., *Nihon Shucho Shina Kodo Seika, Selected Relics of Ancient Chinese Bronzes from Collections in Japan*, Osaka, Yamanaka and Co, 1960, vol. 3, pl. 194.
- Neiraku Museum, *Neiraku Museum Catalogue*, Nara 1969, p. 26, no. 3.
- Hayashi M., *In Shu jidai seidokino kenkyu (In Shu seidoki soran ichi) Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes* – Tokyo 1984, vol. 1, part 2, p. 47, no. 6.
- Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Archaiques Chinois, Archaic Chinese Bronzes – 1 – Xia & Shang* – Paris 1995, p. 207, no. 1.
- Deydier Ch., *Le Banquet des Dieux, Rituel Bronzes of Ancient China*, London, Dec. 1995 – Paris, Jan. 1996, cat. no. 9.
- Li Xueqin & Allan Sarah, *Chinese Bronzes: A Selection from European Collections*, Beijing 1995, photo no. 10, text p. 314 and 390.





簋

### 32 – ARCHAIC BRONZE FOOD VESSEL GUI

LATE SHANG DYNASTY, 12<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.

H.: 15 CM D.: 31 CM, ACROSS HANDLES

Finely cast bronze ritual vessel *gui*. The compressed globular body of the vessel is decorated on each of its sides with two *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a vertical flange to form a large *taotie* mask with bulging eyes on a *leiwu* background. The upper, narrower section of the vessel is cast on each side with a frieze featuring a pair of *kui* dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a small *taotie* or animal mask in the round on a *leiwu* background.

The sides of the vessel are embellished with two semi-circular rounded handles emerging from beautifully cast long-horned ram's heads.

The vessel's splayed foot is covered by a narrow band of design featuring a pair of stylized dragons shown in profile and confronting each other over a vertical flange on a *leiwu* background.

The vessel has a smooth slightly polished greyish green patina.



#### INSCRIPTION

- A two-character inscription inside the vessel reads “Fu Zhou”, “Father Zhou”.

#### PROVENANCE

- Collection of T.Y. King, Shanghai, China, before World War Two.
- Sotheby’s London, UK, Jun. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000, lot 18.
- Private Collection.
- Private European Collection.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2001.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2001.

#### EXHIBITED

- Sotheby’s London, Jun. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000, lot 18.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Rituels pour l’éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001, cat. no. 3.

#### PUBLISHED

- Sotheby’s London, Jun. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000, lot 18.
- Deydier Ch., *Rituels pour l’éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001, cat. no. 3.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLE

- A *gui* with less elaborate masks on its handles, is illustrated in Karlgren B., *A Catalogue of the Chinese Bronzes in the Alfred F. Pillsbury Collection*, Minneapolis 1952, no. 32, pl. 48.
- Another *gui* is illustrated by Umehara S., *Nihon Shûcho Shina Kodô seika*, vol. 2, Osaka 1960, pl. 105.
- A comparable *gui* is published in Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, p. 516, no. 102.
- A *gui* with similarly prominent rams’ heads from the Seattle Art Museum is published by Bagley R.W., *Shang Ritual Bronzes from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, Washington D.C. 1987, p. 519, fig. 102.5.
- Another *gui*, but with a triangular motif near its rim, is illustrated in *Zhongguo qingtongqi quanji – 2 – Shang*, Beijing 1997, p. 98, no. 96.



卣

### 33 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL YOU

LATE SHANG DYNASTY  
12<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 16.1 CM L.: 15.5 CM

This rare wine vessel is cast in the form of two addorsed owls, with the owls' bodies forming the body of the vessel and their four strong legs ending in clawed feet supporting the vessel.

The top section of the vessel's body just below its cover is decorated on both its sides with a double line in high relief interrupted by a *taotie* mask in high relief. In the centre of the body, far above the owls' legs two bosses, similar to the creatures' eyes on the cover, are cast. The *you*'s domed cover is cast in the form of conjoined owls' heads with a short, hooked beak at each end and two small eyes in the round behind it. A central roof-shaped knob on the top of the cover is decorated with inverted *taotie* masks.

The vessel has a pale blue-green patina with some malachite, cuprite and azurite encrustations.

#### INSCRIPTION

– The same single pictograph consisting of a rectangle with paired lines projecting from its two long sides is cast inside both the vessel and the cover and is a clan mark





#### PROVENANCE

- Yuey Collection, San Francisco, USA, 1970.
- Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm E. McPherson Collection, USA.
- Christie's New York, USA, Mar. 19, 2008, lot 482.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2008.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2008.

#### EXHIBITED

- Christie's New York, Mar. 19, 2008.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- A *you* excavated in 1957 from Shilou, Shanxi province, was included in the exhibition: *The Genius of China*, Royal Academy of Art, London, 29 Sep. 1973 – 23 Jan. 1974, no. 81.
- A *you* in the Metropolitan Museum of Art is illustrated by Foster K.E., *A Handbook of Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, Pomona College, Claremont, California, rev. ed., 1949, p. 69, no. 28.
- The *you* included in the Kaikodo autumn exhibition, New York 1996, no. 49, also has a faceted finial, but has loops on its shoulder for the attachment of the handle, rather than *taotie* masks, and the remains of a plaited-rope-form handle.
- A *you* from the Doris Duke Collection was sold in Christie's New York, 21 Sep. 2004, lot 145.

#### NOTE

- Two different types of *you* vessels of addorsed owl shape were made during the Shang dynasty:
  - those covered overall with dense decoration in high relief on a *leiven* background.
  - those of a more austere form with minimalist or simplified designs exemplified by the minimalism of the present example.

# 饒

## 34 – RITUAL BRONZE BELL NAO

LATE SHANG DYNASTY  
CIRCA 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.  
H.: 41 CM L.: 29.8 CM W.: 20.8 CM

Ritual bronze bell *nao* used during special ceremonies when it was placed upwards towards the sky.

The large body of elliptic section is supported by a long, thick, cylindrical handle. The main part of the *nao*'s body is decorated on each side with a large stylized *taotie* mask in high relief.

The narrow frieze decorating the upper, narrower section of the bell has in its centre a high relief *taotie* mask composed of two confronting *kui* dragons shown in profile on a *leiwen* background. Each extremity of the frieze is embellished with a walking dragon in high relief shown in profile on a *leiwen* background.

The bell has a nice light green patina.





#### PROVENANCE

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 2001.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2001.

#### EXHIBITED

- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, *Rituels pour l'éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001, cat. no. 6.

#### PUBLISHED

- Deydier Ch., *Rituels pour l'éternité*, Paris Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2001, London Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001, cat. no. 6.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- Quite similar bells are illustrated by Hayashi M., *In Shu jidai seidokino kenkyu (In Shu seidoki soran ichi) Conspectus of Yin and Zhou Bronzes* – Tokyo 1984, vol. 1, part 2: plates, p. 380-381, nos. 8 to 11.



### 35 – BRONZE TAOTIE MASK

LATE SHANG DYNASTY  
12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.  
H.: 16 CM L.: 21.4 CM

Extremely rare *taotie* mask cast in the shape of a human face. The two round eyes in openwork are topped by attractively cast thick eyebrows in high relief. A large round and powerful nose in high relief juts out above the figure's wide, teeth-filled mouth. Each side of the face is graced by a leaf-shaped ear. The top of the head is embellished with two large spirals which may represent a hairstyle or a pair of large curled horns. The mask has a green patina.

#### PROVENANCE

– Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2009.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- Similar masks are illustrated in *Qianzhangda Cemetery in Tengzhou*, Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing 2005, pl. 47 and p. 598-605.
- Another similar mask from the Meiyintang Collection is published by Wang Tao, *Chinese Bronzes from the Meiyintang Collection*, London 2009, cat. no. 137.



### 36 – BRONZE TAOTIE MASK

LATE SHANG DYNASTY,  
12<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.  
H.: 15 CM L.: 19.5 CM

Large fox-face-like *taotie* mask attractively cast with two slightly downwardly slanting, pierced, bulging eyes, a wide upper jaw, a small wide nose, two lateral leaf-shaped ears and two powerful upcurved bovine horns. The mask has a nice green patina.

#### PROVENANCE

– Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2007.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLE

– A very similar *taotie* mask now in the Honolulu Academy of Arts is illustrated in *Ancient Chinese Bronzes, Ceramics and Jade in the Collection of the Honolulu Academy of Arts*, Honolulu 1979, p. 95, no. 36.



37 – **BRONZE DAGGER-AXE KUI**

LATE SHANG DYNASTY / EARLY WESTERN ZHOU DYNASTY  
CIRCA 12<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
L.: 30.9 CM

Bronze dagger-axe, its long triangular blade with a rounded tip perforated near its upper end by a circular hole across the median ridge. Each side of the blade is decorated with a *taotie* mask in relatively high relief, with curved horns, circular eyes, a small snout, and a stylized upper jaw decorated with small raised dots within its grooves.

The weapon's rectangular handle is also pierced in its centre with a round hole and decorated with a T-shaped geometric pattern.

The dagger-axe is covered with areas of green and azurite blue patina.

**PROVENANCE**

– Eskenazi Ltd, London, UK, 1999.

– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1999.





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### 38 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL ZUN

LATE SHANG DYNASTY / EARLY WESTERN ZHOU DYNASTY  
11<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 24.5 CM

Ritual bronze vessel *zun*, used for holding fermented beverages. The high narrow cylindrical vessel which bulges slightly at its centre, has a wide flaring neck and foot. The *zun*'s bulging section is decorated on each side with a large *taotie* mask in high relief on a *leiwen* background. Each mask is composed of two confronting *kui* dragons shown in profile. The vessel has a light green patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– A single pictogram cast inside the vessel reads either “*Ta*” or “*Tian*”, probably a clan name.

#### PROVENANCE

– Ferris Luboshez Collection, USA, before 1977.  
– Sotheby's London, UK, 29 Mar. 1977, lot no. 170.  
– Private Collection, before 1985.  
– J.T. Tai Collection, New York, USA, before 1995.  
– Christie's New York, USA, 17 Sep. 2008, lot no. 226  
– Alan & Simone Hartman Collection, New York, USA.  
– Marcel & Chantal Gerbe Collection, Switzerland.  
– Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France, 2012.  
– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2017.





#### EXHIBITED

- Chinese Art from the Ferris Luboshez Collection, University of Maryland Art Gallery 1972, cat. no. 25.
- Deydier Ch., The Marcel & Chantal Gerbe Collection, New York 16 – 24 Mar. 2012, cat. no. 3.

#### PUBLISHED

- *Chinese Art from the Ferris Luboshez Collection*, University of Maryland Art Gallery 1972, cat. no. 25.
- Sotheby's, London, 29 Mar. 1977, lot no. 170.
- Christie's, New York, 17 Sep. 2008, lot no. 226.
- Deydier Ch., The Marcel & Chantal Gerbe Collection, New York 2012, cat. no. 3, p. 16-17.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- Two similar zun are illustrated by Rawson J., *Western Zhou Ritual Bronzes from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections*, vol. 2B, Washington 1990, nos. 79 and 81, p. 548-549 and 554-555.



## 觥

### 39 – ARCHAIC BRONZE WINE VESSEL GONG

LATE SHANG DYNASTY / EARLY WESTERN ZHOU DYNASTY  
CIRCA 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.  
H.: 18.7 CM L.: 18.5 CM

Rare bronze vessel *gong*, used during rituals for wine libations. The pourer-shaped body is decorated near its centre with a frieze of hybrid animals, a mixture of *kui* dragons and birds with long beaks shown in profile.

The cover, in the shape of an animal's back, ends in a powerful head cast with expressive eyes, small ears, and a pair of tubular horns.

A semi-circular handle protrudes from the end of the vessel.

The vessel is supported on an oval-shaped foot and has a light green patina.

#### INSCRIPTION

– An inscription inside the vessel and cover was added later.

#### PROVENANCE

– Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd., London, UK., 2001.

– Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2001.





#### 40 – BRONZE BUFFALO

END OF THE WESTERN ZHOU DYNASTY VERY BEGINNING  
OF THE EASTERN ZHOU DYNASTY, 8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B. C.

H.: 14 CM L.: 27 CM

Rare bronze sculpture of a buffalo. The animal is shown standing on four short legs, with its head turned to the right.

The body is decorated with a series of S-shaped motifs which at the centre of each of the animal's upper calves become a large spiral.

The creature's short tail, in low relief, is curled.

The buffalo's head, with an open mouth and thick, heavy lips, is surmounted with two long curved horns in high relief.

The cylindrical tube cast into the creature's back suggests that this bronze buffalo was probably used as a base or stand for a large vessel.

The bronze animal has a nice brown patina.



#### PROVENANCE:

- Stoclet Collection, Brussels, Belgium.
- Eskenazi Ltd, London, UK, 1975.
- E. Morse Collection, New York, USA.
- Alan & Simone Hartman Collection, New York, USA.
- Deydier Ch. / Oriental Bronzes Ltd, London, UK, 1995.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 1995.

#### EXHIBITED

- Metropolitan Museum of Art, published in *Spirit and Ritual, the Morse Collection of Ancient Chinese Art*, 1982, cat. no. 22.
- Elvehjem Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, 1982.
- Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, Rhode Island, 1983.
- Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1984.
- Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1984.
- Joseph & Margaret Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1984.

#### PUBLISHED

- Ardenne de Tizac H., *Les Animaux dans l'Art Chinois*, Paris 1923, pl. 1.
- Siren O., *Kinas Konst Under Tre Artusenend*, Stockholm 1942-3, pl. 1, fig.4.
- Visser H.F.E., *Asiatic Art in Private Collections in Holland and Belgium*, Amsterdam 1948, pl. 17, no. 22.
- Eskenazi Ltd, *Ancient Bronzes from the Stoclet and Wessen Collections*, London 1975, cat. no. 6.
- Deydier Ch., *Les Bronzes Chinois*, Fribourg 1980, p. 225, no. 62.
- Thorpe R.L., and V. Bower V., *Spirit and Ritual, The Morse Collection of Ancient Chinese Art*, New York 1982, no. 22.

#### SIMILAR EXAMPLES

- Tch'ou To-Yi, *Bronzes Antiques de la Chine appartenant à C.T. Loo et Cie*, Paris 1924, pl. 19.
- A similar bronze buffalo in the Kunstindustrimuseum, Copenhagen, is published in *The Exhibition of Early Chinese Bronzes*, B.M.F.E.A., vol. 6, Stockholm 1934, pl. 20.
- Karlgren B., *Catalogue of Chinese Bronzes in the Alfred F. Pillsbury Collection*, Minneapolis 1952, pl. 105, no. 90.
- Watson W., *Handbook to the Collections of Early Chinese Antiquities*, The British Museum, London 1963, fig. 14b.
- Karlgren B., *Miscellaneous Notes on some Bronzes*, B.M.F.E.A., vol. 33, Stockholm 1961, fig. 25.

41 – **COWRIE SHELL VESSEL**

DIAN CULTURE, YUNNAN PROVINCE  
2<sup>ND</sup> – 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES B. C.  
H.: 24 CM D.: 33 CM

Exceptionally rare bronze cowrie shell receptacle cast in the form of a ritual drum.

The body of the drum consists of two sections: a bulging tyre-like upper section and below it a flat mid-section which gradually widens as it extends downwards towards its base.

The flat middle of the vessel's body is divided into four sections, each of which is decorated with a hunting scene featuring a horseman in pursuit of a wild animal and marked off from its neighbour by a perpendicular band of geometric patterns topped off with a semi-circular loop cast in a plaited-rope pattern. Below that, each section of the widening base of the drum is decorated in low relief with an elongated boat carrying four persons in high feathered headdresses. The cover of the vessel is decorated with an extraordinary festive scene: between two sacrificial altars situated at opposite ends of the circular assembly ground, troupes of acrobats and dancers in long-sleeved tunics move gracefully to the music produced by the orchestra seated around the periphery of the celebratory scene.





One musician plays a zither, another a harmonica, another a flute and still another a set of pipes.

Two musicians carrying drumsticks, one of whom is standing and the other seated, beat on a large drum mounted on a high base. Across from the drum, five figures kneel in a semi-circle, their hands joined on their chests. On the ground before each is a circular platter bearing six small spheres, which most probably represent fruits or cakes of some sort.

Two small children, almost imperceptible in the excitement of the feast, crawl towards them. Several spectators complete the scene, among them an old man leaning forward on his cane and two wom-

en holding infants in their arms, vividly bearing witness to the pains to which the artist has gone to depict this festive village scene realistically. In their arms, vividly bearing witness to the pains to which the artist has gone to depict this festive village scene realistically.





#### PROVENANCE

- Galerie Christian Deydier, Paris, France, 2010.
- Count & Countess Paul Lippens Collection, Brussels, Belgium, 2013.

#### EXHIBITED

- Galerie Christian Deydier, *Treasures from Ancient China – 2*, Paris, Feb. 2010 and New York, Mar. 2010.

#### PUBLISHED

- Galerie Christian Deydier, *Treasures from Ancient China – 2*, Paris, Feb. 2010 and New York, Mar. 2010, cat. p. 14-19.

#### NOTES

- Dance and music occupied an extremely important place in the ceremonies of the ancient Kingdom of Dian, as explained by Pirazzoli-t-Serstevens M., *La civilisation du Royaume de Dian à l'époque Han*, Paris 1974, École Française d'Extrême Orient, p. 46.
- The high feathered headdresses worn by the men in the vessels at the base of the drum are in some way related to Dian beliefs connected with soil, animal and human fertility, as well as longevity.
- The type of sacrificial ritual depicted on the cover of the bronze was connected to Dian beliefs regarding earth cultivation and fertility.
- In the Dian Culture, the ownership of bronze drums was a symbol of power, wealth and prosperity.





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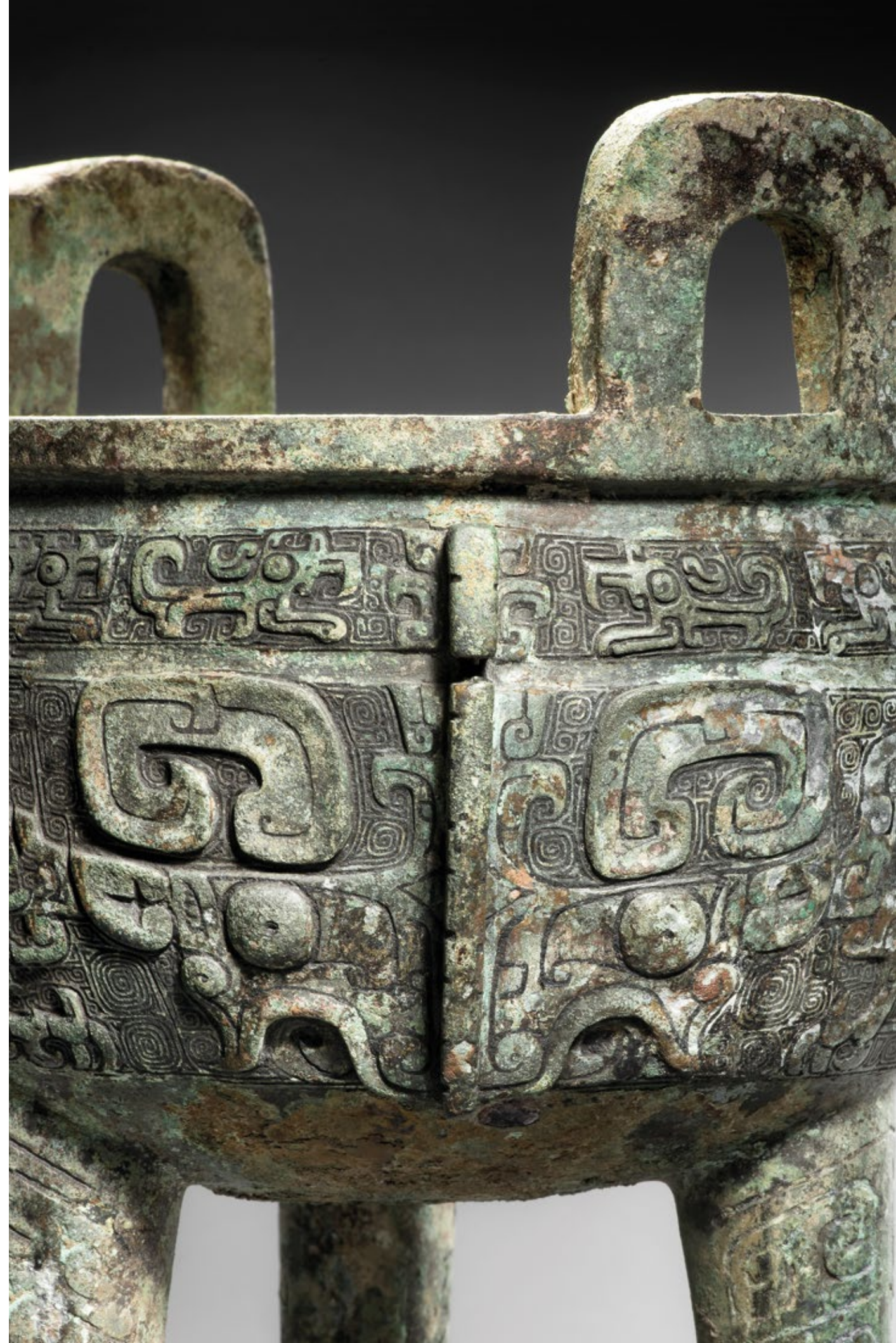
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ZUOZHUAN 左傳 OR COMMENTARY OF ZUO



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