

Chinese Gold, Silver and Gilt Bronze up to the Tang Dynasty



Oriental Bronzes Ltd
Christian Deydier

Cover: **Gilt Bronze Taotie Mask** (figure no. 11)
Han Dynasty
Height 11.5 cm

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HOLIDAY INN, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1

FOREWORD

Before moving to England almost two years ago, it was my intention to devote the present exhibition to silver works of art of the Tang Dynasty. However, owing to the enormous difficulty in acquiring a sufficient number of pieces of equally high standard, I have decided to widen the scope of the exhibition to include gold and gilt-bronze examples from the Warring States Period to the Tang Dynasty.

I would like to express my gratitude to Giuseppe Eskenazi and Philip Constantinidi in particular for their assistance whilst establishing myself in England and in the preparation of this exhibition. I also wish to thank Simone and Alan Hartman for their encouragement and help since I started in this business; Elizabeth Knight and everyone from *Orientalism* for the production of this catalogue; Prudence Cuming (London) and Studio Lourmel (Paris) for the photography.

Christian Deydier

PAIR OF GOLD SHEETS

Eastern Zhou Dynasty

Length: 12.9 cm.

Pair of beaten gold foil appliquéés, in the shape of a curved band with an animal-head at each end. On the left is a bird-head, on the right a dragon-head. The body is decorated with intertwined dragons.

Similar examples:

- Freer Gallery of Art, illustrated by T. Lawton, *Chinese Art of the Warring States Period, Change and Continuity, 480-222 BC*, p. 61, no. 22.
- Rafi Mottahedeh Collection, illustrated by Dr. P. Singer, *Early Chinese Gold and Silver*, cat. no. 3.
- Bull Collection, illustrated by Dr. P. Singer, op. cit., cat. no. 4.
- Avery Brundage Collection, illustrated by R.Y. Lefebvre d'Argencé, *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, p. 110, pl. L-A.
- Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 9.



2

INLAID BRONZE FERRULE (TUN)

Warring States Period

Height: 13.2 cm.

Silver inlaid bronze ferrule (ge haft finial), the upper part of the oval section is decorated with triangular designs, encircled by a raised band. The centre has a collar in the form of a stylized bird with projecting hooked beak and tail, beneath a pierced circular aperture. The lower part of flattened octagonal section has a circular terminal decorated with geometrical designs. The entire piece is richly inlaid with silver.

3

INLAID BRONZE FERRULE (TUN)

Warring States Period

Height: 18 cm.

Silver inlaid bronze ferrule, the upper part of the oval section is decorated with geometrical and triangular designs. The centre has a collar in the form of a stylized bird with projecting hooked beak and tail. The lower part, in animal-leg shape, is decorated with geometrical designs. The entire piece is richly inlaid with silver.



2



3

4

INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 8.9 cm.

Gold and silver inlaid bronze belt-hook, the shaft inlaid with an elaborate overall pattern of gold hooked scrolls and entwined silver bands. The dragon-head terminal is detailed in gold and silver. The button on the underside is inlaid with a silver whorl.

Provenance:

— R.C. Bull Collection, New York

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INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 8.9 cm.

Gold and silver inlaid bronze belt-hook, the heavily cast shaft is intricately inlaid with a highly stylized phoenix motif, the slender curving body of the bird dotted in gold, the wing and the crest detailed in silver. The animal-head hook is stippled and highlights are inlaid in gold. The reverse has bright green encrustations.

Provenance:

— R.C. Bull Collection, New York



4



5

6

INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 20 cm.

The face of the tubular belt-hook is divided in two sections, delimited by three bands: one silver and two gold. The two parts are decorated with geometric designs heavily inlaid with gold and silver. The dragon-head hook is detailed in gold and silver.

Similar examples:

— Freer Gallery of Art, illustrated by T. Lawton, *Chinese Art of the Warring States Period, 480-222 BC*, p. 124, no. 73.

— Belt-hook unearthed in tomb 650 at Loyang, Henan Province, illustrated in *Kaogu Xuebao*, no. 8, p. 154, pl. 7:8.

7

INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 20 cm.

Gold and silver inlaid bronze belt-hook, decorated with geometric designs, ending in an animal-head with two long ears. The snake-head hook is detailed in silver.

8

INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 16 cm.

Gold, silver and turquoise inlaid bronze phoenix-form belt-hook, the feet clasping a stylized jade fish. The dragon-head terminal is detailed in gold and inlaid with turquoise. The button on the underside is inlaid with a silver dragon.

Similar examples:

— *Kandai no Bijutsu*, pl. 233.

— *Mayuyama, Seventy Years*, vol. II, p. 41, pl. 67.



6



7



8

9

INLAID BRONZE BELT-HOOK

Warring States Period

Length: 15.2 cm.

Gold and silver inlaid bronze belt-hook, finely cast in the form of a dragon entwined with a bird, the dragon biting and clutching one long plume, the bird tugging at its feathers. The bodies are finely detailed with silver and gold hooked scrolls and incised silver feathers. The shaft is decorated with a bird head inlaid in gold and ends in a dragon-head hook.

Similar example:

— H. D'Ardenne de Tizac, *Animals in Chinese Art*, pl. XIX.



10

GILT BRONZE FINIAL

Sino-Siberian

Length: 10.5 cm.

Height: 12 cm.

Gilt bronze finial in animal shape, resembling a ram. The animal is kneeling on its four legs. The upright head has long stylized horns. The body is decorated with a rabbit and a horse cast on either side.



11

GILT BRONZE TAOTIE MASK

Han Dynasty

Height: 11.5 cm.

Gilt bronze *taotie* mask boldly modelled and cast with bulging eyes and a beak nose with fangs on either side, surmounted by two large horns.

Similar examples:

— Idemitsu Museum of Art, Tokyo.

— David-Weill Collection, Paris.



12

GILT BRONZE BEAR

Western Han Dynasty

Height: 8 cm.

Gilt bronze hollow figure of a bear with bulging belly seated on its haunches. The animal sits with its right leg raised supporting its right arm, scratching its head with its paw. Its left leg is folded out to the side supporting its other arm. All details, such as ears, eyes, claws, nipples, breast and open mouth with bared teeth and lolling tongue are well defined. It is incised throughout with short, wavy lines suggesting fur.

Provenance:

— Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

— Eskenazi Ltd: 'Ancient Chinese Bronzes and Gilt Bronzes from the Wessen and Other Collections', London, 11 July - 25 July 1980, cat. no. 22.

Similar example:

— Christie's, New York, 20th November, 1979, no. 76.



PARCEL-GILT SILVER BRONZE BOWL

Han Dynasty

Diameter: 16.5 cm.

Parcel-gilt silvered bronze bowl finely engraved on the interior with a central sinuous dragon swirling amidst clouds, enclosed by further stylized clouds between zigzag borders. The exterior is cast with a slightly raised line band and set with two *taotie* and loose ring handles between continuous engraved scrolling clouds. The base is decorated with a dragon medallion. The designs are all picked out in silver on a gold ground.

Similar examples:

- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, illustrated by W. Watson, *Ancient Chinese Bronzes*, pl. 74c.
- British Museum, illustrated, *Handbook to the Collection of Early Chinese Antiquities*, fig. 15.



15

GILT BRONZE LIAN

Han Dynasty

Height: 18 cm.

Diameter: 18 cm.

Gilt bronze cylindrical cosmetic box with domed cover, supported on three feet in the shape of bears. Two ring handles are suspended from the looped beaks of the *taotie* masks cast above the centre. The vessel and cover are decorated with engraved dragons swirling amidst scrolling clouds.

Similar examples:

- Victoria and Albert Museum, illustrated by W. Willets, *Chinese Art*, cover plate.
- The Avery Brundage Collection, illustrated by R.Y. Lefebvre d'Argencé, *Bronze Vessels of Ancient China in the Avery Brundage Collection*, p. 13, pl. LX.



16

GILT BRONZE MIRROR

Han Dynasty

Diameter: 10.2 cm.

Bronze mirror heavily cast with a central ridge, the surface covered in gilding.

17

GILT BRONZE MIRROR

Six Dynasties

Diameter: 7.5 cm.

Bronze mirror cast in the centre with a continuous scroll of palmettes similar to European lyres, encircled by a band of classical scrolls. The surface is covered with gilding.



16



17

18

SILVER FIGURES OF ATTENDANTS

Sui Dynasty

Height: 18.8 cm.

Pair of silver figures of attendants, each hollow-cast figure dressed in long-sleeved tunics over long skirts, the hands clasped and concealed beneath muffs. The faces have well defined features and long hair pulled into high peaked caps.

Provenance:

— Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

— Allentown Art Museum, January-March 1968.

— Mary Washington College Art Gallery, Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 1968.

— University of Pennsylvania.

Published:

— H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 27.

Similar examples:

— British Museum, drawing illustrated in *BMFEA*, no. 29, fig. 18b.

— a female figure in the Kempe Collection is illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, no. 130.

— a female figure in the British Museum, drawing illustrated in *BMFEA*, no. 29, fig. 18c.

In *BMFEA*, no. 29, p. 51, it reads: "three standing ladies, and two men wearing dresses typical of Sui and early Tang ... they were said to come from a tomb dating from Sui on Mang Shan, a large burial ground near the ruins of Loyang"



PARCEL-GILT SILVER OPEN-WORK HAIRPIN

Tang Dynasty

Length: 27 cm.

The broad leaf-shaped cut-out sheets are stamped and engraved with a design of mandarin ducks in flight among exotic lotus and foliage scrolls growing from the open mouth of a horned dragon at the base of the thin split silver pin. The beaten silver is gilt. Some areas of the broad edges are missing.

Provenance:

- reported to have been excavated at Xi'an.
- Mathias Komor Collection, New York.
- Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

- The University of Pittsburgh Art Gallery, 1-29 March 1970, cat. 36-41.
- The Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art, 24 March - 21 April 1968, no. 36.
- 'The Art of the Tang Dynasty', a loan exhibition organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from collections in America, the Orient and Europe, 8 January - 17 February 1957, cat. no. 357.

Published:

- H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 41.

Similar examples:

- C. Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in The Carl Kempe Collection*, no. 12.
- Rohsska Konstslojdmuseet, Gothenburg.
- The Art Museum, Princeton University, illustrated by Clarence W. Kelley, *Tang Dynasty Chinese Gold and Silver in American Collections*, cat. no. 5.
- Royal Ontario Museum, illustrated in *Chinese Art in the Royal Ontario Museum*, cat. no. 142.
- F. Mayer Collection, illustrated by H. Garner & M. Medley, *Chinese Art*, vol. III, no. 38, but with phoenix design.
- Musée Guimet, Paris, but decorated with lions.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Bunker Collection, exhibited: 'Early Chinese Gold and Silver', China House Gallery, The China Institute in America, cat. no. 75, with phoenix design.



20

GOLD AND PEARL EARRING

Tang Dynasty

Length: 2.5 cm.

The small natural pearl is set as the body of a finely worked sheet gold bat with outstretched wings. The head is in filigree.

Provenance:

- Mathias Komor Collection, New York.
- Senator Hugh Scott, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

- The Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art, 24 March - 21 April 1968, no. 43.
- The University of Pittsburgh Art Gallery, 1-29 March 1970, no. 40-25.

Published:

- H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 45.

21

BRONZE MIRROR WITH INSET SILVER SHEET

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 5.5 cm.

The back of this octagonal, star-shaped mirror has been set with a repoussé silver sheet. It is decorated in high relief with four hounds frolicking amidst fruiting grape vines.

22

BRONZE MIRROR WITH INSET SILVER SHEET

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 5.5 cm.

The back of this miniature octagonal mirror is set with a round repoussé silver sheet. It is decorated with two birds and two animals amongst scrolling leafy tendrils on a ring-matted background. The knob in the central field is in the form of a crouching monster.

Provenance:

- Pan Asian Collection, New York



20



21



22

GOLD MIRROR-BACKING

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 19 cm.

Lobed circular thin gold sheet worked in repoussé with three concentric zones of fruiting and scrolling grape vines. The innermost zone, with three lions and three phoenix; the second, with six gambolling lions; the outermost, with six phoenix and six mythical beasts. The centre of the mirror has a circular cutout.

Provenance:

- Ton Ying Collection, New York.
- Christian Holmes Collection, New York.
- Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

- Berlin, 'International Exhibition of Chinese Art', 1929, cat. no. 1163.
- University of Pennsylvania.
- Virginia Museum.
- Carnegie Mellon University.
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 'The Arts of the Tang Dynasty', 8 January - 17 February 1957, cat. no. 325.

Published:

- H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 28.



24

SILVER SCISSORS

Tang Dynasty

Length: 20.6 cm.

Pair of beaten silver scissors with twisted handle in "figure-8" shape. One blade is engraved with birds flying amidst a palmette scroll, the other is decorated with flowers, all on a fine ring-matted background pattern.

Similar examples:

— Art Institute of Chicago, illustrated by Clarence W. Kelley, *Tang Dynasty Chinese Gold and Silver in American Collections*, p. 78, no. 45.

— Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. nos. 106-107.

25

PARCEL-GILT SILVER COSMETIC BOX

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 4.7 cm

Fine parcel-gilt silver circular box and cover, decorated and gilt in raised relief on each side with a dove encircled by three smaller birds perched on a flowering scroll, reserved on a punched ground. The upright sides are encircled by detached petal sprigs.

Provenance:

— Dr. Ip Yee Collection, Hong Kong



24



25

26

GILT SILVER COSMETIC BOX

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 4.7 cm.

Beaten silver cosmetic box, the cover and base identical. On a background of fine ring-matting, the box is decorated with floral sprays, twisting vines and four gilt birds, three with wings outspread, inside a roundel. The smaller, central roundel contains a gilt lion with tail curled, looking fiercely over its shoulder. The sides are decorated with a border of scrolling plants bearing lily-like flowers, edged with a plain gilt band.

Provenance:

— Eskenazi Ltd, London.

— J.M.A.J. Dawson Collection, Jersey.

Exhibited:

— Eskenazi Ltd: 'Ancient Chinese Bronze Vessels, Gilt Bronzes and Early Ceramics', London, 13 June - 14 July 1973, cat. no. 26.

— Eskenazi Ltd: 'Chinese Works of Art from the Collection of J.M.A.J. Dawson', London, 12 - 20 December 1980, cat. no. 48.

Similar example:

— a box, the cover decorated with two mandarin ducks, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver and Porcelain from the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 42.



27

GILT SILVER OBLONG CUP

Tang Dynasty

Height: 8.2 cm.

Gilt silver stem-cup, of oval quartrefoil section, engraved on each petal with a bird in flight amidst scrolling leafy stems radiating from a lotus petal collar, all on a ring-punched ground. The stem is decorated with swirling waves. The decoration is all picked out in gilt on a silver ground.

Provenance:

— Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

- Allentown Art Museum, January - March 1968.
- Mary Washington College Art Gallery, Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 1968.
- University of Pittsburgh Department of Fine Arts, 29 March 1969.
- Virginia Museum.

Published:

— H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 22.



28

SILVER SHALLOW BOWL

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 10.8 cm.

Silver bowl finely engraved on the exterior with nine medallions each enclosing a mythical beast or a bird divided by trefoils below a scrolling lotus border interspersed with romping and leaping mythical animals, all on a punched ground below a bead border. The domed interior is decorated with a medallion enclosing a sinuous dragon and a small turtle within a double rope twist and bead border, all in relief.



29

SILVER STEM-CUP

Tang Dynasty

Height: 4.4 cm.

Diameter: 7.3 cm.

The bowl has deep rounded sides flared towards the rim and is set on a circular foot. The sides are engraved with bands of peony scrolls on a stippled ground, between narrow zigzag borders, the foot with similar decoration.

Similar examples:

- Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 113.
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- Freer Gallery of Art, Washington.
- Hakkaku Art Museum, Kobe.
- Sedgwick Collection, London.

30

SILVER STEM-CUP

Tang Dynasty

Height: 4.5 cm.

Diameter: 7.5 cm.

Engraved silver stem-cup standing on a short trumpet foot engraved with flowers. The bowl is engraved with two bands of stylized floral meanders on a regular ring-matted ground between ring-matted and plain saw-edge bands.

Similar examples:

- Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 113.
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- Freer Gallery of Art, Washington.
- Hakkaku Art Museum, Kobe.
- Sedgwick Collection, London.



29



30

31

SILVER BOWL

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 15 cm.

The deep circular engraved silver bowl with a turned lip stands on a flared trumpet foot with a beaded border in relief. The inside lining-sheet is plain. The outside is engraved with a dense flowering and fruiting vine scroll on a delicate irregularly ring-matted ground. The inside of the foot is flat and is decorated with a single fully blossoming flower.

Similar example:

— J.T. Tai Collection, illustrated by Dr. P. Singer, *Early Chinese Gold and Silver*, cat. no. 40.

32

GILT COPPER STEM-CUP

Tang Dynasty

Height: 6.5 cm.

Diameter: 8.2 cm.

Repoussé gilt copper stem-cup. The delicate wide-bodied shallow cup has bold repoussé overlapping petal panels, each delicately etched on the outside with tiny birds amongst foliage scrolls on fine irregularly ring-matted grounds. The interior is plain gilt.

Provenance:

— Mathias Komor Collection, New York

— G. De Batz Collection, New York

Similar examples:

— The Avery Brundage Collection, illustrated as number 93 in *Unearthing China's Past*.

— Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo.Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 108.

— *Suito no Bijitsu*, pl. 212.



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32

GILT BRONZE STEM-CUP

Tang Dynasty

Height: 5.1 cm.

Diameter: 7.5 cm.

Engraved gilt bronze stem-cup, the wide flared bowl with repoussé petals beneath the sharply angled sides delicately chased with lotus meanders. The sides have upright lappet panels each enclosing a bird perched on a floral pedestal, the whole raised on a stepped stem with splayed base decorated with lotus scrolls, all on a ring-matted ground.

Provenance:

— Senator Hugh Scott Collection, Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

— Royal Academy, London, 'International Exhibition of Chinese Art', 1935-1936, cat. no. 766.

— Toledo Museum of Art, 1941.

— Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 'The Arts of The Tang Dynasty', 8 January - 17 February 1957.

— Allentown Art Museum, January - March 1968.

— Mary Washington College Art Gallery, Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 1968.

— Carnegie Mellon University.

— University of Pennsylvania.

Published:

— *International Exhibition of Chinese Art*, London 1935-6, cat. pl. 766.

— H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, no. 112.

Similar Examples:

— C. Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 108.

— The Art Institute of Chicago.

— The Hakkaku Art Museum, Kobe.



PARCEL-GILT SILVER LADLE

Tang Dynasty

Length: 29 cm.

The fine beaten parcel-gilt silver ladle has a deep petal lobed bowl engraved with small birds amongst flowering foliate scrolls on a regularly ring-matted ground. The elegantly curved bird-headed handle is similarly decorated on the front, only with a sinuous foliate meander.

Provenance:

— Senator Hugh Scott Collection. Washington, D.C.

Exhibited:

— The Fredericksburg Gallery of Modern Art, 24 March - 21 April 1968, cat. no. 28.
 — China Institute in America, 'Early Chinese Gold and Silver', October 1971 - January 1972, cat. no. 72.

Published:

— H. Scott, *The Golden Age of Chinese Art*, pl. 13.
 — Dr. P. Singer, *Early Chinese Gold and Silver*, no. 72.

Similar examples:

— Metropolitan Museum of Art, illustrated by Dr. P. Singer, *Early Chinese Gold and Silver*, cat. no. 44.
 — The Art Institute of Chicago, illustrated by Clarence W. Kelley, *Tang Dynasty Chinese Gold and Silver in American Collections*, cat. no. 10.
 — The Freer Gallery of Art, (two ladles) published in *Freer Gallery of Art, Handbook*, p. 26.
 — Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 105.
 — Seattle Art Museum, illustrated by H. Trubner, *The Arts of The Tang Dynasty*, cat. no. 348.



GILT COPPER TRIPOD DISH

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 32.3 cm.

Gilt copper platter very finely engraved with twelve animals of the zodiac, fancifully depicted as winged mythical beasts in a running band around the flat outer rim, entwined in a foliate scroll on a ring-punched ground. The centre of the dish is decorated with a goose in flight amidst clouds within a hexagonal medallion formed by conjoined foliate tendrils, surrounded by lions and phoenix amidst blossoming vines. All are on a punched ground, the whole raised on three hollow curved supports. The reddish-brown metal shows through a thin gold wash.

Provenance:

— H. Lauritzen Collection, Stockholm.

Similar examples:

Only very few tripod dishes of similar shape are known, most of them are in beaten silver.

— parcel-gilt silver dish: Cleveland Museum of Art, cat. p. 333.

— parcel-gilt silver dish: The San Diego Museum of Art, illustrated by Clarence W.

Kelley, *Tang Dynasty Chinese Gold and Silver in American Collections*, cat. no. 3.

— beaten silver dish: Minneapolis Institute of Arts, illustrated in *BMFEA*, no. 29, pl. 9a.

— silver copper foliate dish: Shoso-in Collection, illustrated in *Shoso-in Gomotsu Zuroku*, vol. 12, pl. 23.

— beaten and silvered copper platter, Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, illustrated in *BMFEA*, no. 29, pl. 14.



PARCEL-GILT SILVER BOWL

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 24.1 cm.

Shallow bowl superbly engraved in the centre with a stylized vine medallion with exotic flowers and pomegranate-like fruit amidst large feathery leaves. The flared sides are divided into five lobes, each decorated with a different floral sprig, composed of large finely veined leaves and fully opened blossoms, the same design showing through the exterior and interior of each lobe. The pedestal foot has a band of petal lappets. The base is incised with two characters: "ren-duo", probably a collector's mark.

Provenance:

— H. Lauritzen Collection, Stockholm.

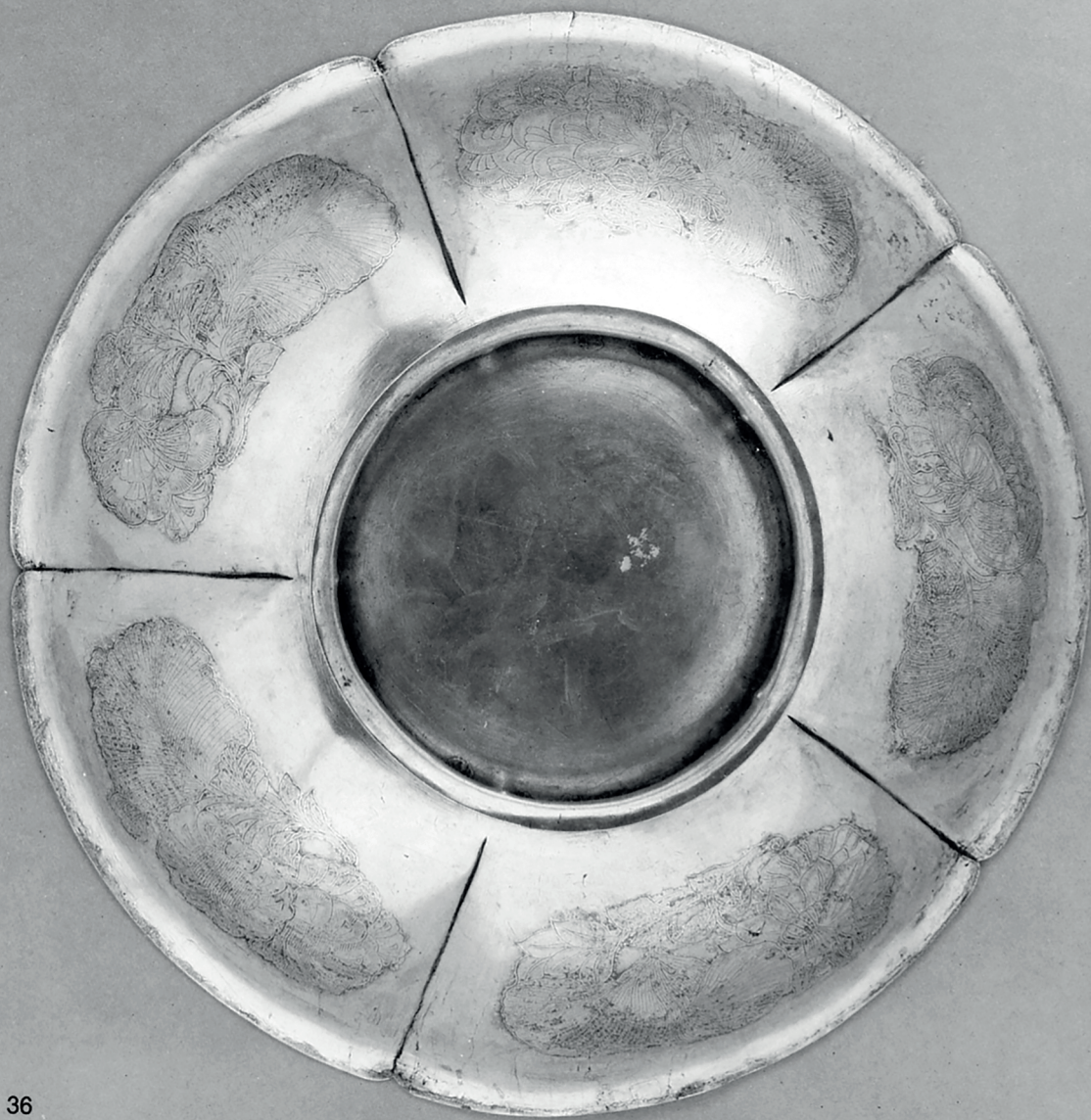
Similar examples:

- In 1930, O. Karlbeck obtained eight similar silver bowls from tombs near Baling in Eastern Mongolia, four with covers and four without. From the same tombs also came two circular bowls and a large oval bowl.
- Similar round bowls, in silver, were excavated in Hejia, South of Xi'an, and illustrated in *Wenwu*, 1972, no. 1, p. 39, fig. 16 and in *The Genius of China*, cat. no. 310.
- Few dishes in silver and gold excavated in Kanqin Banhei Zhaomeng, Liaoning Province, are illustrated in *Kaogu*, 1977, no. 5, p. 330-33, pl. 5-7.

Similar examples with identical designs:

- Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 116.
- N.D.T. Wessen Collection, Stockholm.
- A. Lagrelius Collection, Stockholm.





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Others examples, with different designs:

- covered bowl: Kempe Collection, illustrated by Bo Gyllensvärd, *Chinese Gold and Silver in the Carl Kempe Collection*, cat. no. 115.
- pair of covered bowls: Seattle Art Museum, exhibited at China House Gallery, The China Institute in America, New York, 1971, cat. no. 85.
- pair of covered bowls: University Museum of Philadelphia, illustrated by Horace H.F. Javre, *The Chinese Collection of The University Museum*, no. 86.
- covered bowl: Lee Collection, exhibited at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, 1983, illustrated by Wollmer, Keall and Nagai-Berthrong, *Silk Road - China Ships*, cat. no. 73.
- bowl with pedestal foot missing: Victoria and Albert Museum, illustrated by J. Rawson, British Museum, *Occasional Paper*, no. 40, pl. 54, no.52.
- cover only:
- Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm.
- M. Mamsson Collection, Sweden.
- Hultmark Collection, Sweden.
- Hellstrom Collection, Sweden.
- Bristol City Art Gallery, from the Robert Bruce Collection.
- British Museum.
- Stephen Junkunc Collection, Chicago.

37

GILT BRONZE CENSER

Tang Dynasty

Diameter: 15.5 cm.

Height: 14 cm.

Gilt bronze censer and cover, the shallow bowl with everted rim supported by four slender *qilong*-dragons divided by loose ring handles with flower-head brackets. It is incised on the base with a floral cross surrounded by four panels of flower-heads and scrolling foliage below a narrower similar panel repeated on the sides and rim. The domed cover has a double onion finial pierced with four-petalled flower-heads within a band of birds flying amongst flowers and foliate scrolls.

Similar example:

— Christie's New York, 6 June 1985, no. 117.



GILT BRONZE RELIQUARY

Tang Dynasty

Height: 19.2 cm.

Extremely important and rare gilt bronze reliquary and cover. The domed cover with raised central section is surmounted by a seven-storied stupa with double-flanged onion-shaped finial, each storey incised with radiating lines and narrow dot border. The shoulder of the cover is finely incised with a continuous band of birds in flight amongst a scrolling floral meander on a ground of small circles. The hemispherical cup is supported on a double-waisted stem with a wide triple flange in the middle, both sections incised with birds and floral scrolls. The shallow domed foot is slightly stepped with a border of triangles above three horizontal shallow ribs. The bowl has a further wide band of birds on a floral meander ground above wide lotus lappets and triangular tooth border above the stem.

Similar examples:

- Bronze and silver reliquary with rounded cover surmounted by a stupa with seven rings: William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, illustrated by H. Trubner, *The Arts of the Tang Dynasty*, cat. no. 116.
- Silver reliquary in stupa shape: Ostasiatische Kunstsammlung, Berlin, exhibited in Berlin, *International Exhibition of Chinese Art*, cat. no. 443.
- Gilt bronze reliquary in stupa shape: The White Crane Museum, illustrated by S. Umehara, *Catalogue of the White Crane Museum*, vol. I, no. 52.
- Gilt copper reliquary in stupa shape: Shoso-in, illustrated in *Shoso-in Gomotsu Zuroku*, vol. XII, pl. 46, no. 661 and pl. 48.
- Wood reliquary in stupa shape, with painted lotus petals, found by von Le Coq at Toyok, Turfan region, illustrated by Le Coq, *Chotscho*, Berlin, 1913, pl. 61d.



GILT SILVER PLAQUE

Late Tang Dynasty/Liao Dynasty

Height: 19.5 cm.

Length: 13.5 cm.

Gilt silver plaque with a repoussé design of a leonine monster. The demon stands upright, walking in water. He has a curling tail and five-clawed paws. There is a tortoise in the right lower corner and a phoenix in the upper left. The whole design is on a ring-matted background with scrolls and volutes.

Similar examples:

— a gold sheet from the Victoria and Albert Museum is illustrated by H. Trubner, *The Arts of the Tang Dynasty*, cat. pl. 115, no. 324.

— a gilt copper sheet, from the S.H. Tsuchiya Collection is illustrated in same catalogue, p. 126, no. 30.



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GILT SILVER PLAQUE

Late Tang Dynasty/Liao Dynasty

Height: 21 cm.

Length: 15.5 cm.

Gilt silver plaque with a repoussé design of a standing demon, amidst scrolls and volutes. There is a small tortoise in the right lower corner, and birds in the upper. The whole design is on a ring-matted background.



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GILT SILVER PLAQUE

Late Tang Dynasty/Liao Dynasty

Height: 21 cm.

Length: 15.5 cm.

Gilt silver plaque with a repoussé design of a *qilin* amidst volutes and scrolls, looking at flying birds. The design is on a ring-matted background.



