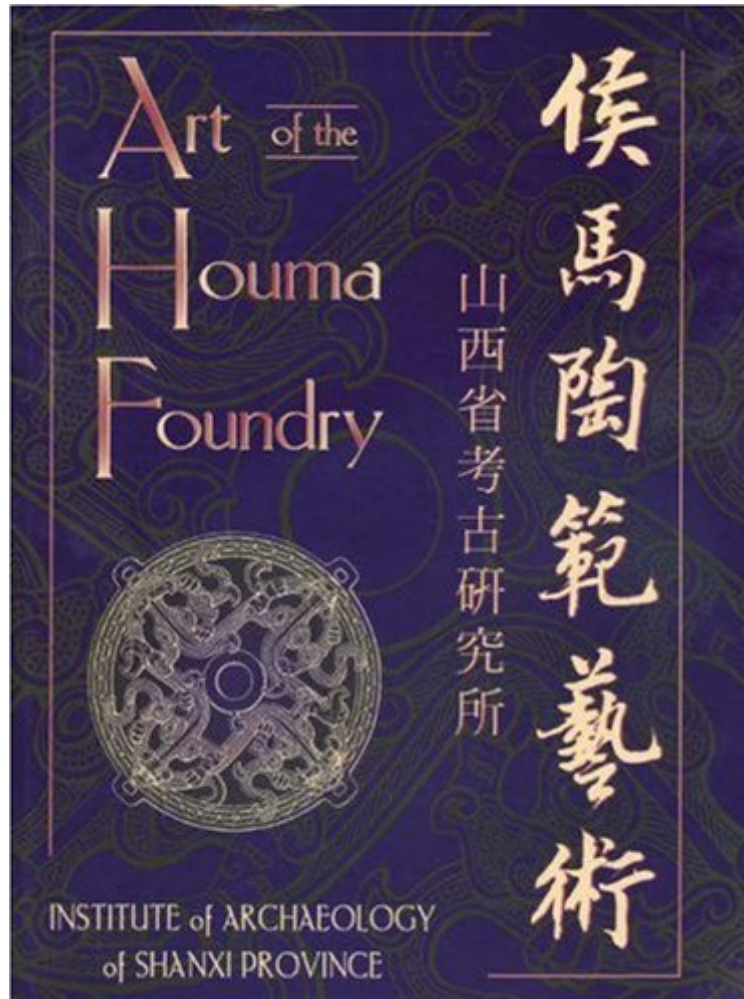


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Art of the Houma Foundry

Liang Ziming, R. W. Bagley, Li Xiating
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Liang Ziming, R. W. Bagley, Li Xiating : Art of the Houma Foundry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art of the Houma Foundry:

Art of the Houma Foundry is an illustrated repertory of archaeological finds made at the site of a sixth-to fifth-century B.C. bronze foundry located at modern Houma in Shanxi Province, P.R.C. In the sixth and fifth centuries Houma was the capital of the state of Jin, a major power in China at the time. The excavation of the foundry site, the largest known in the ancient world, was important above all for the spectacular wealth of decorated clay foundry-debris that was recovered there. The debris throws valuable light on the very complex casting processes used at Houma; still more valuable is the evidence it provides for the varieties of decoration employed at the foundry. Bronzes unearthed at many

different places in China, decorated with an immense variety of designs, can now be connected with Houma on the evidence of the foundry debris. This book presents 1,200 of the most notable pieces of decorated foundry debris in photographs and drawings. Though unearthed more than thirty years ago, most of this material has never been published. Art of the Houma Foundry makes available to art historians, archaeologists, and museum curators an archive of unparalleled richness for one of the major art styles of ancient China.

Co-Winner of the 1997 Shimada Prize "The Houma bronze foundry . . . was active in the sixth and fifth centuries BCE when it was located in the capital of the powerful state of Jin. This book presents the discoveries excavated from this site, the largest of its kind. This study offers much to the student of Chinese religions: bronze casting was considered a sacred activity and these bronzes originally functioned as ritual objects . . . The book's layout is magnificent. . . . [T]his volume is written in both Chinese and English. . . . Of special interest to scholars of ritual and comparative religious art."--Religious Studies "Beautifully and profusely illustrated in color with many black-and-white photographs and diagrams, this volume documents a need for the reassessment of China's ancient art history. A splendid book."--Choice Language NotesText: English, Chinese