

## From Shen's Special Collection...

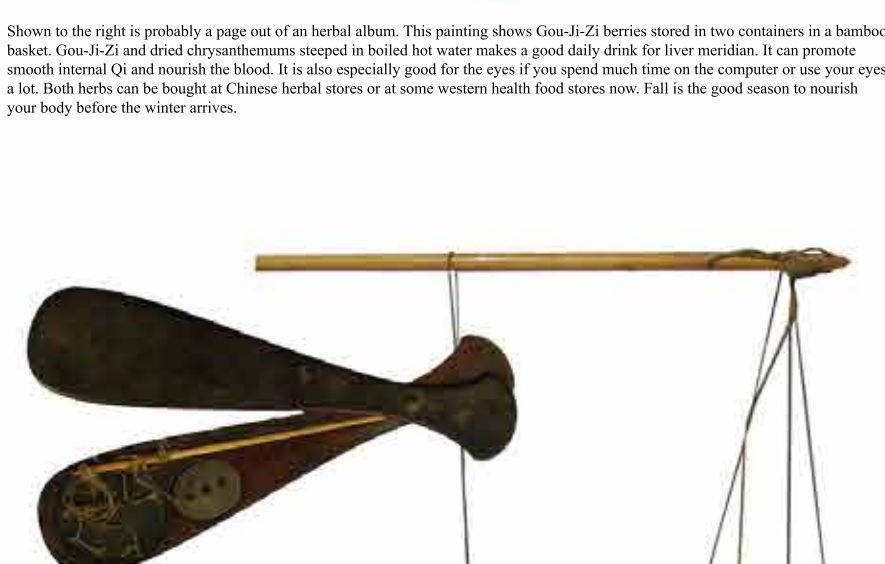
Old objects are usually hand-made, which makes them unique. Hand-made objects go a long way in human pre-historical era. Given China's thousands years of history and dynasties, many small objects, including

How do we appreciate


In religion, worship, and social status, had long been developed for both the utilitarian wares as well as objects of art. Such desire to make things beautiful is an important factor to human evolution. Handmade objects and works of art through history can reflect this progression. The aesthetics behind objects made and presented by these objects helped to shape human culture and enduring life value.

To appreciate a piece of Chinese art, one must not only look at the surface design and craftsmanship that delight our eyes and touch, but also understand the cultural depth and the environment that allowed the aesthetics applied to the particular object. In one simple step,

Shown is a Han Dynasty bronze bracelet with two dragons on two ends. One dragon has an open mouth biting a ball inside. This bracelet has a unique detail of a scorpion at the center bottom of the bracelet. Such symbol was used in tribal or ancient ceremony and had its unique religious and worship meaning.




Shown is a set of old herbal scale with a white-brass weight and a marked ruler stored in a Huanghuali hardwood case.



made of an exotic hardwood with the shape of a Chinese mushroom is a table-top hat rest. In Chinese medicine,



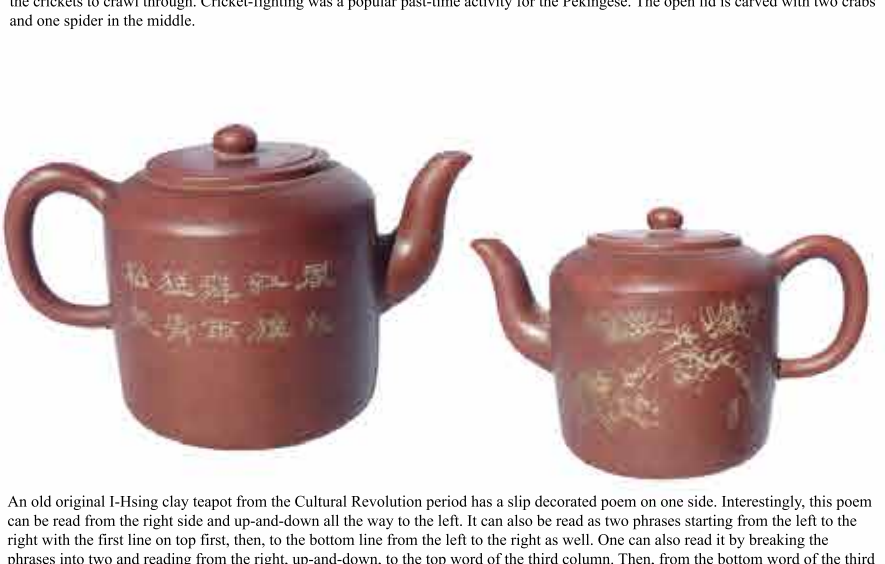
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A small bamboo container, likely a brush holder, with a red interior and a dark exterior.



This whimsical mini structure made of the famous I-Hsing purple clay is a play house for the crickets with entrances on two sides for



column, down-and-up and up-and-down in the same order to the last column on the left. They all work and mean the same: "*The red flag dances in the wild wind; the green pine tree perseveres in the heavy rain.*" I believe one can still find the copies of this teapot, whether reproduced or original.



Two wooden boxes, one larger and one smaller, both featuring intricate floral and landscape paintings on their sides. The larger box is on the left, and the smaller one is on the right. Both are made of dark wood and have a slightly raised lid.

