

Chinese Art: From the Bronze Age to the People's Republic

Guide to Pronouncing Chinese

There are two accepted systems of transliterating Chinese the Wade-Giles and Pinyin systems. We will be using Pinyin whenever possible. But it is important to be somewhat familiar with both because some of the readings use Wade-Giles.

Pinyin (Wade-Giles)

Q (Ch') – Qi (Ch'i) is pronounced "chee"

X (hs or ssh) - xi (hsi) is pronounced "shee"

D (t) – Dao (tao) is pronounced as "dow"

Zh (ch – no apostrophe) – Pronounced as a hard J so zhou (chou) is pronounced "Joe"

Zhi (chih) – is pronounced "jer"

Shi (shih) – pronounced "sher"

Ri (rih) – is pronounced "er"

Chi (ch'ih) – pronounced "ch+er"

C (ts') – cai (ts'ai) is pronounced "ts+eye"

A (a) – "ah"

Ao (ao) – "ow" - Mao is pronounced "M+ow"

Iu (iu) – "yo" - niu is pronounced "nyo"

Ang (ang) – "ahng" – wang is pronounced "wahng"

Ong (ung) – "ohng"

Eng (eng) – pronounced "ung" – deng (teng) is pronounced "dung"

En (en) – "un"

Un (un) – is pronounced as "oon" with the double "o" like the English "book"

Ie (ie) – pronounced "yeh" – "lie" is pronounced "lyeh"

Ei (ei) – "ay" – bei is pronounced "bay"

Suggested Readings:

General Texts

Chinese Civilization and Society: A Sourcebook. P Buckley Ebrey ed., C. Yu trans. (New York: The Free Press, 1981).

Craig Clunas. Art in China. Oxford History of Art Series. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

Elizabeth Endicott-West. Cradles of Civilization: China Ancient Culture, Modern Land. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994.) .

Valerie Hanson. The Open Empire: A History of China to 1600. (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2000) 153-175.

Specific Topics

K.C. Chang. Art, Myth and Ritual: The Path to Political Authority in Ancient China. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1983).

Clunas, Craig. "Oriental Antiquities/Far Eastern Art." Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique. Vol. 2, No. 2 (Fall 1994) 318-355.

Lao-Tzu. Te-Tao Ching. R.G. Henricks trans. (New York: Ballantine Books, 1989) .

Livia Kohn, "Laozi: Ancient Philosopher, Master of Immortality and God" in Religions of China in Practice. D. S. Lopez ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996). 52-64.

Mao Tse-Tung. "Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art." in Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung. Vol 3. (Peking: foreign Language press, 1967) 69-98.

Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, Chinese Imperial City Planning, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990, pp. 1-28, 161-178.

Robert L. Thorp. "The Qin and Han Imperial Tombs and the Development of Mortuary Architecture," in The Quest for Eternity: Chinese Ceramic Sculptures from the People's Republic of China. (San Francisco: Chronicle Books and Los Angeles: LA County Museum of Art, 1987) 17-37

Xiaoneng Yang, "A History of Modern Chinese Archaeology." in The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology. (Washington D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1999) 25-45.

Timeline:

Xia Dynasty(?) 2100-1600 BCE

Shang Dynasty 1600-1046 BCE

Zhou Dynasty 1046 -256 BCE

Warring States Period

Qin Dynasty 221-206 BCE

Han Dynasty 206 BCE -220 CE

Period of Disunity (Three Kingdoms Six Dynasties) 220-581

Northern Wei 386-534

Sui Dynasty 581-618

Tang Dynasty 618-907

5 Dynasties 10 Kingdoms Period 907-960

Song Dynasty 960-1279

Northern Song 960-1126

Southern Song and Jin Empire 1127-1279

Yuan Dynasty 1271–1368

Ming Dynasty 1368-1644

Qing Dynasty 1644-1911

Republic of China 1912-1949

People's Republic of China 1949-present