

## Collection of Ancient Chinese Cultural Relics, Volume 8

translated by Guozhen Wang

### DESCRIPTION:

This book, a collection of ancient Chinese cultural relics, is from the Ming Dynasty, 1368 to 1644. There are 379 relics.

At the end of the Yuan Dynasty, a series of crises broke out after years of accumulated unrest, and uprisings against the regime erupted everywhere. The Yuan Dynasty was on the edge of collapse. Many separate regimes emerged all over the country. Eventually the Han and Dazhou regimes were overthrown by an insurrectionary army led by Zhu Yuanzhang, who proclaimed himself Emperor Nanjing in 1368 and he gave his new dynasty the name 'Ming'. Over the following close on 300 years, the new dynasty would witness reunification and reconstruction in the early years, followed by economic and cultural prosperity in the Jiajing and Wanli eras, and political corruptions, internal disorder and foreign invasions in the latter period. The Ming Dynasty would represent a zenith of feudal society in Chinese history.

The Ming Dynasty gained access to rich jade resources and jade ware became more diversified. The emphasis was on exquisite items of daily use, ornaments, and ornamental furnishings. The period also saw the development of porcelain making., building on the foundation of the Song and Yuan Dynasties. The Jingdezhen Kiln, built in the Five Dynasties, became the domestic centre of porcelain making. Over-glazed colour techniques experienced rapid development, with under-glaze blue and white porcelain became prominent.

Calligraphy continued in the style of the Song and Yuan Dynasties, but many new genres developed: 'Three Songs', 'Two Shens', 'Three Calligraphers of the Wu School', and the 'Four Masters'.

Paintings in this period continued to develop with three different stages: 'imperial court decorative painting', and the 'Zhe school' and the 'Four Pillars of the Wu School; and 'Xieyi'.

This book, the seventh in a ten-volume collection, brings to the English-speaking world a series of books from China which has been compiled by an Expert Committee of the Chinese Society of Cultural Relics. There are 379 descriptions.

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