

# **A Preliminary Study About the Antiquities Market and Collecting Activities of Officials in the Late Qing Dynasty**

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## **Abstract**

In the study of the Chinese history of collecting art, the antiquities market is by all means an important link that cannot be overlooked. However, due to the limited amount of documentation available, studies on collecting history rarely touch on this market. Fortunately, the amount of related material from the late Qing dynasty is quite plentiful. As a result, this study attempts to integrate the price fluctuations in the markets for bronzes as well as painting and calligraphy as a means to discuss the collecting activities of officials during this period. In doing so, it offers observations on the modes of cultural consumption on the part of Chinese social elite during this tumultuous time in history.

**Keywords:** Late Qing, collecting, antiquities market, bronzes, painting and calligraphy