

The Evolution of Qianlong's Jade Albums

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Abstract

While studying the Imperial carving modlebooks activity of Qing court, there are quite a lot of ways to make copies of the emperor's calligraphy such as woodblock printing in the books, tapestry, embroidery, carving stone to make ink rubbing coppies, and carving jade albums, etc. Those are the derivative objects of Emperor Qianlong's calligraphy works.The Qing Emperor Gaozong (family name Aisin Gioro, given name Hongli, reign name Qianlong [1736-1795]) ruled for 60 years.During this time, he ordered the imperial artists to make the most amount of jade wares, and there are a lot of jade albums among them.These jade albums not only are in a huge quantity, but also has various styles, decorations, types, and even copies. The style and usage of these jade albums are not all the same with those other dynasties,too.

This article is trying to study the documents and imperial records, for getting clear how these jade albums are made, the situation of their evolution,the styles of their wooden boxes,and the places of where they were made.

Keywords: Qianlong, jades, jade album, Archives of the Imperial Workshops, Imperial Textile Factory of Suzhou, Ruyi Hall, imperial poetry and prose, imperial calligraphy