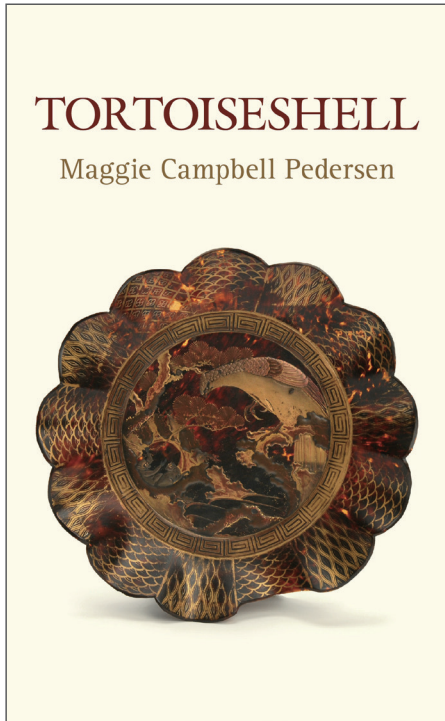


Book Reviews 書評

Tortoiseshell

Reviewed by :

Anne E. CARROLL MARSHALL



Author: Maggie Campbell-Pedersen

I like the way Maggie Campbell-Pedersen writes. It is straight forward, speaking directly to the reader and while the science behind her scholarship is profound, it isn't necessary to be a research level gemmologist to enjoy and learn from her books. Her *Gem and Ornamental Material of Organic Origin* has been on my shelf since it was first published in 2004 and has been a pleasurable dip-into read for snippets of information as well as a supremely useful study and research tool. Her 2015 Book, *Ivory*, was a very welcome addition to the literature; again, very readable, with some odd and fascinating bits and pieces to compliment the serious science and the inevitable heartbreak of the Ivory story.

Tortoiseshell treads a similar path. There is clear and warm appreciation of the creature that provides the shell that forms the raw material of this gem material, but there is also

compassionate understanding of those whose livelihood, or even survival, has depended on the hunting of the species.

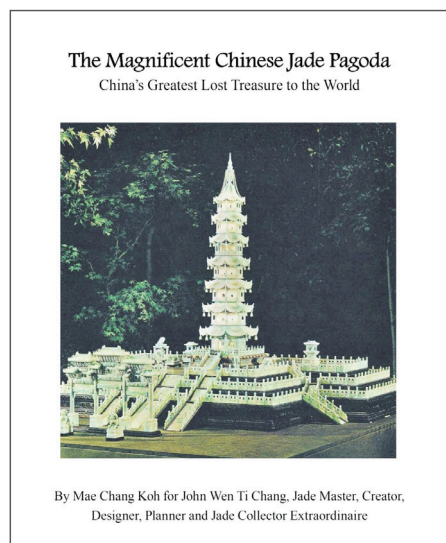
We learn first that tortoiseshell does not derive from the tortoise but from the turtle, and only 3 species of marine turtle at that, with the unfortunate Hawksbill being the prime source. Why? Because its scutes are the thickest and most easily moulded and transformed into the beautiful material that is tortoiseshell. Turtles still face great dangers today and these are discussed as are the laws in force to protect them. Other chapters take on the questions of what the material actually is, and what its simulants are, how to identify true tortoiseshell, and the materials made to imitate it, the fascinating history of its use, and its treatment and care.

The love of tortoiseshell dates back through millennia, but very few ancient pieces remain. The beautiful, glowing material degrades and will disintegrate in time, prey amongst other things to moths. Proof of its earliest uses is found in written accounts or carvings and paintings in tombs and caves. In many cultures the tortoise and the turtle have been revered, appearing as disguises or incarnations of the Gods, or playing a more direct role as the bedrock and support of the earth itself. But humans have found a use for every part of the body of this reptile. It has provided nutritious and, in some cases, fashionably delectable food, and its shell, has been used as currency, as oracle bones to foretell the future, as fishhooks, spoons, boxes, beds, cabinets, combs and of course spectacle frames.

Maggie Campbell-Pedersen has written an article for this Journal that gives a tempting 'taster' for her book, so there is no need for me to write any more except to say that it is a work that will be of great benefit to anyone working in the decorative arts. The preface by Rui Galopim de Carvalho is also a treat. The story of the turtle's treatment at our hands is shocking in its casual cruelty, but with CITES etc hope is at hand. In the meantime, understanding and appreciation of the treasures made from tortoiseshell – greatly aided by this book – will help us preserve the old even while we ban the new.

The Magnificent Chinese Jade Pagoda China's Greatest Lost Treasure to the World

Reviewed by:
Christine Rain CHU
Richard S.K. LEE



Author: Mae Chang Koh

The book was written to fulfill a promise to her father, John Wen Ti Chang, 'jade master, creator, designer, planner and jade collector extraordinaire' and is dedicated to him. It features the great triumph of jadeite craftsmanship made by John Chang and presented at the Chicago Century of Progress World Expo in 1933. This 5 foot tall Pagoda set was donated to the Oakland Museum in California in 1968 and gifted on to the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in 2018.

The book consists of 8 chapters:

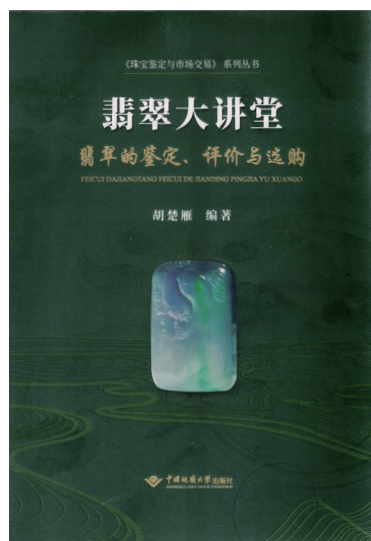
- Chapter 1 China's Love Affair with Jade
- Chapter 2 A Master and His Vision
- Chapter 3 Why We Call This Pagoda the "English Wonder of the World"
- Chapter 4 The Secondary Pieces of the Jade Pagoda Collection
- Chapter 5 Chang's Second Collection
- Chapter 6 Perils and Tragedies of the Jade Pagoda
- Chapter 7 Wrap-up
- Chapter 8 In closing

The author tells the story of this spectacular carving from rough boulder to finished

masterpiece; the work of 150 Chinese artisans and craft masters over 10 years in Beijing nearly a century ago. The team was led by John Chang, making this pagoda his life's work - his symbolic and inspirational legacy to the world.

翡翠大講堂 翡翠的鑑定、評價與選購

點評：朱倩儀



作者：胡楚雁

胡教授此書關於翡翠的基礎知識非常全面及豐富，內容包括：翡翠的寶石學基礎，翡翠的物質組成，翡翠行業俗語與評價，翡翠的鑑別，市場常見其他玉石種類及仿翡翠製品，翡翠的儀器鑑定，翡翠玉石文化和翡翠的選購等。

閱後發覺其中最令人讚賞的特色是胡教授除了對翡翠特徵及種類作了基本而全面性解釋外，並主要是結合行內俗語、國內市場形勢，深入淺出地綜合後再以科學化及有系統化地呈現。在翡翠真偽鑑別方面，胡教授展示了多種常規儀器操作及其細節和情況。而比較深入的是在玉石文化方面的展現，描述了各種不同形制、雕刻，及文化層面的結合。

這確切是跟他的書目“翡翠大講堂”一致，是一本在翡翠教學中不可多得的全面性教材。