Hue Museum with Analysis of Historical Values of Bronze Relics

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INTRODUCTION

Bronze items are common in the daily life of the palace in many properties: household items (trays, pots, kettles, stoves, irons, betel nut food...); utensils in state activities (prints, playing cards, bronze books, coins, measuring instruments...); decorations (animals, vases, etc.); musical instruments (bells, gongs, etc.); worship and ritual items (candlesticks, censers, vases, sacred animals); weapons (cannons, swords, spears)... All of the above products are produced by Chu Tuong Ty agency of the court and folk craft guilds throughout the country.

The Vietnamese tradition is to attach great importance to sacrifices and ancestor worship, therefore, self-made items are produced in large quantities. The self-qi objects are placed on the altar, decorated in the temple, used for sacrifices, so they are made of good copper material, of various designs and sizes, especially the urns, the art... (source: baotangcungdinh.vn)

Copper material is also one of the materials used a lot in objects with religious elements such as bronze bells, bronze bells, etc. Maybe that's why copper material has been dyed spiritual color by the appearance of this material through religious works such as Buddha statues, triplets, incense burners, incense bowls, sacrificial objects and decorative objects in spaces of folk crafts as well as in temples, palaces...

Figure 1: Bronze relic’s values in Hue
Source: Daidoanket newspaper

METHODOLOGY

Authors main use historicalism method combined with descriptive methods and qualitative analysis, together with observations and experiences.

MAIN FINDINGS

Describe the cauldron at the same time as the Nguyen lords:

Hue Museum of Royal Antiquities is a museum under the management of Hue Monuments Conservation Center. The main building of the museum is wooden, with 128 precious wooden pillars, on the columns are carved images of four spirits: long - li - Quy - phuong and more than 1000 poems in Chinese characters. This building is the Long An Palace built in 1845 under the reign of King Hien, the founder of the Nguyen Dynasty, the era name is Thieu Tri. Currently, the museum displays more than 300 artifacts of gold, crockery, porcelain, Hue glaze, royal medicine and royal utensils.
costumes of the Nguyen royal family, giving visitors an overview of Hue royal life.

Hue Museum of Royal Antiquities is the place to store the most and most complete artifacts of the Nguyen Dynasty and the life of the ancient dynasty: A golden age has now become a memory. Despite going through war, along with socio-political upheavals; Many antiques have been lost or stolen. The museum is currently storing and displaying about 9,000 Nguyen dynasty antiques, nearly 100 Champa antiques and managing nearly 3,000 other antiques on display at the palaces, mausoleums, and shrines of the complex. relic of Hue ancient capital.

The museum has valuable antique collections such as: collection of cauldrons at the same time as the Nguyen lords, collection of Nguyen Dynasty-style porcelain wares, collection of Hue enamels, collection of Nguyen dynasty royal costumes, and collection of painted wooden furniture, gilding the Nguyen Dynasty, collecting musical instruments of Hue royal court music, collecting cannons... in which there are many antiques that have been recognized as national treasures of Vietnam.

These precious antiques are rich in types and materials; most date to the period of the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945) and the previous Nguyen Lords; some are related to the Nguyen Dynasty or the geographical area of Phu Xuan - Hue. These artifacts are cataloged into nearly 17 collections.

As a museum containing a huge number of artifacts about the last feudal dynasty in Vietnam, Hue Museum of Royal Antiquities gives visitors an overview of the life of the Nguyen dynasty in the palace. Hue family in the past; the ups and downs, fluctuations of history; Hue culture as well as cultural exchange - acculturation in Hue in particular and Vietnam in general in a historical period with many changes.

Most of the antiques in the Hue Museum of Royal Antiquities are fine art products crafted by artisans of the "golden hand" category by order of the court, or products ordered from abroad (China or Europe). Europe) ... so it belongs to the category of "unique goods", rare, some things are unique - there is no second one.

In the campus of this museum, there is another warehouse storing more than 80 Cham artifacts collected in the ancient Chau O and Chau Ly regions, and brought from Tra Kieu during archaeological excavations there in the past. 1927. Particularly, the Cham artifacts have been evaluated by researchers as rare cultural heritages. (Source: Wikipedia.org)

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Many articles have analyzed and commented on it and on antique auctions... And today, those antiques have been "repatriated" thanks to the great efforts and determination of Thua Thien Hue as well as the sharing. Share the responsibility of a business...

Describe the auctioned mandarin hat through photos and its historical and cultural value. This is the round hat of the mandarin. The whole body of the hat is tied with a ponytail in the "double link" style, which is to use 2 tail feathers to braid into a rope.

All jewelry motifs on the hat are made of gold metal:
- On the upper front is a painter, sculpting a daisy chain motif around, a two dragons worshiping the day (daisy chrysanthemums); Next in the central area are also 2 chrysanthemums (in the middle of the chrysanthemum with a hexagonal carved glass), on both sides of the chrysanthemum are 2 dragons adoring; The bottom part is also an uncle painted motif with the motif of two dragons of the Japanese dynasty (daily chrysanthemums, flowers and leaves turning dragons);
- On the two sides are decorated with 2 "stickers of the label" with a leaf turning into a dragon motif. Next are 2 dragon wings, the top of which is decorated with chrysanthemums to turn into a horizontal dragon, and the body of the dragon's wings are decorated with dragons.
- On the back is also decorated with 2 chrysanthemums (anniversary) and 2 dragons.

Attached to the hat is a gold-plated lipstick box. The box is rectangular in shape, the handle of the box is "bomber" with two dragon heads carved in gold. The pedestal is also carved with gold leaf. The four sides of the box are painted with motifs of the four spirits (dragon, unicorn, turtle, phoenix), on the side of the dragon and phoenix, there are embossed ledges, additional decoration to form a frame, creating the solemnity of these two animists. This is also a very fine artifact, which together with the hat makes for a complete set of artifacts.

*Corresponding Author: Phan Le Chung*
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REFERENCES


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