




# The Shape and Function of Ritual Vessels and the Thought of Creation in the Qing Dynasty

Linglin Zhou\* 

<sup>1</sup> PhD, Academy of Fine Arts, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China

\* **Corresponding Author:** [211601010@njnu.edu.cn](mailto:211601010@njnu.edu.cn)

**Citation:** Zhou, L. (2024). The shape and function of ritual vessels and the thought of creation in the Qing dynasty. *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*, 24(2), 16-28. [10.5281/zenodo.11169177](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11169177)

## ARTICLE INFO

Received: 13 Dec 2023

Accepted: 19 April 2024

## ABSTRACT

This article provides a systematic and in-depth study of the form, function, craftsmanship, usage, and cultural connotations of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels from an archaeological perspective. They are intended to clearly reveal the profound historical and cultural value carried by Qing Dynasty ritual vessels, as well as their practical impact on modern society. Through a combination of detailed archaeological data analysis and design theory, this article not only explores how the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels reflected the political concepts, cultural identity, aesthetic taste, and living habits of rulers but also further analyzes the influence and inheritance of these ritual vessels in the development of daily utensils in later generations. This article pays special attention to the materials, shapes, patterns, and colors of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels. It compares and analyzes the similarities and differences between these features and contemporary everyday objects, as well as their innovation and changes in modern design. This article also delves into the influence of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels from multiple perspectives, such as politics, economy, culture, and religion, providing readers with a new perspective to understand the social culture of the Qing Dynasty and the inspiration of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels on modern design ideas. This study not only deepens the academic understanding of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels but also provides essential theoretical support and practical guidance for practical fields, especially cultural heritage protection, and modern design innovation.

**Keywords:** Ritual Instrument, Ritual System, Creation Design, Function Test, Cultural Relic appraisal, Functional Design

## INTRODUCTION

The Qing Dynasty, the final feudal regime in Chinese history, was richly and intricately layered with social and cultural complexities. As a pivotal component of this era's cultural heritage, ritual vessels served not just as vessels of social life but also as tools of governance. The form, function, craftsmanship, and utilization of these vessels are all reflective of the Qing Dynasty's political, economic, cultural, and religious tenets (Zhou, L., 2024). Therefore, a systematic archaeological analysis and exploration of these ritual vessels can not only provide profound insights into the social and cultural fabric of the Qing Dynasty but also unearth their influence on the subsequent evolution of daily utensils, thereby carrying significant historical and cultural import. The examination of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels is not merely a matter of historical interest; it is deeply intertwined with the cultures of subsequent generations. These vessels not only carry forward the essence of ancient ritual systems but also influence the innovation of daily necessities in later times (Sun, Y., Wu, I. W., & Lin, R., 2022). Consequently, from an archaeological perspective, it holds immense significance to delve into the Qing Dynasty's origins, forms, classifications, and evolutionary patterns, offering a deeper understanding of Chinese cultural contexts and the shaping of subsequent cultures.

Rites instrument is the embodiment of ritual or the carrier of material. A prerequisite for studying the ritual instrument is understanding "ritual" and "study" ritual. "The so-called "ritual study" is a very ancient knowledge (Ogorenko & Shornikov, 2023). Since the Duke of Zhou "made rites for music," Confucius "Mingde" and introduced "benevolence" into rites to the Western Han Dynasty Dong Zhongshu "respected Confucianism" and advocated "Modern Classics" for its use, and then Zheng Kangcheng of the Eastern Han Dynasty both noted, "three rites," Tang Kong Yingda and Jia Gong Yan wrote the "three rites" to prepare their thoughts (Fan, K. K., & Li, X. H., 2020). As a result, the Zhao and Song dynasties occurred, and the Qing Qianjia school was revived (Y. Liang, 2018).

As a cultural form, ritual is the product of Chinese social development to a particular stage and has a profound historical origin. "Rites" comes from the primitive, disordered and blind wizard flow acts of things and gods and

eventually becomes a transparent cognitive and relatively standardized civilization system. Rites is an incredible creation of the Chinese nation to conform to the natural ecology (Zhu et al., 2024). It has significant cultural value and religious significance for maintaining a patriarchal society based on blood relationships. It constitutes the most essential characteristic and one of the most important symbols of Chinese classical society. Also, it lays the essential quality of Chinese culture (Mandal, Sonar, & Singh, 2024).

The core of Chinese creative design lies in "ritual," which was established under the influence of Confucianism (Lai, C. Y., 2022). Ancient ritual vessels often originated from practical vessels, but as they were endowed with ceremonial functions, their form gradually became fixed and became symbols of specific cultural and social norms (Wang et al., 2024). Therefore, interpreting the design of ancient Chinese utensils should not be limited to practical and aesthetic dimensions but should also delve deeper into the ethical and ceremonial factors contained within it.

This article aims to explore the multidimensional characteristics of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels through archaeological methods and reveal their close relationship with everyday objects in later generations. Specifically, we will systematically classify and provide a detailed description of the shape, function, craftsmanship, and usage of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels, aiming to showcase their rich and diverse features comprehensively (Shao, Q., Wen, X., & White, P., 2022). At the same time, this article will also compare and analyse the similarities and differences between Qing Dynasty ritual vessels and contemporary everyday objects, exploring the mutual influence and inheritance between the two. On this basis, this article will comprehensively evaluate the archaeological characteristics of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels from multiple perspectives, such as politics, economy, culture, and religion, and further explore their impact on the development of modern daily utensils (Zhan, Z., 2021). Through this research, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of the inheritance and transformation of Chinese culture and provide historical and cultural support for contemporary design innovation.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RITUAL VESSELS IN THE QING DYNASTY

### Shape and Function of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

As an essential part of China's feudal society, the Qing Dynasty rites had rich shapes and diverse functions. These ritual vessels are not only the carriers of social life but also the tools of the rulers (Hu, G., 2022). Their shape, function, craft and use mode all reflect the characteristics of politics, economy, culture and religion of the Qing Dynasty. In terms of types and specifications, the Qing Dynasty ritual ware included various items, such as porcelain, copperware, jadeaware, lacquerware, brocade, painting, calligraphy, etc. These ritual vessels are divided according to their use and grade, with different specifications and shapes. For example, ritual vessels in court are usually large and exquisite and are used for important ceremonies and banquets. The ritual vessels ordinary people use are small and used for daily life (Xu, T., 2020).

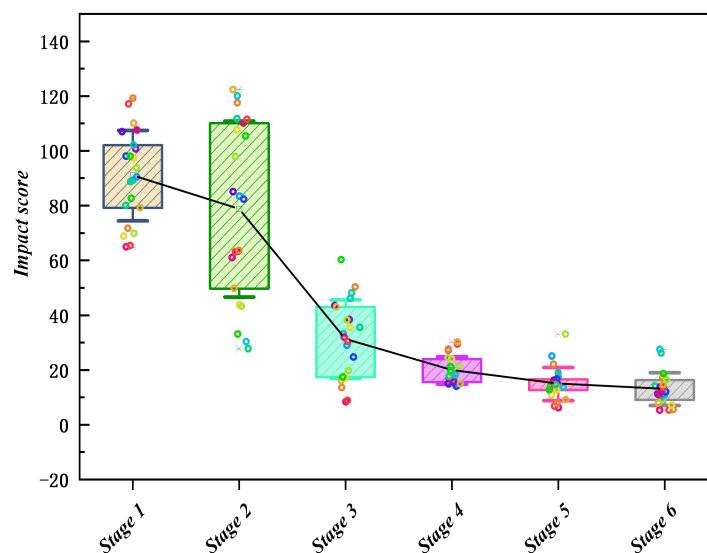


Figure 1. Form and Function Analysis of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

Figure 1 shows the analysis of the shape and function of the ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty. In terms of use, the functions of the ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty are various, including sacrifice, banquet, diplomatic activities, reward, marriage and so on. Different types of ritual vessels play different roles on different occasions. For example, the ritual vessels used in the sacrifice must be solemn, while the banquet's ritual vessels are even

more gorgeous and magnificent (Bellemare, J, 2021). The level of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty was closely related to their social status and political power. The ritual vessels used by senior officials and royal families are often more exquisite and precious than those of ordinary people. The shape and decoration of the ritual vessels also carry symbolic meanings, such as dragon, phoenix, longevity, etc., representing power, auspiciousness and longevity.

**Table 1.** Form and Function of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

<b>Name of Ritual Vessel</b>	<b>Shape and Structure</b>	<b>Function</b>
A jade disc	Round, with a hole in the middle	Used to worship heaven and earth, a symbol of heaven round place
An ancient cooking vessel with two loop handles and three or four legs	Three feet, two ears, with a cover	Used for sacrifice, cooking, and storing food
Jade cong	Squared, small and big	For sacrifice to the land
Yu yuan	Round, without holes in the middle	Used for sacrifice, a symbol of heaven and earth and people
Jade qi	Rectangular, sharp at both ends	Used for sacrifice, symbolizing power and status

**Table 1** shows the shape and function of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty, which have their features in shape and use. The circle and middle holes of the jade symbolise the round sky and place and are mainly used for the sacrifice of heaven and earth; the three feet, two ears and cover of the tripod reflect the versatility for sacrifice, cooking and food storage; the square and small design of the jade cong and the round form of power and status in the sacrifice. The shape and system of these ritual vessels are closely related to their function, reflecting the importance of etiquette and religious activities in the Qing Dynasty.

#### Craft and Material of the Qing Dynasty Ritual Ware

The ritual crafts and materials of the Qing Dynasty were rich and diverse, reflecting the culture, system and ceremony of that time (Ying, Y, 2019). Sacrifice vessels are mainly used in sacrificial ceremonies, including jue, GUI, etc. These offerings usually use porcelain, but in the national sacrifice, the main nine temples and three temples use porcelain offerings. In comparison, the remaining twelve temples use bronze, wood, lacquer, jade and other materials. Instruments, such as musical instruments, bells, drums, etc., are used in court rituals. These instruments are made with exquisite craftsmanship and various materials, including bronze, wood, jade, etc. Crown clothing was part of Qing officials' crown clothing, clothing and accessories. These clothes are usually beautifully made of silk, embroidery, gold and silver thread, and other materials.

**Table 2.** Technology and Material of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

<b>Name of the Ritual Vessel</b>	<b>Material Quality</b>	<b>Main Process</b>
Painting painted with gold flute	Wood, paint	Xiu paint, coating gold
White glaze Xing	Porcelain	Modulation, glaze burning
White glaze respect	Porcelain	Modulation, glaze burning
Yellow glaze respect	Porcelain	Modulation, glaze burning
Cover for alga lines, back lines, thunder lines, with three peaks, for moire	Copper	Casting, gilt
Dragon ears on both sides, the mouth is algae grain, the second back pattern, the belly is shellfish grain, and the bottom of the device is equipped with leaf-shaped three feet	Copper	Casting, gilt

Table 2 shows the Qing Dynasty's craft and materials of ritual vessels. These gifts are made of various materials, such as wood, paint, porcelain and copper, each corresponding to a specific production process. For example, the paint and gold fluted are used to make it gorgeous, while the porcelain ritual vessels such as white glaze Xing, white glaze zun, and yellow glaze zun show the delicate porcelain texture through the molding and glaze firing process (Luo, G, 2023). The copper ritual device presents a solemn and mysterious visual effect through the casting and gilding. The perfect combination of these crafts and materials reflects the superb skills of the Qing Dynasty artisans. It shows the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels' unique artistic charm and cultural connotation (Li, S., & Wang, H, 2024).

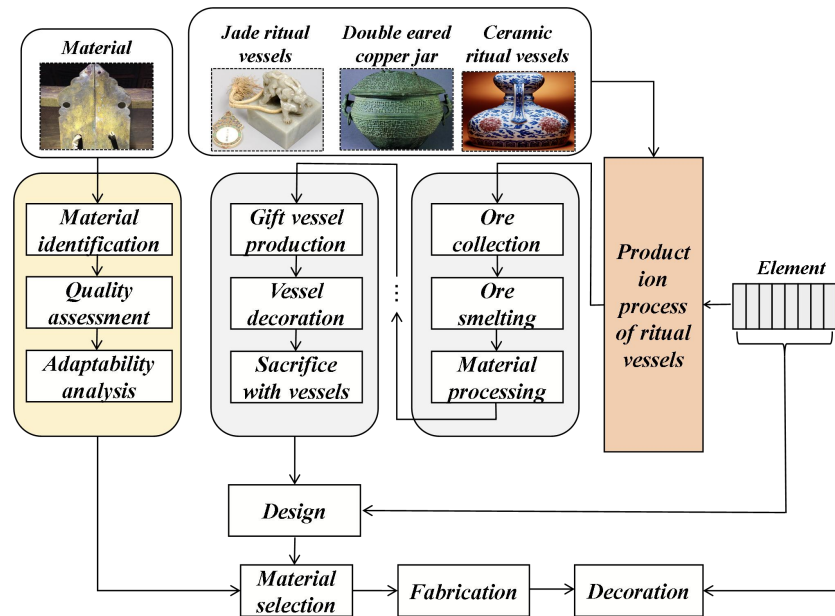


Figure 2. Technological Flow of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

Figure 2 shows the process of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty. First, starting from the selection of materials, the production of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty has extremely high material requirements. High-quality valuable materials such as copper, jade, gold and silver are carefully selected to ensure the quality and value of the final ritual vessels. These materials are rigorously screened and polished to remove defects and are ready for the following process. Next was the design link, where the artisans designed exquisite patterns and shapes according to the use and grade of the ritual vessels. These patterns often have profound meanings, such as dragon, phoenix, and auspicious clouds, representing the dignity and authority of the royal family.

After the design was determined, the artisans began making it. They use traditional casting, carving, inlaying and other skills to carefully make the materials into the various parts of the ritual device. Each process requires high skill and patience to ensure exquisite and durable gifts (Zhang, X., & Zhang, G, 2021). After production, the ritual device will be polished and polished several times to make the surface as smooth as a mirror and shine. Finally, the artisans will carve auspicious words or inscriptions on the ritual vessels to increase their cultural connotation and historical value. The process is rigorous and complex, requiring the artisans to have superb skills and rich experience. The production of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty reflected the craftsmanship of the artisans and showed the unique charm of the traditional Chinese culture. These exquisite ritual vessels are symbols of the royal family and an essential part of the cultural heritage of the Chinese nation.

#### Use of Ritual Vessels and Cultural Connotation

The rites of the Qing Dynasty integrated Confucianism, religious belief and multi-ethnic cultural elements, reflecting the diversity and unity of the society at that time. As a cultural carrier, the Qing Dynasty rites carried rich connotations, which not only reflected the system and ceremony in form but also reflected the culture, religion and political concepts of the society at that time. In court ceremonies, the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels played an important role, such as the emperor ascending to the throne, sacrifice to heaven, ancestor worship, crown ceremony, weddings and other significant ceremonies needed specific ritual vessels (Zhang & Ren, 2024). National sacrificial activities, such as offering sacrifices to heaven, earth, and ancestors, are usually porcelain, symbolizing nobility and purity. In the promotion ceremony, the specific ritual vessels of the Qing Dynasty

officials were also needed to show respect and solemnity (Zhang, J., & Ren, T, 2024). Sacrificial activities are the primary occasion for using ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty, reflecting the cultural concept of respecting traditions and fearing the gods. The crown clothes and accessories used by the emperor and officials are also part of the ritual vessels (Liu, J., & Rao, S, 2022). Each ritual device has strict size and texture requirements corresponding to the official grade, reflecting the rigour of the ritual system. When using ritual vessels, officials need to follow the norms of manners to show respect and solemnity (Li, T, 2022).

**Table 3.** Use of Ritual Vessels and Cultural Connotation in the Qing Dynasty

<b>Name of the Ritual Vessel</b>	<b>Use Occasion</b>	<b>Cultural Connotation</b>
A round flat piece of jade with a hole in its centre	Sacrifice to the heaven and earth, to the ancestors	The shape of the wall is round, symbolizing the perfect harmony between heaven and earth, but also represents the power and status of the royal family.
A long hollow piece of jade with rectangular sides	Sacrifice place only, mountains and rivers	The shape of the cong is a square or a rectangle, representing the god of the four poles and squares of the ground, implying the ruling scope and authority of the royal family.
An ancient cooking vessel with two loop handles and three or four legs	Ancestral sacrifices, and important celebrations	The tripod is one of the symbols of Chinese culture, representing the power and majesty of the royal family, and is also a symbol of unity and stability.
Rank of nobility	Banquet, sacrifice	The shape of jue is three feet, two ears, first-class, implying the dignity and authority of the royal family, but also a symbol of friendship and harmony.
Drum	Military war, to celebrate victory	The sound of the drum is exciting and shocking, representing the courage and determination of the royal family, but also a symbol of unity and fighting.

Table 3 reveals the cultural connotation of ritual vessels on different use occasions in the Qing Dynasty. As an ancient jade ritual vessel, the bi embodies royal power and status; the song represents the god of the earth's four poles, showing the royal court's scope and authority. As a bronze ritual vessel, the tripod embodies the power and majesty of the royal family, as well as the values of unity and stability in the sacrifice to ancestors and important celebrations. As an ancient wine vessel, Jue showed the dignity and authority of the royal family, as well as the pursuit of friendship and harmony in banquets and sacrificial occasions. As an ancient instrument, the drum embodies royal courage, determination, and the spirit of unity, fighting in military expeditions and celebrating victory. These ritual vessels were not only the essential props for religious and cultural rituals but also the symbols of the royal authority and value of the Qing Dynasty.

## **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF RITUAL VESSELS IN THE QING DYNASTY**

### **Role of Qing Dynasty Ritual Vessels in Social Life**

The ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty played multiple and intertwined roles in social life. They not only served as tools for rituals, but also deeply reflected the connotations of culture, faith, politics, and economy. The ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty played a crucial role in communicating with the gods of heaven and earth. As the core tools of sacrificial activities, they connect people with gods and ancestors, conveying people's reverence and piety, and becoming a bridge for communication between humans and gods (Liu, R., & Pollard, A. M, 2022).

Secondly, the ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty played an important role in showcasing their power and status. In court rituals, the use of ritual vessels not only reflects the power status of the emperor and officials but also intuitively reflects the hierarchical system, strengthening the hierarchical structure of society. At the same time, the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels strengthened their identity through specific usage methods and shapes. The use of specific ceremonial vessels by officials of different levels not only demonstrates their status and responsibilities, but also reflects the recognition and sense of belonging of social members towards their own roles.

As a carrier of cultural inheritance, the ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty inherited social and cultural values such as Confucianism and the concept of the mean, becoming an important symbol of historical memory and cultural continuity. They also play an important role in diplomatic activities, serving as a medium for cultural exchange, and conveying signals of friendship, respect, and cooperation. The ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty also serve as symbols of religious beliefs, and their design and use reflect the devout faith of the Qing rulers in gods and ancestors. They are an important component of religious rituals. The exquisite craftsmanship of the Qing Dynasty's ritual vessels not only reflected the level of craftsmanship and artistic aesthetics at that time but also indirectly reflected the level of economic prosperity and social development at that time. These ceremonial vessels are not only practical tools but also witnesses of art and history, providing valuable clues for us to understand the society of the Qing Dynasty. The multiple roles and important roles played by the ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty in social life were intertwined and influenced, collectively constituting the rich connotations of the social culture of the Qing Dynasty.

**Table 4.** Gift-ware Making Technology and Social Role in the Qing Dynasty

<b>Gift Maker Process</b>	<b>Role in Social Life</b>
Jade wall for carving and polishing	Jade bi was regarded as a symbol of power and status in the social life of the Qing Dynasty, and was often used as a gift to show respect and respect.
Casting and chisel of the tripod	The ding was regarded as a symbol of authority and dignity in the social life of the Qing Dynasty, and was often used in important religious and political rituals.
Carving and polished jade cong	The jade cong was regarded as a symbol of the land and richness in the Qing Dynasty, and was often used as a ritual vessel to worship the land.
Jade reflected carving and polishing	Yuyuan was regarded as a symbol of harmony and unity in the social life of the Qing Dynasty, and was often used as a ritual vessel for offering sacrifices and celebrations.
Jade qi for carving and polishing	Jade qi was regarded as a symbol of power and status in the social life of the Qing Dynasty, and was often used as gifts to show respect and respect.

Table 4 shows the role of Qing ritual vessels in social life. These ritual vessels have their characteristics in function and their strengths in cultural connotation. They symbolize power and dignity, harmony and unity, reflecting the diversity and richness of the Qing Dynasty culture. In the sacrificial activities of the Qing Dynasty, ritual vessels were often used as a medium for communication with gods and ancestors. For example, in the ritual of worshipping heaven and earth, the emperor will hold a jade pendant, which is a symbol of purity and nobility, used to express respect to heaven and earth, and pray for the peace and abundant harvest of the country. This ritual is not only a reverence for natural forces, but also a pursuit of social order and harmony.

Regarding the role of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels in showcasing power and status, such as the "Dragon Chair" and "Phoenix Crown" in the palace. The dragon chair is a seat exclusively designed for the emperor, adorned with various gemstones and dragon patterns, symbolizing the emperor's supreme authority. The phoenix crown, on the other hand, is a headdress worn by the queen on important occasions, showcasing her noble status through its grandeur and nobility. The use of these ceremonial vessels not only reflects a strict hierarchical system, but also strengthens the authoritative position of the emperor and empress in the court.

The Qing Dynasty ritual vessels also had their unique examples in strengthening identity recognition. For example, officials will wear different types of beads based on their grade, and there are strict regulations on the material, color, and quantity of the beads. This regulation enables each official to quickly identify each other's identities and status through the beads, thereby enhancing their identification and sense of belonging to their own roles.

### **Symbolic Significance of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty**

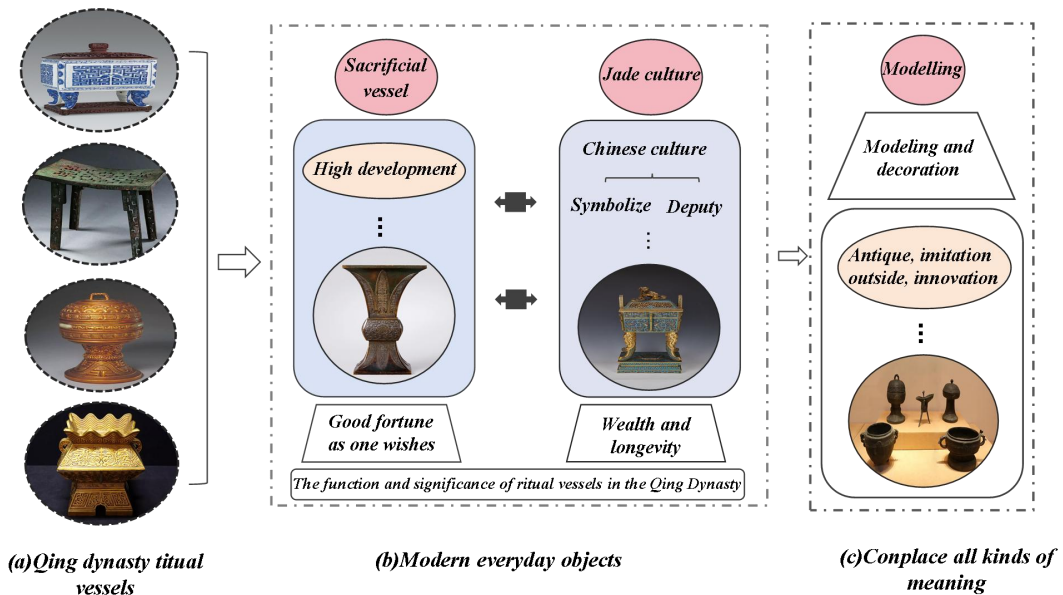
The symbolic significance of the ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty is mainly reflected in their design, decoration and use. The design of ritual vessels often has profound implications. Table 5 shows the ritual vessels of the Qing Dynasty and their symbolic meanings (Yin, Z, 2021). They reflect the different cultural connotations of imperial power, status, power and dignity through different materials and ritual vessel names. For example, the design of the Jin'ou Yonggu cup, decorated with a circle at the mouth, the front of the cup is engraved with the four characters of "Jin Ou Yonggu," symbolizing the immortality of the Qing Dynasty. After the cup, there is a cast

"Qianlong year system" style. The whole body of the cup is carved with some flowers of different sizes. These flowers are called "treasure flowers," which means "treasure" and "fairy," and the decorative effect is vibrant. The left and right sides of the cup cast a galloping up of the Kui dragon, representing vitality and majesty (Moser, J, 2020).

Moreover, on their head is a treasure flower embedded with pearls as decoration. The elephant's trunk is rolled inward, and the ivory supports the whole cup body, meaning "peaceful elephant." The ritual vessel decoration is also full of symbolic significance. The ceremonial instruments are often decorated with golden dragon and phoenix patterns, making them solemn and powerful, delicate and complex mattresses, reflecting the absolute authority of the imperial power. The ceremonial equipment is decorated with a dragon, phoenix, lion, white tiger, Shenwu, red bear, Tianma, horn end, rhinoceros, deer and other imaginary animals to symbolize the divine power of the emperor. The flag battle is decorated with auspicious patterns, such as red grass and eight treasure flowers, to symbolize the peaceful country and the people.

**Table 5.** Overview of Ritual Vessels and their Symbolic Significance in the Qing Dynasty

Name of the Ritual Vessel	Material Quality	Symbolic Meaning
Jin ou yonggu cup	Metals	Qing Dynasty is immortal, and the imperial power is eternal
The jade of the He family	Jade	Noble status, pure and noble
An elongated pointed tablet of jade held in the hands by ancient rulers on ceremonial occasions	Jade, stone, wood, etc	A symbol of status, identity, and power
Jade jue	Jade	Noble and pure, noble status
Tao jue	Pottery	Low status, but still symbolic
Jin Jue	Metals	Noble status, a symbol of imperial power
Copper count	Copper	Medium status, symbolizing power and dignity



**Figure 3.** Symbolism of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

Figure 3 shows the symbolic significance of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty, and the use of ritual vessels also reflects their symbolic significance. For example, the bi, as a white bi, symbolizes its noble status. Gui is an instrument used in ancient China in sacrifice, feasts, funerals and expeditions. The use specification has strict grade limits to indicate the user's status, status and power. Jade Lord is a wine cup made of jade, which is a noble

drink at the banquet and a symbol of noble status and elegant taste. In the Qing Dynasty, the owners of the Jade Lord were primarily members of the royal family or high nobles, and their use occasions were mostly court banquets or essential celebrations (Jeong, 2022). The texture of jade Jue is pure and exquisite, each containing artisans' exquisite craftsmanship and profound cultural heritage. Through the jade jue, people can taste the mellow fragrance of wine and feel the warmth of jade and the solemnity of etiquette. The use of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty is closely connected with the symbolic meaning. They are not only practical instruments but also symbols of culture and power. Each ritual instrument has unique material and production technology, which contains profound cultural connotations and historical background (Liu, Q, 2023).

## INFLUENCE OF RITUAL VESSELS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN DAILY UTENSILS IN THE QING DYNASTY

### Influence of Ritual Vessels on the Shape and System of Modern Daily Utensils in the Qing Dynasty

The Qing Dynasty ritual vessels' decorative elements and patterns also inspired modern everyday objects. The typical patterns of dragon and phoenix, red grass, and eight treasure flowers in the Qing Dynasty are often cited and reinterpreted in modern daily utensils. These patterns have symbolic significance and a certain artistic aesthetic feeling, which can add a unique charm and style to modern everyday objects (Bao, D, 2023).

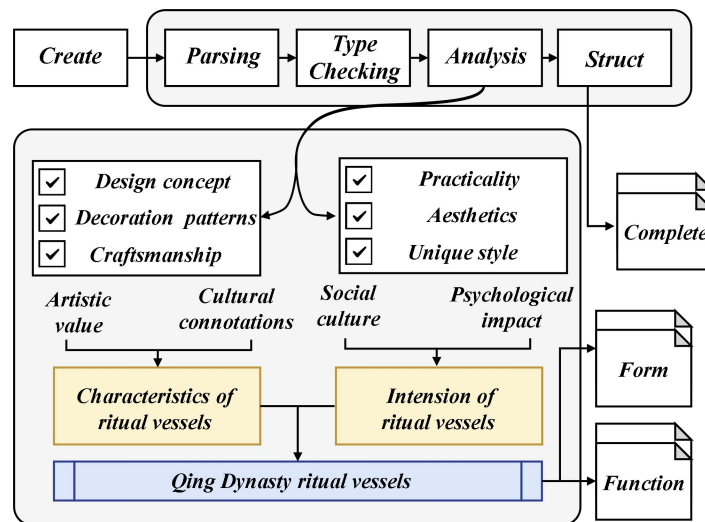


Figure 4. Design Process and Elements of Ritual Vessels in the Qing Dynasty

Figure 4 shows the Qing Dynasty's shape design process and elements of ritual vessels. Rites vessels in the Qing Dynasty paid attention to texture and beauty in selecting materials, such as gold, silver, jade, and other valuable materials, often used to make ritual vessels. This emphasis on the choice of materials also affects the production of modern daily utensils. Modern designers choose materials that consider their texture, beauty and sustainability to create beautiful and practical everyday objects. Table 6 reveals the profound influence of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty on the design of modern daily objects. From the pursuit of exquisite and gorgeous design concepts to the reference of decorative elements and patterns, to the inheritance of production techniques and materials, as well as the perfect combination of practicality and aesthetics, they all reflect the critical value and influence of the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels in modern design.

Table 6. Elements of Qing Dynasty Ritual Vessels in Modern Daily Utensils

Influence Aspects	Characteristics of Qing Dynasty Ritual Vessels	Example of Modern Everyday Utensils
Design philosophy	The pursuit of refinement and magnificence	Porcelain, glassware, etc., pay attention to details and craft, the pursuit of delicate and beautiful.
Decorative elements and patterns	Dragon and phoenix, red grass, eight treasure flowers and other patterns	In modern textiles, wallpaper and home accessories, the common quotation and reinterpretation of qing



Influence Aspects	Characteristics of Qing Dynasty Ritual Vessels	Example of Modern Everyday Utensils
craftsmanship	Pay attention to texture and aesthetic feeling, such as gold, silver, jade and other valuable materials	Dynasty ritual patterns add unique charm to modern design. Modern jewelry, watches and other high-grade daily utensils, draw on the production technology and material selection of the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels, pay attention to texture and beauty.
Combination of practicality and aesthetic appreciation	Ritual vessels have both religious, political and aesthetic functions	In the design of modern daily implements, emphasize the combination of practicality and pay attention to use function already, pursue artistic aesthetic feeling again.

### Influence of Ritual Vessels on the Function of Modern Daily Utensils in the Qing Dynasty

Initially, the delicacy and magnificence of the Qing Dynasty provided a rich source of inspiration for modern design. Modern designers often draw inspiration from the forms, patterns and decorative techniques of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty and integrate them into the design of daily utensils, making modern products more cultural and artistic. This cross-era aesthetic inheritance enriches the language of modern design and makes traditional aesthetics glow with new vitality in modern life (Chen, K, 2022).

In terms of technology, the exquisite production of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty has positively influenced modern technology development. Traditional production techniques, such as ceramic firing, metal casting, carving, and inlaying, still play an essential role in modern industrial production. At the same time, these traditional crafts also provide valuable experience and guidance for modern handicraft and art production and promote the innovation and development of modern craft technology.

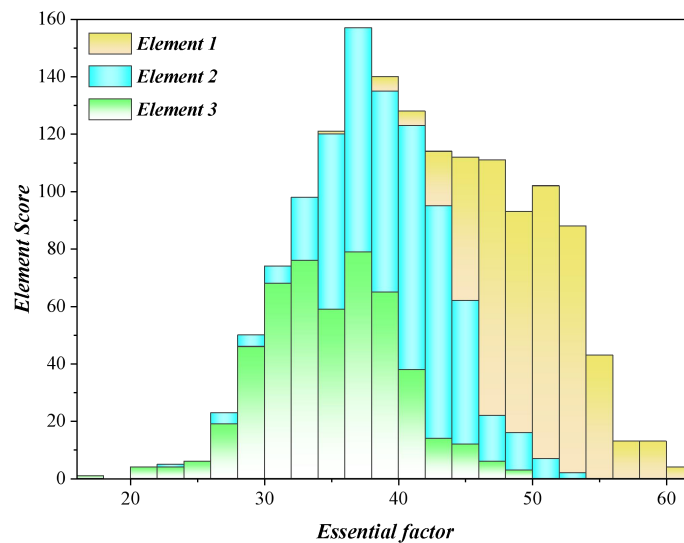


Figure 5. Analysis of the Influence Factors of Ritual Vessels on the Function of Modern Daily Utensils in the Qing Dynasty

Figure 5 shows the results of the analysis of the factors influencing the function of the ritual vessels' modern daily utensils in the Qing Dynasty. As a historical and cultural heritage, the ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty also had a social, cultural, and psychological influence on modern daily utensils. The form, pattern and symbolic significance of the traditional ritual vessels reflected the aesthetic concepts and values of society then. These concepts and values affect the aesthetic and modern people's consumption psychology to some extent and cause some traditional elements and forms to be reproduced and inherited in modern daily objects. This recognition and respect for traditional culture not only enhances the cultural confidence of modern people but also provides a broader space for the development of modern design.

Regarding function and practicality, some design elements and functions of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty

were also used for reference by modern daily utensils (Shaoyang, L, 2023). Although Qing Dynasty ritual vessels were mainly used in religious, ceremonial or court occasions, some of the design elements, such as storage and decoration, were also adopted by modern daily objects. These design elements are practical and integrate traditional aesthetic elements, making the modern daily objects meet the essential functions and have specific artistic value and cultural connotations.

### Influence of Ritual Vessels on Modern Daily Artifact Culture in the Qing Dynasty

Through field research, the evolution of water patterns in different regions was investigated in detail, and it was found that the style and expression of water patterns were different in different regions, and they had certain regional characteristics. For example, the water patterns in North China are simple and geometric, showing a combination of straight lines and curves; the water patterns in the Jiangnan region are soft and curved, showing more of a sense of flow. The water pattern is more unique in the southwest, presented in a delicate and complex way, as shown in Figure 6.

The ritual vessels of the Qing Dynasty inherited the traditional Chinese jade culture, and the jade wares reached a high level of development in the Qing Dynasty and became the symbol and representative of Chinese culture. In modern daily utensils, such as jewellery, ornaments, handicrafts, etc., jade is still widely used or imitates the shape and decoration of jade. Secondly, the Qing Dynasty ritual ware borrowed from its modelling and decoration, and its diverse modelling and decorative skills influenced modern daily utensils, such as tea sets, tableware, porcelain, lacquerware and so on. The influence of the ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty was not only reflected in the form but also more profoundly influenced the modern people's pursuit of beauty and aesthetic taste. The ritual vessels of the Qing Dynasty inherited their functions and significance, not only practical objects but also good luck, wealth, longevity, and descendants. The influence of ritual vessels in the Qing Dynasty on the shape and system of modern daily utensils is reflected in the cultural inheritance, artistic style and functional significance, which integrate these influences into modern life and show the charm of Chinese culture.

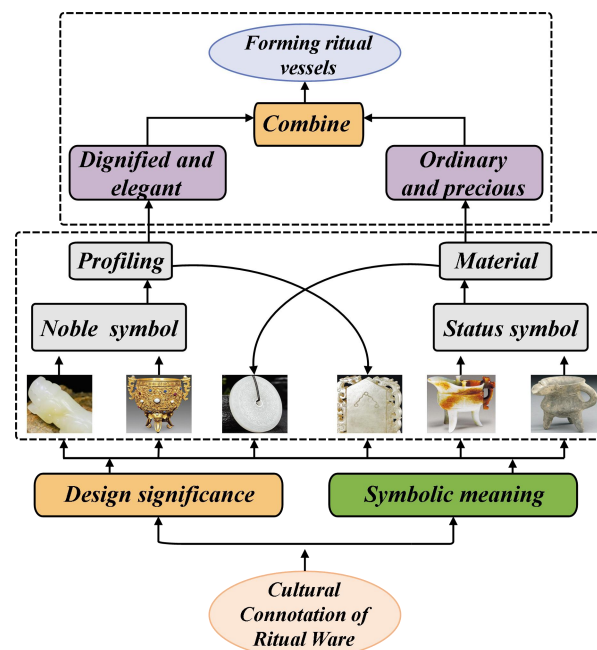


Figure 6. Influence of Qing Dynasty Ritual Vessels on the Culture of Modern Daily Utensils

Figure 6 clearly illustrates the profound influence of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels on modern daily artifact culture. Its exquisite carving techniques, unique styling designs, and profound cultural connotations provide a continuous source of inspiration for the creation of modern handicrafts and daily objects. Modern designers have delved into the production techniques of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels, such as delicate hollow carving and layered color application, and cleverly integrated these traditional elements into the design of modern utensils. Through this approach, modern designers not only create modern utensils that are both practical and artistic, but also successfully inherit and promote the cultural traditions of the Chinese nation. These modern utensils not only showcase their unique charm in daily use but also become important carriers for showcasing traditional Chinese culture, allowing more people to appreciate the unique charm and profound heritage of Qing Dynasty ritual

vessels.

## CONCLUSION

The ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty, as a key component of the Qing Dynasty's system of laws and regulations, are not only brilliant treasures of Chinese culture but also an important window for us to understand the society and culture of the Qing Dynasty. Its structural characteristics and functions not only reflect the diverse aspects of Qing politics, religion, culture, art, etc. but also deeply reflect the essence of the Qing Dynasty's creative design ideas. The shape and function of the ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty were deeply influenced by the traditional ancient ritual system. At the same time, they also incorporated diverse cultural elements such as Manchu, Han, Tibetan, and Mongolian, showcasing the diverse and integrated national characteristics of the Qing Dynasty. The fusion and symbiosis of this culture are a reflection of the unique charm of Qing Dynasty ritual vessels. From the perspective of creative design, the Qing Dynasty ritual vessels fully embody the pragmatic spirit of "valuing oneself over things, and using for the benefit of people", as well as the craftsmanship wisdom of "judging the situation and skillfully following nature". These ideas not only originate from ancient Chinese philosophy, art, and craftsmanship traditions, but also have been deeply influenced by Western science, technology, aesthetics, and other fields, demonstrating the open and inclusive cultural attitude of the Qing Dynasty.

The ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty played a crucial role in social life. They are not only exclusive symbols of upper-class society such as the royal family, nobility, and officials, but also deeply rooted in the people, becoming important elements of grassroots society such as temples and monasteries. Whether it was large-scale sacrificial and tribute activities or daily life and entertainment scenes, the ceremonial vessels of the Qing Dynasty played an indispensable role. They are not only displays of power, status, wealth, and culture, but also disseminators of knowledge, beliefs, customs, and aesthetics.

## REFERENCES

- Bao, D. (2023). Analysis of Aesthetic Features of Official Kilns in Song Dynasty. *Journal of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 15, 31-36.
- Bellemare, J. (2021). "A New Creation of This Dynasty": Enamels, Glass, and the Deployment of Color in Qing China, 1700–1735. *Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture*.
- Chen, K. (2022). Stories of Resurrection in the Qin Manuscripts and the Transformation of Burial Customs in the Qin Dynasty. *Bamboo and Silk*, 5(2), 263-287.
- Fan, K. K., & Li, X. H. (2020). Taking Lacquer as a Mirror, Expressing Morality via Implements: A Study of Confucian Ritual Spirituality and the Concept of Consumption in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. *Religions*, 11(9), 447.
- Hu, G. (2022). Inheritance and Integration: Weaving Qing Dynasty Imperial Garments into a Design Curriculum. *Teaching Chinese Arts & Culture: Content, Context, and Pedagogy*, 177.
- Jeong, E. J. (2022). A rituals and characteristics of several capitals in the Goryeo dynasty. *History & the World*.
- Lai, C. Y. (2022). Artistic Agency, Feminine Labor, and the Female Body in Buddhist Hair Embroideries of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (*Bachelor's thesis, Oberlin College*).
- Li, S., & Wang, H. (2024). Visual Worship and Elemental Analysis of Sacrificial Objects in Sanxingdui of the Ancient Shu Civilization. *Frontiers in Art Research*, 6(2).
- Li, T. (2022). The Sacred River: State Ritual, Political Legitimacy, and Religious Practice of the Jidu in Imperial China. *Religions*, 13(6), 507.
- Liang, Y. (2018). On the origin and formation of the early Qin culture. *Chinese Archaeology*, 18(1), 136-145.
- Liu, J., & Rao, S. (2022). A Study on the Triple Logic of Integrating the Ritual Culture into Theoretical Courses of Design. *Highlights in Art and Design*, 1(3), 80-82.
- Liu, Q. (2023). Introduction: Interpreting "China's Un-fractured Civilization of 5000 Years". In *A History of Un-fractured Chinese Civilization in Archaeological Interpretation* (pp. 1-24). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Liu, R., & Pollard, A. M. (2022). Squeezing mind out of metal: combining textual evidence with scientific data for metallurgy in early dynastic China. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*, 14(6), 117.
- Luo, G. (2023). The Ethical Thoughts of Xun Kuang, the Representative Ethicist of Pre-qin Dynasty. In *Traditional Ethics and Contemporary Society of China* (pp. 239-266). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Mandal, B., Sonar, P., & Singh, S. P. (2024). Visible Light-Stimulated Artificial Synapse Based on an Organic Field-Effect Transistor for Imitating Human Emotions and Mood Swings. *ACS Applied Electronic Materials*, 6(4), 2420-2433.
- Moser, J. (2020). Learning with metal and stone: on the discursive formation of song epigraphy. In *Powerful Arguments* (pp. 135-175). Brill.
- Ogorenko, V., & Shornikov, A. S. (2023). Gender-age and socio-demographic risk factors for non-psychotic mental disorders in individuals with aseptic necrosis of the femoral head. *Psychosomatic Medicine and General Practice*, 7(2), e0702369.
- Shao, Q., Wen, X., & White, P. (2022). Introduction — The Distinctive History of Chinese Design. In *A Brief History of Chinese Design Thought* (pp. 1-7). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- Shaoyang, L. (2023). Ruminations on the meaning and nature of ritual in the historical context of China – A theoretical attempt to understand the tribute system as a ritual in East Asia. *International Journal of Asian Studies*, 20(2), 703-719.
- Sun, Y., Wu, I. W., & Lin, R. (2022). Transforming "ritual cultural features" into "modern product forms": A case study of ancient Chinese ritual vessels. *Religions*, 13(6), 517.
- Wang, Z., Yin, Y., Shan, Z., Cui, Q., Zhang, W., Chai, B., Su, B. (2024). In-situ non-invasive analysis of conservation materials on mural paintings: A systematic approach in Dahuting Han dynasty tomb. *Heritage Science*, 12(1), 51.
- Xu, T. (2020). The Group Photograph as an Imbricated Ritualistic Event: Duanfang and His Altar Bronzes in Late

- Qing Antiquarian Praxis. *History of Photography*, 44(4), 249-266.
- Yin, Z. (2021). Research on Smart Teaching Method of Fashion Innovation and Development of Creation Aesthetics in Lingnan Nine Intangible Cultural Heritage. *Frontiers in Art Research*, 3(4).
- Ying, Y., Chuangui, Y., Architecture, D. O., & University, T. C. (2019). A preliminary study on the restoration of pavilion ling ran in Qing dynasty. *Journal of Shandong Forestry Science and Technology*, 31, 14-19.
- Zhan, Z. (2021). Artisanal Luxury and Confucian Statecraft: The Afterlife of Ming Official Carved Lacquer at the Qianlong Court. *Late Imperial China*, 42(1), 45-91.
- Zhang, J., & Ren, T. (2024). A conceptual model for ancient Chinese ceramics based on metadata and ontology: A case study of collections in the Nankai University Museum. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 66, 20-36.
- Zhang, J., & Ren, T. (2024). A conceptual model for ancient Chinese ceramics based on metadata and ontology: a case study of collections in the Nankai University Museum. *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 66, 20-36.
- Zhang, X., & Zhang, G. (2021, November). Research on Cultural Representation of Bionic Design of pre-Qin bronzes. In *2021 3rd International Conference on Literature, Art and Human Development (ICLAHD 2021)* (pp. 373-377). Atlantis Press.
- Zhou, L. (2024). Shape and Function of Ritual Vessels and the Thought of Creation in the Qing Dynasty. *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*.
- Zhu, H., Yu, M., Zhou, Y., Wang, G., Di, Y., Wang, K., . . . Xie, S. (2024). Transmission and reflection bidirectional terahertz coding metasurface based on thermally switchable materials. *Optics Communications: A Journal Devoted to the Rapid Publication of Short Contributions in the Field of Optics and Interaction of Light with Matter*, 550.