

Treasures from Beijing

May 11 to October 28, 2007
Canadian Museum of Civilization



Photo © National Museum of China

The National Museum of China (NMC) in Beijing houses some of the finest artifacts of human civilization, illuminating the rich history and achievements of the Chinese people. More than 100 treasured pieces were selected by the NMC and will be displayed in a major exhibition that will visit only one venue in the world: the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Treasures from Beijing will offer Canadians a privileged insight into the splendour of Chinese civilization and its lasting history. Visitors will also learn how to better understand, interpret, and appreciate Chinese art and fine crafts.

The exhibition features 120 magnificent artifacts. Due in part to their national and cultural significance, most of the objects have never before been shown outside the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition showcases a dazzling array of materials and styles, reflecting the depth of the country's artistic genius and the breadth of its social and cultural history. Included are jade carvings and lacquerware; paintings and calligraphy; silk textiles; and objects created from bronze, gold and silver. Ceramics play a particularly important role in the exhibition, providing a common thread across the millennia. Among the treasures are a beautiful bronze zun (wine vessel) with dragon and tiger decoration from the Shang Dynasty (1600–1046 B.C.), and a spectacular pottery horse and groom from the Tang Dynasty (618–907).

Sweeping in its scope, the exhibition traces China's remarkable development through the ancient, dynastic and imperial periods, and places the artifacts in their historical context.

Cultural exchange, mutual understanding

Treasures from Beijing is part of an exchange between the National Museum of China and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. For its part, the Canadian Museum of Civilization will create a special exhibition showcasing the treasures of Canada's First Peoples. That exhibition will be shown in Beijing in 2008 when the city welcomes the world to the Summer Olympics.

Photos © National Museum of China



The National Museum of China

The National Museum of China is one of the country's leading museums. It was created in 2003 from the amalgamation of the National Museum of Chinese History and the National Museum of Chinese Revolution. **Treasures from Beijing** is the institution's first collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and among its first with any museum outside China.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization

The Canadian Museum of Civilization, located in Gatineau, is Canada's national history museum and the country's most popular cultural attraction. By car, it can be reached in two hours from Montreal, five hours from Toronto, and five minutes from Ottawa's Parliament buildings. Ottawa is a one-and-a-half-hour flight from New York City.



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