

## 从馆藏旗帜文物溯源中国旗帜的起源和发展

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### 摘要

我的发言是从国博馆藏和《古代中国》、《复兴之路》陈列展出的30余件旗帜文物溯源中国旗帜的起源和发展，证明：中国是世界上最早使用旗帜的国家之一。

一、从刻划符号、古文字和典籍记载溯源中国旗帜的起源，证明中国使用旗帜的历史至少有3100年以上。

二、距今2245年以上的战国“水陆攻战图”纹铜器是中国最早以图案描绘古人持军旗战斗场景的文物。

三、长沙战国中晚期楚墓出土的《人物御龙图》帛画铭旌是中国现存最早的实物旗帜，距今至少有2245年以上。

四、秦汉以后历朝传世绘画上的旗帜。

五、近代中国的旗帜。

六、国博收藏展出的升起的中华人民共和国第一面国旗。

## Tracing the Origin and Development of Chinese Flags through Museum Relics

JI Ruxun

### Abstract

This article traces the origin and development of Chinese flags through the collection of over 30 flag cultural relics in the National Museum of China and through the exhibition “Ancient China and the Road to Rejuvenation”, proving that China is one of the earliest countries in the world to use flags:

I. Tracing the origin of Chinese flags from engraved symbols, ancient characters, and classical records shows that flag use in China goes back least 3,100 years.

II. The “Water and Land Battle Map”-patterned bronze ware from the Warring States period, dating back more than 2,245 years, is the earliest cultural relic in China to depict a scene of ancient soldiers holding military flags and fighting in formation.

III. The silk painting and inscription of the “Portrait of the Imperial Dragon”, unearthed from the Chu tomb in Changsha, from the middle and late Warring States period, is the earliest existing physical flag in China, dating back at least 2,245 years.

IV. Flags appear on paintings in existence after the Qin and Han dynasties.

V. The Flag of Modern China emerged in the 19th century.

VI. The first national flag of the People’s Republic of China is exhibited in the National Museum of China.

坐落在北京天安门广场东侧的中国国家博物馆（以下简称国博）占地7万平方米，建筑面积近20万平方米，是世界上单体建筑面积最大的博物馆。其藏品有143万余件，涵盖历史文物、艺术品等多种门类。其中旗帜文物约2000件，包括国旗、军旗、单位行业旗、奖旗等，以及描绘记载旗帜的文物。

### 一、从刻划符号、古文字和典籍记载溯源中国旗帜的起源，证明中国使用旗帜的历史至少已有3100年以上

旗帜的起源可以追溯到远古部落邦国时代，频繁战争需要使用旗帜识别敌我、召集士兵和指挥作战。旗帜通常是长杆（或加小横杆）上系有兽皮、羽毛或织物，旗面或绘有图案文字，或涂有颜色。

旗帜学界有过一种观点，如《旗帜的历史》认为，最早的旗帜是“约公元前1200年，古埃及人手拿动物旗，这是旗帜最古老的形式。……古代中国士兵使用丝绸旗帜，约在公元前700年。”（注：《文学少年（小学版）》2013年第04期，责编 梁策）。

但事实上中国最早的旗帜比这还要早。中国文明史可追溯到5000年前。相传最早的旗帜是黄帝（约公元前2697年）发明的，用于军事和祭祀等大事，左传云“国之大事在祀与戎”。唐代杜佑《通典》载：“黄帝振兵……设五旗五麾”，象征五行和方色，即红-火-南，黑-水-北，蓝-木-东，白-金-西，黄-土-中。再如西汉刘歆《周礼·春官·司常》载：“司常掌九旗之物

The National Museum of China, located on the east side of Tiananmen Square in Beijing, covers an area of 70,000 square meters and has a building area of nearly 200,000 square meters, making it the largest museum in the world in terms of individual building area. Its collection consists of over 1.43 million items, covering various categories such as historical relics and artworks. Among them are about 2,000 material cultural relics relating to flags, including national flags, military flags, unit industry flags, and award flags, as well as cultural relics depicting and recording flags.

### I. Tracing the origin of Chinese flags from engraved symbols, ancient characters, and classical records shows that flag use in China goes back least 3,100 years.

The origin of flags can be traced back to the era of ancient tribal states, where frequent wars required the use of flags to identify enemies and allies, summon soldiers, and command operations. A flag was usually tied to a long pole (or with a small horizontal bar) made from animal skin, feathers, or fabric, and the surface of the flag was painted with patterns and characters, or painted with colors.

There has been a viewpoint in the field of vexillology, such as in *The History of Flags*, which suggests that the earliest form of flag was “...around 1200 BC, when ancient Egyptians held animal flags in their hands, which is the oldest form of flag... Chinese soldiers used silk flags around 700 AD.” (Note: Literary Youth (Primary School Edition) 2013 Vol. 04, edited by Liang Ce).

But in fact, China's earliest flag was even earlier than this. The history of Chinese civilization can be traced back 5,000 years. According to legend, the earliest flag was invented by the Yellow Emperor (Huangdi, around 2697 BC) and was used for military and sacrificial purposes. The *Zuo Zhuan* (a commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals) states that “the great events of the country lie in the worship and the military”. *Tong Dian*, written by Du You in Tang Dynasty records: “The Yellow Emperor raised his troops... and set up five banners”, symbolizing the five elements and colors, namely red (fire, south), black (water, north), green (wood, east), white (metal, west), and yellow (earth, center). For example, Liu

名，各有属以待国事。日月为常，交龙为旂(qí)，通帛为旟(音zhān)，杂帛为物，熊虎为旗，鸟隼为旟(yú)，龟蛇为旐(zhào)，全羽为旛(suǐ)，析羽为旟。 ” 东汉刘熙《释名·释兵》载“熊虎为旗，军将所建，象其如猛虎”。

由于各种自然和历史原因，远古的旗帜没有保存下来。但人们可以从刻划符号、甲骨文、金文等古文字和典籍记载来溯源中国旗帜的起源。

《诗经》《商颂·玄鸟》是周代宋国君民祭祀商代祖先武丁(公元前1192年)的颂，说：“武丁……龙旂十乘” 龙旂是古时一种旗帜，上画龙形，竿头系铜铃，是商王专用的旗帜。在2200年前的春秋战国时期，五旗五麾的使用已很成熟。《墨子·城守》篇详述了如何举苍、赤、黄、白、黑五色旗以代口号示意城下之人。

中国古文字是由象形图画逐渐演变为象形字，再逐渐演变出早期汉字之甲骨文、金文等形式，历经数千年之久。距今3100多年前商朝甲骨文中最初的“旗”，是两种简单的写法(图1)。

寥寥3笔，让人很自然地联想

到系在木杆上的布、绸、麻、毛、羽等质地的旗面或飘带在风中飘扬，这不就是旗帜吗？！

Xin's *Zhou Li · Chun Guan · Si Chang of the Western Han Dynasty* records that “Si Chang is in charge of the names of the nine flags, each belonging to the state to prepare for national affairs. The name of nine flags include the sun and moon, the dragon, the silk, the miscellaneous silk, the bear and tiger, the bird and falcon, the turtle and snake, the whole feather, and the separated feathers.” Liu Xi's *Shi Ming · Shi Bing* (during the Eastern Han Dynasty) records that “the pattern of bear and tiger is used on the flag for military as to hope the soldiers can be as bold and powerful as the tiger.”

Due to various natural and historical reasons, ancient flags have not survived. But we can trace the origin of Chinese flags from ancient characters and records such as carved symbols, oracle bone inscriptions, and bronze inscriptions.

*The Book of Songs* and the *Song of Shang: The Mysterious Bird* are songs sung by the rulers and people of the Song during the Zhou Dynasty to worship their Shang ancestor Wu Ding (1192 BC). They say, “Wu Ding... Ten dragon flags.” The dragon flag was an ancient flag with a dragon shape painted on it and a copper bell tied to its pole. It was a flag used exclusively by the Shang king. In the Spring and Autumn Period and Warring States Period of 2,200 years ago, the use of the Five Banners was already well developed. The chapter “Mozi City Guardian” elaborates on how to raise the five colored flags of blue, red, yellow, white, and black as slogans to indicate the people under the city's rule.



图 1. 3100多年前商朝甲骨文中最初的旗。

Figure 1. The first “flag” character in Shang Dynasty oracle bone inscriptions, 3,100 years ago.

Ancient Chinese characters gradually evolved from pictographic drawings to pictographic characters, and then into early forms of Chinese characters such as oracle bone script and bronze inscriptions, which lasted for thousands of years. The initial “flag” in oracle bone inscriptions of the Shang Dynasty over 3,100 years ago was written in two simple ways (fig. 1).

With just three strokes, it naturally reminds people of flags or ribbons made of material such as cloth, silk, linen, wool, feathers, etc. tied to wooden poles fluttering in the wind. Isn't this a flag?! A ribbon, also

飘带又称旂（音you），也是一种旗帜。

以后又出现了人在旗下的“旗”字(图2)。

我们现在写的“旗”字，到战国时才出现。再看甲骨文、金文中的“中”字。这是国博收藏展出的西周晚期（-公元前771年）的“颂”青铜壶，其铭文拓片中间的“中”字很像一根旗杆上飘扬着4面旗帜(图3-4)。

更早的是宝鸡青铜器博物院收藏的约公元前1038年的记述周成王营建成周等活动的何尊。

铭文中第一次出现了“中国”二字，其“中”字也是一根旗杆上飘扬着4面旗帜(图5)！

当时甲骨文和金文中的“中”字有多种写法(图6)。

都有一竖中间加一口或圆圈的旗杆，其中两种有旗帜，一种只有旗杆。说明“中”字的本义就是中央之旗，召



图2.“旗”字与旗下的人。

Figure 2. The character “flag” with people under the banner.



图3-4. 其铭文拓片中间的“中”字很像一根旗杆上飘扬着4面旗帜。

Figures 3-4. The character “Zhong” in the middle of the rubbing of the inscription looks like four flags flying on a flagpole.

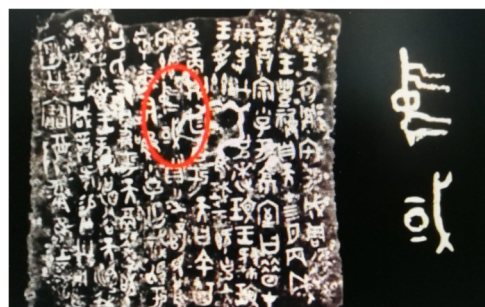


图5.“中国”这个字也指旗杆上飘扬的四面旗帜。

Figure 5. The character “Zhongguo” (China) also refers to four flags flying on a flagpole.

known as 旂 (pronounced “you”), is a type of flag.

Then the character “flag” (旗, with a person under the banner) appeared (fig 2).

The character “flag” we write now only appeared during the Warring States period. Take another look at the character “Zhong” in oracle bone script and bronze inscriptions. This is a bronze pot of “Song” from the late Western Zhou Dynasty (771 BC) held and exhibited in the National Museum of China. The character “Zhong” in the middle of the inscription rubbings looks like four flags flying on a flagpole (figs. 3-4).

Earlier, He Zun, who recorded the activities of Chengwang of Zhou and the establishment of the Chengzhou around 1038 BC, was collected by the Baoji Bronze Museum.

The character “Zhongguo” (China) appeared for the first time in the inscription, and its character “Zhong” also refers to four flags flying on a flagpole (fig. 5)!

At that time, there were multiple ways to write the character “Zhong” in oracle bone script and bronze inscriptions (fig 6).

There is a flagpole with a central opening or a circle in the middle. There are two types of flagpoles with flags and one with only a flagpole. The original meaning of the character “Zhong” is the central flag,

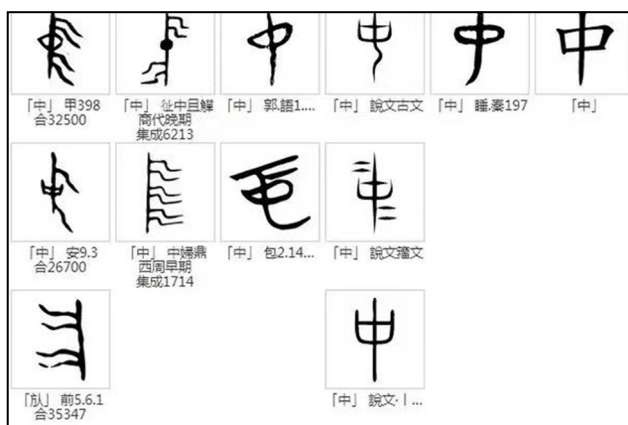


图 6. 当时甲骨文和金文中的“中”字有多种写法。

Figure 6. There were several ways to write the character "Zhong" in oracle bone script and bronze inscriptions.



图 7. 说明“中”字的本义就是中央之旗，召唤族人集合到中央旗帜之下，引申为与四方或两端相等的位置，即中心。

Figure 7. The original meaning of the character "Zhong" is the central flag, which summons the clan to gather under the central flag.

唤族人集合到中央旗帜之下，引申为与四方或两端相等的位置，即中心(图7)。后来只剩下没有飘带的“中”字，到小篆时，“中”字已没有旗帜，力图表现“中”的平衡感。

刻画符号的出现比甲骨文、金文更早。如国博展出的湖北天门石家河文化晚期（公元前2400—1900年前）发现的陶尊、陶缸上的刻画符号。

第一行左3，第三行左2，第四行左2，这三个符号是不是很像一根横杆上悬挂的旗帜(图8)? 这一推论还有待进一步商榷论证。

以上与旗帜有关的古文字证明，中国使用旗帜的历史至少已有3100年以上，中国是世界上最早使用旗帜的国家之一。

which summons the clan to gather under the central flag. It is extended to a position equal to the four directions or two ends, that is, the center (fig. 7). Later, only the character "Zhong" without a ribbon remained. By the time of Xiaozhuan, the character "Zhong" no longer had a flag, in an effort to express the sense of balance of "Zhong".

The appearance of descriptive symbols predates oracle bone script and bronze inscriptions. The carved symbols on pottery statues and jars discovered in the late stage of the Shijiahe culture in Tianmen, Hubei (2400–1900 BC) are exhibited at the National Museum.

Do these three symbols, the third from the left of the first row, the second from the left of the third row, and the second from the left of the fourth row, resemble a flag hanging on a horizontal bar (fig. 8)? This inference still needs further discussion and exploration.

The above ancient character related to flags proves that China has been using flags for at least 3,100 years, and thus is one of the earliest countries in the world to use flags.

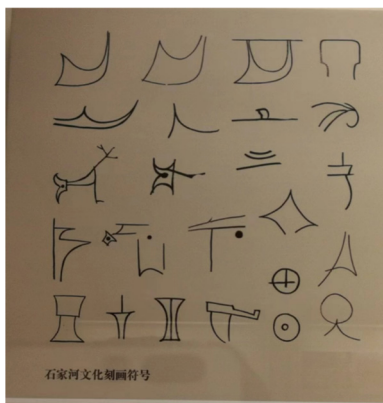


图 8. 三个符号形似一面悬挂在横杆上的旗帜。

Figure 8. Three symbols resemble a flag hanging on a horizontal bar.



二、距今2245年以上的战国“水陆攻战图”纹铜器是中国最早以图案描绘古人持军旗战斗场景的文物。

古代没有照相机和照片，古人在铜器上铸刻嵌错的纹饰图案极其形象具体地描绘了宴乐采桑射猎交战的场景，相当于写实照片。目前中国收藏的战国（公元前475-前221年）“水陆攻战图”纹铜器有2种6件以上。

### 1. 战国“水陆攻战图”纹青铜壶4件

一件是北京故宫博物院1946年征集的战国早期宴乐渔猎攻战纹图壶（参见故宫博物院官网介绍，丁孟撰稿）（图9）。

一件是四川博物院藏1965年四川成都出土的战国嵌错宴乐水陆攻战图纹铜壶（图10）。

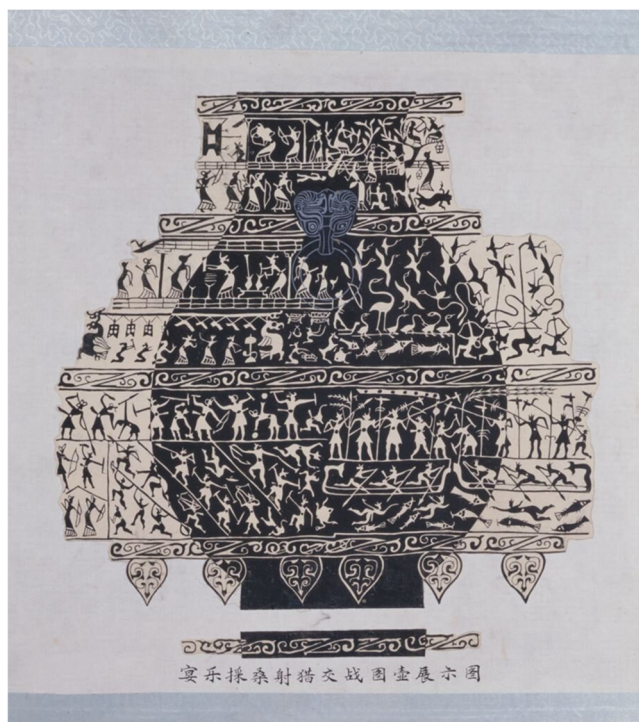


图9. 带有包括旗帜在内的图像的花瓶。

Figure 9. Vase with images including flags.

**II. The “Water and Land Battle Map”-patterned bronze ware from the Warring States period, dating back more than 2,245 years, is the earliest cultural relic in China to depict a scene of ancient soldiers holding military flags and fighting in formation.**

In ancient times, there were no cameras or photographs. The ancient people cast and engraved intricate patterns on bronze ware, vividly depicting scenes of feasting, picking mulberry trees, shooting, and hunting, which is equivalent to realistic photographs. At present, there are two types and six or more pieces of bronze ware with the “Water and Land Attack and Battle Map” pattern collected in China from the Warring States period (475–221 BC).

1. Four pieces of the “Water and Land Battle Map” patterned bronze ware date from the Warring States period.

One is a vase with patterns of early Warring States with banquet music, fishing, hunting, attacking, and warfare, collected by the Palace Museum in Beijing in 1946 (see introduction on the official website of the Palace Museum, written by Ding Meng) (fig. 9).

One is a bronze pot with the pattern of the Warring States period inlaid with images of banquet music and water and land warfare unearthed in Chengdu, Sichuan, in 1965 from the collection of the Sichuan Museum (fig. 10).



图10. 带有旗帜等图案的铜锅。

Figure 10. Bronze pot with images including flags.

另两件是中国航海博物馆近年征集的一对战国嵌错水陆攻战纹铜壶。

The other two are a pair of bronze pots with staggered water and land attack formations from the Warring States period, collected by the China Maritime Museum in recent years.



图 11. “水陆攻战图”。 Figure 11. “Water and Land Attack Battle Picture”.

2. 1935年在河南新乡出土的战国早期嵌错水陆攻战图纹铜鉴一对（现存台湾历史语言研究所），见拓片。

2. A pair of bronze mirrors with inlaid images of water and land attacks during the early Warring States period, unearthed in Xinxiang, Henan, in 1935 (currently preserved at the Taiwan Institute of Historical and Linguistic Research), with rubbings.

上述“水陆攻战图”纹铜器，均分3或4层表现宴乐、渔猎、攻城与水战，内容构图大同小异，说明原创可能出自一处(图11)。水战中敌我两方所持的旌旗不同，一为长条布帛旗上有数个圆星，一为两条长雉尾飘带。布帛旗上的圆点代表统帅的级别，如天子用七星旗，长雉尾则是勇猛的象征，如赵国勇士曾被赏赐戴双雉尾。

The above “Water and Land Attack Battle Picture” patterned bronze ware is divided into 3 or 4 layers to depict feasts, fishing and hunting, siege warfare, and water warfare (fig. 11). The content and composition are similar, indicating that the original creation may have come from one place. In the water battle, the flags held by friend and foe are different. One is a long cloth flag with several round stars, and the other is two long pheasant tail ribbons. The dots on the cloth flag represent the level of the commander, such as the seven-star flag used by the emperor, and the long pheasant tail is a symbol of bravery. For example, the brave warriors of Zhao were once rewarded with double pheasant tails to wear.

史载公元前485年，吴国舟师数万人与齐国在黄海发生海战，吴国战舰长达30米，可载数百人。3年后越国在淮河水战中战胜吴国，以水师称雄江淮以东。秦国、楚国都有水师。

战国水陆攻战纹图铜器上的图案说明，中国使用旗帜的历史距今至少已有2245年以上。

三、长沙战国中晚期楚墓出土的《人物御龙图》帛画铭旌是中国现存最早的实物旗帜，距今至少有2245年以上

国博展出的湖南博物馆收藏的1973年在长沙市郊子弹库战国中晚期楚墓出土的人物御龙图帛画(图12)。

表现了男墓主人配剑驾驭巨大龙舟升天的奇幻景象。帛画上缘有一根有挂绳的细竹竿，是葬仪中用以招魂、导引墓主人升天后随葬在内棺上的旌幡或铭旌，又称“非衣”。这是中国现存最早的实物旗帜，它证明中国使用旗帜的历史距今已有2245年以上。

湖南博物馆还收藏一幅1949年在长沙战国楚墓出土的描绘女墓主人死后升天情景的人物龙凤图帛画(图13)。



图12. 人骑龙旗帛画。

Figure 12. A silk tomb painting of a person riding a dragon with a flag.

According to historical records, in 485 BC, tens of thousands of Wu's warriors engaged in a naval battle with Qi in the Yellow Sea. Wu's warships were 30 meters long and could carry hundreds of people. Three years later, the state of Yue defeated the state of Wu in the Battle of the Huai River, and became the dominant navy east of the Jianghuai River. Qin and Chu both had naval forces.

The images on the bronze ware of the Warring States period shows that China has been using flags for at least 2,245 years.

**III. The silk painting and inscription of the “Portrait of the Imperial Dragon”, unearthed from the Chu tomb in Changsha, from the middle and late Warring States period, is the earliest existing physical flag in China, dating back at least 2,245 years.**

The silk painting of the figure Yulong, unearthed from the Chu tomb in the middle and late Warring States period in the Zidanku area of Changsha suburb in 1973, was collected by the Hunan Museum and exhibited at the National Museum (fig. 12).

It shows the fantastic scene of the male tomb owner with his sword riding the huge Dragon Boat to heaven. There is a thin bamboo pole with a hanging rope at the edge of the silk painting. It is a banner or inscription used in funeral ceremonies to summon the soul and guide the tomb owner's ascent to heaven and was included in the inner coffin, also known as “non-clothing”. This is the earliest existing physical flag in China, which proves that the history of using flags in China dates back more than 2,245 years.

The Hunan Museum also holds a silk painting of a dragon and phoenix figure depicting the scene of the female tomb owner ascending to heaven after her death, unearthed from the Warring States Chu Tomb in Changsha in 1949 (fig. 13).



(注：华中师范大学教授宋亦箫认为，上述帛画中的人物，应是《九歌》中的湘君和湘夫人，原载《丝绸之路研究集刊》2021年第2期。)



图 13. 丝绸龙凤图墓志铭。

Figure 13. A silk tomb painting of a dragon and phoenix figure.

该馆还藏有

一幅在长沙

西汉初墓葬出土的描绘天上人间地下的景象的可悬挂的T形帛画(图14)。也是此类旌幡，距今有2100年以上。



图 14. 作为一种旗帜的丝绸墓画。

Figure 14. A silk tomb painting as a type of banner.

(Note: Professor Song Yixiao from Central China Normal University believes that the figures in the silk paintings mentioned above should be the couple of Xiangjun from "Nine Songs", originally published in Vol. 2 of "Silk Road Research Collection" in 2021.)

The museum also holds a hanging T-shaped silk painting depicting the scenery of heaven and earth underground, unearthed from a tomb in Changsha during the early Western Han Dynasty (fig. 14). It is also a type of banner, dating back more than 2,100 years.

#### 四、秦汉以后历朝传世绘画上的旗帜

1. 国博《古代中国》陈列展出的陕西安平出土的东汉初墓葬壁画《车马出行》(摹绘)(图15)。

此图局部4位骑马持小旗者似在做旗语联络。此类车马出行图绘画，屡见于墓葬中的壁画、漆画、画像石或砖。



图 15. 东汉早期墓葬壁画，内容是旗帜。

Figure 15. An early Eastern Han Dynasty tomb painting depicting flags.

#### IV. Flags appear on paintings in existence after the Qin and Han dynasties.

1. The mural painting "The Journey of Chariots and Horses" from the early Eastern Han Dynasty tomb unearthed in Anping, Shaanxi Province, is in the "Ancient China" exhibition of the National Museum of China (replica) (fig. 15).

In this picture, four riders holding small flags seem to be communicating with each other through flag language. This type of carriage and horse travel painting is often seen in murals, lacquer paintings, and stone or brick portraits in tombs.

2. 北京故宫博物院藏东晋顾恺之绘洛神赋图卷（宋摹本）（图16）。表现了洛神所乘马车插的旗帜飘带之多，规格之高。表现了洛神“左倚采旄，右荫桂旗”（图17），旄是用牛尾做的旗帜，桂旗是用有香味的桂木做旗杆。



图 16. 洛神车上的旗帜，东晋。

Figure 16. Flags on the carriage of Luo Shen, Eastern Jin Dynasty.

2. The Palace Museum in Beijing holds the painting of Luo Shen Fu by Gu Kaizhi from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (Song Dynasty copy) (fig. 16). It shows the abundance and high specifications of the flags and ribbons mounted on the carriage ridden by Luo Shen. It depicts Luo Shen “leaning on the left to pick the tassel, and shading the *Guiqi* on the right” (fig. 17). The tassel is a flag made of ox tails, and the *Guiqi* is a flag pole made of fragrant *Guimu* (laurel) wood.



图 17. 洛神有一个看上去像旗帜的物体。

Figure 17. Luo Shen with vexilloid.

3. 敦煌第156窟壁画 晚唐《河西节度使张议潮统军出行图》（图18）。所持半圆形红日蓝月黑芒黑边黑旂红旗，有人认为是唐朝的国旗或军旗（图19）。我认为只是唐朝下面的节度使旗，根据是此旗只有5条旂，远少于天子常旗的12旂。



图 18. 《河西节度使张议潮统军出行图》。

Figure 18. “Travel Map of Zhang Yichao, the Commander in Chief of the Hexi Military Region”.

3. Mural painting of Cave 156 in Dunhuang from the Late Tang Dynasty is titled “Travel Map of Zhang Yichao, the Commander in Chief of the Hexi Military Region” (fig. 18). Some believe the semi-circular red flag with red sun, blue moon, and black rays, borders, and stripes is the national or military flag of the Tang Dynasty. (fig. 19). However, it may just be the Jiedushi flag under the Tang Dynasty, as it only has 5 stripes, far fewer than the 12 on the emperor’s flag.



图 19. 带有半圆形旗帜的细节。

Figure 19. Detail with semi-circular flag.



#### 4. 北宋《大驾卤簿图卷》和《清明上河图》

国博藏北宋宋绶绘《大驾卤簿图卷》纵51.4、横1481厘米。考证为1053年秋宋仁宗郊祀用的中道指导图。全图人物、车马众多，绘有日月星辰山川风雨雷电和祥禽瑞兽的旌、旗、旛、纛90余杆。

左右武卫五牛旗舆，祭祀用的牛和旗帜为五种颜色 (图20)。

走在最前面的金吾纛是一面黑色的龙托河图旗 (图21)。

北京故宫博物院藏北宋张择端绘《清明上河图》纵24.8厘米、横528.7厘米。描绘12世纪开封的城市面貌和市民生活。许多店铺挂着写有经营内容的布旗 (图22)。

河边酒肆高处横杆悬挂的三黑两白竖条酒旗，可用绳索、滑轮升降，中间有“新酒”二字。

#### 4. Northern Song Dynasty's "Da Jia Lu Bu Tu" and "Qing Ming Shang He Tu".

The Guobo Collection includes the Northern Song Dynasty silk ribbon painting "Da Jia Lu Bu Tu", which measures 51.4 by 1,481 centimeters, verified as the Middle Way Guidance Map used for the suburban worship of Emperor Renzong of Song in the autumn of 1053. The entire picture features numerous characters, carriages, and horses, with over 90 banners, flags, spears, and banners depicting the sun, moon, stars, mountains, rivers, wind, rain, thunder, and lightning, as well as auspicious birds and beasts.

The Five Bulls Banner of the Left and Right Martial Guards is decorated with five colors of oxen and flags used for worship (fig. 20).

The golden banner at the forefront is a black dragon-shaped river map flag (fig 21).

The Palace Museum in Beijing holds the painting "Qing Ming Shang He Tu" by Zhang Zeduan from the Northern Song Dynasty, measuring 24.8 by 528.7 centimeters. It depicts the urban landscape and citizens' lives of Kaifeng in the 12th century. Many shops hang banners with business content written on them (fig. 22).

The three black and two white vertical wine flags hanging on the horizontal bars of the riverside tavern can be lifted and lowered with ropes and pulleys, with the word "new wine" in the middle.



图 20. 用于祭拜的五牛幡。

Figure 20. The Five Bulls Banner with flags used for worship.



图 21. 金乌幡，是一面黑色的旗帜。

Figure 21. The Jinwu banner was a black flag.

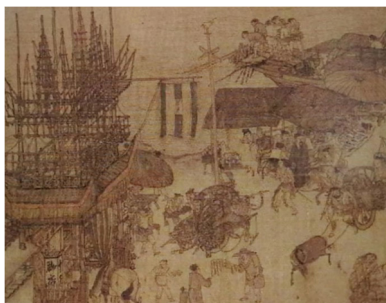


图 22. 包含商业内容的横幅。

Figure 22. Banners with business content.

台北故宫博物院藏明仇英摹仿的《清明上河图》中，船上旗杆顶用横竿悬一面镶毛边三角（或方形）旗，(图23)两红两黄一蓝色，黄旗中有红圆形，有人认为是代表宋朝的，类似国旗。

5. 九旂白纛或称查干苏鲁锭。是成吉思汗在斡难畔建国时(1206年)所创立(图24)。是成吉思汗的战旗和蒙古族的权力象征。这也是一种旗帜。查干苏鲁锭由三叉神矛的主苏鲁锭和八柄陪苏鲁锭组成。主苏鲁锭的顶端为镀金三叉铁矛，象征着火焰，下端圆盘沿边固定银白公马鬃制成的缨子，柄为松木。

6. 台北故宫博物院收藏的明万历皇帝《出警入跸图》

画作描绘万历皇帝骑马出京到十三陵祭拜先祖，再坐船回京的宏大情景，分为两卷，出警图长26米，入跸图长30米。

图中有两面蓝色令旗和各色龙旗超过30面，几乎是龙旗的海洋(图25)。

万历所坐龙舟上悬挂红黄两面三角形青龙旗，似为皇帝的象征(图26)。

In the painting “Qing Ming Shang He Tu” by Ming Qiu Ying, which is held in the Palace Museum in Taipei, a triangular (or square) flag with a frayed edge is hung from the top of the flagpole on the ship (fig 23). The flag is two red, two yellow, and one blue, with a red circle in the yellow flag. Some people believe that it represents the Song Dynasty and is similar to a national flag.



图 23. 《清明上河图》。

Figure 23. “Qing Ming Shang He Tu”.

5. The Nine Streamers White Banners of the Mongol Empire.

The Nine Streamers White Banners, also known as Chagan Sulu Ding, were created by Genghis Khan during the founding of the country on the banks of the Wonan River in 1206 (fig. 24). It is Genghis Khan’s war flag and a symbol of power for the Mongolian people. This is also a flag. The Chagan Sulu Ding consists of the main Sulu Ding with a trident divine spear and eight accompanying Sulu Ding. The top of the main Sulu Ding is a gold-plated trident iron spear, symbolizing flames. The lower end is fixed with a silver white stallion mane tassel along the edge, and the handle is made of pine wood.



图 24. 蒙元帝国的九旂白纛。

Figure 24. The Nine Streamers White Banners of the Mongol Empire.

6. The Ming Emperor Wanli’s “Chu Jing Ru Bi” painting held by the Palace Museum in Taipei.

The painting depicts the grand scene of Emperor Wanli riding a horse out of the capital to pay respects to his ancestors at the Ming Tombs, and then returning to the capital by boat. It is divided into two volumes, with a 26-meter-long painting of Chu Jing and a 30-meter-long painting of Ru Bi.

There are two blue flags and over 30 dragon flags of various colors in the picture, almost like an ocean of dragon flags (fig. 25).

Wanli’s Dragon Boat is hung with a red and yellow triangular green dragon flag, which seems to be the symbol of the emperor (fig. 26).





图 25. 明万历皇帝《出警入跸图》。

Figure 25. Ming Emperor Wanli's "Chu Jing Ru Bi" painting.



图 26. 万历长船上悬挂着红黄三色青龙旗。

Figure 26. Wanli's Dragon Boat is hung with a red and yellow triangular green dragon flag.

7. 国博收藏展出的清 徐杨绘《乾隆南巡图》画作描绘了1751年乾隆第一次南巡情景，共12卷，总长154米，堪称巨制。

检阅台左边是地位最高的镶黄旗，分列左右的是其他七旗和半圆形红旗 (图27)。

行进中两侧的护卫所持的是星辰瑞兽八卦图案旗帜，龙舟上长3.5米的金龙戏珠图案的龙帆实为古代最大的龙旗 (图28)。

8. 国博展出的故宫博物院藏乾隆时（1736-1796年）绘《万国来朝图》 (图29)。

7. Xu Yang's painting "Qianlong's Southern Tour" of Qing Dynasty, held by and exhibited in the National Museum, depicts the scene of Emperor Qianlong's first southern tour in 1751, consisting of 12 volumes and a total length of 154 meters, making it a masterpiece.

On the left side of the reviewing stand is the highest ranking inlaid yellow flag, followed by the other seven flags and the semi-circular red flag (fig. 27).

The guards on both sides of the road are holding the flag with stars, auspicious animals and eight trigrams (fig. 28). The dragon sail with the 3.5-meter-long golden dragon playing with pearls on the Dragon Boat is actually the largest dragon flag known from ancient times.

8. The Palace Museum's collection of paintings from the Qianlong period (1736–1796), titled "The Arrival of All Nations in the Dynasty", is exhibited at the National Museum of China (fig. 29).

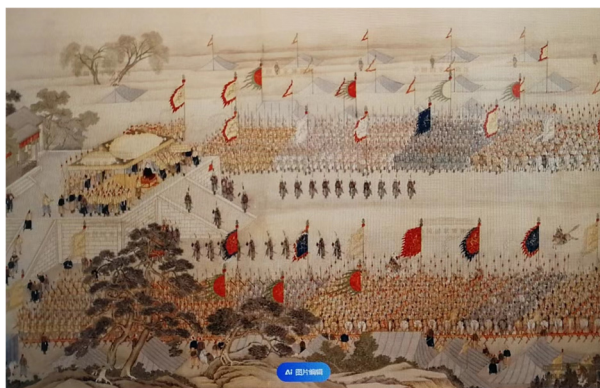


图 27. 国博收藏展出的清 徐杨绘《乾隆南巡图》。

Figure 27. Xu Yang's painting "Qianlong's Southern Tour" from the Qing Dynasty, in the National Museum of China.



图 28. 《乾隆南巡图》。

Figure 28. Detail, "Qianlong's Southern Tour".

描绘各国使臣向乾隆祝贺元旦的场景，所持各国国旗无图案，只用中文写国名，说明当时对各国国旗并无研究。

They depict the scene of envoys from various countries congratulating Emperor Qianlong on New Year's Day, holding national flags without patterns and only writing the names in Chinese, indicating that there was no knowledge of national flags at that time.



图 29. 《万国来朝图》。

Figure 29. "The Arrival of All Nations in the Dynasty".

## 五、近代中国的旗帜

1. 1888年清廷正式公布以长方形的黄底蓝龙戏红珠旗为国旗，是中国第一面正式国旗 (图30)。

### V. The Flag of Modern China emerged in the 19th century.

1. In 1888, the Qing court officially announced the flag, a rectangular yellow field bearing a blue dragon

with a red pearl as the national flag, the first official national flag of China (fig 30).

之前因无正式国旗在对外交涉时屡屡吃亏，清政府遂于1862年设计了三角形黄龙旗的“清国旗式”，用于官船和海军以区分中外舰船。

Previously, due to the lack of an official national flag, the Qing government repeatedly suffered losses in foreign negotiations. Therefore, in 1862, the Qing government designed the "Qing National Flag Style" with a triangular yellow dragon flag to distinguish between official ships, navy ships and foreign ships.

2. 国博收藏的直隶遵化石门镇义和神团“坎”字旗和旗杆上的金拳头，曾在1900年被八国联军中的德军掠去 (图31 - 32)。



图 30. 中国第一面正式国旗，1888年。

Figure 30. The first official national flag of China, 1888.

该旗于1955年德意志民主共和国总理格罗提渥访华时送还中国。

2. The "Kan"-shaped flag and golden fist finial on the flagpole of the Boxer Rebellion in Shim-en Town, Zunhua, Zhili, held by the National Museum of China, were looted by the German army of the Eighth Allied Army in 1900 (figs. 31-32).

旗杆上的金拳头在1959年前苏联苏中友好协会代表团访华时送还（参见国博官网）。

The flag was returned to China during the visit of German Democratic Republic Prime Minister Grotius to China in 1955.

The golden fist on the flagpole was returned during the visit of the Soviet Union China Friendship Association delegation to China in 1959 (see the official website of the National Museum of China).

3. 国博展出的辛亥革命武昌起义时的十八星旗 (图33)。

以起义的18省代表全国反抗清朝统治，后在中华民国成立初期被采用为陆军旗。

4. 中华民国第一面国旗——五色旗 (图34)。

1912年6月8日五色旗正式成为中华民国法定国旗。旗面比例为5:8，按顺序为红、黄、蓝、白、黑五色横条，代表汉、满、蒙、回、藏5个民族，五族共和，意为中华民族的团结统一。

5. 中华民国第二面国旗——青天白日满地红旗 (图35)。

1921年5月孙中山在广州宣布用青天白日满地红旗为国旗和军旗。



图 31. 义和团运动的“坎”字形旗帜。

Figure 31. The “Kan”-shaped flag of the Boxer Rebellion.

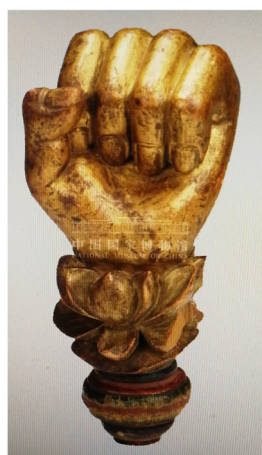


图 32. 义和团运动的金拳顶饰。

Figure 32. The golden fist finial of the Boxer Rebellion.

3. The 18-Star Flag from the Wuchang Uprising of the Xinhai Revolution exhibited at the National Museum of China (fig. 33).

The 18 provinces that rebelled against Qing Dynasty represented the whole country, and later adopted it as the army flag in the early days of the establishment of the Republic of China.

4. The first national flag of the Republic of China—the five-colored flag (fig. 34).

On June 8, 1912, the Five-Colored Flag officially became the legal national flag of the Republic of China.

The proportions of the flag were 5:8, with red, yellow, blue, white, and black horizontal stripes in that order, representing the five ethnic groups of Han, Manchu, Mongolian, Hui, and Tibetan, representing the unity and solidarity of the Chinese nation.

5. The second national flag of the Republic of China—Blue Sky, White Sun, and Red Flag on the Ground (fig. 35).

In May 1921, Sun Yat-sen announced in Guangzhou that the national and military flags would be a blue sky and white sun on a red field.



图 33. 1911 年武昌起义时的十八星旗。

Figure 33. The 18-star flag from the Wuchang Uprising, 1911.



图 34. 中华民国第一面国旗，1912年。

Figure 34. The first national flag of the Republic of China, 1912.



1928年北伐结束，东北易帜，此旗正式成为中华民国国旗。

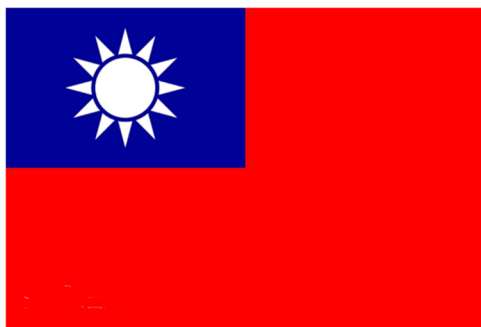


图 35. 中华民国第二面国旗，1928年。

## 六、国博收藏展出的升起的中华人民共和国第一面国旗

1949年10月1日中华人民共和国开国大典在北京天安门广场升起的第一面国旗(图36)。

特别需要强调的，一是当时是登报向全国人民和海外华侨公开征集新中国的国旗图案，后在近3000幅图案中选出曾联松设计的五星红旗图案，经政协代表讨论修改后表决通过，这在人类历史上是空前的创举；二是国旗图案是限定设计作品，旗面颜色为红色，长宽比为三比二，图案要简洁等既是设计限定又符合革命传统、民族传统（如中国红）。

Figure 35. The second national flag of the Republic of China, 1928.

In 1928, the Northern Expedition ended and the Northeast changed its flag, officially making it the national flag of the Republic of China.

## VI. The first national flag of the People's Republic of China is exhibited in the National Museum of China.

The current national flag was raised at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1, 1949, during the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China (fig. 36).

It is particularly important to emphasize that designs for the national flag of New China were first solicited in newspapers from the people of the entire country and from overseas Chinese, then the five-star red flag designed by Zeng Liansong was selected from nearly 3,000 designs, which were discussed and revised by the representatives of the CPPCC, and voted on for approval. This is an unprecedented initiative in human history. Second, the national flag pattern is a limited design work, with a red flag color and a proportions of 2:3. The pattern had to be simple and in line with revolutionary and national traditions (such as Chinese red).



图 36. 中华人民共和国升起的第一面国旗，1949年。

Figure 36. The first national flag of the People's Republic of China, 1949.

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Ji Ruxun, retired researcher of National Museum of China, Beijing, has researched and investigated on the birth of the Chinese national flag, emblem, and anthem, and published articles such as “Record of the Birth of the National Flag”. Since 2001, he has served as the national flag expert for the National Flag Law and National Flag Knowledge China Tour.

