Analysis of Artistic Characteristics of Chu Lacquerworks

Han-Qing Ge

Abstract: Chu lacquer has become the representative of lacquer art in the Warring States Period because of its variety and excellent production. This article elaborates its unique artistic features through the analysis of the selection, types and modeling arts, colors, decoration and other aspects of Chu lacquer ware.

Keyword: Chu Lacquerware, Fetus, types and shapes, decorative techniques, patterns

Chu State is a country with a long history and amazing color in Chinese history. During the Warring States period, only the Chu State could contend with the Qin State and there was a trend of being divided by the world with Qin. According to "Huainanzi • soldier slightly training" records, "South Juan Yuan Xiang, north around Ying Si, West Bao Ba Shu, East Huai Huai, Ying Ru thought, Jianghan that pool, Yuan to Deng Lin, cotton with Fangcheng, Chu's strong, the earth in public, in points world. "Thus, Chu territory was almost covered the entire southern region. At present, the construction of major provincial capital cities in central and southern China all have the credit of the Chu Kingdom. At the same time, the Chu culture has gradually infiltrated into various places.

Most of the lacquer wares from the Warring States Period come from the Chu Tomb. During this period, the lacquer ware manufacturing industry entered an unprecedented prosperity stage. It is the first peak of the development of Chinese lacquer ware art. There are three reasons for this: First, Chu is located in a warm and humid subtropical region, 15 degrees Celsius temperature and 1100 mm rainfall, even if the production process of lacquer simplification, but also easy to form a high-quality film. Second, a good climate suitable for the growth of tree, Chu has a rich source of lacquer. Thirdly, the developed iron and steel technology in the Yangtze River Valley is ahead of the Central Plains. With the gradual popularization of iron tools, great progress has also been made in carving techniques in Chu State. Iron tools are definitely good tools for the production of lacquered wood tires relative to copper tools Effect. The conditions of these aspects are combined with the artistic excellence of the Chu people, so that the lacquer ware of the Kingdom of Chu is the highest in both quantity and quality.
First, the type of Chu lacquer and its art

Chu living in a lacquered kingdom, life and death away from paint. The equipment used in daily life is paint, such as paint cup, paint bowl, paint bean, paint box, paint tray, paint spoon, paint pot, paint case, paint case, paint stick, paint box, Paint drum, lacquer, paint bamboo flute, paint-screen, paint deer and so on. After the death of funeral supplies are also used more paint, such as paint town animal, paint wooden servants, lacquer coffin and so on. One lacquer is an important variety of daily necessities, “Han Feizi • said the top left,” the story of buying beads also fully demonstrates the Chu superb lacquer technology, and the variety of lacquer boxes also reflects the Chu romantic spirit.

Lacquerware also includes crafts and plaything, the main screen, wood deer, evil spirits, Bo and so on. These small ornaments and tools to give full play to the superb craftsmanship craftsmanship. Painted wood carving screen in the Jiangling Warring States Chu unearthed a few pieces, painted wood carving seat by the convex seat and rectangular screen in two parts, the middle of the screen separated by standing trees. Four dragon screen around the openwork two opposite the dragon, dragons body flexor, stunned. The rough and powerful carving techniques, with a strong artistic appeal. Handicrafts exist as pure works of art, it can best represent the achievements of the art at that time, but also a concentrated expression of all artistic means.

Chu witch cultural tradition is the style of Chu lacquer style point of growth. At that time, witchcraft was an important cultural complex existing in people's minds, making Chu culture and art have all kinds of strange imagination, passionate sincere feelings and unpredictable forms. For example, using roots as a medium, the "story" of several animals and the "parade" of the sacred objects are organically integrated with evil spirits. In addition, there are the town graveyard animals and the tiger flying birds. Chu lacquer addition to reflect the strange gods, but also respect for nature, the nature has a strong worship and praise of the situation. Chu artists to lacquer as a carrier to copy the natural world of life, large deer, tiger, small snake frog. These images are vividly portrayed by God. The unearthed cultural relics "Painted Wood Carving Screen” (Picture 1) unearthed in No.1 Tombs of Jiangling Wangshan shows the scene of competition for survival in nature in a highly concentrated manner through the combination of openwork and relief. The screen consists of an openworkable animal-shaped part that passes through a height of 15 cm and a horizontal length of 51.8 cm. It consists of a flat base and a square plane, with a seat width of 12 cm and a screen of only 3 cm. In this small volume, sculptures of phoenix, bird, deer, frog, snake, python, etc., 55 lively animals, showing the snake swallowed frog deer and phoenix bird snake harm removal of the image. The ingenuity of the creatures' natural life forms coupled with the intricacies of openwork and relief artificially make the animal species vivid and realistic. The mutually restrictive relationship between them has given the entire work a mysterious atmosphere that goes beyond the simple mode of general naturalism. The screen is a decorative arts and crafts with a decorative style, because of its Seiko clever, breathtaking, but also because of the overall image of the mysterious implication of the composition of the composition, and have greater charm.

Second, Chu lacquer fetal selection

The vast majority of carcasses in Chu Kingdom are wooden tires. Chu lacquer wooden births are mainly alder forming, roll forming, Alder forming and sculpture, stitching and so on. The so-called alder wood molding, ax is cut to cut and shape, paint ear cup most of the use of the whole block digging in the shape, and then cut its shape. Roll wood molding, is the carcass made after rolling up the carcass of the body, such as lacquer, paint and other wall is generally made. Some carcasses thick circular objects, such as round boxes, bottles and other alder wood forming method, the hollow part of the use of digging, and the instrument used
swirling. In the production of carcass lacquer carcass in Chu State, the most abundant artistic features are openwork, circular carving and embossing process, forming or re-assembling objects such as lacquered woodcarving tiger (pictured), painted carved wooden screen representative work.

In addition, there are folder ramie, skin tires, bamboo tires, metal tires, ceramic tires and silk fabrics, such as paint. Ramie folder is made of linen-based fabrics and paint-based lacquer body made of lacquer. Laminated lacquer thin and light folder, solid and delicate, easy to shape, shape free, you can give full play to Chu open creative thinking. Tire leather light, soft, easy to shape and not easy to crack, often used to manufacture nail polish. However, leather is afraid of dampness, the appearance is not very beautiful, so Chu people often have to paint when making nail polish. This can protect the leather armor so that it can be used for a long time, and secondly to make it more beautiful, or even painted a special pattern, to pray for the protection of the gods. Bamboo tire lacquer to the most exquisite bamboo woven fabric. Chu bamboo knit fabric in many Chu unearthed unearthed, it is also the daily life of Chu people use more types.

Third, Chu lacquer "dichroic" performance and decorative techniques

Chu color lacquer is very rich and very colorful. To paint the color point of view, including black, Zhu, green, purple and so on. Chu lacquer generally black and red as the background, but also usually black lacquer surface, the red paint. Black paint is the true nature of paint, also known as Lacquer, there are black blended soot. Black paint, but also can be made of calendered black paint and black light retouch. Red mostly with red sand, multicolored is the use of vegetable oils and mineral pigments configured. Quite a number of unearthed lacquer surfaces have finely drawn patterns, such as Yu Tushan Chu tomb unearthed 272 lacquer cup, only a few decorative plain ear cups, the vast majority of painted ear cups, ear cups on the decorative colors Gold, yellow, red and so on. Yutaishan Chu tomb unearthed lacquer black and red paint as the background, the general table black paint, paint red paint. On the other hand, the painted color is red, yellow, green, blue, white, gold and so on. The variety of colors embodies the material richness of Chu State at that time.

The painting of Chu lacquerware is mainly a combination of line drawing and flat painting, which may have developed from the flat pattern and the line pattern cast on the bronze. Because at the time the painting tool was a brush, the painted lines on the lacquer ware seemed smooth. Familiar tools can maximize their artistic imagination. Chu people on the lacquer decoration in addition to painting there are gold, gold and other means. Of course, this decorative utensils can only be enjoyed by the elite.

Fourth, Chu Lacquer pattern research

The worship of the gods and the imitation of nature by the Chu people also have a full and systematic performance in the lacquer decoration.

Chu national lacquer patterns are mostly derived from the Shang and Zhou bronzes on the Dragon, Phoenix pattern, Yunlei pattern, but Chu these traditional patterns to be deformed decomposition exaggeration, but also re-combined according to different needs to form a vivid and smooth Free and easy stretch new style.

Divided from the theme animals and plants, natural landscapes and geometric patterns and so on. Divided from the modeling practices can be broadly summarized as the image of a specific and realistic style; the traditional patterns and natural forms to be decomposed and deformed exaggerated; purely abstract geometry and so on.

In short, Chu lacquer is a kind of handicraft, which has its unique style and research value in the existing arts and crafts. The appearance of lacquer is the aesthetic expression of Chu people to nature and is the bearing entity of the aesthetic consciousness of the Chu people: simple (wood, leather, bamboo, pottery, metal, silk and linen) simple and textured
beauty of form; Natural and vivid; in the decoration of the shape and organization, the full application of the principle of formal beauty; in a variety of production techniques, showing a superb artistic talent and skills, with plenty of freedom of imagination.

In summary, as a representative of the Warring States lacquer ware, Chu lacquerware is characterized by strange shapes, mysterious treacherousness and unrestrained imagination, flowing decoration, brilliant colors and exquisite craftsmanship, The brilliant light.

References