

Appendix: About Professor Dame Jessica Rawson

Professor Dame Jessica Rawson, DBE, FBA is a world-renowned scholar of Chinese art and archaeology. She specialises in ancient Chinese bronzes, jades, ornamental systems and burial practices, with particular emphasis on cultural exchanges between China and the rest of Eurasia. She worked for over 20 years at the British Museum in London. She was responsible for the renovation of the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of Oriental Antiquities, opened by Queen Elizabeth II on November 1992. She was also involved in the renovation of the gallery, opened by the Queen on 8 November 2017. At the British Museum, she organised several inter-departmental exhibitions, including *Chinese Ornament, the Lotus and the Dragon* (1985).

After moving to Oxford in 1994, where she was Warden of Merton College from 1994 to 2010 and Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 2005 to 2010, she organised further exhibitions in London, at the British Museum and the Royal Academy: *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing* (1995); *Mysteries of Ancient China* (1996); *China: The Three Emperors, 1662-1795* (2005-06); and *Treasures from Shanghai: Ancient Chinese Bronzes and Jades* (2009).

She was awarded the title of Dame by the Queen in 2002 for her contribution to work on China. Seeing the need to expand the study of China in the UK, Professor Rawson bid for and gained a major 10-year Leverhulme Grant (2002-12) to support the study of contemporary China, leading to the establishment of the Oxford China Centre. She held a five-year (2011-16) Leverhulme Trust grant on China and Inner Asia, to study “1000-200 BC: Interactions that Changed China”. For the academic year 2013-14, she held the position of Slade Professor of Fine Art at Cambridge University. She was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. From 2010 to 2019, she held a part-time appointment in the School of Archaeology at the University of Oxford. Since 2019, she has been an Honorary Research Associate at the school.

In 2017, she was awarded the Charles Lang Freer Medal by the Freer Gallery Smithsonian Institution. In 2020, she received an award for her lifetime contribution to the study of China’s Art and Archaeology from the American Friends of the Shanghai Museum. In 2022, she was awarded the Tang Prize in Sinology. She was made an Honorary Professor at Peking University in 2019 and an Honorary Professor at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou in 2020.

With the generous sponsorship of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation, she visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) from 25 January to 7 February 2026, where she serves as the 2026 Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Fine Arts and the Institute of Chinese Studies.

Among Professor Rawson’s numerous influential publications are *Chinese Ornament: The Lotus and the Dragon* (1984), *Chinese Bronzes: Art and Ritual* (1987), *Chinese Jade: From the Neolithic to the Qing* (1995) and *Life and Afterlife in Ancient China* (2023).