

The Qingfeng Shanfang Collection of  
Furniture in  
Ming and Qing Dynasties

清風山房藏  
明清家具

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## Preface

Numerous publications on Chinese hardwood furniture have appeared over the last several decades—the majority stemming from collections that were formed outside of China. This phenomenon also coincides with the genre of Chinese traditional furniture becoming universally recognized as one of the great furniture traditions of the world.

Over the last decade or so, publications of mainland collections have also started to appear. Two such works include Pan Baolin's *Romantic Charm of Ancient Woodwork* (pub. 2005) and Huang Dingzhong's *Liu Yu Zhai Collection* (pub. 2009). These publications reveal many previously unknown examples; furthermore, the objects also exhibit the Chinese mainland collector's preference for undisturbed, original surfaces—this in contrast to the cleaned and polished surfaces that are typical of objects restored and refinished in Hong Kong workshops throughout the 80's and 90's.

The *Qingfeng Shanfang Collection* also reflects such traits. Few of the objects have been previously published and they are mostly documented with age-patinated surfaces that have not been re-polished. Furthermore, because the objects were largely sourced from the Jiangnan region, this collection provides a valuable reference for understanding stylistic characteristics of hardwood furniture from a region long renown for its sophisticated craftsmanship. The collection includes over fifty fine examples of *huanghuali*, *zitan* as well as *hongmu* furniture and smaller scholars objects, which date from the late Ming period throughout the late Qing period. Spanning some 300 years, the collection is also a rich with styles that range from simple undecorated forms to those with elaborate carving. This scope of materials and styles aside, the qualities of elegance and refinement remain constant—reflecting the sophisticated taste of the collector, Chen Xuefeng.

The author, Zhang Zhihui, is both personal colleague and a new generation Chinese furniture academic who graduated from the program established by Chen Zengbi at the Central Academy of Arts in 2008. During his time with the Forbidden City Publishing House since, he has edited several publications on collections and exhibitions of Chinese furniture. Of most recent is the monumental 20 volume tome that catalogues the furniture in the Palace Museum collection. Within the field of Chinese furniture, Zhang is already recognized as a rising star. With the *Qingfeng Shanfang collection*, Zhang brings creative experience with graphic publications as well as fresh, leading-edge research.

The *Qingfeng Shanfang Collection* is an important contribution to the field as a study collection, and with splendid illustrations, will surely please Chinese furniture connoisseurs around the world.

Curtis Evarts  
Shanghai, Winter 2016