

CLAUDE ARTHAUD F. HÉBERT-STEVENS PETER C. SWANN



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CHINESE MONUMENTAL ART

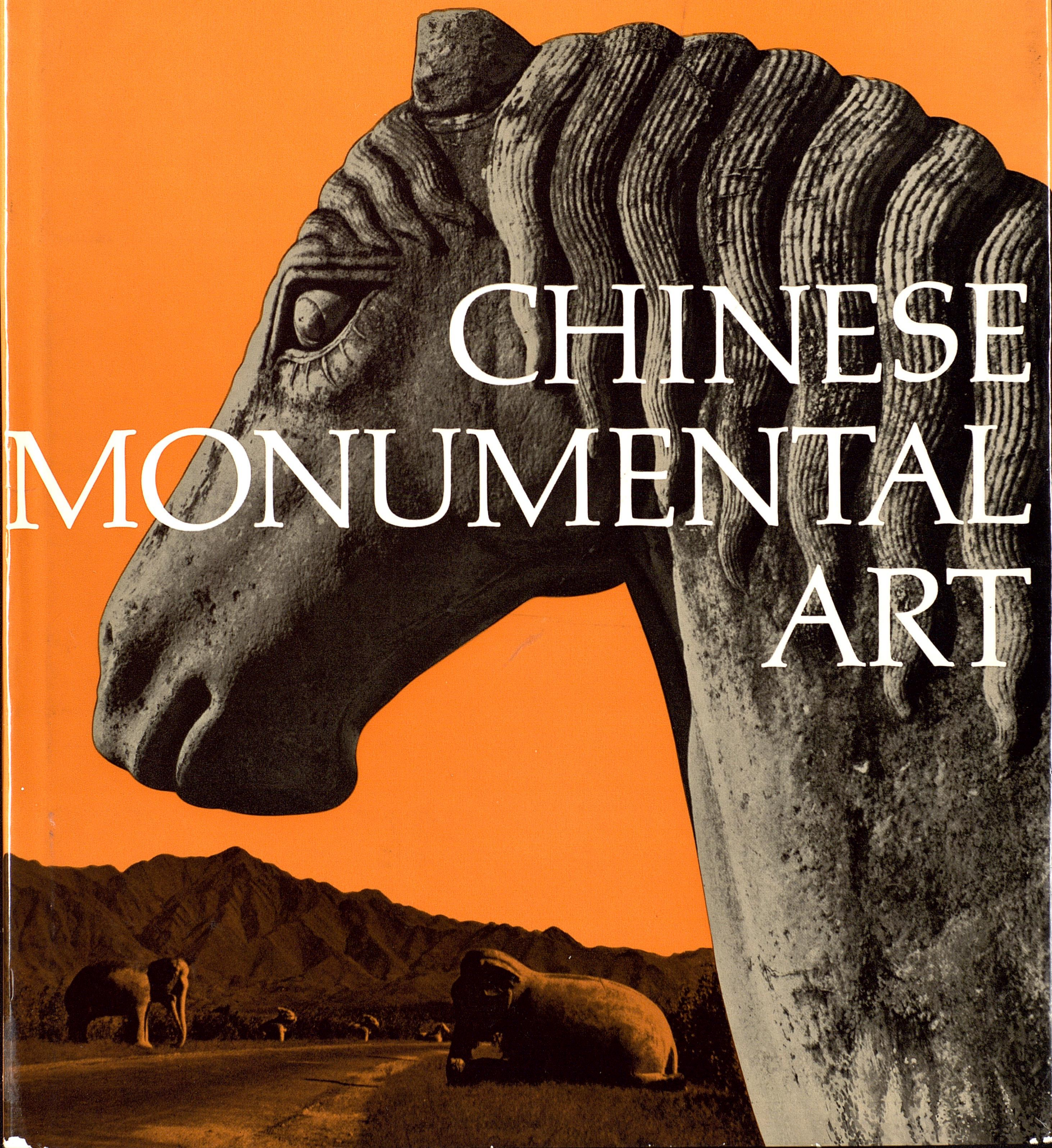
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THIS BOOK PRESENTS the first full-length study of the monumental art of China. The photographs taken for it, dramatic and beautiful in their own right, are particularly valuable for their new view of subjects, many of which have never been reproduced in the West. The Mai-Chi-shan cave temples, for instance, copiously illustrated here, have themselves only recently been re-discovered. Photographs and text in close conjunction cover not only the most important Buddhist temples and wall paintings of the Wei, T'ang, and Sung dynasties, but also the other aspects of Chinese monumental art. 'Monumental', that is, not only in the commemorative sense of Buddhist sculpture and Ming and Han tombs, not only in the sense of massive scale as in the Forbidden City, but also in the sense of art that takes for its subject something outside the experience of its creator, something awesome or extra-personal. It is in this sense that ritual bronzes and jades, early landscape paintings and pottery tomb figures are included. Thus in its monumental aspect, illustrated in all its richness by 171 photographs in colour and black and white, the author covers the whole history of Chinese art. The authoritative text should excite and interest expert and non-expert alike, and of special interest is a photographic glossary that traces the influence of Indian Buddhist art on the art of China.

The photographers, Claude Arthaud and François Hébert-Stevens, are well known for their book *The Art of the Conquistadors*. The author, Peter Swann, is curator of the collection of Eastern art in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. He is also editor of the magazine *Oriental Art* and author of *Chinese Painting, Introduction to the Arts of Japan*, and *Art of China, Korea and Japan* in our World of Art Library.

14 colour plates 157 photogravure plates
15 maps and plans

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CHINESE MONUMENTAL ART

PETER C. SWANN

Photographs by Claude Arthaud and
François Hébert-Stevens

157 plates, 14 in colour

15 maps and diagrams



THAMES AND HUDSON · LONDON

To Professors S. Mizuno and T. Nagahiro of Kyoto, Japan,
to whose labours we are all indebted

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS would like to express their gratitude to the authorities of the People's Republic of China who allowed them to visit and photograph monuments scattered over the whole expanse of China.

They also wish to thank the Musée Guimet, the Musée Cernuschi and the Freer Gallery, Washington, D. C., for the very kind way in which they allowed them access to the most rare pieces in their collections.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This book is the outcome of a visit which two brilliant photographers, François Hébert-Stevens and Claude Arthaud, recently paid to China. They brought back many valuable photographic documents worthy of a permanent record. My text attempts to link them into an intelligible whole. Needless to say, their selection was in no way complete; to have made it so would have meant very extensive additions which would have detracted from the unity and *in situ* quality of their record. In some minor instances it proved impossible to identify the actual site of the photographed subject. Many of them are here reproduced for the first time and should enlarge our knowledge of Chinese sculpture.

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TEXT PRINTED IN SWITZERLAND BY WINTERTHUR AG

PHOTOGRAVURE PLATES PRINTED IN SWITZERLAND BY CONZETT & HUBER, ZURICH

BOUND IN HOLLAND BY PROOST EN BRANDT NV, AMSTERDAM

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