



# Superfluous Things: Material Culture and Social Status in Early Modern China

*Craig Clunas*

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## **Superfluous Things: Material Culture and Social Status in Early Modern China** Craig Clunas

This outstanding and original book, presented here with a new preface, examines the history of material culture in early modern China. Craig Clunas analyzes superfluous things - the paintings, calligraphy, bronzes, ceramics, carved jade, and other objects owned by the elites of Ming China - and describes contemporary attitudes to them. He informs his discussions with reference to both socio-cultural theory and current debates on eighteenth-century England concerning luxury, conspicuous consumption, and the growth of the consumer society.

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