

一百多年前，國子監祭酒王懿榮得了瘧疾症，四處求醫找藥。後來宮裡太醫給了他一張藥方，其中有一味補腎的中藥「龍骨」。王懿榮家僕抓好藥回來後，他一一審視，無意中發現「龍骨」上刻有歪歪斜斜好似篆文，卻又不認識的紋路。王懿榮素好金石古玩、銅器銘文，這一偶然發現，他警覺這味「龍骨」絕非一般藥材。於是又返回藥店打聽這龍骨的由來，並將帶了字的龍骨全數買回。此事後來轟動了學術界及文化界，許多學者對這批來自河南安陽一帶農民拾獲而賣給中藥店的「龍骨」，有著極大興趣。後來經過王懿榮等學者的精心研究，斷定這些東西根本不是什麼龍骨，上面刻的紋路更是比當時各種已知的文字更古老的一批文字。於是舉世聞名的商代甲骨文就此浮現於世，因為這些文字皆刻在龜甲獸骨上，所以後來人們便稱之為「甲骨文」。王懿榮得病當時，是西元一八九九年，清光緒二十五年。

More than one hundred years ago, a gentleman named Mr. WANG, I-Ron, a foremost at Directorate of Imperial Academy was suffered from malaria and looked for the cure. An imperial physician issued him a prescription and one of the kinds of medical material bearing the function of consolidating the renal essence. When the household servant obtained from the pharmacy, Mr. WANG scrutinized these materials respectively. Incidentally, he found that one of the kinds of materials so-called "dragon bone" which was carved with crooked seal script and looked like unrecognizable patterns. Mr. WANG is a hobbyist to ancient, rarely found rocks, bronze ware, and inscription, so he was aware of the uniqueness of such material. Therefore, he went back to the pharmacy and expected to acquire more information and source. And he also bought all the left-

over of “dragon bones” bearing the patterns. What he did does cause a great sensation to both Cultural circles and Academia. Many scholars are very interested in those “dragon bones” which were picked up by the local farmers and sold to the pharmacy. After the hard work and research that Mr. WANG and some other scholars exerted, they assured that these materials have nothing to do with “dragon bone” but the carved patterns are the oldest characters comparing to some other known characters ever found. So, the globally recognized the engraved characters on turtle’s shield or the beast bones in The Shang Dynasty finally present to the world. And the people named such characters with the name of Oracle. Mr. WANG past away in 1899 and it was also in the twenty-five years of Emperor GuangXu in Ching Dynasty.