

Tiger bells in Eurasia

Volume 2



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The amazing travels of a
bronze jingle bell
with the face of a tiger,
across the Eurasian
continent and
beyond

by

Fekke de Jager

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TIGER BELLS IN EURASIA

The amazing travels of a bronze jingle
bell with the face of a tiger,
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Based on the websites 'Tiger bells in Asia'
and 'Have you seen this bell?'
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A shamaness (*Bompo*) of the *Tamang*; note the belt over the shoulder with several bells, among them two Himalayan tiger bells.

Photograph: courtesy advancedadventures.wordpress.com.

In this book...

This second volume of *Tiger bells in Eurasia* includes the cases of tiger bells previously referred to as types B, C and the alternatives. Two of the names have been changed to the more appropriate names *Continental* (for type B) and *Himalayan* (for type C). The new name for tiger bells of type A was introduced in the first volume: the *Classic* tiger bell.

In the Appendix you will find several cases that came in after the latest edition was finished. They were presented in Newsletters and updates. Cases in this Appendix are not yet taken up in the description of cases in this volume. This will be done when an update is prepared.



1. Continental tiger bell
(former type B)



2. Himalayan Tiger bell
(former type C)



3. Alternative tiger bell

Distribution of tiger bells over the Eurasian continent



This map shows the distribution area of the different types of tiger bells. Not included is North America (New York and Maine). The names in white with a shadow indicate the areas or ethnic groups with the classic tiger bells (type A).

The region name *Han Chinese* (in grey with a shadow) indicates the areas with continental tiger bells (type B). In fact these bells occur all over continental East Asia. The Himalayan tiger bells (type C), indicated in blue with a shadow, occur only



in the Nepal-Tibet area, incl. Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Both continental and Himalayan tiger bells are still being produced in large numbers.

The names in purple with a shadow indicate the regions where alternative tiger bells occur. These alternatives can be old or new. The names in grey give the name of the country.

In China the situation is different. Here continental tiger bells occur in many places and seem to be common. However classic bells and alternatives have also been there for centuries be it in smaller numbers, often in local folklore.

Nowadays copies of these bells are produced in China on an industrial scale.

Tiger bells in
Eurasia

Insular Southeast Asia

The Philippines
Indonesia
Malaysia



Tiger bells in the Philippines

In the Philippines one Himalayan-type tiger bell has been reported.

Case
17

Region/island: Mindoro

Group: Hanunuo - Mangyan



In March 2013, I was contacted by *Ms. Elisabeth Luquin*, anthropologist. She writes:

In the 90's I was able to see 3 type A specimens like the ones on Hans' (Brandeis) pictures (*classic tiger bells; see Volume 1, case 16; page 39*). And I was able to get a different one which is rounder with the eyes much more protuberant and which may belong to type C (*the Himalayan type; author*).

Ms. Luquin adds a few photographs that clearly show that the bell is indeed of the Himalayan type.



4-6: Three views on the Himalayan type tiger bell (former type C) bell Ms Luquin brought from Mindoro.



As far as I know these bells are only used in Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh (NE India). I have not seen this type of bells in other places in Asia. It is possible that the bell has been brought to Mindoro by a casual visitor or a tradesman. Ms Luquin reacts:

I do not think that a tourist or a visitor brought the bell there but rather merchants (or tradesmen) did in the past.



Tiger bells in Indonesia

In Indonesia almost exclusively classic tiger bells (type A) have been observed. Only one example of a continental-type tiger bell has been found. Together with one classic tiger bell, it lies in the depot of heirlooms and *pusaka* (objects with power) in the Mankunegara Kraton in Solo. Its history and age are unknown but possibly the bells came with the shamans of Kublai Khan in the 13th century when he tried to subdue Raja Kertanegara's kingdom and make it a vassal state.



Island: Java

Case
43



7. Although the picture is very dark the outlines of a classic tiger bell (type A, right) and a continental tiger bell (type B, left) can be distinguished.

Two tiger bells, one continental and one classic type, in the private collection of heirlooms and *pusaka* (objects with power) of the *Mankunegara Kraton* in Solo, together with several ordinary bells. The bells were probably donated or collected in the past. No details were available. Seen in 1997.

Case
68

Island: Borneo

For sale on *Borneo Artifacts* website: a bundle of alternative bells; description (sic):

Brass bells. Win these bells for Christmas!! They are made of brass material, will never rust, there are total of 95 bells suitable for Christmas tree display or simply a musical gift from Borneo and they make quite a noise. All bells are attached only by string, ready holes for all 95 bells are easily separated for easy decoration. Measurement: each bell 3 cm / 1,2 inch across. Item net weight is 2,3 kilograms / 5,1 lb.



8,9. Compare these alternative bells with Marco Hadjidakis' bell on the *Alternatives* (Vol. 1, page 23, photo nr. 49).

Tiger bells in
Eurasia

Continental Southeast Asia

Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Laos
Burma



Tiger bells in Thailand

The majority of the tiger bells in Thailand is of the continental type. There are only two, maybe three reports of classic tiger bells (see Volume 1). Also one small alternative was reported, and a smaller continental type bell. Finally there are two reports of tiger bells of which the style of the design is different. These bells were called *demon bells*.

Region: common

In Bangkok, in a shop, *Thai Handicraft*, actually a whole sale outlet, there were several very large baskets. They were filled with continental tiger bells. There must have been hundreds of them. The sales assistant was not very friendly so I could not take a picture. I could however buy a bell. The shop owner could not tell me anything about the origin of the bells. They bought them in bulk from traders 'from the north'. On a later occasion, when I asked about the use of the bells, people pointed at two large bells (diameter about 10 cm.) with tiger heads (but not in the style of the tiger bells), used as door knobs (1985). In another shop I came across a basket full of the same bells, now painted gold. Here too the shop owners did not know the origin of the bells.



Case 72



Later, in the Netherlands, I was given several continental tiger bells by friends and colleagues who had found the bells in curio shops and flea markets in Thailand and in the Netherlands.

10. Face and 'forehead' of a continental tiger bell.

Case 73



11. Face and side of a gold painted continental tiger bell.



Dimensions:
wide: 3.3 cm., high: 3 cm.,
side: 2.5 cm., hoop: 0.9 cm.

Group: Akha

In 1986, in Chang Mai, I acquired one smaller continental tiger bell.

The bell was tied to a collar and was probably used as a dog bell. The collar was said to come from Burma.

The Karen and the Akha use both classic and continental bells as animal bells. The idea that humans would wear these bells was, according to the shopkeeper, unthinkable. Small continental tiger bells from the Akha were sold in pairs.

12. Dog collar with smaller continental tiger bell.

Case
77



13. Alternative tiger bell, coarsely finished.

Dimensions:
wide: 4.6 cm.,
high: 4 cm.,
side: 3.7 cm.,
hoop: 1.2 cm.

Case
78

Region: Chang Mai

Alternative tiger bell; size and shape of a classic tiger bell, but the design is different. The face is there but the decorations are engraved. The finishing is very rough. Compare this bell with some bells from Nepal on a shaman's chain (case 185, page 41).

Acquired in an ethnic and curio shop in Chang Mai, in 2000.

Case
79



Group: Unknown - alternative

On eBay, in December 2011 two tiger bells of an alternative type B were for sale. The dealer calls them *demon bells*. Looking at one of the bells we see on the forehead a decoration of possibly Burmese characters. Except for the missing Wang-character the design is based on the classic tiger bell. However, the side view demonstrates clearly that the bell is of the continental type.

Reported by Mr. Harald Lux, Germany

14a. Front view and side view of a demon bell, Thailand.



14b. The bell is 6.3 cm high, the diameter is 4.9 cm. The weight was also given: 125 grams.



Tiger bells in Vietnam

Case
84

Group: Hmong

In an advertisement on eBay two continental tiger bells are on offer. They are described as follows:

Pair of bronze ('Tiger') bells, used by Hmong shamans.



They were collected in Mai Chau, in Northern Vietnam, in the mid 20th century. The height is 6 cm., the weight 178 grams. No further details are given.

15. Two continental tiger bells, used by Hmong shamans. Reported by Mr. Harald Lux, Germany

Case
86

Group: Yao Mien

In the mountainous areas in the southern part of the country live the Yao Mien, one of the *Montagnards* ('hill people'). These people are reported to have both classic (see Volume 1) and continental tiger bells that are used in ceremonial rites.



16, 17. A box with ritual objects.

In a box with various ritual objects there is one tiger bell of the smaller continental type. The size is appr. the same as the tiger bell from the Akha, Thailand (case 77, page 16). The function of the bell is described as follows:

Clochette, bronze. Servant au prêtre à rythmer une cérémonie lors des danses ou certains passages de rituels.

(Transl: Small jingle bell, bronze. Enables the priest to add rhythm to a ceremony with dances, or parts of certain rituals.)

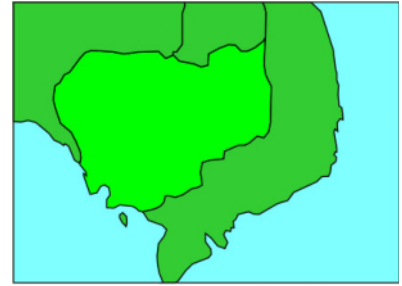
Collected in: Kim Meun (Quang Trang en Viet), Qua Pae Meun, 1950, now in the *Musée d'Avallonois*, Avalon (seen in August 2012). Not on display in summer 2023. For classic tiger bells: see Vol. 1, case 85, page 74.



Tiger bells in Cambodia

Region: probably common

From Cambodia I have received one report. *Judith Beiner and Clifton McCracken* from the Griffin Gallery (Florida, USA) reported in april 2012:



Case 80 *We have acquired an antique set of tiger bells. They were purchased in Luang Prabong in Cambodia in 2003. We bought them in a country store which sold artifacts as well as more modern pieces. The clear stand was made after we purchased the bells... We believe these bells do have age to them...*



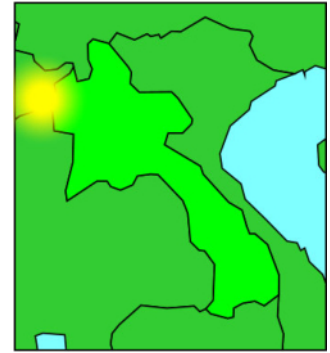
18. Three continental bells of different size and design; the central bell has the *demon* design.

These are tiger bells of the continental type, of various sizes.



Tiger bells in Laos

As in Vietnam and Thailand, we find tiger bells with the ethnic groups in the hinterlands and mountainous areas of the country. To these groups borders are not as fixed as stipulated by national governments. Some of these groups such as the Foo and the Haw, have their roots in Southern China (Yunnan), or even deeper into China such as the Hmong. Tiger bells found in Laos are mostly of the continental type, some alternatives and possibly small classic tiger bells.



Case
88

Region: Golden triangle

Group: Haw

In January 1996 Mr. K. Fritsch reports:

The bells I have were acquired in Ban Houei Sai, a small Lao river town up near the "Golden Triangle". They were described as having been used as horse bells by Chinese Haw traders. There were bells of two types. One type was round and seems to fit type B (continental type). The other does not seem to fit a described type. They were small and oblong, made of bronze, no character, but the opening in the bell was obviously a mouth and eyes appear on the bell. The string of bells I acquired was made up of both these types, but the strap to which they were attached was obviously of much more recent manufacture. The small bells appeared much more worn and considerably older than the continental type of tiger bells.

Haw traders are a Chinese ethnic group [from Yunnan] who traded extensively throughout the northern part of Southeast Asia. They used pack animals such as ponies. The small bells Mr Fritsch refers to could be of the smaller classic type A (see: case 81 in Vol. 1, page 73).

Case
89

Group: Hmong

In September 2011 I received an e-mail from *Mr. Harald Lux, Germany*. He had made several trips to Laos and had bought several tiger bells of different types. In 2009, Mr Lux bought a group of five continental tiger bells at the night market in *Luang Prabang*. He writes:

A woman had a small plastic bag with the bells between her handicraft products. She was from the Hmong ethnic group and people from her village had asked her to sell them. The bells come from a Hmong village in the surroundings of Luang Prabang. Hmong people traditionally have horses in Laos and I was told by



somebody who spent about 10 years in the country that he assumes that Hmong are the only group that keeps them. I saw bells of this size and type in shops in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The bells were attached to a leather collar as you describe on your webpage that could fit the small Hmong horses. ➤

19. Two views: one of the five continental tiger bells. They all are heavily worn and covered with patina. Dimensions: frontview: 4.7 cm. sideview: 4.9 cm., height: 4.4 cm. hoop: 1.7 cm.

The National Library in Vientiane has a library of palm leaf documents from monasteries all over the country. When I visited the library the head showed me a few examples. One of the pictures showed a horse that is wearing a collar with what probably are continental tiger bells.

20. Horse with belt; detail right.



Case
90

In 2010, at the night market of *Luang Prabang* Mr. Lux bought one continental tiger bell. It is said to be from and used in Laos. This bell is a typical continental tiger bell that is common all over the Central-East Asian continent.

Case
91

Dimensions:
height: 4.3 cm
top: 4.5 cm
side: 5.2 cm
hoop: 1.7 cm.

21. Two views: a common continental tiger bell from Laos.



In 2011 Mr. Lux visited the morning market in *Luang Namtha*. He bought one bell with a variation of the tiger head motif. The bell has no pellet inside. The variations are such that this is an alternative bell. The bell is said to be from Laos. It is covered with patina on which Mr. Lux remarks:

Case
92



There is the dark turquoise patch of patina, that consists of small crystals that I could see with a microscope. In an antique shop in Luang Prabang, a historian told me about his research on Chinese bronze vessels and that such crystals grow...

22. Two views of an alternative bell with demon design.

...slowly and are a reference to age and origin. He can differentiate the kinds of minerals on his old pieces. The vendor emphasised the age of the bell.

**Case
93**

In 2011 Mr. Lux visited the night market in Luang Prabang again and bought a continental tiger bell. However, the design is entirely different from the other continental tiger bells. The *Wang* character is replaced by a geometric shape; in the design we see spirals and concentric geometric patterns. These elements make this bell an alternative continental tiger bell.

23. Two views of an alternative continental tiger bell.



Dimensions:
height: 4.3 cm
top: 4.4 cm
side: 4.9 cm
hoop: 1.7 cm.

**Case
94**

In 2011 at the morning market in Luang Namtha Mr Lux bought a tiger bell of the Himalayan type, very common in Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet but rarely seen elsewhere.



24. Two views of a Himalayan tiger bell.

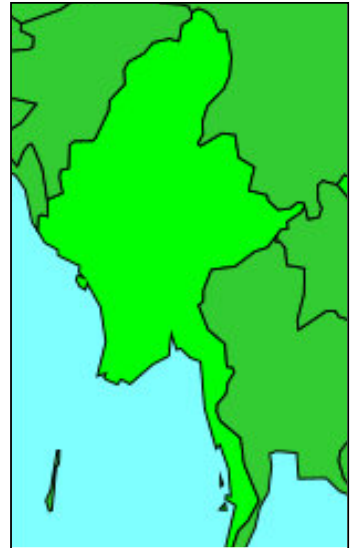
On the Luang Prabang handicraft night market, Mr. Lux states:

Some vendors are specialized in 'old' items. Some things look like reproductions, but the tiger bells from bronze seem to be original. It is hard to find a complete bell in a good condition. Many bells have cracks, holes or the iron ball is missing and so on. This year (2011) one vendor had tigerbells made of brass with distinct Chinese characters and no patina. They looked like recent products.



Tiger bells in Burma

In the east Burma borders on Thailand. This region, the Golden Triangle, has for decades been the scene of many wars between the Burmese army and rebels of various ethnic groups that feel repressed by the mainstream Buddhist Burmese. Those struggles caused continuous streams of refugees to the neighbouring countries Thailand, Laos, etc. The Karen are the largest ethnic group in Burma with their own state. Because of the wars many Karen live in Thailand. According to Karen tradition their ancestors came from Northern China or Mongolia, from where they crossed the 'River of running sand' (either the Gobi desert or the Yangtze (Yellow river). In Burma just a few tiger bells have been found. They are of the classic type (see Vol. 1), the continental type and an alternative.



Case 98 Group: unknown

The larger bell is an alternative bell. Bells with this design are also reported in China, in Korea and in shops in the west (New York). The smaller bell is said to be from Thailand but is also reported in China (see case 112, page 31). Both bells are newly made. In the collection of prof. Ovidiu Oana, Rumania. He describes the larger bell:

Bronze tiger bell, without WANG symbol

Bell Hanger: 0.6 cm; 0.236 inches

Ø1: 2.4 cm; 0.945 inches

Ø2: 2.0 cm; 0.787 inches

Country of origin: Myanmar (Burma)

Acquisition as antique from Slovakia

25. Two tiger bells from the collection of prof. Ovidiu Oana.



Case 99 Group: unknown

In December 2010 *mr. Marco Hadjidakis* from *The Netherlands* bought two continental tiger bells. He reports: *These bells are from Burma. In the 90's an Austrian antique dealer bought them in Burma.*



The characters are Chinese. As on many continental tiger bells we see the circular character for long life.

Photographs: courtesy Marco Hadjidakis who also contributed pictures of bells from Mongolia (case 158, page 120, Vol. 1) and an alternative bell from China (picture 49, page 23, Vol. 1).

26,27. Two views on both bells.
The dimensions are:
Bell left: 6.0 x 4.7 x 4.3 cm.
Bell right: 5.6 x 4.8 x 4.4 cm.

Tiger bells in
Eurasia

Central and South Asia

China
Tibet
Nepal
Bhutan
Bangladesh



Tiger bells in China

In China there are relatively few reports of tiger bells. We have several reports of classic tiger bells (see Vol. 1), some of them very old. Reports of continental type tiger bells are very few as well. Some of these are new. In Southern China classic tiger bells occur more often among ethnic minorities with shamanic traditions (such as the Hmong and Akha). Here the bells are used as animal bells, or as an amulet in local folklore.

However, in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia classic tiger bells were, and with some groups still are used in large numbers. These bells were produced for centuries and were an indispensable part of a shaman's outfit. When the communist regimes in Russia and China banned shamanism, production stopped. Now, from the millenium change, there is a growing interest in shamanism and tiger bells, leading to a flourishing industry of newly produced tiger bells. They even found a place in Chinese popular music such as folk rock (see Vol. 1).



Case
109

Region: unknown
On the website of *Harmonic Healing*: several alternative tiger bells. They are described as:

Very old Shamanic Tiger bell bestows fearlessness and happiness. The bells have been cleansed and oiled with sandalwood oil.

In the design the Wang character is missing. The 'nose' is replaced by what possibly is a combination of two Chinese characters. No details are given so it is not sure if the ensemble of elements such as the bells and the *linga*, (fertility symbol) is authentic Compare these bells with the alternative smaller bell from prof. Oana's collection (case 98, page 27).



28. Necklace with two tiger bells and a *linga*. Possibly this is a restrung ensemble.

Case
114



Region: North China (?)

For sale on eBay by antique dealer *Thethe Dragon*, South Korea. According to the seller the bell is from the Qing (or Tj'ing) dynasty (1644 -1911, between 1850 and 1899). This is the same period as is given for the tiger bell reported in Nanking (Kuang Hsu period, case 104). This bell is fairly large: appr. 6 cm x 5,5 cm. (2.75" x 2.25") and is made of bronze. The *Wang* character is missing. The design is very different from the usual classic tiger bells. See also the bells from Burma (case 98, page 27), New York (case 205, page 59) and Korea (case 147, page 125).

29. Alternative tiger bell from the Qing dynasty
Reported by Amy Amalzamar in February 2008.



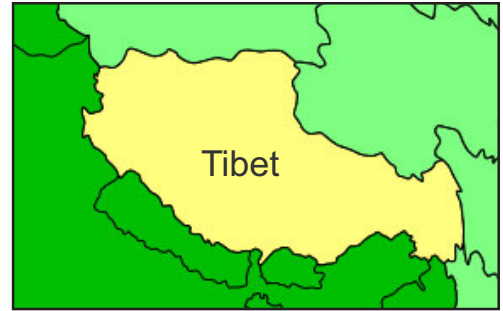
30. A continental tiger bell tied to the wrist of a baby. Seen in the tv series *Along the river Yangtze*, broadcast by Dutch broadcasting organisation VPRO in February 2016. Screenshot: courtesy VPRO Broadcasting Organisation.

In the television series *Along the river Yangtze*, we see a family living on a boat. A small child is sleeping on a wooden bench. Tied around its wrist is a tiger bell of the continental type. The bell looks worn, but the eyes are visible. This is the only occasion I have seen a continental tiger bell in use. Shops in Bangkok like Thai handicraft (see case 72, page 15, Vol. 2) have hundreds of these bells in huge jars in stock, for sale. They are mostly used for horses and yaks. Sometimes, in northern China and Nepal, these bells are part of the equipment used by shamans during their ritual trance dance. In the photo we see the bell used as an amulet and as an alarm to alert the family that the baby is awake.



Tiger bells in Tibet

Tibet, officially called the Tibetan Autonomous Region, or T.A.R., is very mountainous, with the Himalayas between Nepal and south Tibet. When China took over control in the 1950's many thousands of Tibetans, including the religious leader, the Dalai Lama, fled to India where they could continue their religious practices. Tibetans are Buddhist. In Tibetan Buddhism shamanism plays an important role. Elements that we know from Mongolian and Siberian shamanism, such as the trance and attributes such as the drum and bell-rattles are found in Tibetan Buddhism, practiced in Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. Although the communist Chinese destroyed many religious buildings and fiercely discouraged any religious activity, many temples and monasteries have survived. The people who do not live and work in temples and monasteries are mainly peasants that cultivate the land and herd animals at subsistence level. Traditionally, transportation is by horse and yak. Since the 1970's foreign visitors are allowed into Tibet on a small scale.



Case 173 Tiger bells are present in large numbers; most of these are of the continental type (akas type B). The bells are used as horse bells, attached to leather belts. These belts occur all over Central Asia and are used on horses and yaks. This belt was bought at the Tibetan Refugee Market in New Delhi in 1975.

32,33. The bells on the belt (above) and the bell on the right (on the same belt) are typical continental tiger bells. Author's collection.



Case 176



In this region tiger bells have developed into a design that is typical for the area. Note the bulging eyes and the thick relief of the design. The bell has its own classification: the Himalayan type (akas type C).

31. A tiger bell of the Himalayan type. The catalogue card states 'Tibet' as country of origin, followed by a question mark. Ethnological Museum, Leyden.
Photograph: Ethnological Museum, Leyden collected in 1948.

Classic tiger bells are hardly seen: there is one example in the Leyden Museum and a small example attached to a small prayer mill (Vol. 1, case 174, 175).



Three views of a Himalayan tiger bell. Note the very thick relief and the shape of the bell which is like the classic type.



34. Photographs: courtesy Artistic Jade.

Mr Fred Wilkinson of the Nonsuch Gallery in England reports:

I have a shaman's tiger bell chain necklace which you may be interested to see, purchased from a Katmandu antiques dealer in the late 1980s.

On the website I find the following description:
[The chain] was purchased from a Tibetan antiques dealer in Kathmandu in the late 1980's. This shaman's bell necklace measures approximately 100 cm.) and features 17 bells; 12 of which are bronze tiger bells and 4 small brass shrine bells plus a tiny bronze charm bell. The tiger bells on this chain have an average diameter of 4½ cm with a larger one in the middle. All the bells are strung out along a handmade iron chain that is attached at both ends to a handmade iron bow-shaped hand grip measuring 8 cm. A tasseled leather, or snake skin, amulet or pouch, decorated with 4 cowrie shells, is attached to the iron hand grip.

The chain is similar to chains from Nepal, except for the pendant which seems to be a metal hanger with a small piece of leather decorated with four cowrie shells. The tiger bells are of the Himalayan type. The other bells are conical clapper bells.



35. Photograph: courtesy Nonsuch Gallery

Case
177

Case
179

36, 37. Reported by Toos Suyker and Jan Verdiessen; the bells were donated to them by I. van der Meulen, who visited Lhasa in 2008.



Case
178

In the capital of Tibet, Lhasa, Ms I. van der Meulen bought two tiger bells, one continental tiger bell (left) and one Himalayan tiger bell (right). In 2008.

Dimensions:

Type B (left): diameter front: 4 cm. side 4,5 cm.

Type C (right): diameter front: 3,8 cm. side 4,7 cm.

Both bells are newly made. Continental and Himalayan tiger bells are continuously produced in local workshops in Nepal and in Northern India. This is the first newly made continental bell I have come across.



Tiger bells in Nepal

Nepal lies on the slopes of the Himalaya, between India and Tibet. Its population is a mix of people from surrounding countries, such as Tibet and India. The original inhabitants, the Sherpa and Lama, inhabit the higher regions in the mountains. The dominant religion is Buddhism, with many influences of local forms of shamanism. Various types of bells are used on the costumes of the shamans, clapper bells, rattles and jingle bells, of which many are tiger bells. The design of tiger bells in Nepal has such typical features that it is a separate type, the Himalayan type (see the chapter 'Various types', Vol. 1, page 19). These bells were, and are still, made locally and in northern India. Local people mentioned the cities of Dehra Dunn and Rajpur. Both cities are in Uttar Pradesh (India). Possibly in these workshops the continental tiger bells are also made.



Case
180



Himalayan bells are very common in Nepal. I bought several tiger bells of this type on a shaman's chain in 1990, and some were donated to me, a.o. by Mr Hugo de Groote (Neth.1986).

38. Two views of a typical Himalayan tiger bell.

Case
181

New tiger bells and other ritual objects are for sale in many places. They are not made for tourists, the bells are also used by local people.
Photographed in 1991.



39. Market stall in Pokhara.

Case
182



40. A brand new Himalayan tiger bell.



Description:

On website *Potala World* a shaman's chain is on offer. The chain is composed of metal rings and 13 Himalayan tiger bells, 2 clapper bells and one simple jingle bell, from Nepal, 19th century, 37 " long (94 cm.). Chinese characters appear on the 'forehead' of the tiger bells.

Single Himalayan bells are used as amulets in an area from Mongolia, Tibet and Nepal to India.

41. Photographs:
courtesy *Potala World*
Reported end of 2010.

Case 184

In 1990 I acquired this shaman's chain in Nepal. The chain's links are made of brass wire. The bells are also made of brass, eight clapper bells and eight Himalayan tiger bells.

Dimensions Himalayan bells (average):
wide 3.5 cm., high 2.9 cm., side 34.2 cm., hoop
0.8 cm. square

42. A shaman's chain, acquired
in Pokhara in 1990.



Case
185

In Nepal ritual objects are for sale in antique shops and in street stalls. Most of them are authentic, although not always old. This is a shaman's chain with small jingle bells, two clapper bells and two alternative tiger bells with an unusual design: the face seems to have been engraved in the surface of the bell. Yet the motif is clearly a tiger's face. Compare these bells with one of the bells from Chang Mai, Thailand (case 78, page 16).



43, 44. Shaman's chain for sale in Kathmandu, 1990. Right: a close up of the tiger bells shows the particular technique with which the design is applied to the bell's surface.



Case
186

Dorothy Leofsky (USA) sent several pictures of a chain with tiger bells (below). She has no further details. The chain consists of a number of key ring-like links with ten tiger bells.



The tiger bells are of a variation of the classic type that I have not seen in Nepal. The chain is most likely a shaman's breast chain from Nepal or Tibet. Note the double 'wang' character.

45, 46. Reported and photographed by Dorothy Leofsky, February 2011.



47. Right: A shamaness (*Bompo*) of the Tamang; left: a close up of her shoulder with the belt and the bells. Photograph courtesy: advancedadventures.wordpress.com

Group: Tamang, East Nepal



A shamaness from the Tamang people, living in the east of Nepal. They are Buddhists, strongly influenced by shamanism. The *Bompo* is the shaman who can be either a man or a woman. Here the shamaness wears a woven belt, decorated with dried seeds and jingle bells of different design. In the picture left we see five plain bells and two tiger bells type C. All are new.

Case
187

Case 188

48. A rough made imitation tiger bell.



This is a rough made imitation of a tiger bell. The Wang character is crudely imitated, an indication that the bell was inspired by the type A tiger bell. The other Chinese characters on the 'forehead' have been degraded to meaningless scribbles. Bought in a curio-shop in Amsterdam in 1977.

49. The facade of one of the many curio- and ethnographic shops in Kathmandu and other places. The artefacts are often authentic. Photograph made in 1990.

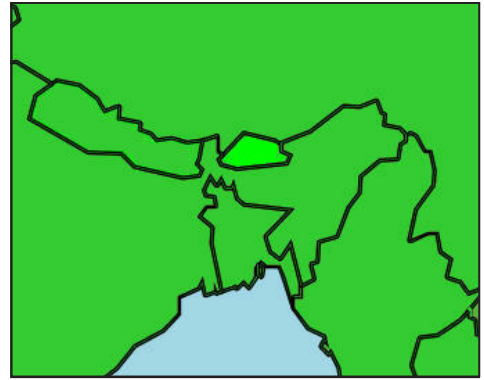


Case
189



Tiger bells in Bhutan

Many newly made tiger bells are for sale in local hardware stores, as single bells and attached to leather horse belts, eight to ten bells on a belt.



Case
190



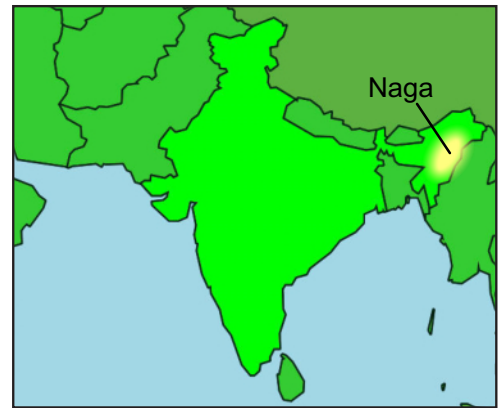
Dimensions:
wide 3.8 cm.,
high 3.5 cm.
side 3.8 cm.,
hoop 1.1 cm.

50. Reported and
collected in 2004 by Ms
Annemarieke Koch.



Tiger bells in India

Very few tiger bells are reported from India. The reports are not from India's mainland but from areas where ethnic minorities live and from places near the border with Nepal and former Tibet. The bells are of the continental, Himalayan and alternative type.



- At the Tibetan Refugee market in New Delhi several yak belts from Tibet were for sale, each with 8 to 10 continental tiger bells attached. Similar belts were seen in the World Museum in Rotterdam and the Berlin Ethnological museum. Both belts were bought in India. I bought my yakbelt (case 173, page 35) at the Tibetan Refugee market in New Delhi.
- Apart from the continental tiger bells attached to yak belts as seen on the belt below, there is one report of a tiger bell of the smaller alternative type, bought in the south of India (case 194, page 49).
- In Nagaland, alternative tiger bells are reported.
- In Arunachal Pradesh an Idu Mishmi shaman has two Himalayan tiger bells.

According to several shop owners and antique dealers in Nepal, tiger bells of the Himalayan type are produced in factories in Dehra Dunn (Uttar Pradesh, near the border with Himachal Pradesh) and Rajpur, for the Tibetan and Nepalese market.

Hans Brandeis, ethnomusicologist in Berlin, reports:

Case
191

...I noticed the tiger bells in 1997 inside a glass cabinet in the basement of the Museum für Völkerkunde. I could not take them out. But the objects in that cabinet were from India. I could see the archive number: 103.315.' The tiger bells were mounted on a leather strip, probably about 10 pieces, of which 8 bells are visible in the picture...



51. Photograph: courtesy Hans Brandeis. See also case 176, page 35.

Horse belt, similar to those in the Tibetan Refugee market, New Delhi (case 173, page 35).

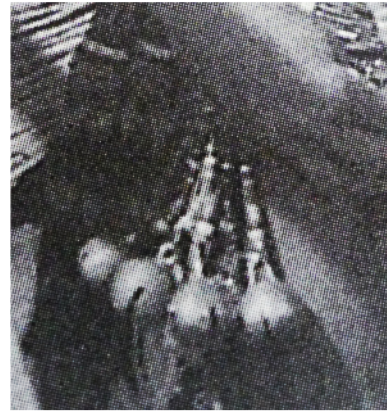
Case
192

Assam, Nagaland - Group: Naga

In the *Nusantara Museum shop* in Delft (Neth) several strands were for sale. The strands consisted of small metal sequins, strung as necklaces, with two or three tiger bells and ordinary bells. Probably the strands have been restrung. Originally they were much longer and were used by Naga women around the upper body. The tiger bells are of an unusual type, possibly alternatives, close to classic tiger bells. Age and origin are unknown.

Reported by *Rinus van Huijksloot* from the *Nusantara Museum shop*, Delft (Neth), 1996. ➤

In the 1970's I came across the book *The Nagas, hill people of Northeast India* by Julian Jacobs, published by *Thames and Hudson*. In the book I found two photographs of women wearing a bundle of bells on the hip. I had the impression that there were at least several tiger bells among the bells. Recently I was able to buy an updated version of the book. After having a good look at the pictures again I had to conclude that they are not tiger bells. In a newly added chapter in the book many objects are presented in large size colour photographs, among them pictures of strands, necklaces and other decorations. None of these objects have tiger bells. This does not necessarily mean that tiger bells were not in use among the Naga.



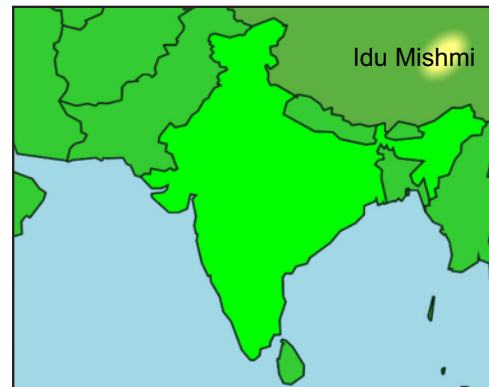
52. A bundle of bells in *The Nagas, hill people of Northeast India* by Julian Jacobs, published by *Thames and Hudson*.

Region: Arunachal Pradesh - Group: Idu Mishmi



53. An Idu Mishmi shaman.

On *Flickr* (via Internet): two photographs of an Idu Mishmi tribesman holding a ritual object with two Himalayan type tiger bells of different size. These bells are found in Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and northern India.



Case
193



54. Ornaments of an Idu Mishmi shaman from Arunachal Pradesh.
Photographs: courtesy Flickr, *World_Discoverer*.

World_Discoverer describes:

The Idu Mishmi live in the Dibang valley in Arunachal Pradesh. The more you move northwards in the valley, the more shamanism becomes prevalent. The costume of the shaman is fantastic with its decorations, tiger teeth collar and bells on the back. Men traditionally wear a white loin cloth, a jacket with red embellishments and a typical cane hat. Women's traditional dress is black, also with red embellishments. The Idu Mishmi are one of the Burmese-Tibetan groups that live in this Himalayan state of India. They arrived in the area from Burma in three waves, the last wave was about 500 hundred years ago.

**Case
194**

In a shop in *Mahabalipuram (Tamil nadu)* I found a tiger bell, deformed and the relief only vaguely visible. This makes the bell an alternative. No details were known and there are no other indications that tiger bells occur in this area (Southeast India). *Acquired in 1990.*

55. Alternative tiger bell, from Mahabalipuram, Tamil, Nadu.

Dimensions

diameter front: 3,6 cm. side: 3,2 cm.
height without hoop: 3 cm.



**Case
211**

In Tetbury (UK) in shop *Antique Talboys House*, specialised in antiques from India, *Clare and Andrew McGarva*, ceramics designers, came upon a bowl full of bells with a very rough design that reminded Clare of a tiger bell. The bells were from Rajasthan and Clare decided to buy one of them. The shop owner was not there so no information about age and use was available. Later, in 2018, Clare donated the bell to me. The bell seems to be a small version of a continental tiger bell but the 'face' is very different thus making it an alternative. I tried to contact the shop owner for more information but there was no reaction.

In Rajasthan, as in many other places in this part of Asia, male and female dancers often wear anklets and bracelets with jingle bells of various types, among them tiger bells (see also case 164, Vol. 1, page 143).



56. Small alternative tiger bell; from Rajasthan (India).

Dimensions

diameter front: 2,5 cm.

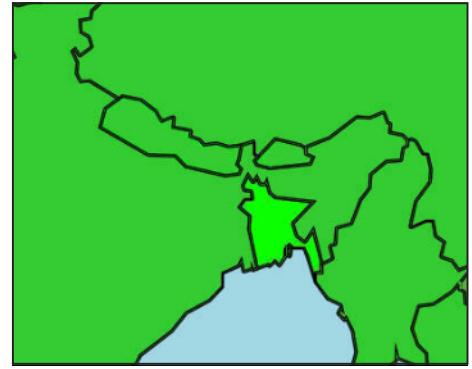
side: 2,9 cm.

height without hoop: 2,5 cm.



Tiger bells in Bangladesh

Very few tiger bells are reported from Bangladesh: two are of the continental type and one is an alternative.



Case Group unknown

195

Two small tiger bells, bought in Dacca, said to come from Burma. On the top half of one of the bells are three characters which look more or less like S.J.S. The design is so different that this bell is classified as an alternative.



Dimensions:
wide 2.7 cm.
high 2.7 cm.
side 2.7 cm.
hoop 1.2 cm.



The curves on the upper part of the bell resemble the characters S.J.S

57a,b,c. Reported and photographed in 1988 by Annemarieke Koch.

Case Group: Unknown, probably common

196

Two continental tiger bells, one small, one large, bought in Dacca but said to come from Chittagong. The small bell has a square hoop; there are no Chinese characters. The larger one is of continental type.

Reported in 1988 by Anton Budde (NI).

Tiger bells in
Eurasia

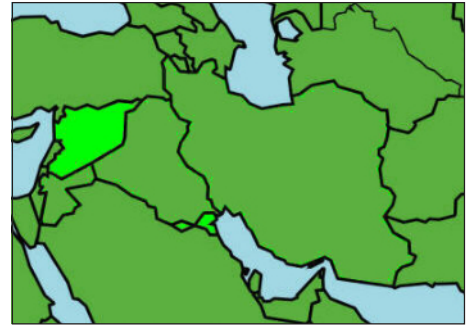
Middle east and
the West

Syria
Great Britain
United States of America



Tiger bells in Syria

Several newly made alternative tiger bells were for sale in a hardware store in Damascus. Bells are sold and used, both as single bells and in larger numbers, attached to leather horse belts. The bells are said to have been produced locally (but that seems unlikely). They come in several sizes. Here the largest and the smallest are shown.



Case 198

The tiger face motif is there although not very clear. The 'Wang' character and a shape probably inspired by a Chinese character on the 'forehead' are present. The teeth surrounding the 'mouth' are however replaced by what seem to be whiskers which make the face look more like a cat. Therefore these bells belong to the group of alternatives. The small bell is clearly a tiger bell as well, although because of the size, much detail is lost.

The fact that the bells are locally made is questionable as an identical bell is reported from Korea (case 148) .



Dimensions

large bell: diameter: 4 cm.

height: 3.2 cm.

small bell: diameter: 1.2 cm.

height: 0.9 cm.

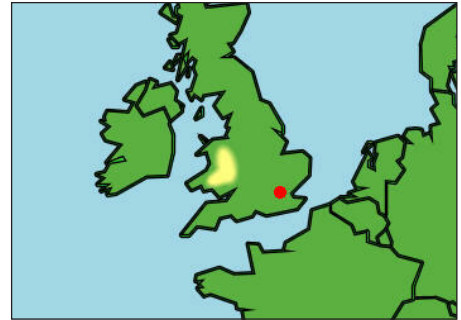
58, 59. Collected and donated in April 2005 by Annemarieke Koch.



Tiger bells in Great Britain

Region: Wales

One jingle bell with some similarities to the classic tiger bell.



Case
203

Website *DetectingWales.com*

<http://www.detectingwales.com/index.php?topic=13645>.)

shows a jingle bell decorated with two eyes. The object was found in January 2012, with a metal detector. Although the design is very faint, the eyes are clearly present. The other elements of the design seem to be different when compared to the classic tiger bells. These aspects would make the bell more like an alternative rather than a classic tiger bell. The pictures are taken from the website.

An expert consulted by the finder of the bell said the object is probably from the 19th century and of Asian origin. How the bell arrived in Wales is unknown.



60. This low-front view shows the eyes and the 'mouth'; these are common elements of a classic tiger bell.



61. The side view shows the typical contour of the smaller type A tiger bell. The hoop is however larger and more rounded than the hoop of the classic tiger bell.



62. The front view shows that the 'wang' character and the floral ornaments, important elements of the design, are missing, as well as other elements such as the 'teeth'.

This is one of six archeological finds involving tiger bells; the others are from Indonesia (case 45 and 49), Vietnam (case 87), Russia (case 166), Kazakhstan (case 165). Reported in September 2013, by Harald Lux.



Tiger bells in the United States of America

Case
205

State, place: New York

In May 2010 during a trip to New York, USA, Dutch anthropologist Hendrik Wittenberg and his wife Babs visited a curio shop in Chinatown. They came across a basket full of tiger bells. He describes them as follows:



The bells are made of bronze, very light and poorly cast. The colour of the bronze is very light. When I asked the Chinese lady at the pay desk about the meaning of the characters she said 'Something like 'provide the people with what they need, like food, water, sort of...well... actually I don't know.' When I asked her what name she used for the bells when she made back orders the lady said 'Well, Sir, if I would know the answers to all your questions, I wouldn't be sitting in this shop, would I? Do you want to buy them?' So I bought two bells, \$2,- each.

These are alternative, newly made tiger bells, similar to tiger bells in other reports. The oldest bells with this design date from the Qing dynasty (case 114, page 31). Other, more recently produced examples are cases 98 (page 27) and 147 (page 125, Vol. 1). The fact that the shop had such a large quantity of these bells could indicate that they were not just for tourists but rather for the local Chinese community.

Dimensions

- width: 3,9 cm.
- height: 3,9 cm.
- side: 3,1 cm.
- hoop: 1 cm.



63. Front view.



64. View on the Chinese characters.



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| 11 | 43 | Two tiger bells, one continental and one classic type, in the private collection of heirlooms and <i>pusakas</i> . | CoCl | Java | Indonesia | In the Mankungara Kraton in Solo (Java); <i>pusakas</i> : objects with power. |
| 11 | 68 | For sale on <i>Borneo Artifacts' website</i> : a bundle of 95 alternative bells. | Alt | Borneo | Indonesia | The design is engraved on the bell's surface. |
| 15 | 72 | In <i>Thai Handicraft</i> (Bangkok) hundreds of continental tiger bells were for sale. | Co | Common | Thailand | The dealer bought the bells from 'traders from the north'. |
| 15 | 73 | In another shop in Bangkok these bells were gold painted. | Co | Common | Thailand | No further information. |
| 16 | 77 | A smaller continental tiger bell tied to a dog collar. | Co | Akha | Thailand | Karen and Akha use classic and continental bells for animals. |
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| 17 | 79 | Alternative with Burmese characters, the shape is of a continental bell, the design is that of a demon bell. | Co | Unknown | Thailand | Sold as 'demon bell'; reported by mr Harald Lux (D). |
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| 24 | 92 | An alternative tiger bell with demon motif with patina. | Alt | | Laos | Bought in Luang Namtha in 2010. Reported by mr Harald Lux (D). |
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| 23 | 94 | At the morning market in Luang Namtha Mr Lux bought a tiger bell of the Himalayan type. | H | | Laos | Bought in 2011. This type of bell is very common in Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet but rarely seen elsewhere. |
| 27 | 98 | Collection Ovidiu Oana: one large alternative bell and one small alternative bell. | Alt | | Burma | One large bell with motif from Qing dynasty(?), and one small alternative with particular 'nose'. |
| 27 | 99 | Two continental tiger bells from Burma. | Co | Common | Burma | Reported by Marco Hadjidakis (NI), 2010. |
| 31 | 112 | Two small alternative bells with Chinese characters as the 'nose'. On a string with a <i>lingam</i> (fertility symbol) | Alt | Poss. common | China | Possibly this ensemble is not authentic but restrung. On website <i>Harmonic Healing</i> . |
| 31 | 114 | Alternative tiger bell, design from Qing dynasty (between 1850 and 1899). | Co | Common | China | |
| 32 | 132 | Continental bell on the wrist of a baby. In tv documentary <i>Along the river Yangtze</i> broadcast by VPRO in 2016 | Co | Common | China | A family living on a boat. A small child is sleeping on a wooden bench. Tied around its wrist is a tiger bell of the continental type. |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|----|---------------|------------|--|
| 35 | 173 | One tiger bell Himalayan type; the catalogue card states 'Tibet' as country of origin, followed by a question mark. | H | Common | Tibet | In Ethnological Museum, Leyden. |
| 35 | 176 | Horse or yak-belt with eight continental tiger bells. | Co | Common | Tibet | On horse belt or yak belt. Acquired in New Delhi, Tibetan Refugee Market. |
| 36 | 177 | A Himalayan tiger bell with very thick relief. | H | Common | Tibet | On internet |
| 36 | 179 | A shaman's belt, with Himalayan bells (12) and common bells (5). | H | | Tibet | Reported by Mr Fred Wilkinson of the <i>Nonsuch Gallery</i> , England. |
| 36 | 178 | One continental bell and one Himalayan bell acquired in Lhasa. Both bells are newly made. | H | Common | | Acquired by Ms I. van der Meulen (NI) in 2008. |
| 39 | 180 | Two views of a typical Himalayan tiger bell. | H | Common | Nepal | Donated by Hugo de Groote (1986). |
| 39 | 181 | Dozens of this type of tiger bells are for sale in market stalls such as this one in Pokhara. | H | Common | Nepal | Photographed in 1991. |
| 39 | 182 | A brand new Himalayan tiger bell. | H | Common | Nepal | Acquired in Pokhara. |
| 40 | 183 | Shaman's chain with 13 Himalayan tiger bells and two clapper bells. | H | | Nepal | A shaman's chain. |
| 40 | 184 | Shaman's chain with eight Himalayan tiger bells and eight clapper bells. | H | | Nepal | A shaman's chain. |
| 41 | 185 | Shaman's chain with two tiger bells and 17 other types of bell of which one is broken. | A | | Nepal | The two alternative tiger bells are very rough made. |
| 41 | 186 | Shaman's chain consisting of a number of key ringlike links with ten alternative tiger bells. | A | | Nepal | Reported by Dorothy Leofsky in 2011. |
| 42 | 187 | A Tamang shamaness (Bompo) in East Nepal. | H | Tamang | Nepal | |
| 42 | 188 | A rough made imitation of classic tiger bell. | A | | Nepal | Acquired in a curio shop in Amsterdam (NI) in 1977. |
| 42 | 189 | The rough imitation of a classic tiger bell. graphic shops in Kathmandu and other places. The artefacts are often authentic and not specifically made for tourists. | H | Common | Nepal | A shaman's belt, in a curio stall in Kathmandu (1990). |
| 45 | 190 | Many newly made tiger bells are for sale in local hardware stores as single bells or attached to leather horse bells. | H | Common | Bhutan | Reported and donated by Ms Annemarieke Koch (NI). |
| 47 | 191 | A yak- or horse belt with continental tiger bells. | C | Common | India | In the basement of the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde (D). Reported by Hans Brandeis in 1997. |
| 47 | 192 | Several strands with small sequins, several tiger bells and ordinary bells in the Nusantara Museum shop (NI). | A | Naga | India | Probably the strands have been restrung. Originally they were much longer and were used by Naga women around the upper body. The tiger bells are of an unusual type, close to classic tiger bells. These are shamanic attributes of an Idu Mishmi shaman from Arunachal Pradesh. |
| 48 | 193 | On <i>Flickr</i> (via Internet): two photographs of an Idu Mishmi tribesman holding a ritual object with two Himalayan type tiger bells of different size. | | Idu Mishmi | India | |
| 49 | 194 | A deformed and badly worn tiger bell in a shop in Mahabalipuram (Tamil nadu). | A | Mahabalipuram | India | In a shop in Mahabalipuram, possibly originally a classic tiger bell. |
| 49 | 211 | A small alternative tiger bell, close to a continental bell. | A | Rajasthan | India | Acquired by Clare and Andrew McGarva in shop Artique in Tetbury (UK). |
| 51 | 195 | Two small tiger bells, bought in Dacca, said to come from Burma. | A | Dacca | Bangladesh | On the top half of one of the bells are three characters which look more or less like S.J.S. Reported by Ms Annemarieke Koch (NI). |

| Page | Case | Description | Type | EthnGrp | Region/Cntry | Remarks |
|------|------|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|
| 51 | 196 | Two continental tiger bells, one small, one large, bought in Dacca but said to come from Chittagong. | C | Dacca | Bangladesh | Reported by Anton Budde (NI). |
| 55 | 198 | Two alternative tiger bells, one large one small, both with 'wang' character but with a cat's face. | A | Damascus | Syria | Several of these bells were for sale in a hardware store in Damascus. |
| 57 | 203 | A report on website <i>Detectingwales.com</i> : one jingle bell with some similarities to a classic tiger bell. | A | Wales, rare | Great Britain | The bell was found with a metal detector in Hanauy 2012. An expert said the bell is probably from the 19th century and of Asian origin. |
| 59 | 205 | In a curio shop in New York (Chinatown) : a basket with these alternative bells was on display. | A | New York | USA | Similar bells were reported from China, Korea and Burma. Reported by anthropologist Hendrik Wittenberg (NI). |

Abbreviations used in Cases (page 65-67)

Type of tiger bell

Type H: Himalayan (former C)

Type Co: Continental (former B)

Type Cl: Classic)

Type A: Alternative

EthnGrp: Ethnic group

Region/Cntry: Region/Country

UK: United Kingdom (Great Britain)

USA: United States of America

D: Germany (Deutschland)

Fr: France

Ö: Austria (Österreich)

NI: The Netherlands (Nederland)



Tiger bells in Eurasia

Appendix

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| New tiger bells in Borneo | 71 |
| A shaman's first aid kit | 73 |
| More tiger bells... | 75 |
| A riddle solved | 77 |
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New tiger bells in Borneo

Production of the classic tiger bells type A (see page 19 in the book) stopped at the beginning of the 20th century, after shamanism was banned as a danger to the state in Russia and China. Shamans were arrested, banned and often killed. All attributes were destroyed. This changed after the decline of the communist system in Russia. In China the severe attitude towards religion also relaxed. In both countries interest in shamanism returned. As a result of this revival the demand for attributes grew, including tiger bells.

This change was also noticeable on the internet. From the year 2000 onwards there were many tiger bells for sale on websites and auctions on the internet. It soon became apparent that these were not antique bells, but new copies, mass-produced in China. Many traders tried to sell the new bells as antiques and as sacred objects, sometimes with magical properties. Fortunately, the new bells are easily distinguished from the old ones. New tiger bells are now also offered as everyday objects, e.g. as key rings or as jewellery. Due to the association of the tiger head motif with protection against evil influences (see page 16, Vol. 1), the bells are also still very much in demand as amulets.

Along with the acceptance of the new bells, we also see that far fewer antique tigerbells are offered on auction sites and in web shops. Traditional objects such as baby carrying baskets by the Dayak in Borneo are still being made, but now with new tiger bells. The examples on these pages were spotted on several auction websites this year (2021). The baby carrier on the *Bonham Auction House* site is from East Kalimantan, from the Kenyah Dayak.

On the basket we see traditional beadwork and about 15 bells of different sizes. Seven larger bells are prominently visible. Of these bells, two are tiger bells. The tiger bell on the far left shows traces of wear. This indicates

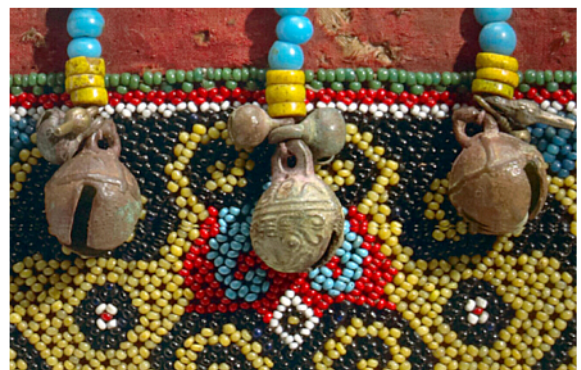


Case
209

65. A baby carrier from the Kenyah Dayak, East Kalimantan.

considerable age. The tiger bell in the middle is not worn. The relief is sharp, and the tiger's head design is a variation on the traditional motif as can be seen from the curly lines above the eyes and on the 'forehead'. This is a recently produced bell.

65a. Detail of 14, the bell in the middle is new.



In February 2021, on the site of internet auction Catawiki, a baby carrier was on offer. Provenance: East Kalimantan, originating from the Kenyah Ba' Dayak. The beadwork and further decorations are in traditional style. The two tiger bells are new with the tiger head motif in the style seen in the *Eikia Pet Products* range of tiger bells (case 129, p101, Vol. 1, also see ill.69 below).



66

The third example is a baby carrier from the Bahau Dayak, also in East Kalimantan. The carrier was offered by webshop *Jungle Art and Tropical Plants*. All three tiger bells are newly made. No further information. Even so, these baby carriers are a fine illustration of the continuing history of the tiger bells.



68

Case
211



67

66. A baby carrier (*Ba'*) from the Kenyah Dayak, East Kalimantan.

67. Two newly made tiger bells on the baby carrier in ill. 66.

68. Baby carrier from the Bahau Dayak, East Kalimantan

69. Tiger bells as offered on the Eiki Pet Products website. Compare the bell in the middle with the bells on ill. 67.



69

Photographs:

65, 65a. Courtesy: Bonham Auction House

66, 67: Courtesy: Catawiki web-auctions

68. Courtesy: Jungle Arts and Tropical Plants

69. Courtesy: Eiki Pet Products

A shaman's 'first aid kit'

Case 212

In March 2021, this group of objects was on offer on the Catawiki internet auction website. It consists of a wickerwork basket containing four hollow anklets and a bundle of four bells. The provenance is unknown but it seems likely that this set was used by one of the Dayak tribes on Borneo, possibly the Bidayu or the Iban, from Sarawak (the Malaysian part of Borneo).

The anklets and bells are made of bronze. Three of the bells are tiger bells of the classic type A. The wear marks on one of the bells show that it is of considerable age. The fourth bell is an ordinary jingle bell without any decoration.

The function of the ensemble (basket, anklets and bells) was not mentioned on the site, but it is probably not an accidental combination. The anklets and bells are rattles used by a local shaman (*belian*, often a woman) during rituals to cure the sick.

During a ritual dance by the *belian* the sound of the anklets and the bells chased away evil spirits and healing spirits were summoned. Seen in this way, the combination of objects can best be compared to a first aid box that the shaman could easily have on hand in case of an emergency.



70



71

70. The opened basket, one anklet is removed from the basket.

71. The content of the basket: four jinglebells and four anklets.

72. A detail of the four bells; three are tiger bells and one is a common jingle bell without decoration.



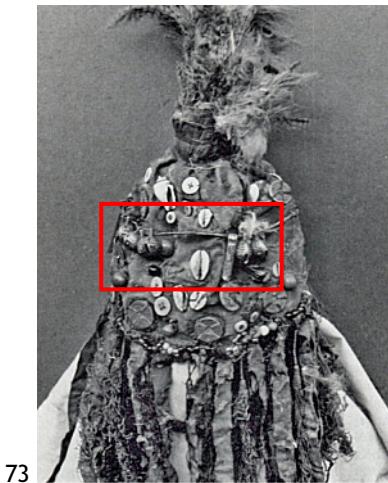
Photographs courtesy:
Catawiki auctions website

72



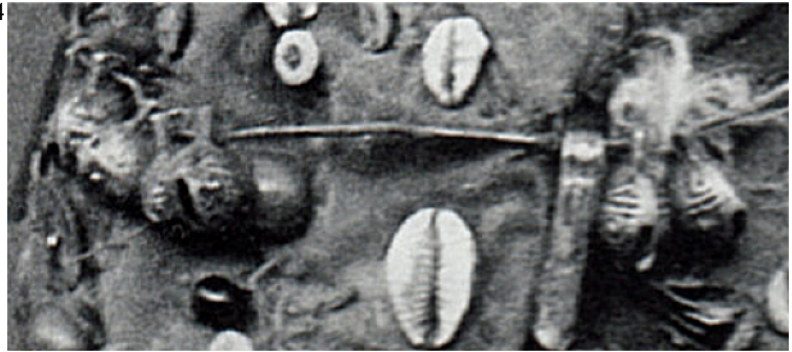
More tiger bells...

Case 213



73

74



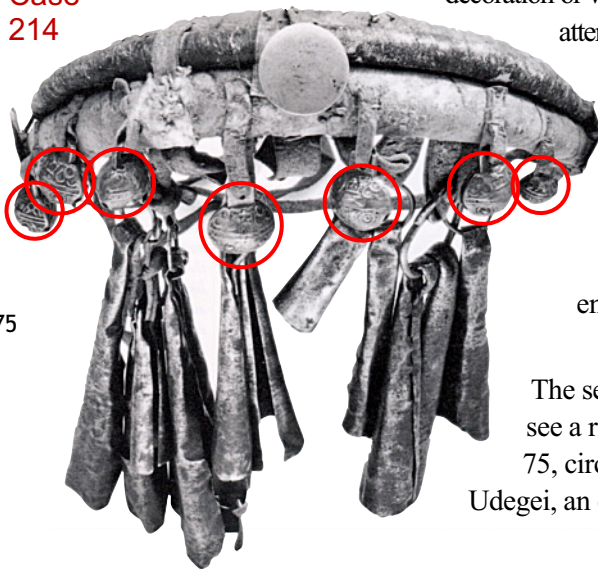
Few authors distinguished tiger bells from other jingle bells, such as W. Kaudern (case 33, p49, Vol. 1), S. V. Ivanov (case 127, p98 Vol. 1), W. Sieroszewski (see page 17, Vol. 1) and others. Also, in the catalogue of the *Musée de l'Homme* (now *Musée Quai Branly*) these bells are described separately as *Grelot, tête de tigre* (page 17, Vol. 1). More often, if a researcher had to describe an object adorned with tiger bells, either as a decoration or with a ritual function, the particular design was not given any attention. All bells were described as sleigh bells, jingle bells or ball

bells. Finding tiger bells in literature therefore means a lot of searching and leafing. In the book *Tiger Bells in Eurasia* there are lots of examples and we will add three more.

The first example is found in the book *Die Mongolen*. It is the headgear of a female shaman of the Chalcha of Cecenchan (ill. 73). The area in the red-bordered box is enlarged (ill. 74). The object is in the National museum in Ulan Batur. We see at least five tiger bells.

The second example is from the book *Crossroads Alaska*. We see a ritual belt with at least seven tiger bells attached to it (ill. 75, circled in red). The width is 30 cm. The ethnic group is the Udegei, an ethnic group in South-East Siberia, near the Amur river. The object is in the Vladivostok Maritime Museum.

Case 214



75



76



77 The third example is again from the book *Die Mongolen*. We see a shaman costume of the ethnic group the Buryat. There are only a few tiger bells attached to the costume. No further information.

78

Case 215



79

Photo 73, 74: *Die Mongolen*
 Photo 75, 76: *Crossroads Alaska*
 Photo 77-79: *Die Mongolen*

A riddle solved...



80



82



81

This paragraph is a follow-up to case 31 (p48, Vol. 1): an unknown object consisting of four balls, each one wrapped in textile and covered with strands of beads (ill. 80). Tiger bells are attached to the lower two balls. From the photograph it was not possible to determine what the function of these balls could be, until I recently came across a photo of a *mandau*, a weapon used by the Dayak (ill. 81). The photo shows a complete set for girding a *mandau*. The sword is inserted into the scabbard. The scabbard with the *mandau* is suspended from a belt with a richly beaded holster. The holster is fastened around the waist. Two more strings are attached to the holster, from which hang the four balls with the tiger bells attached (ill. 82).

Photo 80 - 82: Google Photo



Another tiger bell may be attached to the holster (pic. 83). The riddle of where the four balls are attached seems to be solved now. However, the question of why the four balls are attached to the holster has not yet been answered....



Photo 83 courtesy Gilles Peret,
from 'Hornbill and Dragon'

A cow bell from Tibet?



84



85

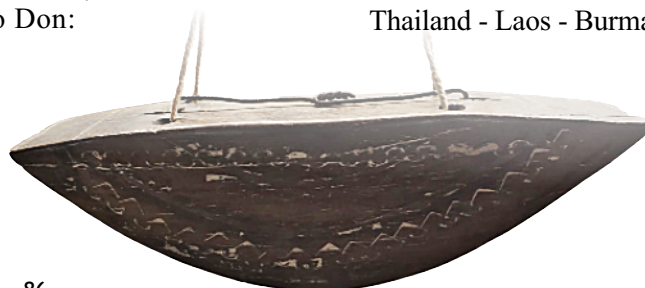
Photo 84 - 86
courtesy Don Hergert

Case 216

October 1 2021. While completing the purchase of the rattle (case 207, p99, Vol. 1), I received an e-mail from Don Hergert. He wrote "I just got this bell with two tigerbells. The gentleman said it was Tibetan. What do you think?" Three photos were enclosed with the mail. It is a wooden bell with two tiger bells as clappers. One of the tiger bells is in a reasonable condition, the second one shows traces of wear and oxidation and is less well preserved. I saw the combination of a wooden bell with jingle bells as clappers before, in an antique shop in Singapore and decided to buy it. The wooden bell has four jingle bells as clappers, one of which is a tiger bell in poor but recognisable condition. Although the shape differs, it is clearly a similar object. My reaction to Don:

"In 1989, I bought a wooden bell like yours from a curio shop in Singapore (case 97, p77, Vol. 1). According to the dealer, it was a yak bell, from Burma. Four jingle bells are attached inside the bell; one of the bells is a tiger bell. All four bells, including the tiger bell, are quite worn. The price at that time was about Singapore \$200.00.

By the looks of it, my yak bell is almost the same size as your cow bell. In your cow bell I see two tiger bells. One of them seems to be in good condition, the other looks more worn. Both bells are of the classic A type. These bells are not often seen in Tibet and Nepal. There tiger bells are mostly of the Himalayan type (case 180, p39). These bells are very common and locally produced to this day. So, I think your cow bell is not from Tibet but from one of the cultural minorities in the region of Northern Thailand - Laos - Burma."



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Disclaimer

Many of the pictures and texts in this research were found on Internet. Whenever available I have given all credits I could find. When in doubt I contacted the author, publisher or photographer to ask permission for use of their work. However, much of the material on Internet is not properly credited so if you find any work, be it a photograph or a quote from your work, that should be credited please inform me. Also if you object to the use of your work in my report, please inform me and I wil remove the paragraph or picture. In both cases, please contact me at fekkedejager (at) gmail (dot) com.

