

Dagu iron bell of Tianjin returns home

A grand ceremony was held at 4 p.m. GMT, June 13, 2005 in a local museum in Portsmouth city, UK to celebrate the returning home of the Dagu iron bell of [Tianjin](#), which has been lost for more than a hundred years, sources from Tanggu District of Tianjin Municipality says.

According to the inscription on the bell, the iron bell was cast in the 10th year of the Reign of Guangxu in Qing Dynasty (1884 A.D.), and was once hung at Dagukou north cannon fortification. In 1900, the Eight-Power Allied Forces (aggressive troops sent to China by Britain, the US, [Germany](#), France, tsarist [Russia](#), [Japan](#), [Italy](#) and [Austria](#)) plundered the bell to Britain, and the bell was kept in Victoria Park in Portsmouth city since 1902. During the WWII, the bell was moved away to hide from Nazi Germany's air raids, but later the whereabouts of the bell was unknown.

In the year of 1960, the bell was found in another park in Portsmouth city. Hearing the story in the autumn of 2003, a Chinese student Fan Hui began to make efforts in bringing the bell back home. Thanks to the joint help from the overseas Chinese and some British friends there for one year and a half, relevant governmental departments in the UK finally agreed to return this bell to its original owner.

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