Celestial Globe 天体仪

The Celestial Globe was completed in 1673, the 12th year of the Kangxi Emperor's reign in the Qing Dynasty. In ancient China, there was a type of instrument called "Hun Xiang" which was used to map the movement of celestial spheres. The first recorded "Hun Xiang" was created by Zhang Heng during the Han Dynasty. During the Qing Dynasty, Ferdinand Verbiest designed a "Hun Xiang" which was called "The Celestial Globe" and it was regarded as the most important of all the astrological instruments. The celestial globe in the Beijing Ancient Observatory is the last remaining one in China. It measures six feet in diameter, and on it are carved 1888 stars. The stars are indicated by their relative brightness. Its main body circles around a fixed axis so as to recreate the diurnal motion of celestial bodies. The Equator, the Milky Way, Chinese constellations and some western constellations in the southern sky are set onto the globe. The Celestial Globe was used to depict the stars and Chinese constellations of the night sky and to record their positions.

天体仪：

中国传统天文仪器中有一类专用于演示浑天宇宙和日月星辰东升西落的装置，通称“浑象”，汉代张衡制造的“浑天仪”，就是最早的浑象之一。清代新制六仪中的浑象称“天体仪”。因其重要的象征作用，被誉为“诸仪之统”，是中国历朝唯一存世的浑象。天体仪与传统浑象的最大区别是去掉了传统浑象下半部的方箱，直接呈现出完美的球体。在直径六尺的铜球上，镶嵌1888颗镀金铜星，以镀金铜星的大小表示恒星的明亮程度。这些星象仍按中国传统的星官系统划分，但增加了近南天极附近的一些星座。球面上刻有黄道圈、赤道圈和银河，黄道与赤道的交角使用了第谷的数据：23° 31’ 30”。