Tour of the Knife and sword museum
Hangzhou, about 3 hrs drive west of Shanghai.
By Jove Lachman-Curl, summer 2014

On one of my work trips to China earlier this year I had luck to visit this Museum. The knife and sword Museum (also scissors) is next to a section of the grand canal, the longest canal in the world, during the 5-6th century it spanned unbroken 17000 miles of trading canals from Beijing to Ningbo. They invented the canal lock, the highest part of the system being ~140ft. I’d added info to the pics where I had some.

Many of the images are poor quality due to the lighting of the museum; also I’ve compressed them to make it emailable. If anyone wants a full size image to look at a detail, quote me the page number and I’ll happily send it along. There is a run through the history of Chinese swords, then some knives and some swords from other parts of the world. I start with a few pics of general interest.

This first image is a knife I saw in a factory used for opening boxes and cutting threads. A reminder of how simple a knife can be. Blade + tape. Probably costs 10c.
A leather punch, looks easy to make, someone may find this useful.
A knife in a store in china with alloy and hardness noted. First time I’d seen this.
Coal barge, up to and a little over capacity. See empty and full barges in distance.
Fatigue crack, stress concentration at edge of shoulder caused this fatigue crack. Initiated at top edge, grew and finally broke through the last crescent moon at the bottom. A reminder for those nice curves on stick tangs to reduce stress concentration.
Old tailoring scissors, laminated blade faces.
High carbon cutting face does not rust in the same way as the rest of the scissors. Note the bright line 1/16th thick.
High carbon hard face cracks, body does not.
Welded up screwdriver, I love how they just get on with it.
Casting of Swords
Making of Swords

Ancient China owned gigantic armies and thus large-scale weapon manufacturing was needed to equip large numbers of soldiers. The end of the primitive society saw the first manufacturing of bronze swords and the casting of bronze weapons reach its climax in the Spring and Autumn & Warring States Periods (770 B.C.-221 B.C.). In addition, the iron-smelting skills were invented in the Spring and Autumn Period (770 B.C.-476 B.C.) at the latest, then iron-smelting skills improved gradually after the Warring States Period (476 B.C.-221 B.C.), promoting the development of steel weapons. In the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.), with the adoption of advanced techniques of metallurgy such as cast iron, decarburized steel, and wrought steel, the manufacturing of steel swords became mature.
Bronze sword, interesting patina
Han dynasty ~200 BC-200 AD. a reproduction.
Detail of sword above.
900-1200 AD. Ring pommel swords.
~1000 AD
青龙偃月刀

传说中关羽使用的青龙偃月刀出现于唐代，属重兵器，基本不用于作战。清政府追封关羽为“忠义神武关圣大帝”，关羽配青龙偃月刀始成为定制。

~1000 AD
This and next: short swords of 900-1300 AD.
SWORDES IN THE SONG AND YUAN DYNASTIES
(960~1368)
SWORDS
IN THE MING DYNASTY
(1368~1644)
1360-1600 Ming dynasty, after over 1000 yrs of long thin swords they changed to much heavier ones, perhaps armor improved.
Next few images. Heavy swords prevail again.
Reproduction period 1640-1910
Detail of previous. Looks like brass rivets in blade for decoration.
All fineness went down the drain in the 20th century as you’ll see.
Now onto knives
锐利英吉沙小刀
Sharp Yengisar Knife
（当代）/ The Contemporary Age
锐利英吉沙小刀
Sharp Yengisar Knife
当代/The Contemporary Age
“Relief Pearls” Mongolian Knife
Tibetan Sword

清/ The Qing Dynasty

捐赠 by Huangfu Jiang
剑面纹铁焊接花纹刀

马来克力士剑是一种剑面纹铁焊接花纹刀，兴盛于13世纪的满者伯夷王国。当时，所有发现的剑铁全部上交国有，由国王交给制刀师银制刀具。这种剑制造极为精细，反复锻造入火达900次左右。刀刃的夹钢钢有800层之多。马来克力士剑表面有各种纹饰，用糖汁加砒霜水浸泡，或用加了各种药物的米汤，烧炙几个小时，使刃纹

菲律宾马来克力士镀银刀
波兰贵族猎刀

Hunting Sword of Polish Nobles

1750/1750
Damascus waist sword of German Royal artillery General, 19th Century
American custom Folders, Set, in beach case.
Bronze razors perhaps? They were labeled as “sharpeners” but you never know in China.
唐代剪刀

到了唐代，剪刀的运用已十分普遍，材质趋于多样，包括铜、铁。仍为“交股屈环”状。