

The Four Treasures of Study (文房四宝):

The term, “four treasures of study” appears to have originated sometime during the Southern and Northern dynasties (420-589 A.D.). Brush, paper, ink stone, and ink are treasures of the scholar enabling them to write down their thoughts. The oldest of the four is the brush that is thought to have been invented in the Zou dynasty (1100 to 221 B.C.) Ink, the ink stone, and paper all developed in the Han Dynasty (221 B.C. – 206 A.D.)

