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# METAL PRODUCTS

FROM THE HIMALAYAN KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

CATALOGUE - 2014



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Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu : Bhutan

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**Ministry of Economic Affairs ,Thimphu : Bhutan**

First Edition: December, 2014

Title: Cataloguing of Metal Products and craftsmanship skills in the country

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Research, layout and Design: Institute for Management Studies, Olakha, Thimphu.

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# Introduction

Known as Zorig Chusum, the Thirteen Traditional Art and Crafts, to a large extent define the Bhutanese ways of living. This refined and colourful tradition is in many ways unique to the Bhutanese society. The Bhutanese have mastered them for many centuries having passed down from generation to generation. *Lug Zo* (casting), *Troe Koe* (Gold and Silver smithery) and *Gar Zo* (Black smithery) are some foremost metal works practiced even today.

History suggests that the fourth Desi (Deb Raja) Gyalse Tenzin Rabgay initiated most of the gold, silver and casting works during his reign in the mid-17th century bringing in Newaris, the Master Craftsmen from Nepal. The Bhutanese from the villages of Brag Wang, Jawab, Tse Phu and Tenchog Khar from Paro Dzongkhag and from the villages of Bebena and Lhadrong in Thimphu were some of the first Bhutanese exposed to the art of metal works. The descendants still continue to this day.

The products fashioned from gold, silver and casting were of numerous types with statues and ritual objects dominating them. Household items and ornaments were also designed and today some of the finest works of gold, silver and casting can be found in the Dzongs, monasteries and in the private homes.

While there is no evidence to suggest of the extraction of gold and silver within the country, copper was found in isolated places. One such place was the Zanglay Kha village next to Genekha village in Thimphu. Other Dzongkhags where copper were extracted were Dagana, Gaselo in Wangdue Phodrang and Duksum in Trashig Yangste.

Recent findings show evidences of *Gar Zo* (Black smithery) having been one of the earliest domains of the Bhutanese people. With certainty, it can be traced to the 14th century and the visit of Thangtong Gyalpo, an architect and a pioneering civil engineer from Tibet. He is said to have built 58 iron chain suspension bridges around Tibet and Bhutan, several of which are still in use today. Terton Pema Lingpa who lived in the 15th century also practiced black smithery. In the recent times, the tradition of black smithery was carried out in Woochu in Paro, Chakorla in Thimphu and Barshong in Trashigang.

The products fashioned from iron were mainly household items and farm tools. Patangs or the swords were also one of the many products made from iron.

The catalogue is an attempt towards documenting and showcasing the products. Efforts have been made in capturing as many products as possible.







# **Ritual Objects**





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Banza or Thoedzu

Laymen Name : Kapli

English Name : Skull cup

### 2. Material

Gold, silver, copper and brass

### 3. History

*"Banza"* or the *"Thoedzu"* is a cup made from a human skull. During tantric rituals, three different kinds of offerings are made which are external, internal and secret. During internal offerings, the *Thoedzus* are used to hold or contain *"Amrita"* elixir. *Banzas* of human skulls are found in most Dzongs, monasteries and in the temples. One can even come across *Banza* in the homes of the Buddhist practitioners and in other private households. Besides the human skulls, *Banzas* are also made of gold, silver, copper or brass and are different in size.

## Bumpa



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Bumpa  
Laymen Name : Bumpa  
English Name : Ritual Flask/Vase

## 2. Material

Bronze, brass, silver and copper coated with gold

## 3. History

*"Bumpas"* are ritual flask or vase with a spout used during Buddhist festivals. *Bumpas* represent the vessel or the expanse of the universe and embodies the visualized mandala of deities within its consecrated water. There are two kinds of *Bumpas*: the *Tso bum*, or the main vase, and the *Le bum* or the activity vase. The main vase is usually placed on the altar while the activity vase is placed in front of the presiding Lam. The vases are filled with *Thri Chhu* or scented purified water. The water is poured to sanctify the objects. While visiting temples, the caretaker would pour scented holy water onto the right palm of the faithful which they drink and apply over their heads to cleanse negative actions. They are made of bronze, brass, silver and copper inlaid with gold with intricate designs.

## Kongbu



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Kongbu
Laymen Name	: Kongbu
English Name	: Butter Lamp

## 2. Material

Copper, brass, silver and gold

## 3. History

Butter lamps “*Kongbu*” are a conspicuous feature of Buddhism. Every Bhutanese house would have butter lamps in their altars to make offerings. Most significantly, it is seen in the temples, monasteries, Dzongs and other religious sites. Butter lamps are offered before the images representing the illumination of wisdom. The lamp offering also carries the wish to attain Buddha hood. While the origin of offering butter lamps cannot be determined, it has been practiced centuries before. Butter offered is either of the cows or yaks but with readily available *Vanaspatti*, vegetable cooking oil in the market, people use more of these. Butter lamps are mostly made of copper and silver plaited with gold but one may also come across lamps made of pure gold. They are designed with different motifs. It is believed that offerings made in gold lamps will bring more merit. Some butter lamps also have covers with designs on them.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Chhap Bum/Chilu

Laymen Name : Chhap Bum/Chilu

English name : Water vessel

### 2. Material

Gold, silver, brass and other valuable materials

### 3. History

Water vessel “*Chhap Bum*” or also known as “*Chilu*” form a part of the ritual item. According to the disciplinary code (*Vinaya/Dulwa*), monks are required to wash their hands and mouth before and after meals. The water vessels are used to store water for the purpose and are found in the Dzongs, monasteries and the temples. They are made from gold, silver and other valuable materials and have intricate designs.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Chhoe Dril
Laymen Name	: Chhoe Dril
English Name	: Bell

### 2. Material

Bronze and cast metal ore

### 3. History

*"Chhoe Dril"* also forms a part of the ritual item. They are bells hung on the *Nam Da Go Sum* or on the main window of the *Utse* (Central tower) in the Dzongs and the temples. They are rung normally at night from 1 am till dawn or day break accompanied by prayers. They are rung to remind the monks and novices of their daily monastic life. *Chhoe Drils* are mostly made of bronze and cast metal ore. The *Chhoe Drils* have mantras in Sanskrit cast/inscribed on them.

## Chhoed Pai Ting



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Chhoed Pai Ting  
Laymen Name : Ting  
English Name : Water Offering Bowl

### 2. Material

Silver, brass or copper coated with gold

### 3. History

The most common type of offerings made by the Buddhist is the water offering known as “*Yonchhap*.” The offerings are made in seven bowls known as “*Tings*” which are placed on the altars and shrines. The offerings are made every morning and removed at the end of each day before sunset. The water bowls are of various sizes ranging from the size of a small cup to the size of a bowl and are also of various metals. The most common are those made of silver, brass or copper coated with gold. The *Tings* are intricately decorated with designs of flowers.



## Dorje



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dorje

Laymen Name : Dorje

English Name : Vajra

### 2. Material

Iron and bronze

### 3. History

The “*Vajra*” or the “*Dorje*” is a ritual object. They are usually made of bronze, vary in size and have three, five or nine spokes that usually close at each end in a lotus shape. The *Dorje* is said to measure twelve units in length, as it eliminates the twelve interconnected links in the chain of dependent origination. It is the quintessential symbol of the indestructible path of “Diamond Vehicle” of *Vajrayana* Buddhism, appearing in both its name and as the appellation of a host of *Vajra* - named divinities, attributes, and qualities. During rituals, the *Dorje* is used together with a bell, *Dril Bu* and is held in the left hand and represents the male principle, *Upaya*, action or means. They are made of iron and bronze.

## Dril Bu



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Dril Bu
Laymen Name	: Dril Bu
English Name	: Ritual Bell

### 2. Material

Iron and bronze

### 3. Local History

The ritual hand-bell or the “*Dril Bu*” represents the feminine principle of the “Perfection of Wisdom”, which directly realize emptiness. When the bell is rung it is said to “proclaim the sound of emptiness.” The bell is known as *Vajra- Ghanta*. It is always held in the left “wisdom” hand of the deity or the practitioner, and is commonly paired with a masculine *Vajra*, which is held in the right “method” hand. Together they symbolize the perfect union of wisdom or emptiness. They are made of iron and bronze.

## Dungchhen



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dungchhen

Laymen Name : Dungchhen

English Name : Trumpet

### 2. Material

Copper decorated with silver brass and German silver/gilt

### 3. History

Known as “*Dung*” or “*Dungchhen*” these are the long trumpets measuring about five feet in length and used during religious ceremonies and rituals by the practitioners. They belong to the wind group of blown instruments. The trumpets are blown in pairs and are made of copper decorated with silver brass and gilt.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Gau
Laymen Name	: Gau
English Name	: The Amulet –Box

### 2. Material

Silver coated with gold

### 3. History

The “*Gau*” or the amulet-box is a small round, square or torana-shaped reliquary container for sacred objects and substances. It is carried as a portable shrine or an altar and contains an image of a deity, a blessed written prayer or sacred mantras. It is made of silver and decorated with precious stones and rich carvings. *Gaus* are carried slung over shoulders and are made of silver coated with gold.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Za Nga

Laymen Name : Za Nga

English Name : Bell

**2. Material**

Bronze and brass

**3. History**

*"Za Ngas"* are part of the ritual objects/instruments. They are flat in shape and are hung in the Dzongs, monasteries and temples. They are hit with a wooden handle and are used to congregate the monks for prayers and for meals. They are made of bronze and brass.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Go Bur
Laymen Name	: Go Bur
English Name	: Door handle

### 2. Material

Copper, iron, brass and silver

### 3. History

*"Go Burs"* are door handles placed on the doors to open and close doors. One can come across *Go Burs* in the Dzongs, monasteries, Lhakhangs and in the well to do houses. They are made of copper, iron, brass and silver with rich carvings of dragons and other motifs.

## Ja Ling



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Ja Ling

Laymen Name : Ja Ling

English Name : Oboe

### 2. Material

Gold, silver, copper and German silver

### 3. History

*"Ja Lings,"* Oboe are musical instruments used during rituals and ceremonies and forms part of the wind musical instrument together with the Dungs. They are played in pairs or multiples to please the deities. The oboe is made of different materials of gold, silver, copper, brass and German silver. Usually the body is made of wood and the head, bottom and the finger joints from different materials inlaid with semi-precious stones. The sound is made with a *chipchi* (nipple) of bamboo. As *Ja Lings* are used for ritual ceremonies, processions and other celebrations, they are found in all Dzongs, monasteries, temples and in most homes.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Jamji  
Laymen Name : Jamji  
English Name : Tea Pot

### 2. Material

Silver, copper and brass

### 3. History

Tea pot known as *Jam Ji* were used during religious ceremonies and official functions. It is made from brass and silver with gold inlaid. The pot has a handle and a spout designed as a dragon.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Chhoeten

Laymen Name : Chhoeten

English Name : The Stupa

### 2. Material

Copper or silver plaited with gold

### 3. History

Buddhist stupas “*Chhoeten*” were originally built to house the earthly remains of Lord Buddha and his associates. *Chhoetens* are of eight types and in Bhutan, *Chhoetens* are built in memory of great lams and to contain their relics and also to subjugate demons. The *Chhoetens* kept inside the homes, monasteries and temples are smaller in size and are made of wood and covered with copper or silver plaited with gold.

## Kang Dung



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Kang Dung
Laymen Name	: Kang Dung
English Name	: Thighbone Trumpet

### 2. Material

Silver and copper

### 3. History

Bone trumpets or "*Kang Dungs*" are ritual trumpets traditionally made from a human thigh bone, but today made of silver and copper in the imitation of a human femur. The trumpet is said to produce a sound that is pleasing to the wrathful deities but terrifying to all evil spirits. It is blown to call, serve and worship such forces who subdue evil spirits through their righteous wrath. It is usually held as a left-hand 'wisdom' attributes by yogins, yoginis and siddhas and are blown during tantric rituals.

## Kang Sum



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Kang Sum
Laymen Name	: Kang Sum
English Name	: Tripod

### 2. Material

Silver, copper, brass, iron and bronze

### 3. History

*"Kang Sums"* are tripods. They are used to hold *Phul Chogs* and plates. The tripods are either decorated with patterns or kept plain and simple. They are made of silver, copper, brass, iron and bronze.



## Mang Gu



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Mang Gu  
Laymen Name : Mang Gu  
English Name : Container

### 2. Material

Brass, copper, bronze and silver with gold inlaid

### 3. History

*"Mang Gu"* is also a ritual object and used by the practitioners to contain water and grains. It also has a ladle from where the mixed water and the grains are then served onto another bowl as per the ritual. They are made of brass, copper, bronze and silver with gold inlaid.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Mani  
Laymen Name : Mani  
English Name : Prayer wheel

### 2. Material

Copper, bronze or silver coated with gold

### 3. History

According to the Buddhist texts, prayers wheels or “*Mani*” were introduced by the great Indian Buddhist philosopher *Nagarjuna*. The use of prayer wheels is common in Bhutan amongst the elderly citizens. Prayer wheels are of a wide range of sizes and styles from the small hand held ones “*Mani Lakhor*” to the giant ones “*Mani Dungjur*” about five to six feet tall. The prayer wheels are found in many religious establishments and are spun clockwise at the same time reciting profound Buddhist mantras. The outer case of the hand held prayer wheels are made of copper, bronze or silver plaited with gold and with rich patterns of the eight lucky signs.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Melong

Laymen Name : Melong

English Name : Mirror

### 2. Material

Silver with gold coatings

### 3. History

The mirror "*Melong*" is again a part of the ritual item. The mirror symbolizes emptiness or pure consciousness. The mirror is used in the consecration ceremonies, where water is poured over the reflected image of a statue or a *thangka*. The water, having bathed the form of deity, is then considered to have consecrated water. They are made of silver with gold coatings.



Dra Wa Dra Chhey



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dra Wa Dra Chhey  
Laymen Name : Dra Wa Dra Chhey  
English Name : The Garland of severed heads and skulls

### 2. Material

Copper, brass and iron coated with gold

### 3. History

*"Dra Wa Dra Chhey"* form a part of the ritual item and are hung in the *Goenkhangs* (temple or chapel dedicated to the protecting deities) and *Du Khangs*. They are hung to create fear and subdue. They are made of copper, brass and also of iron with human skull cast on them.





## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Poe Zin
Laymen Name	: Poe Zung
English Name	: Incense holder

## 2. Material

Bronze, brass and copper

## 4. History

*"Pe Zung"* or *"Pe Zins"* are a part of the ritual item. They are used to light incense and are placed before the altars. Every Bhutanese house would have a *Pe Zung* to offer incense. They are made of bronze, brass, copper and aluminum.

The incense cup *"Sangphor,"* are slightly different which is used to burn incense during ceremonies. It is made of silver and very intricately gilded with gold with a handle.

## Phul Chog



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Phul Chog
Laymen Name	: Phul Chog
English Name	: Offering bowl

### 2. Material

Brass, copper and silver coated with gold.

### 3. History

*"Phul Chog"* is a container used to offer drinks like alcohol and tea to the deities. It is used for all tantric rituals and daily offerings. They are made of gold, silver, copper, brass, bronze and iron and decorated with precious stones and intricate patterns. *Phul Chogs* are either placed on *Kangsum* (tripods) and also without.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Ja Phul
Laymen Name	: Ja Phul
English Name	: Offering bowl

### 2. Material

Silver, copper and brass with gold inlaid

### 3. History

*“Ja Phul”* are also ritual items used in offering tea and similar to *Phul Chog*. Before tea is served to the *Lams* and the monks, it is first served to the Gods and the deities at the altar in the *Ja Phul*. They are also made of silver, copper and brass with gold inlaid.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Par Bu/Dru Phor
Laymen Name	: Dru Phor
English Name	: Container

### 2. Material

Copper, brass and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

*"Par Bus"* are part of the ritual items used by the Lams and the monks. They are also known as *"Thuen Zey Hod"* and contains three layers. The top most container contains *"Tashi Dru"* or rice grains used for good luck etc. in a house. The second layers contains *"Due Zay"* or mustard grains used to drive away evils while the bottom layer would contain *"Due tsi Men drup"* used as a medicine. *Par Bus* are made of brass and of silver coated with gold and have intricate designs. *Dru Phor* contains just the grains and do not have layers.



## Thokay



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Thokay
Laymen Name	: Thokay
English Name	: The Bowl/ Basin

### 2. Material

Copper, brass, bronze and silver coated with gold.

### 3. History

Fruit bowl “*Thokay*” are used to contain fruits that are placed on the altars and in front of the Chief Abbot, the King, Lams and other officials. They are made of copper, bronze, silver and plaited with gold with rich designs.

## Marchang Thro



### 1. Product Name:

Dzongkha Name : Marchang Thro  
Laymen Name : Marchang Thro  
English Name : Pot

### 2. Material

Bronze and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

*"Marchang Thro"* or the wine pot is used during religious ceremonies and official functions in the Dzongs, monasteries and offices to propitiate and make offerings known as *Marchang*. They are filled with *"bangchang"* fermented cereal. Three horns are placed on the pot that signifies the tripartite world: *tenglha* (celestial world) *miyul* (world of human) and *woglu* (subterranean world). Thus, the marchang represent offering from the tripartite world to the triple gem (*Koncho sum: Buddha, Dharma and Sanga*) as well as the *Guru* (lama) Tutelary deities (*yidam*), *dakinis* (*khando*) and the other deities to please them. They are made of bronze and decorated with the auspicious signs. The pot is accompanied by a ladle used in stirring the *bangchang*.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Droem Dob  
Laymen Name : Droem Dob  
English Name : Pot

### 2. Material

Copper and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

The pot known as “*Droem Dob*” is used while conducting the *Marchang* ceremony. *Droems* prepared from beet roots or small beans are offered to the deities and served to the Chief Guest and others as part of an offering followed by others such as *Di Zang* and *Zhugdrey* consisting of fruits. Both the *Droem Dob* and the ladle are made of silver with gold inlaid and also from copper and silver coated with gold.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Yang Dhar

Laymen Name : Yang Dhar

English Name : The arrow-banner or silk arrow

### 2. Material

Silver and iron

### 3. History:

Besides the use as weapons, arrows are also symbolically used in many Buddhist rituals. The arrow- banner or silk arrow, consisting of single upright arrow with a cluster of silk ribbons tied to its upper shaft, is used in rituals of arrow-divination and a wide variety of other *Vajrayana* rites. This symbolic arrow is normally planted upright and point-downwards into a wooden container of grain and auspicious substances, known as a granary.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Gyeltshen
Laymen Name	: Gyeltshen
English Name	: Victory banner

### 2. Material

Brass

### 3. History

*"Gyeltshen"* or the banner of victory that signifies the sacredness of the place and victory over evil and enemy. It also signifies that the teachings of Lord Buddha still holds sway within the country. They are placed on top of the Dzongs, Lhakhangs and monasteries and on top of the prayer flags. They are made of brass.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Mendrel
Laymen Name	: Mendrel
English Name	: Offering of the Universe

### 2. Material

Copper, brass, silver and gold

### 3. History

A “*mendrel*” is a symbolic offering used during religious ceremonies. *Mendrel* offering is a practice associated with the seven-branch practice (*Yan-lag-duen*) in which one visualizes an offering of the entire universe. *Mendrels* are mostly made of gold and silver decorated on its sides by the Seven Precious Royal Emblems. One can also come across *mendrels* made of copper and brass.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Ku  
Laymen Name : Ku  
English Name : Statues

### 2. Material

Copper, bronze, silver and gold

### 3. History

Statues known as “Ku” are the main objects in the altars in the Dzongs, monasteries and temples. The statues range in sizes from a small miniature one to huge life size ones. The statues are mostly cast and made of materials including copper, bronze, silver and gold. One may also come across statues made of black bronze.

## Phurpa



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Phurpa  
Laymen Name : Phurpa  
English Name : Religious dagger

### 2. Material

Bronze and iron coated with gold

### 3. History

*"Phurpa"* is a religious dagger used in subduing evil spirits and is related to a specific cycle of tantric teachings. It is an essential item for most of the rituals and practices. A *phurpa* has three sides that symbolizes the three doors of liberation. The end point of the ritual dagger symbolizes compassionate liberation and is known as *"De was Chenpoi Go"* or the Door of Consummate Bliss. They are made of bronze and iron coated with gold.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Rolmo  
Laymen Name : Rolmo  
English Name : Cymbals

### 2. Material

Bronze

### 3. History

*"Rolmos,"* Cymbals are again a part of the ritual instrument and most practitioners use them during religious ceremonies and are of different types. They are mostly in pairs and are of different sizes producing different notes of sounds. They are made of bronze (bell metal). If gold, silver and turquoise are included in the metal used to make cymbals, it is believed that the sound produced is better.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Meto Damji

Laymen Name : Meto Damji

English Name : Flower vase

### 2. Material

Copper, brass and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

Flower vases "*Meto Damji*" are placed in the altars along with the seven water bowls. Offering flowers is also said to bring merit. The vases comes in various sizes and shapes and are made of copper, brass and also silver often coated with gold with intricate designs.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Ka Chen Ngul Shen  
Laymen Name : Ka Chen Ngul Shen  
English Name : Pillar and door patterns

### 2. Material

Copper and silver

### 3. History

*"Ka Chens"* are wooden pillars that are found in huge structures such as Dzongs, monasteries and temples. The pillars are covered with copper and silver which have intricate designs of flowers on them. One may also come across doors that are covered with patterns carved on copper and silver.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Thangka Tog
Laymen Name	: Thangka Tog
English Name	: Decorative pieces

### 2. Material

Copper and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

Bhutanese paintings on cloth are known as “*Thangkas*” and are usually paintings of the deities and important Buddhist saints and masters. *Thangkas* are hung in the temples and in the altars. The *Thangkas* have a wooden piece at the end stitched to keep it straight. On the two sides of the wood are attached the *Togs* which are made of copper, brass, silver and also gold with rich designs and are decorative pieces.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Tshe Tor
Laymen Name	: Tshe Tor
English Name	: Vase of Longevity

### 2. Material

Copper and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

*“Tshe Tor,”* the vase of longevity is a ritual object mainly used to conduct longevity empowerment ceremonies as embodied by the Buddha *Amitayus (Tshepame)*, the deity of long life. It is usually ornamented with the *Hri* syllable at the center of a mirror surrounded by the eight auspicious signs. The *Hri* sound is the seed syllable of the Buddha *Amitayus*. The vase is made of silver coated with gold with intricate designs. It is also made of copper.



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Tshog Peders

Laymen Name : Tshog Peders

English Name : Bowl

## 2. Material

copper, brass, bronze and silver coated with gold.

## 3. History:

*“Tshog Peders”* or the bowls are often depicted as offering receptacles. The bowls are of various shapes and sizes. Ceremonial food offerings are a common practice in Buddhism and these receptacles are filled with a variety of precious offerings, such as fruits, nectar, medicine, sweets and the five objects of sensory enjoyment. Offerings or *Tshogs* are made as a means to release selfishness and open the heart to the needs of others, purify negative tendencies and accumulate merit.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Lugpar

Laymen Name : Lugpar

English Name : Cast

**2. Material**

Bronze and iron

**3. History**

*"Lug Par"* are made of brass and iron. They were used as part of casting and making images of gods and deities, brooches and *Komas*.



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Nam Chu Wang Den
Laymen Name	: Go Sung
English Name	: Kalachakra

## 2. Material

Copper and brass coated with gold

## 3. History

*"Nam Chu Wang Den"* or Tenfold Powerful One is a symbol of *Kalachakra* (Cycle of time or wheel of time). In Bhutan it is widely known as the *Go Sung*. The symbol contains seven knotted symbol or spell in Sanskrit and is crowned with the symbol of the sun, the moon and the flame. It is believed to be a powerful protection against inappropriate death, bad behavior and evil energy attack. It also protects from negative energies, reduce sufferings and increase good fortune. It is cast in bronze and copper and placed on the door or above it in the temples and monasteries.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Druk
Laymen Name	: Druk
English Name	: Dragon

### 2. Material

Copper, brass, silver, gold and iron

### 3. History

Dragon is a symbol used in the National flag of Bhutan and also appears as the symbol of the national emblem. On the National emblem, the two dragons appear on the sides of the double diamond thunderbolt. While the thunderbolts represent the harmony between secular and religious power, the jewel signifies the sovereign power and the dragons (male and female) stands for the name of the country *Druk Yul* or the Land of the Dragon. The dragons are widely used as a show piece and a decoration item as well. They are made of copper, brass, silver and iron.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Kay Jan/ Gul Jan

Laymen Name : Kay Jan

English Name : Necklace

### 2. Material

Copper, brass, and silver inlaid with gold

### 3. History

Known as "*Kay Jan*," or as "*Gul Jan*," it is a necklace placed round the necks of the statues. It is made of copper, brass, and silver with inlaid with gold and rich designs.





# **Ornaments**



## Thing Khabs



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Thing Khabs

Laymen Name : Thing Khabs

English Name : Fibula

## 2. Material

Silver and German silver

## 3. History

*"Thingkabs"* Fibula, made of silver, were used in the former times to fasten a woman's dress at the shoulders but it could also be used as a weapon, if the need arose. *Thingkhabs* were hold by a chain known as *Jabtha*. Today, they are no more in use and have been replaced by ornamented silver brooches *"Koma"* with different designs.



## Dorje



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Dorje

Laymen Name : Dorje

English Name : Vajra

**2. Material**

Silver and gold

**3. History**

*Dorje* or the *Vajra* which is however not a part of the ritual object but forms a part of the ornaments. They are small in size and made of silver and gold studded with turquoise. They are worn round the neck along with corals and other jewelers.



**1. Product Name**

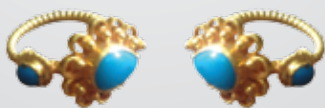
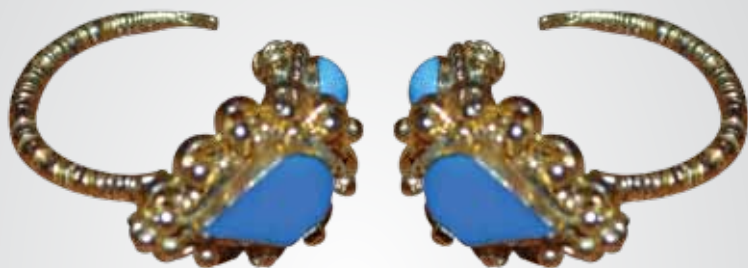
Dzongkha Name	: Zu Kyi
Laymen Name	: Zu Kyi
English Name	: Finger rings

**2. Material**

Silver and gold

**3. History**

“Zu Kyi” are the finger rings worn by both men and women. Rings are intricately designed and studded with turquoises and are usually made of silver and gold plaited or entirely made of gold as well. They are of different shapes as well.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Sin Chu
Laymen Name	: Sin Chu
English Name	: Ear rings

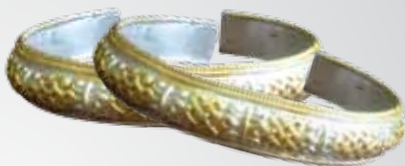
### 2. Material

Silver and gold

### 3. History

“*Sin Chus*” are the ear rings worn by Bhutanese women. However, certain Bhutanese ethnic groups such as the *Brokpas* of Merak and *Sakteng* also have the tradition of wearing earrings. They are made in pairs and are worn on either side of the ears. They are intricately designed and studded with turquoises. *Sin Chus* are usually made of silver and gold plaited or entirely made of gold as well.

## Dob Chu



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dob Chu

Laymen Name : Dob Chu

English Name : Bangles

### 2. Material

Brass, silver and gold

### 3. History

*"Dob Chus"* are the bangles and forms part of the ornaments. *Dob Chus* are worn by women and on both hands. They are intricately designed with dragons or the eight lucky signs and are made of brass, silver and gold. With fashionable designers in town, we can see new designs of bangles as well for the younger generations.



## Koma



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Koma
Laymen Name	: Koma
English Name	: Brooch

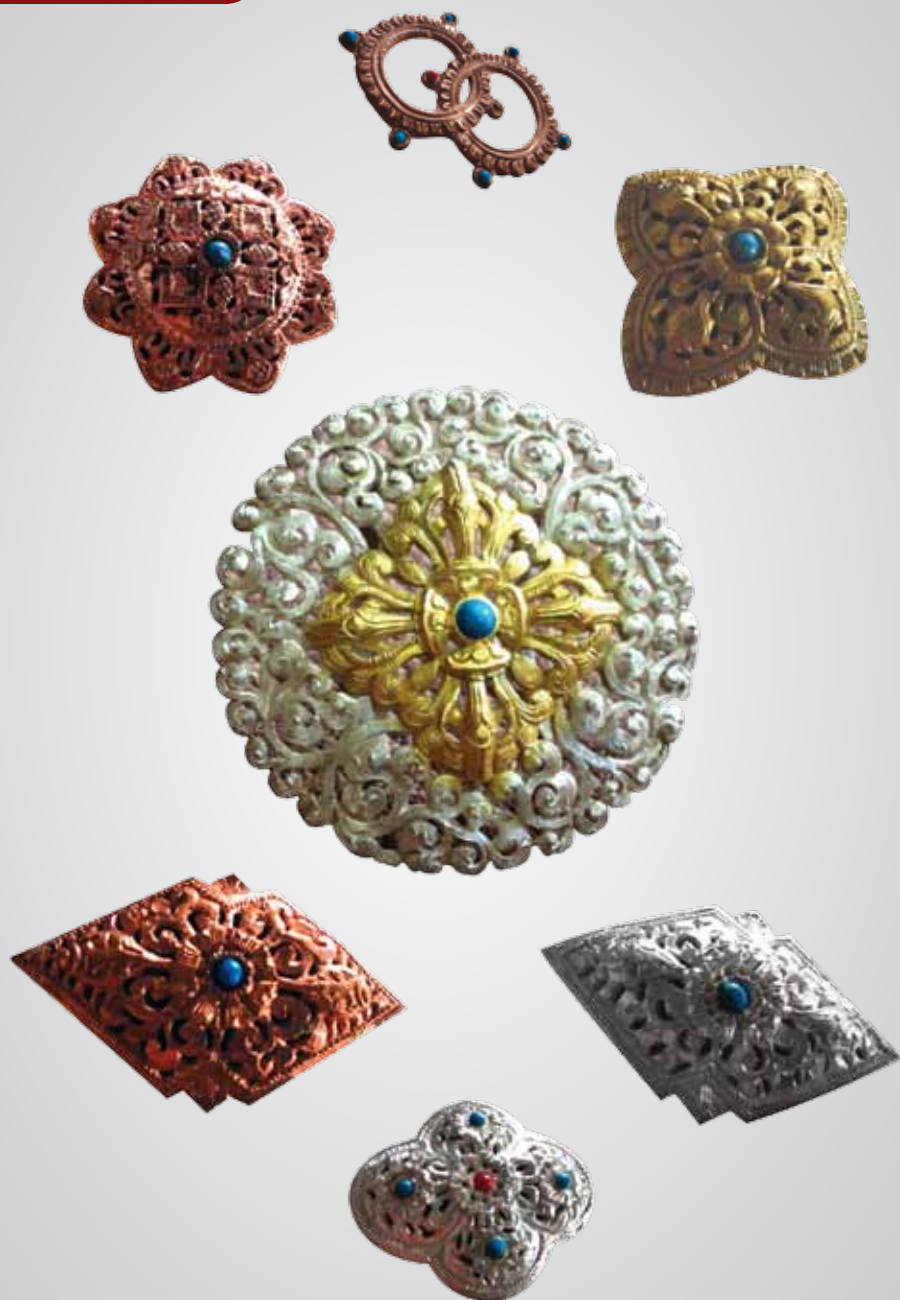
### 2. Material

Silver and gold

### 3. History

*"Komas"* also form a part of the women's dress. *Komas* are usually in pairs and are used by women to attach the *Kira* at the two shoulders serving the function of the *Thingkhabs*. They are made of silver and of gold. *Komas* usually have a chain to keep them together known as *Jabtha* which are again well designed.

## Koma



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Koma
Laymen Name	: Koma
English Name	: Brooch

### 2. Material

Copper, silver and gold

### 3. History

While in the past the Bhutanese women used only "*Komas*" to attach the *Kiras* at the two shoulders serving with change in the life style, women have started using a single brooch to hold the *tegos* (outer jacket) together. They are made of copper, silver and gold and are well designed.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Ko Chhab
Laymen Name	: Ko Chhab
English Name	: Belt

### 2. Material

Silver coated with gold

### 3. History

Belt "*Ko Chhab*" made of leather ornamented by fine buckles made of silver with gold overlay is used to fasten the inner belt and the sword worn by the senior officials. The belts are of various designs and sizes. Off late, the buckles designed are round or rectangular with designs of birds and flowers. They are silver with gold overlay.

## Dung



**1. Product Name:**

Dzongkha Name	: Dung
Laymen Name	: Dung
English Name	: Necklace

**2. Material**

Silver

**3. History**

*“Dung”* or also known as *“Dung Cha,”* is an ornament piece used together with the corals and other ornament pieces that form a part of the necklace. It usually comes in pairs. They are made of silver and have rich designs of flowers and other patterns. They are also inlaid with gold.







# **Household Items**

## Ghi chu/Dro zoms



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Ghi chu/Dro zoms
Laymen Name	: Ghi chu/Dro zoms
English Name	: Knives

## 2. Material

Iron and steel

## 3. History

Knives known as “Ghi” used by the Bhutanese are of various types and sizes depending on the purpose. While those with pointed heads with sharp edges are used for defensive purposes, others are used for a variety of purposes ranging from chopping tree branches to cutting meat. Knives have a variety of names such as “Wo Shu Chen ma,” “Ola Jum,” “Bul gi Che,” “Tsep tsa,” “Ba Chenm,” “Reldri Chenm,” and “Dra Ghi.” Knives are all made of iron. However the sheaths and the handles are made of wood. But one can also come across sheaths made of silver and the handles of ivory tusk and deer horns.

## Chog



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Chog  
Laymen Name : Chog  
English Name : Ladle.

### 2. Material

Aluminium, copper and brass.

### 3. History

*“Chogs”* are the ladles and are traditionally used for pouring water. They are also of various size. While the *Chogs* are made of brass, one can also come across ladles made of aluminum. *Chogs* of brass are usually found in wealthier homes.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Dheek
Laymen Name	: Dheek
English Name	: Pot

### 2. Material

Copper and brass

### 3. History

Pots or "*Dheeks*" form a part of the Bhutanese household item. The pots vary in sizes from a small to a large one and of different shapes as well. They are used for cooking, and also in containing water. *Dheeks* have a cover and are made mostly of copper and brass.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Ngulshen Phop
Laymen Name	: Ngulshen Phop
English Name	: Silver plated Cup

### 2. Material

Wood and ivory with silver inlaid

### 3. History

This Bhutanese cup known as *Ngulshen Phop* (Silver plated Cup) made of wood burl lined with silver is used for drinking *ara* and tea. A ring of silver embellished with miniature Buddha's forms forms the base of the cup.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Thro
Laymen Name	: Thro
English Name	: Bronze Pot

### 2. Material

Bronze

### 3. History

*“Thro”* forms a part of the Bhutanese household item used for cooking, and also in containing water. The *Thros* are often decorated on the sides and unlike the *Diks*, the *Thros* do not have a cover. They are of different sizes and shapes and are made mostly of bronze.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dapa  
Laymen Name : Dapa  
English Name : Containers

### 2. Material

Wood adorned with silver and gold

### 3. History

*"Dapas"* are wooden bowls made of wood to contain food especially rice. The bowls are of different sizes and were even used as plates in the earlier days. While most *Dapas* are plain one can also come across those decorated with designs of eight lucky signs and other Bhutanese motifs made of bronze, silver and gold. Besides using them as plates, today they are also used as serving dishes.

## Jandum



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Jandum
Laymen Name	: Jandum
English Name	: Wine container

### 2. Material made of:

Brass and German silver

### 3. History

*"Jandums"* are containers of *"Ara"* or the local wine. Every Bhutanese household would have *Jandums* filled with *Ara*. The *Jandums* used by the ordinary households are made mostly from wood but the well to do families would have *Jandums* made from metals such as brass and German silver and also from the animal horns such as those of *Mithun* and buffaloes.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Men Dhung
Laymen Name	: Men Dhung
English Name	: Medicine container

### 2. Material

Brass, bronze and silver

### 3. History

*"Men Dhung"* are medicine containers. They were used in the past especially to contain traditional medicines made from herbs. The containers are made of silver, brass and bronze and have patterns and designs on them.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Thurm
Laymen Name	: Thurm
English Name	: Spoons

### 2. Material

Silver and bronze

### 3. History

Spoons or "*Thurms*" as they are traditionally referred to are used as part of the ritual item. As a ritual item, *Thurms* were used to serve "*Duetsi*" etc. Spoons were made either from silver or from bronze and while most were plain without designs, one can also come across spoons with intricate designs of flowers.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Me Teg and Lawa
Laymen Name	: Me Teg and Lawa
English Name	: Traditional lamps

### 2. Material

Brass, bronze, copper, iron and silver

### 3. History

*“Me Tags”* and *“Lawa”* formed a part of the household items in the olden days. In the absence of electricity, the *Metegs* and *Lawas* came in handy. *Metegs* were used as stands on which was placed the *Lawa*. The *Lawa* was then filled with oil made of mustard and even pigs fat. *Me Tegs* are mostly made of iron and were plain in design while the *Lawas* were made of brass, bronze, copper and iron. For the rich and the powerful, the *Lawas* were also made of silver which were either kept plain or decorated with patterns.



### **1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name	: Cha Tsi Zhu Kong
Laymen Name	: Cha Tsi Zhu Kong
English Name	: Tea Light Holder

### **2. Material**

Brass

### **3. History**

A tealight (also tea-light, tea lites or tea light, t-lite or tcandles), or nightlight, is a candle encased in a thin metal cup. They are typically small and circular. The holders come in a wide range of styles, colours, and shapes. The use of tea lights in Bhutan are recent and used by very few families. The tea lights are designed with a modern look and are made of brass.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Bathra and Chakar
Laymen Name	: Bathra and Chakar
English Name	: Betel nut container

### 2. Material

Copper and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

"*Bathras*" are the round betel leaf box hand made from silver with a gold finish. *Bathras* are decorated with the eight auspicious signs and is used by the nobility and the high clergy for traditional offerings of betel leaves during special occasions and ceremonies. The rectangular betel leaf container is known as *Chakar* and handcrafted on silver with gold finish. They are elaborately decorated with the eight auspicious signs, lotus, dragons and other designs. *Bathras* and *Chakars* are also made of copper.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Timi
Laymen Name	: Timi
English Name	: Lime container

### 2. Material

Silver

### 3. History

*"Timi"* Lime container is round in shape and traditionally used for storing lime and always carried with the *Bathra*. It is handcrafted from silver with a gold finish and dragon designs.

## Nay Cha



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Nay Cha
Laymen Name	: Nay Cha
English Name	: Door latches

### 2. Material

Brass, copper and iron

### 3. History

*"Nay Chas"* are the door latches used in locking the doors. They are simple ones like a chain and are made with two chains put together. They are found in the Dzongs, monasteries and in the house holds. While those in the houses are made of simple iron, the ones in the Dzongs and the monasteries are made of brass and copper.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Nag Kong
Laymen Name	: Nag Kong
English Name	: Ink Pot

### 2. Material

Copper and brass

### 3. History

Bhutanese writers who consisted mostly of the Lams and the clerks serving in the courts in the earlier times, used to write using ink made from soot and turned into different colors such as red and black. The pens were made from a special bamboo known as “*Nyungma*” resembling chopsticks and the paper made from the bark of the Daphne plant. The ink containers known as *Nag Kong* were made from copper and brass, iron or red copper.



## Nyung Dung



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Nyung Dung

Laymen Name : Nyung Dung

English Name : Pen case

### 2. Material

Copper and brass

### 3. History

Bhutanese writers who consisted mostly of the Lams and the clerks serving in the courts in the earlier times, used to write using ink made from soot. The pens were made from a special bamboo known as “*Nyungma*” resembling chopsticks and the paper made from the bark of the Daphne plant. The pens were kept in cases known *Nyu Gu Shub* and were made from copper and brass, iron or red copper.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Theu

Laymen Name : Theu

English Name : Seal

### 2. Material

Iron and brass

### 3. History

Seals “*Theu*” were used in the olden days by the Lords and the powerful noble families. The letters and other important documents would all bear the seals. Parcels such as loads would be sealed at the end where they were tied by strings so that they reached the other end safely. The seals were simple and made from iron and brass and would have different signs such as the “*Pelyab*” Eternal Knot and others.

## Drey Cha



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Drey Cha
Laymen Name	: Drey Cha
English Name	: Doma Crusher

## 2. Material

Iron

## 3. History

*"Drey Chas"* are the tools used in crushing/grinding *doma* "Beetle nuts". They are used by the elderly who find it difficult in eating a whole *doma* and have to crush them into pieces. The *domas* are put inside the *Drey Cha* and are grounded into small pieces using the sharp iron blade. They are made of iron and are always plain with little or no design.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Me Tshon
Laymen Name	: Me Tshon
English Name	: Metal Torch

### 2. Material

Brass

### 3. History

Metal torch known as *Me Tshon* was used during warfare. The base would hold water to prevent the receptacle from heating. When the need arose, the receptacle would be swung around to extinguish the fire and then used for self defence.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Gah
Laymen Name	: Gah
English Name	: Saddle

### 2. Material

Brass and silver coated with gold

### 3. History

The saddle known as *Gah* is mostly made of wood. However, saddles used by the Kings and the nobility have metal works on them. The saddle, bridle and the bridle plate are embellished with gold-plated silver intricately worked in tendrils, dragon, phoenix and *jachung* (a mythical animal). The metals used are brass, and silver coated with gold.





# **Armor and Tools**

## Cha Mo





## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Cha Mo

Laymen Name : Cha Mo

English Name : Helmet

## 2. Material

Iron and brass

## 3. History

“*Cha Mos*” form a part of the Bhutanese weaponry. They are worn as helmets by the warriors before entering a battlefield. The *Cha Mos* are made of special iron known as *Kha Thom* which is stronger than the normal iron, and of brass. They are round in shape with very little design. Nowadays, *Cha Mos* are used during *serda* (religious processions) and at the *domchoe* festival of Punakha by the *pazap* (traditional militia) while enacting the encounters with the Tibetan invaders in the 17th century.



## 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Dra Li

Laymen Name : Dra Li

English Name : Shield

## 2. Material

Animal skin and brass

## 3. History

*"Dra Li"* form a part of the Bhutanese weaponry together with the *Cha Mo*, swords and bows and arrows. They are used as shields by the warriors. They are made of animal hides, often the hide of a rhinoceroses and are hard. They have four round iron nuts known as *Dra Li Bur* with a sun and a moon, *Nyinda* placed on them made of brass. Nowadays, shields are used during *serda* (religious processions) and at the *domchoe* festival of Punakha by the *pazap* (traditional militia) while enacting the encounters with the Tibetan invaders in the 17th century.



## Gho Thrab



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Gho Thrab
Laymen Name	: Gho Thrab
English Name	: Chain mail

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

The iron coat of chain mail known as "*Gho Thrab*" was used as part of an armoury especially by the high ranking officials together with the iron helmet. They are today no longer in use and are found in the Gonkhangs (inner sanctum) in the Dzongs and temples. They were made of iron.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Da Cha  
Laymen Name : Da Cha  
English Name : Arrow tips

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

Archery is the national game and is played using bamboo bows and arrows. The traditional arrows have arrow tips made of iron with sharp pointed heads known as *"Da Cha."*

## Patang



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Patang
Laymen Name	: Patang
English Name	: Sword and sheath

### 2. Material

Silver and gold

### 3. History

The swords are of different types. They are "*Lung Dri Chenm*," "*Peling Chag Shay*," "*Paksam Tenzin*," and "*Chhukha Tenzin*," "*Nagpo Phala*," "*Dungsam Thurma*," and "*Ja Dri*." While most swords were made within the country, *Ja Dri* was the one made by the Indians from Cooch Behar in the present day state of West Bengal. The sheaths are also of many types such as "*Ben Churi Chenm*," "*Ben Zhung Chang*," "*Hoshi Chenm*," "*Ser Na Chenm*," "*Ko mar Chenm*," and the ordinary ones just referred to as *Patangs*. Swords with sheaths that are purely made of silver are "*Ben Churi Chenm*," and "*Ben Zhung Chang*."



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : So Lee

Laymen Name : So Lee

English Name : Saw

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

Known as “*So lee*,” it’s a saw used by the carpenters as part of their tools to cut the wood planks. While the main cutter is made of iron, the handle is made of wood.



Saychu, Woshu, Kha Kom



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Saychu, Woshu, Kha Kom
Laymen Name	: Saychu, Woshu, Kha Kom
English Name	: Carving tools

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

The carpenters use tools such as *Saycho*, *Woshu* and *Kha Kom*. These are used in carving and making designs and patterns on wood. They are made of iron.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Byi Li  
Laymen Name : Byi Li  
English Name : Planer

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

Known as "*Byi Li*," it's used as a plane for wood works by the carpenters. Only the sharp edged blade is made of iron while the rest is made of wood.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Ko Thi  
Laymen Name : Ko Thi  
English Name : Divider

**2. Material**

Iron and steel

**3. History**

*“Ko Thi”* are the dividers used by the silver smiths (*Troe Zo*) in making circles and other shapes such as squares, rectangles and angles etc. They are made of iron.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Troe Tho
Laymen Name	: Troe Tho
English Name	: Hammer

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

*"Tho" or "Troe Tho"* are hammers used by the silver smiths and the black smiths as well. The hammers are of different sizes and have different names according to the size. They are all made of iron with a wooden handle.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Zong
Laymen Name	: Zong
English Name	: Punch

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

“Zong” or punch are used in making different patterns such as flowers, leaves, dragons, the eight lucky signs and other motifs. They are also of different shapes with pointed and flat heads and are made of iron.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name	: Chag Yu
Laymen Name	: Chag Ngar
English Name	: Crow Bar

**2. Material**

Iron

**3. History**

*“Chag Ngar”* or crow bars are of different sizes and shapes used in making trumpets, oboes, shaping swords and sheaths, flower vases, betel boxes etc. They are all made of iron.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Se Dhar
Laymen Name	: Se Dha Ring
English Name	: Filer

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

*"Ser Dhar"* or the fillers are used in smoothening the edges of the finished products and get them into the desired shapes. They are also made of iron and are mostly imported from India.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Gem Tsi

Laymen Name : Gem Tsi

English Name : Scissors/Tin cutter

### 2. Material

Iron

### 3. History

*"Gem Tsi"* are the scissors/tin cutter and used in cutting metals into the desired size. They are made of iron.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Jab Tsi/Jan Zim
Laymen Name	: Jab Tsi/Jan Zim
English Name	: Tweezer/tong

### 2. Material

Iron and steel

### 3. History

*"Jab Tsi"* is a sort of tweezer or small tongs used in picking up light metals. *Jan Zim* is a tong used in picking up the *Zam* (Pot). They are made of iron and steel.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name : Sangchu and Zho Cha

Laymen Name : Sang

English Name : Weighing scales

### 2. Material

Copper, iron and brass

### 3. History

*"Sangchu"* and *"Zho Chha"* are both weighing scales. *Sangchus* are traditional weighing scales with a single scale, while the *Zho Chhas* have two scales. They are both used in weighing gold and silver products. They are made of copper, iron and brass.



### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Tshali Phob
Laymen Name	: Tshali Phob
English Name	: Soldering cup

### 2. Material

Copper

### 3. History

*"Tshali Phob"* soldering cup is used in melting the white stone used in joining the metals. They are usually made of copper.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name	: Tem
Laymen Name	: Tem
English Name	: Anvil

**2. Material**

Iron and steel

**3. Local History**

Anvil known as “*Tem*” is a basic tool, a block with a hard surface on which another object is struck. In most cases the anvil is used as a forging tool. It is made of steel, as well as cast iron or a combination of iron and steel.





### 1. Product Name

Dzongkha Name	: Dim
Laymen Name	: Dim
English Name	: Making shapes

### 2. Material

Iron and steel

### 3. History

Known as "*Dim*", this item is used in making shapes by the silver smiths.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Zam Zhu Kong

Laymen Name : Zam Zhu Kong

English Name : Melting Pots

**2. Material**

White rock

**3. History**

*"Zam Zhu Kong"* are pots made of white rock which is heat resistant. It is used to melt the metals such as gold and silver.



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Chu Dok  
Laymen Name : Chu Dok  
English Name : Container

**2. Material**

White rock

**3. History**

*“Chu Dok”* is a cylindrical container where the melted gold and silver and poured into to be made into different shapes.

## Zang Zi



**1. Product Name**

Dzongkha Name : Zang Zi  
Laymen Name : Zang Zi  
English Name : Cleaning Brush

**2. Material**

Copper, iron and steel

**3. History**

*"Zang Zi"* is a brush made of copper, iron and steel wires and used in cleaning the finished metal products.