

Zhang Zhongli

Vice president, Chinese Association
of Research, Qin Shihuang's
Terracotta Army

Jianxin Wang

Director, Archaeology Society, China

China's Terracotta Warriors

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I'm very honored and privileged to have participated in the excavation of the Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum. And I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce those discoveries to you. It was a truly incredible collection of historical relics that were recovered from this tomb. There are many important aspects to this discovery, but today we are only able to cover a very small portion of them.

The total area of the site is over 50 square kilometers. We only understand a portion of the structures that are buried below the ground at this site. I think that the full understanding of this site will take a hundred years.

In a separate pit, we've recently found some particularly well-preserved painted examples of terracotta soldiers. There were also bronze chariots in a separate pit. The internal structure of the pits is like a maze, very complex.

So far, we've only excavated about one percent of this area. What we've discovered includes suits of armor made of stone plates. Suits of armor were normally made of leather plates sewn together, but in this case they're a prime example of stone. There were many, many examples of these suits packed very tightly together and because the cords that held them together have already rotted, it's now a very difficult task to piece these back together. We've started doing a step-by-step recovery of these items and we're trying our best to [restore] the original state of these suits of armor.

Helmets have also been restored. Of the terracotta soldiers that have already been excavated, there are many thousands of them. Not a single example is equipped with a helmet. But clearly helmets were used during that period. They look as though they've been woven together, that the structure of these helmets were

woven together. I suspect that the use of stone for this armor was to ensure that it would be preserved forever in another world.

Very close to the pits we've been looking at is a separate pit containing figures of entertainers. In other areas we found fragments of these performers. In contrast with the terracotta soldiers, they are striking in that they represent daily life and humor as opposed to the rather severe ranks of the soldiers.

Bronze cooking baskets have also been excavated; they show craftsmanship of a very high level. We've been able to restore six of these figures, and they fall into two categories. One is rather muscular with a large physique. They're acrobats and this is one of the strong men in the acrobat group. There are also weight lifters. The position of the hands indicates what they originally engaged in. They were all intended to entertain in the other world.

The nature of pit number six is still not entirely clear, but they are probably middle-ranking officials. They must be of a certain rank because so much effort has been invested in their depiction. They're characterized by the implements hanging from their waists that include a knife and tools that were used by civil officials of that period.

There is also the remains of a wooden chariot. Under normal circumstances it's extremely difficult to find a well-preserved wooden chariot, but through

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very careful excavation we were able to recover some of them.

Pit number seven is only three meters wide, but it's over 100 meters long. There were a lot of remains of bronze objects in this pit. There were also remains of wood in this pit that has already been burned to charcoal.

I invite everybody to visit the museum at the site and you'll see many of the objects I haven't been able to discuss today, but which are the heritage of us all.

200-year period are all distributed around the present day city of Xi'an. The tomb of the first emperor of Xi'an is on the east side of Xi'an. Nine of the eleven western Han tombs are on the northern side of Xi'an, and the two others are on the southeast side. The first of these 11 tombs belongs to the founder of the Han dynasty. The construction of these early mausoleums followed basically that of the Qin predecessors. Like the tomb of the first emperor of Qin, the early Han tombs had enclosed courtyards. The tomb mound is surrounded by walls. These walls surround all four sides and the shape of the mound was adapted from that of the Qin. They are rectangular in shape.

It was a very important innovation in the Han dynasty that the subsidiary tombs associated with the imperial mausoleums were different from those of the Qin. The first Qin emperor only allowed members of his own clan to be buried within the pyramid of his mausoleum, whereas the Han emperors extended that privilege to meritorious subjects. As you already know, the first

emperor of Qin was buried with a very extensive terracotta army. And that is also true of the Han imperial mausoleums. The difference is that while the first emperor's terracotta soldiers are life size, the ones found in the Han dynasty tombs are much smaller.

The best known of the 11 Western Han imperial tombs found so far is the tomb of the fourth Western Han emperor of Yangling, which belongs to Emperor Jing. From it we have understood the funerary regulations that underlay the

construction of such mausoleums. Here, too, the tomb pits containing terracotta soldiers have been excavated. Each of them contains 24 rows of soldiers in 12 pits. Surrounding the actual tomb mound, there were 81 additional subsidiary pits. They, like those of the tomb of the first emperor Qin, relate to the private life of the emperor. There was also a pantry that contained animals that were eaten at the emperor's table, such as pigs and oxen and various other animals. Dogs were raised for the purpose of being eaten. This is an ancient Chinese custom. To eat dog in the winter was supposed to be of great benefit for people's health.

Also, near the tomb was found an important building foundation. In the center of that building was found a stone that was carved with a cruciform trough in the center. It may be the earliest surveying marker in world history. Other people think it may just be the foundation stone of the central column. I think that it is connected to the imperial ancestral temple. The temple was dedicated to the cult of the forbears of the imperial family.

The numerous terracotta soldiers found at the Yangling Mausoleum are about a third of human size. These



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Zhongli Zhang introduced to you the situation at the tomb of the First Emperor of China. We're now going to the Han dynasty, which is the second unified dynasty of the Chinese empire. The capital was called Chang'an at the time. The Western Han period, the first half of the Han dynasty, extended from 206 BC to 9 AD. The 11 mausoleums of the emperors from this

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figurines would have been clothed originally with silk or hemp or leather, but such organic materials are not easy to

these figurines were made of wood and have, for the most part, disintegrated. Unfortunately, therefore, the vast

majority of the figurines recovered now are naked. The sexual characteristics are very pronounced.

because of the preservation problem. If we can't somehow find a way of preserving the organic clothes, it makes better sense just to recover the naked figurines. An underground museum is under construction in the surroundings of the main burial mound that will cover some of the subsidiary pits in that area. The contents of these subsidiary pits will be displayed in their original place of excavation. Everybody is welcome to visit this new museum and to find out more.

The factory where these figurines were manufactured has actually been excavated in the northeast corner of the Han dynasty capital. Some

Thank you.



preserve in the ground. Therefore, only the ceramic portions of these figurines could be excavated. There are some that had leather armor on them and some fragments can still be seen. The arms of

of the ones found there are very similar to the ones from Yangling. So these were possibly made as commercial products. The excavation of the Yangling terracotta pit has been halted for the time being

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