

# A Funeral Objects Pit of the Warring States Period at Jiefang Road, Luoyang City, Henan

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To suit a project of capital construction, the Luoyang Municipal Archaeological Team excavated a test trench (T1) at the intersection of Jiefang 解放 and Wuqi 五七 roads in Luoyang 洛阳 City in August, 1982, which brought to a revelation of a bronze pit numbered (C1M395) to light. The pit is at the north center of the Eastern Zhou Royal City, and 30 m southwest of No. 1 burial of the Warring States period, which was excavated in 1957.

## I. Cultural Deposit and Funeral Objects Pit

T1 is 10 m long and 4 m wide, and comprises of three layers. Layer 1 is the contemporary soil. Layer 2 belongs to the Tang and Song periods. Layer 3 corresponds to the Warring States period. The objects include tiles and potshards.

C1M395 is overlapped by Layer 2 and intrudes into Layer 3. The opening measures 6.8 m long, 2.6 m wide and 0.8 m deep from the surface ground. The bottom is 5.8 m long and 1.1 m wide and 10.5 m deep to the surface ground. The azimuth is 5 degrees to the north. The four walls are smooth and the bottom is level. In the process of clearing, a layer of wooden ash was existed on the bronzes, four walls, and bottom. Consequently, all the sacrificial objects are placed inside the wooden outer coffin.

## II. Sacrificial Objects

196 objects were excavated, bronzes were maximum, and jade, stone, and bone and antler objects were few. They are orderly placed. The ritual bronzes are mainly arranged at the south and middle sections; daily utensils at the north. Within 1.7 m to the south wall, 10 *ding*-tripods with attached handles and 10 *gui*-food

containers with loop handles are untidily scattered. To the northwest of tripods, there are 23 stone chimes overlapped in four groups. To the middle west, a large antler with two branches is placed. Take the antler as the border, 4 bronze *bo*-bells are arranged in the south side near west wall; two rows of bronze chime bells in the north side near west wall. Each row consists of 9 pieces, the row near the wall arranged in size from big to small from north to south and the other row *vice versa*. To the east of antler and chime bells, the bronze *hu*-vessels, standing handle *ding*-tripods, *li*-tripod shaped *ding*-tripods, *fu*-square vessels, and *gui*-food containers are placed from south to north. To the north of the pit, more than 20 types of daily bronze utensils including *dou*-pedestal stands, big *pen*-basins, big *pan*-plates, *pan*-plates, *lei*-wine containers, *zhou*-food vessels, stoves, dustpans, *fu*-cauldrons, boxes, and *guan*-jars are interred (Figs. 1 and 2).

1. Bronze artifacts consist of ritual vessels, daily utensils, figurines as well as musical instruments of chime bells, *bo*-bells, and *niu*-bells.

*Ding*-tripod, 12 pieces, includes 2 styles. Style I, 2 pieces, with standing handles, loop belly, round bottom, and three legs in shape of beast's foot. C1M395:74 is of 16 cm in mouth diameter. Style II, 10 pieces, with outstretched handles, swell belly, round bottom, and three short legs in shaped of beast's foot. The handles decorated with S-shaped improvised-curve pattern. C1M395:4 is of 18.5 cm in mouth diameter (Figs. 3 and 4).

*Gui*-food container, 18 pieces, includes 3 styles. Style I, 4 pieces, with a lid-receiving mouth contracted, deep swell belly, short ring foot attached with three upside triangle shaped feet, and double loop handles



Fig. 1 The funeral objects of the Warring States period sacrificial pit (C1M395)

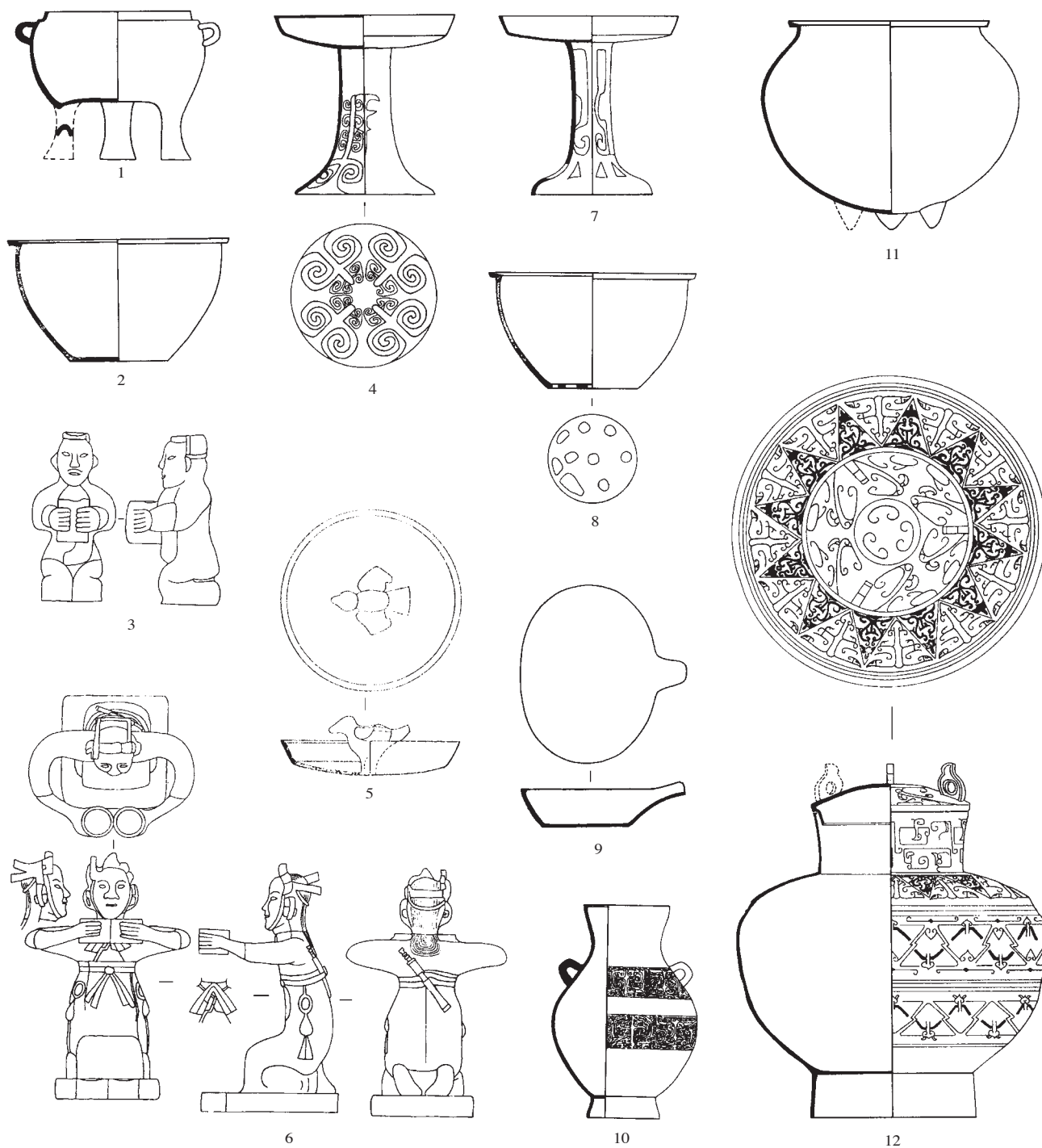


Fig. 2 Bronze artifacts

1. style III bronze *gui*-food container (C1M395:72) 2. style I *pen*-basin (C1M395:88) 3, 6. human figurines (C1M395:145 and 144)  
 4, 7. *dou*-pedestal stands (C1M395:83 and 84) 5. style III *pan*-plate (C1M395:140) 8. *zeng*-steamer (C1M395:137) 9. *yi*-ewer  
 (C1M395:143) 10. style II *hu*-vessel (C1M395:124) 11. *fu*-cauldron (C1M395:90) 12. *lei*-wine container (C1M395:117) (Scales:  
 1, 4, 7. c. 1/6; 2, 5, 8, 9, 11. 1/7; 3, 6. 3/10; 10. c. 1/3; 12. 1/4)



appliquéd on the belly. C1M395:82 is of 16.5 cm in mouth diameter. Style II, 10 pieces, in round tripod shape, arch-shaped cover appliquéd with three flat knots, a lid-receiving mouth contracted, swell belly, flat bottom, three legs in shape of beast's foot and the interior side is flat. The belly appliquéd with two loop handles with ring. The cover decorated with three concentric circles surrounded by 8 floral pattern and cloud and thunder pattern. The belly decorated with 4 groups of double-bodied beast's head pattern. C1M395:11 is of 16.6 cm in mouth diameter. Style III, 4 pieces, flat crotched *li*-tripod shape, no cover, a lid-receiving mouth contracted, with curved belly, flat bottom, double handles, and three legs in shape of beast's foot. C1M395:72 is of 13.5 cm in mouth diameter (Figs. 5; 6; 2:1).

*Fu*-square vessel, 4 pieces. Rectangular in shape, upright rim, contracted lower belly, flat bottom, L-shaped ring foot. C1M395:76 is 25 cm in length and 16 cm in width (Fig. 7).

*Hu*-vessel, 12 pieces, consists of 2 styles. Style I, contracted neck, swell belly, ring foot. The shoulder is appliquéd with two handles with ring. C1M395:34 is 33 cm tall. Style II has 1 piece. The shoulder is appliquéd with two small loop handles and the shoulder and belly are decorated with coiled serpent design (Fig. 8). C1M395:124 is 11.6 cm high (Fig. 2:10).

*Dou*-pedestal stand, 2 pieces. Flared mouth, shallow plate connected with high-stemmed trumpet-shaped foot decorated with openwork. C1M395:84 is decorated with spiral and triangle design in openwork on the ring foot (Fig. 2:7). C1M395:83 is decorated with openwork and raised spiral design on the stem and ring foot. The mouth diameter is 19.5 cm (Figs. 2:4; 9).

*He*-box has 4 pieces, a lid-receiving mouth, round curved body, short ring foot, arch-shaped cover. C1M395:133 is 16 cm in diameter (Fig. 10).

*Guan*-jar has one piece, contracted mouth, swell body, and short ring foot. C1M395:135 is 22 cm high.

*Wan*-bowl has one piece. The body is decorated with 4 groups of stamped double-bodied animal's head design. C1M395:141 is 15 cm in mouth diameter (Fig. 11).

*Zhou*-food vessel has 2 pieces. C1M395:142 is of oblong shape, curved belly, flat bottom, two half looped ears. The vessel is 6.5 cm high (Fig. 12).

*Lei*-wine container has one piece (C1M395:117), upright neck, flared shoulder, swell body, and ring foot. The neck is decorated with simplified improvised-curve design; the shoulder and body with triangle design filled

with simplified beast's mask. The arched cover has three round knobs decorated with whorl pattern. Between the knobs, there is a dissolved beast's mask. The container is 23 cm high (Fig. 2:12).

*Pan*-plate has 7 pieces and consists of 5 styles. Style I has 2 pieces and style II has 1 piece. Style III has one piece (C1M395:140). A flying bird is standing in the center of the plate and its claws shaped like post. The vessel is 19.6 cm in diameter (Fig. 2:5). Style IV has one piece (C1M395:28) with three feet. The diameter is 27 cm (Fig. 13). Style V has 2 pieces. The foot is shaped like a kneeling figure with wide nose, big mouth, and moustache; he wears flat hat, short-sleeved jacket, and two hands crossed on the belly. His back is connected through a bulky beam with the wall. C1M395:116 is 27.3 cm in mouth diameter (Fig. 14).

*Yi*-ewer has two pieces. C1M395:143 is 4 cm high (Fig. 2:9).

*Pen*-basin has 3 pieces and consists of 2 styles. C1M395:88 is 24 cm in mouth diameter (Fig. 2:2). Style II, one piece (C1M395:85), with double flat loop handles. The mouth diameter is 52.5 cm.

In addition, there are also cup, knife, *dou*-measure, *zeng*-steamer, *fu*-cauldron, stove, dustpan, fire-border, and L-shaped artifact (Fig. 2:8 and 11).

Tomb figurine has 2 pieces. C1M395:144, bare feet kneeling on the square platform, fixed arm, two hands holding together in front of the chest. His head wears topknot, fasten two lances under his jaw. His long hair combed neatly behind his back and then coiled up to his neck. His back head fastens by a band. He wears a short-sleeved garment with cross collar and right front. The figurine was cast one time with hollow body. The figurine is 14.4 cm high (Figs. 2:6; 15). C1M395:145 is kneeling with slender eyes, big mouth, raised nose, and small ears. He wears flat hat and long garment with right front. His two hands holding together like a bucket in front of his belly. The figurine is 10 cm high (Figs. 2:3; 16).

*Bianzhong*-set of bells, 22 pieces, consist of *bo*-bell and *niu*-bell.

*Bo*-bell, 4 pieces, decorated with raised pattern. The lower portion is decorated with animal mask and double phoenix patterns. The canon is half loop shape in double snakes holding a lozenge shaped ball facing each other. The top is flat. From top to bottom there are two rows of raised band and bosses arranged. The former is decorated with snaked design. 24 protruding bosses are on the upper portion of the bell. Two



Fig. 3 Style I bronze *ding*-tripod (CIM395:74)



Fig. 4 Style II bronze *ding*-tripod (CIM395:4)



Fig. 5 Style I bronze *gui*-food container (CIM395:82)



Fig. 6 Style II bronze *gui*-food container (CIM395:11)



Fig. 7 Style II bronze *fu*-square vessel (CIM395:76)



Fig. 8 Style I bronze *hu*-vessel (CIM395:34)



Fig. 9 Bronze *dou*-pedestal stand (C1M395:83)



Fig. 10 Bronze box (C1M395:133)



Fig. 11 Bronze *wan*-bowl (C1M395:141)



Fig. 12 Pottery *zhou*-food vessel (C1M395:142)



Fig. 13 Style IV bronze *pan*-plate (C1M395:28)



Fig. 14 Style V bronze *pan*-plate (C1M395:116)





Fig. 15 Style I bronze human figurine (C1M395:144)  
1. frontal side



2. back side



Fig. 16 Style II bronze human figurine (C1M395:145)

types of pattern decorate the lower portion: animal mask and double phoenix patterns. For example, C1M395:94's lower body is decorated with inverted animal mask pattern (Figs. 17 and 18). C1M395:97 decorated with the latter pattern, 28.5–24.5 cm high (Figs. 17 and 19).

*Niu*-bell, 18 pieces, consists of 2 styles. Style I, 7 pieces, rectangular shaped canon, and plain top. The

arrangement of body decoration is identical with the *bo*-bell. Except C1M395:11 has 16 bosses, all the other 6 have 24 bosses. Between the raised band and the lower portion, there is raised design. The upper and lower edges of the raised band are protruding ridges and snake pattern between them. C1M395:10, double-phoenix pattern is decorated between the lower portion (Fig. 20). Style II, 11 pieces, decorated in intaglio pattern arranged in the upper, middle, and lower three groups. According to their different patterns in between the raised bands, the bells can be divided into three types. C1M395:22, the top of the bell body is decorated with stylized animal mask; two triangle-shaped cloud and thunder patterns in between the raised bands; and stylized two-facing-phoenix pattern in between the middle body (Fig. 21). C1M395:21, the top of the bell body is decorated with thunder pattern; triangle-shaped cloud and thunder pattern in between the raised bands; and two-facing phoenix pattern in between the middle body (Fig. 22). C1M395:15, except the spiral pattern in between raised bands is different, the other two groups of patterns are identical with the former two.

2. Jade, stone, bone, and antler artifacts. Stone chime has 23 pieces. Most of them are limestone in grayish white; few are black and polished. The shapes are varied. The longest one is 71 cm and the shortest 21 cm. There are also jade *erbei*-cup, stone *dou*-measure, eight-ridged jade object, jade tube, bone tube, bone nail, stone slap as well as an antler.

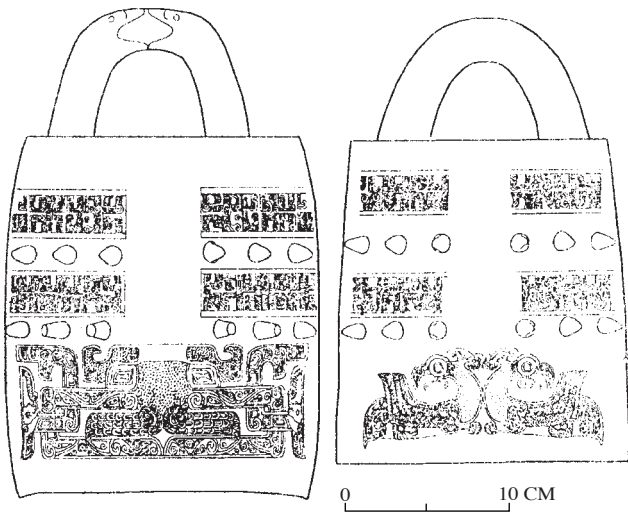


Fig. 17 Bronze *bo*-bells (C1M395:94 and 97)



Fig. 18 Bronze *bo*-bell (C1M395:94)



Fig. 19 Bronze *bo*-bell (C1M395:97)



Fig. 20 Style I bronze *niu*-bell (C1M395:10)



Fig. 21 Style II bronze *niu*-bell (C1M395:22)



Fig. 22 Style II bronze *niu*-bell (C1M395:21)



### III. Concluding Remarks

Due to C1M395 intruded into the Warring States cultural layer, its date is no early than the early Warring States period. Style II *ding*-tripod is almost the same as its counterpart from burial M2717 of the fourth period at Zhongzhoulu 中州路, Luoyang 洛阳; style II *gui*-food container as its counterpart from the Warring States burial at Wanrong 万荣, Shanxi 山西; *yi*-ewer as its counterpart of the early Warring States period at Zhongzhoulu, Luoyang; style I figurine as its counterpart of the middle to late Warring States period unearthed from Shangcunling 上村岭, Sanmenxia 三门峡, Henan 河南. The combination of *ding*-tripod, *he*-box, and *hu*-vessel appeared in the late Warring States burial in Luoyang region. The 4 boxes appeared in C1M395 conformed that the date of this burial should be the late Warring States period. In these 130 bronze objects, vessel is the majority. Most of them are plain and their cast technique is simple, which demonstrates that they are funerary objects except *lei*-wine container inlaid with turquoise.

C1M395 is situated in the northeastern Royal City of the Eastern Zhou in Luoyang. In the 1950s, the Luoyang Station of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Sciences had spotted 4 large tombs in Chinese character “甲” shape of the Eastern Zhou period (numbered M1–M4 in the western suburb of Luoyang) in here and excavated one. One stone *gui*-tablet inscribed with “Tian-zi 天子”(emperor) written in black ink was unearthed. Mr. Li Xueqin 李学勤 considered that this tablet was “bequeathed by the King of the Zhou and the tomb occupant might has close

relationship with the King.” We propose that the north-east section of the Royal City of the Eastern Zhou period should be royal mausoleum or noble cemetery. Therefore, C1M395 might be a satellite or sacrificial burial and has tight relationship with M1 unearthed the stone tablet. M1 is 30 m northeast of C1M395.

The excavation of the Warring States sacrificial burial is the first time in the Eastern Zhou archaeology in Luoyang region since the founding of New China. It is valuable for studying into the burial system, *ding*-tripod using rule of the Zhou Dynasty and exploring royal mausoleum of the Eastern Zhou period.

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