

Tomb of Hao Zhe of the Sui Dynasty at Xiangyuan, Shanxi

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the tomb of Hao Zhe

In November of 2001, the workers of the Shanxi Xiangyuan Museum of Antiquity hastily excavated an ancient tomb (2001M49) at a construction site. The tomb had been robbed at an earlier time. Nevertheless, a group of important artifacts was found, among them a turtle-shaped container with epitaph stones inside that is especially rare. The tomb occupant's official titles, positions, and genealogy were carved on the epitaph stone.

I. Tomb Structure

The tomb was located next to the Xinjian Xijie 新建西街 Street in the Xiangyuan 襄垣 County seat. This multi-chambered brick tomb included a passageway, a front corridor, a front burial chamber, left and right side chambers, a rear corridor, and a rear burial chamber (Fig. 1). The ramped passageway, made of bricks, was about 10.3 m long and 1.1 m wide. It descended from south to north. It connected to the front corridor, also constructed of bricks. The front corridor was 1.8 m long and 1.13 m wide. It had an arched ceiling 1.55 m high. At the southern end of the front corridor was a brick wall. The

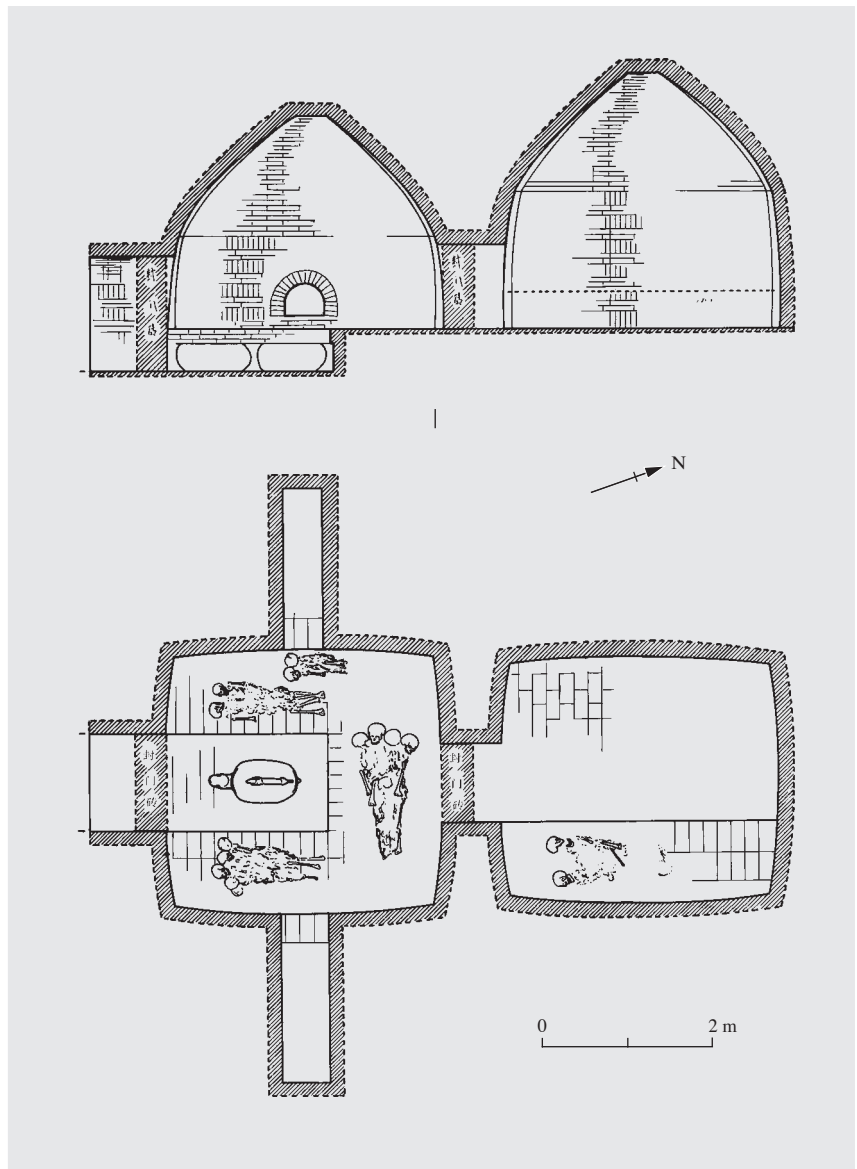


Fig. 1 Plan and cross-section of the tomb of Hao Zhe of the Sui period



Fig. 2 Sealing door of the rear corridor

opening of the front burial chamber was 1.13 m wide and 1.35 m high, with a brick arch starting at a height of 0.9 m. The opening was sealed with bricks (see Fig. 1).

The front burial-chamber was 2.92 m wide from east to west, and 3 m long from north to south. The four walls were slightly bowed and were faced with bricks. It had a vaulted ceiling. On the east and west side of the front burial chamber were two side chambers, sealed with bricks. The eastern side chamber was 2 m long, 0.41 m wide, and 0.55 m high. The western side chamber was 1.93 m long, 0.46 m wide, and 0.57 m high. Remains of grain were found in both side chambers.

The rear corridor was 0.7 m long, 0.9 m wide, and 1.55 m high. It had the same features as the front corridor (Fig. 2). The rear burial chamber was 2.71 m wide from east to west and 3 m long from north to south. It had a vaulted ceiling 3 m high. Both burial chambers had brick floors, laid with alternating vertical and horizontal bricks.

Both burial chambers contained brick coffin platforms (Fig. 3). The coffin platform around the three burial chamber walls in the front burial chamber was 1 m wide and 0.5 m high.

Thirteen skeletons were found in the front burial chamber. The scattered skeletons found on the coffin platform had no clear orientation. Their heads pointed in all directions. They were both males and females, approximately 10 to 30 years old. On the eastern side of the



Fig. 3 Coffin platform of the anti chamber

coffin platform were 5 adults, on the west side were 2 adults and 2 children, and on the north side were 4 adults (see Fig. 1).

In the rear burial chamber were two skeletons of a husband and a wife. They were laid on a coffin platform 2.3 m long, 0.7 m wide, and 0.4 m high. Their heads pointed to the south. Residue from wood coffins was found.

II. Artifacts

The 53 artifacts found in the tomb included ceramic figurines, pottery, and two epitaph stones in a turtle-shaped container. The rear chamber had been robbed, and only two ceramic jars were found inside. All the other artifacts were found in the front burial chamber around the epitaph stone container (Fig. 4). They included the following:

1. There were 20 male servants wearing small caps. (Fig. 5, use M49:3 as an example). This gray ceramic figurine was 27 cm tall. It wore white slip and painted red. It had a square face and narrow shoulders. Wearing a small cap and layered coats with wide sleeves, the figurine had both hands in front of its chest, as if it were holding something.

2. There were 5 male servants wearing tall caps. Except for the different caps, the figurines are similar to the ones described above (Fig. 6).

3. There were 12 female servants. Two subtypes were recognized, based on their attire. Type I wore long skirt painted red and white, a short-sleeved tight shirt, a long scarf, and a sash. One arm was in front of her body, and the other to the side. The figurines were 25.5 cm tall (Fig. 7). Type II wore a long narrow-sleeved shirt and a long skirt with a sash in front. Both hands were in front of the body. The figurines had flat backs and were 19 cm tall (Fig. 8).

4. There were 2 female cooks. They were found kneeling in front of a stove. One was holding a dustpan, and the other held nothing. They were 11 and 13 cm tall (Figs. 9 and 10).

5. There were two kneeling male servants. Each figurine wore a head scarf and a long robe with a wide belt. The left hand was in front and right hand on the side. The figurines were painted red and white. They were 27 cm tall (Fig. 11).

6. There was 1 stove. It was made of gray clay and measured 12.2 cm tall and 13 cm long (Fig. 12).

7. There was 1 dustpan and brooms. Both were made of gray clay. The dustpan was 7.1 cm long and the broom was 6.8 cm long (Fig. 13).

8. There was 1 sow with four piglets (Fig. 14).

9. There was 1 hen with five chicks. The hen was 5.2 cm tall and 6.7 cm long.

10. There were 2 pottery jars. One had a round body

and the other had a slightly sloped body.

11. Among the most significant finds were the epitaph stones and their turtle-shaped container. The stone turtle was found in the center of the front burial chamber, facing south. It was made of two pieces of stone. On top of the turtle shell was a carved dragon-like mythical animal. It had horns and its long tail curled to the left of its scaled body. On each side of the mythical animal were six characters carved in seal character style: *Sui gu weijun taishou Hao fujun muzhiming* 隋故魏郡太守浩府君墓志铭 (Epitaph of the former governor Hao of Wei Prefecture of the Sui Dynasty). The turtle was 100 cm long, and 55 cm tall (Fig. 15). A rectangular sunken chamber measuring 59 cm long, 46.5 cm wide, and 12.5 cm deep was carved into the bottom part of the turtle. Inside the chamber were two epitaph stones piled one on top of the other (Fig. 16).

The two epitaph stones were the same size. They were 56.5 cm long, 44 cm wide, and 5 cm tall. On the smooth surface was carved a grid that looked like a piece of graph paper. Inside each box was carved a character, half clerical and half standard in style. There were also characters carved in seal character style. Each epitaph stone had 20 lines, and each line contained 25 characters (Figs. 17 and 18). There were 1,000 characters in total. Based on the epitaph, one of the tomb occupants was Hao



Fig. 4 Epitaph stone container



Fig. 5 Male servant wearing small cap (M49:3)



Fig. 6 Male servant wearing tall cap (M49:22)



Fig. 7 Type I female servant (M49:27)



Fig. 8 Type II female servant (M49:29)

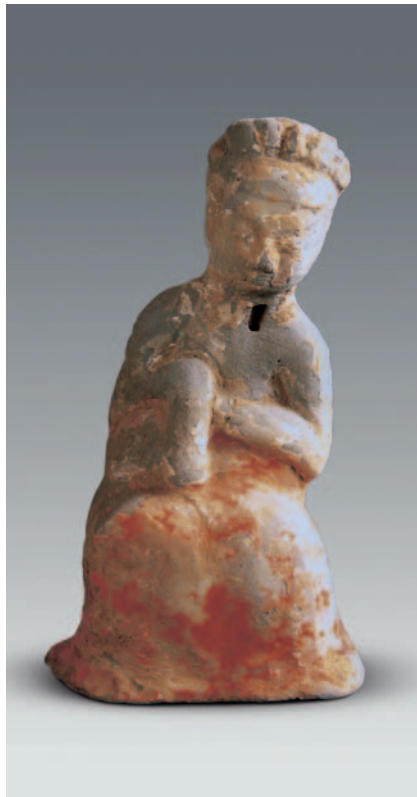


Fig. 9 Female cook (M49:330)



Fig. 10 Female servant holding a dustpan (M49:34)



Fig. 11 Male servant (M49:39)



Fig. 12 Ceramic stove (M49:42)



Fig. 13 Ceramic dustpan and broom (M49:38, 41, and 45)



Fig. 14 Ceramic sow with four piglets



Fig. 15 Stone turtle-shaped container



Fig. 16 Rectangular sunken chamber in the turtle-shaped container

周諱... 道憲... 盧也... 留人也... 自撫... 表... 顯... 族... 繁... 髣... 以... 界... 魏... 圖... 憲... 坊... 撰... 窟... 瓜... 竹... 上... 黨... 佐... 志... 留... 三... 畏... 處... 焉... 也... 為... 嘗... 扶... 詳... 於... 譜... 詔... 可... 畧... 而... 宥... 祖... 璧... 六... 府... 少... 錄... 尚... 書... 事... 兼... 北... 瀾... 大... 行... 臺... 正... 色... 富... 貞... 盡... 宅... 奉... 國... 故... 能... 榮... 實... 八... 命... 衆... 贊... 巖... 毅... 父... 買... 折... 衛... 撫... 團... 河... 巢... 太... 貞... 魚... 鵬... 鎮... 嶺... 經... 文... 縑... 武... 典... 郡... 臨... 戎... 勇... 冠... 戎... 軍... 潤... 兼... 九... 畧... 君... 澄... 輝... 漢... 張... 瞻... 衆... 藍... 四... 彪... 殊... 文... 珍... 瓏... 異... 響... 奈... 友... 鯤... 恭... 止... 性... 稟... 自... 生... 知... 夙... 成... 早... 智... 之... 姿... 表... 於... 天... 縱... 昂... 駿... 驥... 逸... 控... 超... 羣... 肅... 高... 松... 干... 雲... 獨... 秀... 自... 然... 劫... 直... 加... 之... 以... 括... 羽... 況... 天... 資... 溫... 潤... 盡... 之... 以... 琢... 磨... 一... 壘... 罕... 其... 峯... 巖... 三... 冬... 富... 其... 文... 皮... 是... 以... 名... 優... 序... 行... 程... 閭... 庭... 挹... 邑... 稱... 為... 善... 人... 友... 勿... 懷... 其... 篤... 信... 李... 肅... 弱... 寇... 醜... 舉... 孝... 厲... 拜... 橫... 野... 將... 軍... 殿... 內... 司... 馬... 以... 為... 日... 資... 潤... 屋... 無... 假... 代... 耕... 衆... 預... 畧... 行... 三... 連... 膝... 下... 鳴... 誠... 披... 請... 辭... 義... 懇... 懈... 遂... 得... 扇... 枕... 盪... 州... 名... 夏... 無... 發... 昏... 定... 晨... 省... 結... 次... 弟... 二... 訖... 而... 風... 挂... 不... 傳... 床... 菜... 奄... 至... 寤... 昔... 如... 痛... 攀... 耜... 嬰... 彌... 豈... 直... 愚... 范... 輟... 駝... 致... 冠... 爲... 臍... 鑛... 越... 屢... 改... 未... 食... 稻... 之... 也... 彈... 琴... 不... 和... 俯... 就... 廓... 然... 坐... 制... 而... 雖... 類... 繁... 索... 劍... 氣... 已... 革... 被... 台... 爲... 郡... 功... 曹... 處... 以... 政... 事... 君... 毗... 贊... 幾... 齊... 獻... 替... 時... 瓦... 故... 得... 案... 續... 稀... 簪... 階... 尾... 靜... 肅... 項... 之... 復... 違... 行... 懲... 陽... 歸... 令... 當... 時... 齊... 德... 後... 季... 既... 繁... 賦... 重... 君... 威... 懷... 具... 舉... 勸... 導... 賁... 方... 是... 以... 不... 失... 民... 和... 無... 違... 上... 命... 脫... 而... 周... 燕... 誓... 鄴... 旌... 賞... 賢... 良... 以... 君... 阿... 彌... 擅... 名... 特... 也... 襲... 詹... 即... 授... 汝... 州... 作... 城... 縣... 令... 既... 蒙... 擢... 異... 珍... 加... 願... 節... 撫... 字... 梨... 垠... 宣... 揚... 風... 節... 導... 德... 祿... 節... 諡... 難... 蒲... 密... 史... 治... 篋... 以... 尚... 焉

Fig. 17 One rubbing from the stone epitaph of Hao Zhe

大觴歷試豐庸
 不也以為錯節
 君魏郡太守
 棘式過營
 被其兩岐
 彈盡君聲
 後園前圍
 白駒
 春秋
 墓於萬壽鄉
 祥於神
 既上實
 籍慶承
 誕斯
 言妙
 豐冠
 聖
 北
 顯
 伍
 畫
 柳
 日
 條
 船
 州
 雲
 龍
 首
 也
 秋
 牙
 歲
 時
 音
 無
 巧

Fig. 18 The other rubbing from the stone epitaph of Hao Zhe

Zhe 浩, whose courtesy name was Daohui 道惠. He was a native of Tunliu 屯留, Shangdang 上党. He started his official career as *xiaolian* 孝廉 ([Prefecture Selected] Filial and Incorrupt person), then he became successively a general, *dianzhong sima* 殿中司马 (an Adjutant in the Palace Administration), *jun gongcao* 郡功曹 (a prefectural staff member), Beiqi Yueyang *xianling* 北齐岳阳县令 (Yueyang county magistrate for the Northern Qi Dynasty), Beizhou Fenzhou Wucheng *xianling* 北周汾州仵城县令 (Wucheng county magistrate of Fenzhou for the Northern Zhou), and finally, governor of Wei Prefecture under the Sui. He died at the age of 87 on the 22nd of the seventh month of the 4th year of Renshou 仁寿 reign period (604), and was buried at Wanshou 万寿 township (literary the township of longevity) in the 7th of the 4th month of the 3rd year of the Daye 大业 reign period (607).

III. Conclusion

The unearthed epitaph shows that the burial of Hao Zhe took place in 607. Hao Zhe's distant ancestor, Hao Lian 浩怜, established himself during the Han Dynasty, and was given land in Tunliu 屯留. Hao Zhe's grandfather, Hao Dian 浩殿, was a Northern Wei official. His father, Hao Mai 浩买, took both military and civil positions.

Since Hao Zhe was a Tunliu native, why was he buried at Xiangyuan? Based on "Treatise on Geography" in the *Weishu Dixingzhi* 魏书·地形志 (*Book of the Wei Dynasty*), Xiangyuan Prefecture had four counties. One of them, Jianyi 建义 County, took over Tunliu from

Shangdang 上党 Prefecture in 385. It is assumed that during the change of administration, Tunliu was demolished and the Hao family moved to Xiangyuan. In the same area were several excavated Tang tombs that belonged to Hao Zhe's grandchildren. The site was probably a cemetery of the Hao clan.

Based on the epitaph, Hao Zhe died of natural causes in old age, but how about the others? What was Hao Zhe's relationship to the thirteen people buried in the front burial chamber? Was the tomb a joint burial of members from an extended family who died at different times? Or were they subordinates who had been compelled to follow him in death? So far, there is no conclusion.

The burial goods assemblage followed Northern Qi traditions. However, from the funerary figurines to the ceramic pots, the burial goods themselves showed characteristics of both Northern Qi and Sui. They resemble those found in the tomb of Lou Rui 娄睿 of the Northern Qi and those in the tomb of Hulü Che's 斛律彻 of the Sui. The figurines in all these tombs had full faces with slim eyes and eyebrows. Their attire strongly resembled that of figures of the Sui Era: both male and female servants wore clothing similar to figurines found in the tombs of Zhang Sheng 张盛 (594) and Li Jingxun 李静训 (608). However, some differences in detail can be detected: the shape of the stove and the hairdos of the female servants were slightly different from those found in Sui tombs from Xi'an 西安. In any case, it is extremely rare to find epitaph stones sealed inside a sculptured turtle.

Note: The original report, published in *Wenwu* 文物 2004.10: 4–17, with 28 illustrations including 23 photographs, is written by Zhang Qingjie 张庆捷, Liu Yaozhong 刘耀中, and Zhang Jimin 张继民. The summary is prepared by the original authors and English-translated by Suzanne Cahill and Ye Wa 叶娃.