

The Jin Tomb at Zhanjie, Gongyi, Henan

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In October of 2001, a Jin period brick tomb was discovered in Zhanjie 站街 Town, and the Zhengzhou Municipal Institute of Archaeology conducted a salvage excavation. Zhanjie Town is located east of Xisi 西泗 River, 3 km southeast of Gongyi 巩义 City in Henan 河南 Province, 40 km west of Luoyang 洛阳. North of it is the Yellow River, south of it is Mount Song 嵩山. Situated on the east-west trade route, this place is the home of numerous Han, Jin, Tang and Song tombs, and it is called the dragon's tail by the local populace.

I. Overview of the Tomb

This well-preserved tomb had only been slightly filled in with dirt. The tomb consists of a ramp, front chamber, inner tunnel, main chamber and rear chamber. It is 9.2 m long, and the floor plan resembles the character “串”. A modern building above ground prevents the tomb ramp from being cleared. The passage tunnel is 1.2 m long, 0.92 m wide, with a vaulted ceiling that rises 1.34 m above the floor. Between the tunnel and tomb ramp is a dividing wall with square bricks stacked in a staggered pattern to form a level surface. The front chamber is 1.17 m deep, 1.7 m wide, and the domed ceiling is elevated 1.96 m above the floor. The inner tunnel connecting the front and main chambers is 1.06 m deep, 0.92 m wide, with a domed ceiling that is elevated 1.34 m above the floor. The main chamber has convex walls with rounded corners, and it is 3.1 m deep, 2.7–3.1 m wide, with a domed ceiling that is elevated 3.18 m above the floor. The rear chamber is 2.7 m deep, 1.41 m wide, and the domed ceiling is elevated 1.6 m above the floor. The four walls of the main chamber are laid with rectangular bricks, each brick measuring 32 cm long, 16 cm wide, and 6 cm thick. The tomb ceiling is vaulted by stacking wedge-shaped bricks together; each brick is 36 cm long, 16 cm wide, and 4–6 cm thick. The four walls

of the tomb chamber are built by stacking bricks in tiers; eight tiers are laid in a horizontal pattern and one tier in a vertical pattern. The tiers increasingly overlap as they rise and join at the top to form a dome. The floor of the tomb chamber is at the same level as the tunnel floor with a single layer of bricks laid out lengthwise in the same direction. Cement is used as mortar to hold all the bricks in the tomb together (Fig. 1).

After clearing the debris, it can be seen that two coffins are placed in the rear chamber; as they have deteriorated, only crumbled wood remains. The human skeletons have also disintegrated; the remains indicate that a man and a woman were separately interred in each coffin. On the east side is the male tomb occupant; the coffin is 2.05 m long, 0.67 m wide, and the height cannot be determined. Inside the coffin is a pillow, belt buckle, etc. On the west side is the female tomb occupant; the coffin is 2.1 m long, 0.66 m wide, and the height cannot be determined. The skeleton is 1.74 m long. Ornaments for the head include a bronze hairpin and a silver hairpin; there are also silver bangles, a glass sculpture of a hare, etc. At the northwest corner of the rear chamber is the earthenware latrine. Two rectangular lacquer tables are placed at the center of the north side of the main chamber, and against the west wall are placed two stoneware urns, one bronze cauldron, one stove, one earthenware urn, one round lacquer box, one lacquer table, two square lacquer boxes, two earthenware ducks, one earthenware canopy stand, two unfired clay canopy stands, one pair of iron scissors, one oven, and at the northeast corner is placed one unfired clay canopy stand, one square lacquer box, one pair of iron scissors, one bronze incense burner, and one iron mirror. At the southeast corner are three earthenware urns, one earthenware bowl, one earthenware stove, one bronze clothes iron, one earthenware serving dish, two earthen-

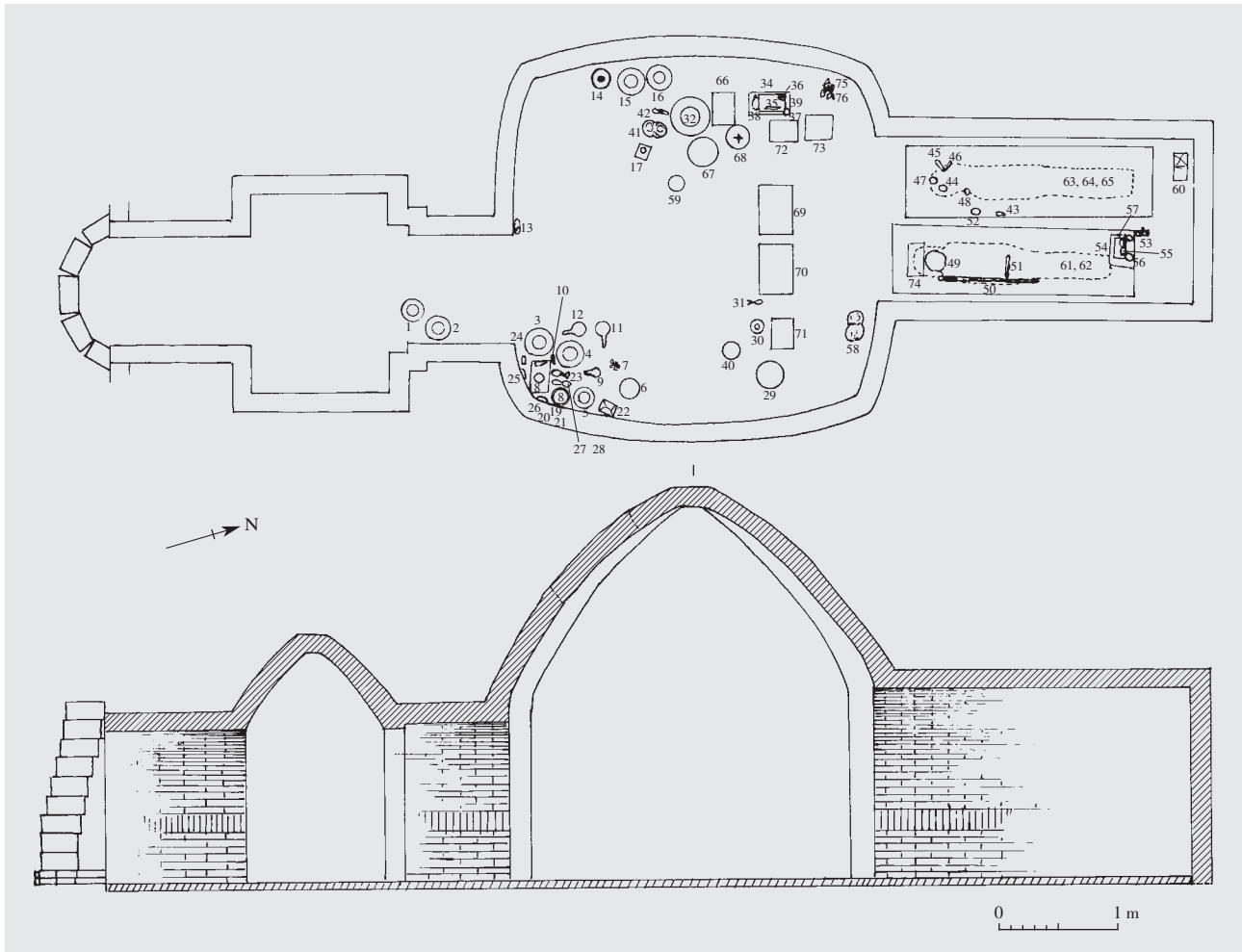


Fig. 1 Plan and cross-section of the Jin tomb in Gongyi

ware figurines, etc. Placed inside the front passage tunnel are two earthenware urns as well as earthenware dogs, hens, ducks, etc.

II. Tomb Furnishings

74 items (forming a set) are found inside the Jin tomb; there are also over 40 coins. There are bronzes, silverware, ironware, earthenware as well as stone utensils, glass utensils, stoneware, lacquer ware, and one ink stick. The lacquer ware has deteriorated, and they seem to be only fashioned into boxes, pillows, trays, tables, etc.

1. Bronzes, 12 items. There is a bronze water dropper for the ink stone, brush washer, cup, clothes iron, incense burner, crossbow trigger mechanism, belt buckle, fork-shaped ornament, ornamental pin, bell—one of each of the above, and two door knockers.

Water dropper for the ink stone (M1:38). It is shaped like an animal with two horns, big ears and curly hair on its back. The body is decorated with a dotted pattern of

plum flowers. Its long tail is curled upward, its four legs are stretched flat on the ground, and held in its mouth is a cup. Its belly is hollow inside. On its back there is a round socket fitted with a hollow bronze tube, and the mouth has a small hole that connects to the stomach cavity. It is 14.6 cm long (Figs. 2 and 3).

Brush washer (M:32). The mouth flares out at an angle, with shallow, slightly bulging body and the base is slightly round in shape. The wall is thin. The diameter of the rim is 20.4 cm (Fig. 4:1).

Cup with single handle (M1:59). It has straight sides, and the mouth has a slightly inverted lip. The shallow body bulges out slightly, the bottom is concave, and attached to the mouth is a flat board-like handle perforated with a round hole; around this round hole are five smaller holes. The bottom of the cup has incised lines forming a pattern of a sunflower with a center of concentric circles, and the inside surface of the bottom is decorated with a dragon design. The diameter is 6.5 cm, and it is 2.2 cm tall (Fig. 4:3).

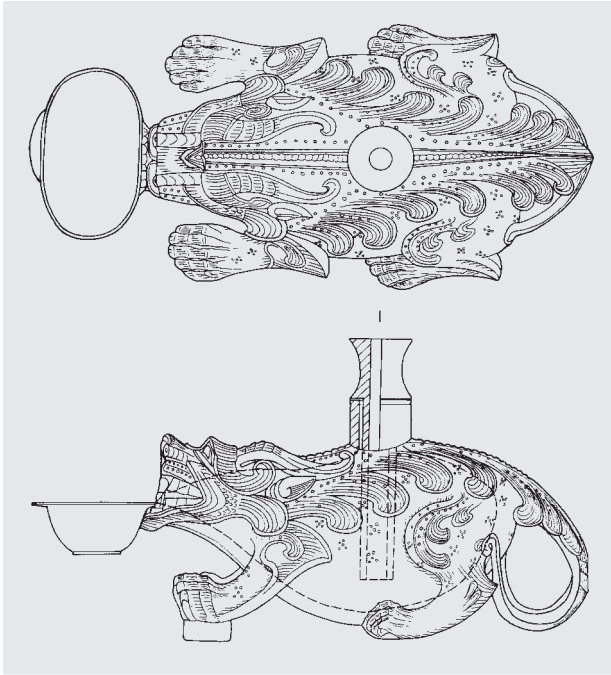


Fig. 2 Bronze water dropper for the ink stone (M1:38; scale: c. 1/2)

Clothes iron (M1:11). It has a wide rim, short convex body, and the base is slightly round in shape. The long handle has a semicircular cross-section, with an animal head at one end as if biting onto the rim of the iron. The iron is 16 cm in diameter, and the handle is 21 cm long (Figs. 4:8; 5).

Incense burner (M1:30), with basin and hill censer together forming a set. The censer basin has a flared mouth, short body with angled sides and a faceted ring foot. It is 14.8 cm in diameter. The censer is shaped like a cauldron with an interlocking rimmed top and bottom. The bottom is perforated with holes in the lower cavity and base, and it is supported on three zoomorphic legs. Attached to the mouth is a short handle on top of which is a small round hole. The censer cover functions as the top, its sides perforated with rectangular and diamond-shaped openings. Four small square openings and one diamond-shaped opening form one pattern, and there are 12 such patterns altogether. At the apex are six small mountains with 12 small round openings. The censer is 10 cm tall (Figs. 4:2; 6).

Crossbow trigger mechanism (M1:53) with three grooves for arrows on the surface of the frame. Attached to the frame at right angles are two levers to control the aim, gears, and blade. The frame is 15 cm long, 2.6 cm high (Fig. 4:7).

Fork-shaped ornament (M1:55). There are three prongs at both ends; the middle prong has a hole in the



Fig. 3 Bronze water dropper for the ink stone (M1:38)

middle, the two side prongs have ends shaped like animal heads. The central section has an openwork design of a dragon inside a rectangular frame, and it is 14.1 cm long (Fig. 4:5).

In addition, there are doorknockers, ornamental pins, bells and belt buckles, etc. (Figs. 4:4; 6; 9; 10).

2. Silverware, 4 items.

One pair of bangles (M1:47 and 52). They are round in shape with plain surface. The cross-section is round and each bangle is 5.3 cm in diameter. There is one pair of hairpins (M1:45 and 46) that are shaped like a letter “U”. Each measures 9.9 cm long.

3. Iron implements, 4 items including one knife, one pair of scissors, and two mirrors.

Knife (M1:50). It has a straight body, straight blunt edge, single cutting edge, slanted point and ring handle with string-wrapped handhold. It is severely corroded, and the fragment is 108 cm long (Fig. 4:11).

Scissors (M1:31) with crisscrossed blades. The fragment measures 21 cm long.

Two mirrors. They are similar in style but different in size, both severely corroded. M1:49 is round in shape with a hemispherical knob and round hole. The diameter is 14 cm. M1:40 has a diameter of 18 cm.

4. Stone implements, three items. There are two ink stones, both thin rectangles with smoothly polished surfaces. M1:34 is regular in shape, 21 cm long, and 13.2 cm wide.

Core of a mold for a seal (M1:36), square at the base, hemispherical on top, and polished. The base measures 2 cm long, 1.9 cm wide.

5. Glassware, one item (M1:43). It is in the form of a

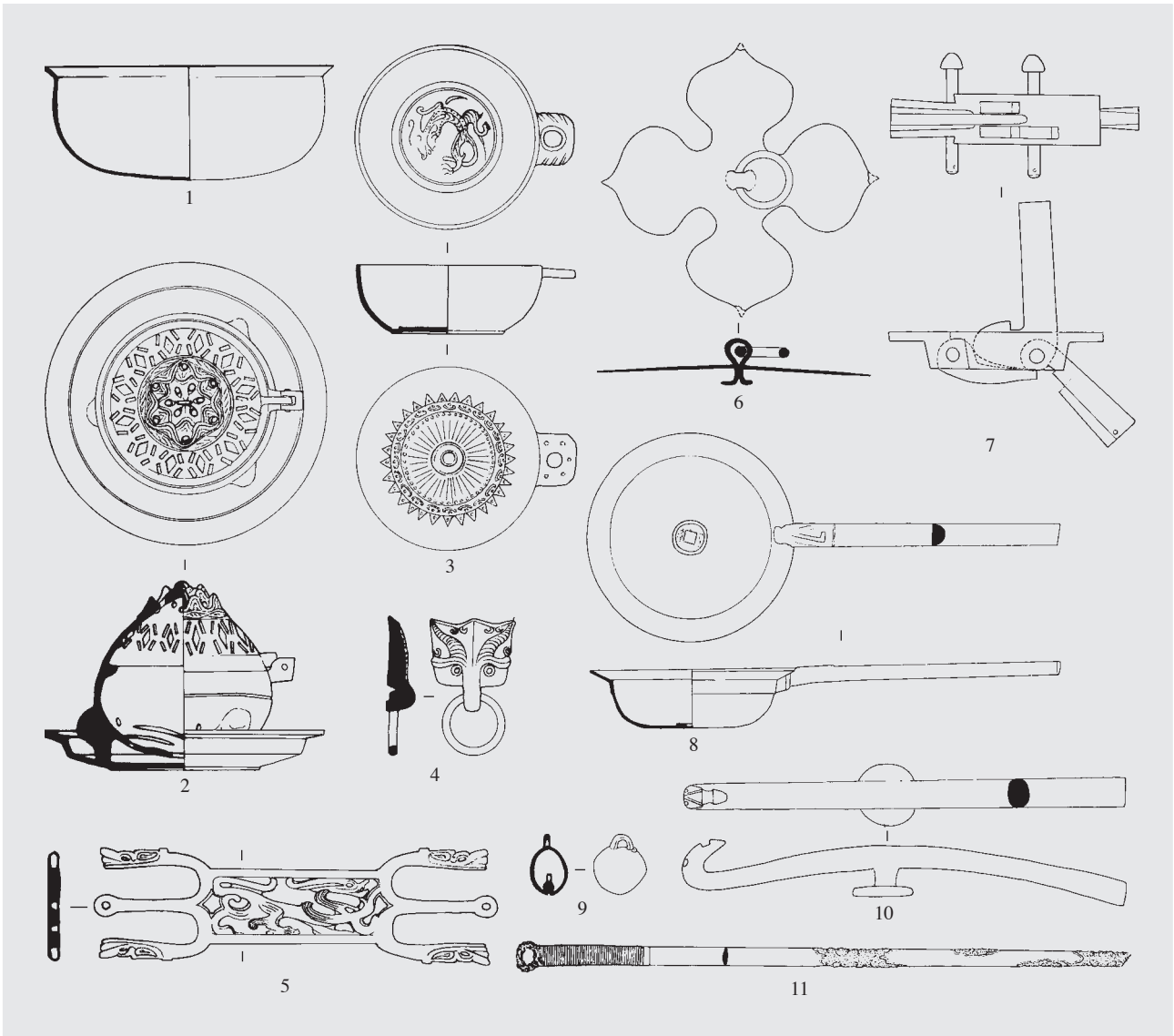


Fig. 4 Bronze and iron funeral objects

1. brush washer (M1:32) 2. incense burner (M1:30) 3. cup with single handle (M1:59) 4. doorknocker (M1:68-2) 5. fork-shaped ornament (M1:55) 6. ornamental pin (M1:68-1) 7. crossbow trigger mechanism (M1:53) 8. clothes iron (M1:11) 9. bell (M1:44) 10. belt buckle (M1:51) 11. iron knife (M1:50) (scale: 2. 2/15; 1, 7, 8. 1/5; 11. 2/25; the rest 2/5)



Fig. 5 Bronze clothes iron (M1:11)



Fig. 6 Bronze incense burner (M1:30)

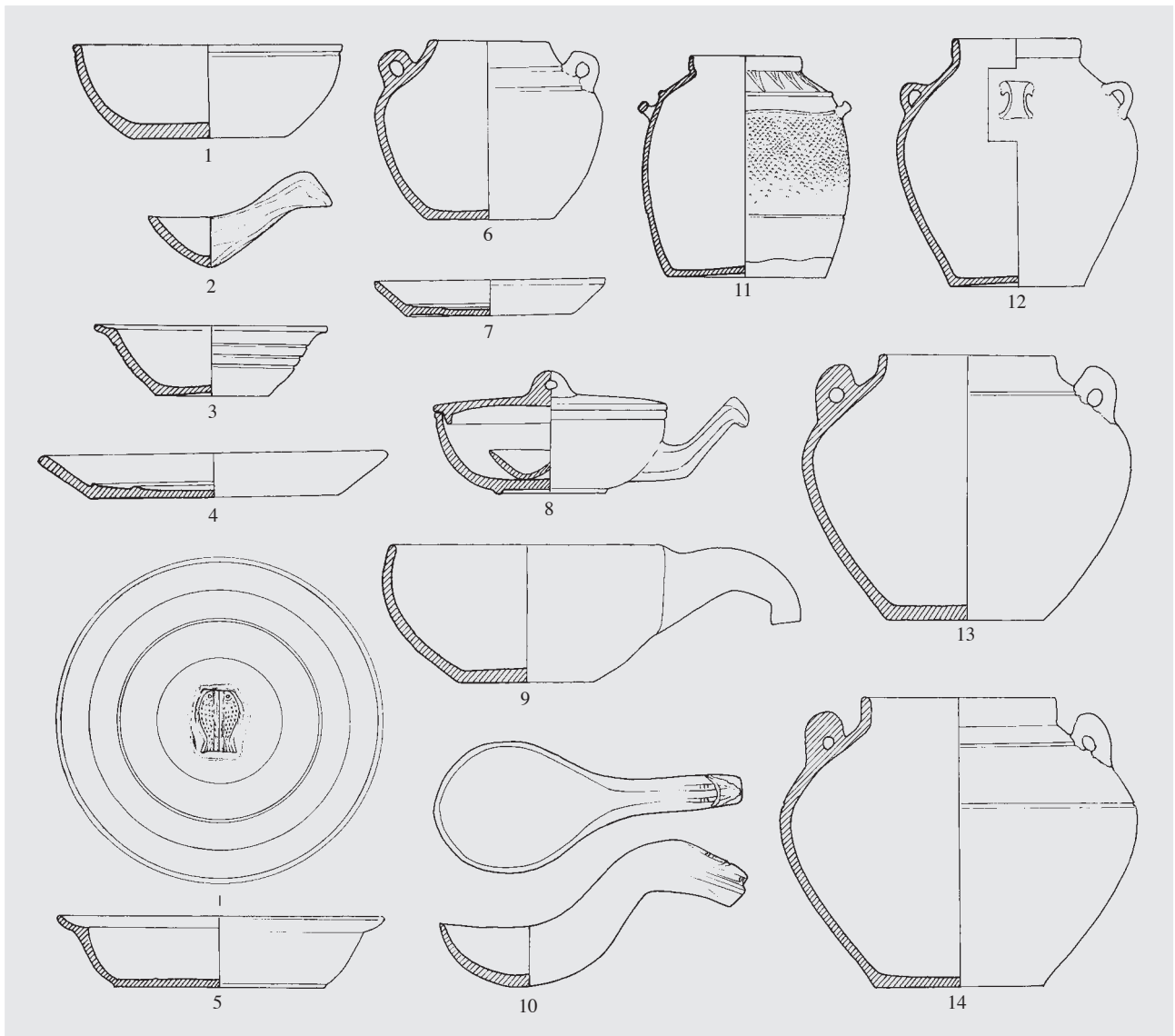


Fig. 7 Funerary earthenware

1. bowl (M1:6) 2, 10. ladles (M1:4-2 and 9) 3. basin (M1:4-1) 4, 7. plates (M1:76 and 75) 5. brush washer (M1:29) 6, 13, 14. urns with double lugs (M1:4, 1 and 2) 8, 9. serving dishes (M1:12 and 8) 11, 12. glazed stoneware urns (M1:15 and 16) (scales: 2. 2/5; 5, 6, 11, 12. 2/15; the rest 1/5)

crouching ram. The head is damaged. It is 4.9 cm long, 3.1 cm tall.

6. Bead-like item, one (M1:48). It is flat like an abacus bead with a hole at the center, 1.1 cm in diameter.

7. High-fired glazed stoneware. There are only two urns. M1:15 has a short, straight neck, narrow shoulders, bulging belly and the base is concave. Above the shoulder is a pair of symmetrically placed lugs, and incised lines form an inverted triangular pattern all around the shoulder. The belly is decorated with stamped squares. The area above the mid-section is coated with a light green glaze. It is 21.9 cm tall. M1:16 has a straight mouth, sloping shoulder, bulging belly, concave base,

and above the shoulder line are four symmetrically arranged bridge-like lugs. The entire vessel is coated with black glaze. It is 24.6 cm tall (Figs. 7:11 and 12; 8; 9).

8. Earthenware, mostly with gray clay bodies. There are two figurines, models of buildings, urns, bowls, basins, a monster, a ladle, a handled cup, a lamp, an oven, a mill, and canopy stands, etc.

Attendant figurine, two items. M1:20 is fitted with a small, flattened hat, and the beard is painted in black ink. He wears a loose long robe with overlapping lapels and wide sleeves. His hands are joined together and placed over his chest. He is 12.8 cm tall. M1:21 wears an official hat and long robe with overlapping lapels and



Fig. 8 glazed stoneware urn (M1:15)



Fig. 9 glazed stoneware urn (M1:16)

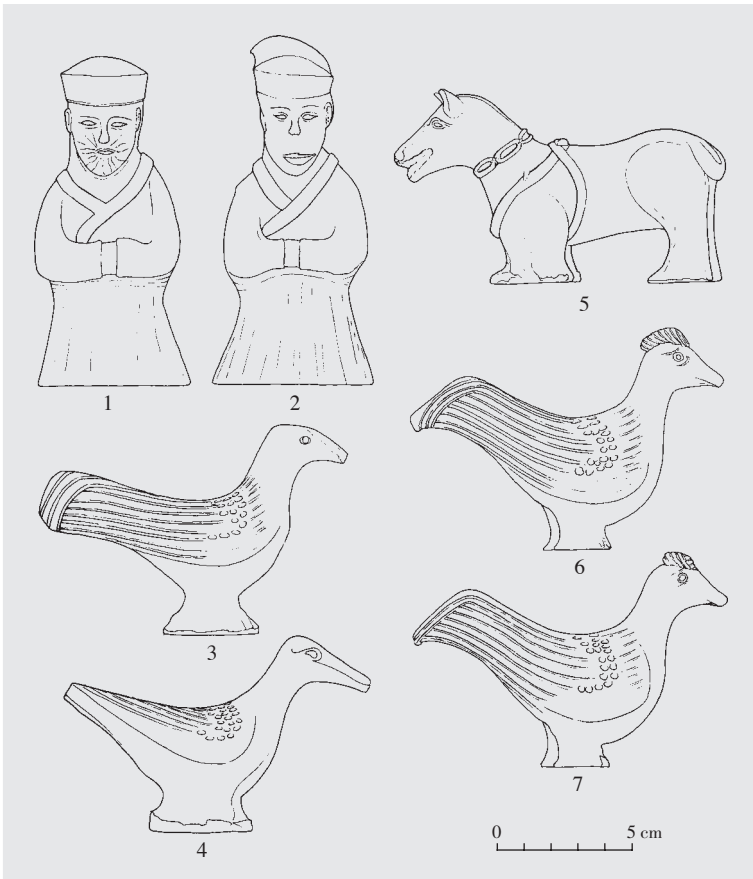


Fig. 10 Funerary earthenware

1, 2. attendant figurines (M1:20 and 21) 3, 4. ducks (M1:27 and 28) 5. dog (M1:13) 6, 7. hens (M1:25 and 26)

wide sleeves, his hands are joined together and placed over his chest, and he is 12.4 cm tall (Figs. 10:1 and 2).

One dog (M1:13). It is stout with small upright ears; its tail is curled around its behind. There is a chain of links around its neck and straps around its body. It is 12.3 cm long (Figs. 10:5; 11).

Hens, one pair. M1:25 has a prominent comb, long tail, and the body is carved with two wings, and the surface of the wings has a pattern of dots. It is 11.8 cm in length. M1:26 has a small comb. It is 11.7 cm in length (Figs. 10:6 and 7).

Ducks, one pair. M1:27 is raising its head and tilting up its tail. A pair of wings is carved on its body, and it is 11.6 cm in length. M1:28 has a short tail, and is 11.4 cm in length (Figs. 10:3 and 4).

Urn with double lugs, five items. Each one has a short, straight neck, sloping shoulders, bulging belly and flat base. Around the shoulder is an incised bowstring design. M1:1 contains wood ashes, and it is 17.5 cm in height (Fig. 7:13). M1:4 is 21 cm tall. On top of this urn is placed a small earthenware basin (M1:4-1), 14.7 cm



Fig. 11 Earthenware dog (M1:13)



Fig. 12 Earthenware urns with double lugs, basin and ladle (M1:4, -1 and -2)



Fig. 13 Earthenware urn with double lugs (M1:2, millet was placed inside when it was excavated)



Fig. 14 Earthenware bowl (M1:6, it contained empty hulls of barley when it was excavated)

in diameter, and inside the earthenware basin is a ladle (M1:4-2) that is 6.1 cm long (Figs. 7:6, 3 and 2; 12). M1:2 has an incised bowstring decoration around the body. At the time of excavation, millet was found inside its cavity. It is 19.2 cm tall (Figs. 7:14; 13).

Brush washer, one item (M1:29). It has a flared mouth, shallow and angular body, flat bottom and a false ring foot. In the middle of the interior surface of the bottom is a stamped design of a pair of fish. The mouth



Fig. 15 Earthenware serving dish and ladle (M1:12)

is 32 cm in diameter (Fig. 7:5).

Bowl, one item (M1:6). It has a wide mouth, bulging belly, flat bottom, and around the mouth is an incised bowstring design. The diameter of the mouth is 18 cm. At the time it was excavated, it contained empty hulls of barley; each hull measures 0.7 cm in diameter, 1.1 cm in length (Figs. 7:1; 14).

Plate, three items; they are similar in shape but different in size. They have a flared mouth, shallow body, flat bottom, and the interior surface of the bottom has a pattern of raised ridges formed by a wheel. The diameter of the mouth of M1:7 is 13 cm (Fig. 7:7). The diameter of the mouth of M1:76 is 23.1cm (Fig. 7:4).

Serving dish, two items. M1:8 has a slightly inverted mouth and bulging belly, and attached to the mouth and body is a long handle. The diameter of the mouth is 18

cm (Fig. 7:9). M1:12 has a wide mouth, bulging belly, short ring foot, and it has a lid with a bridge-like knob. A handle is attached to one side of the lower body. Inside the vessel is a small ladle. The diameter of the mouth is 15 cm (Figs. 7:8; 15).

Ladle, one item (M1:9), relatively large in size, and the handle has an animal head design. It is 10.1 cm long (Fig. 7:10).

Handled cup, one item (M1:10). It is oval in shape and the mouth flares outward. The diameter of the mouth is 13 cm (Fig. 16:4).

Lamp, one item (M1:14). It is shaped like a stemmed plate. The bowl-shaped lamp has a mouth that flares outward. On the interior surface of the bottom is a protruding central post. The stand has a narrow mid-section, and the round base spreads outward like a trumpet. The

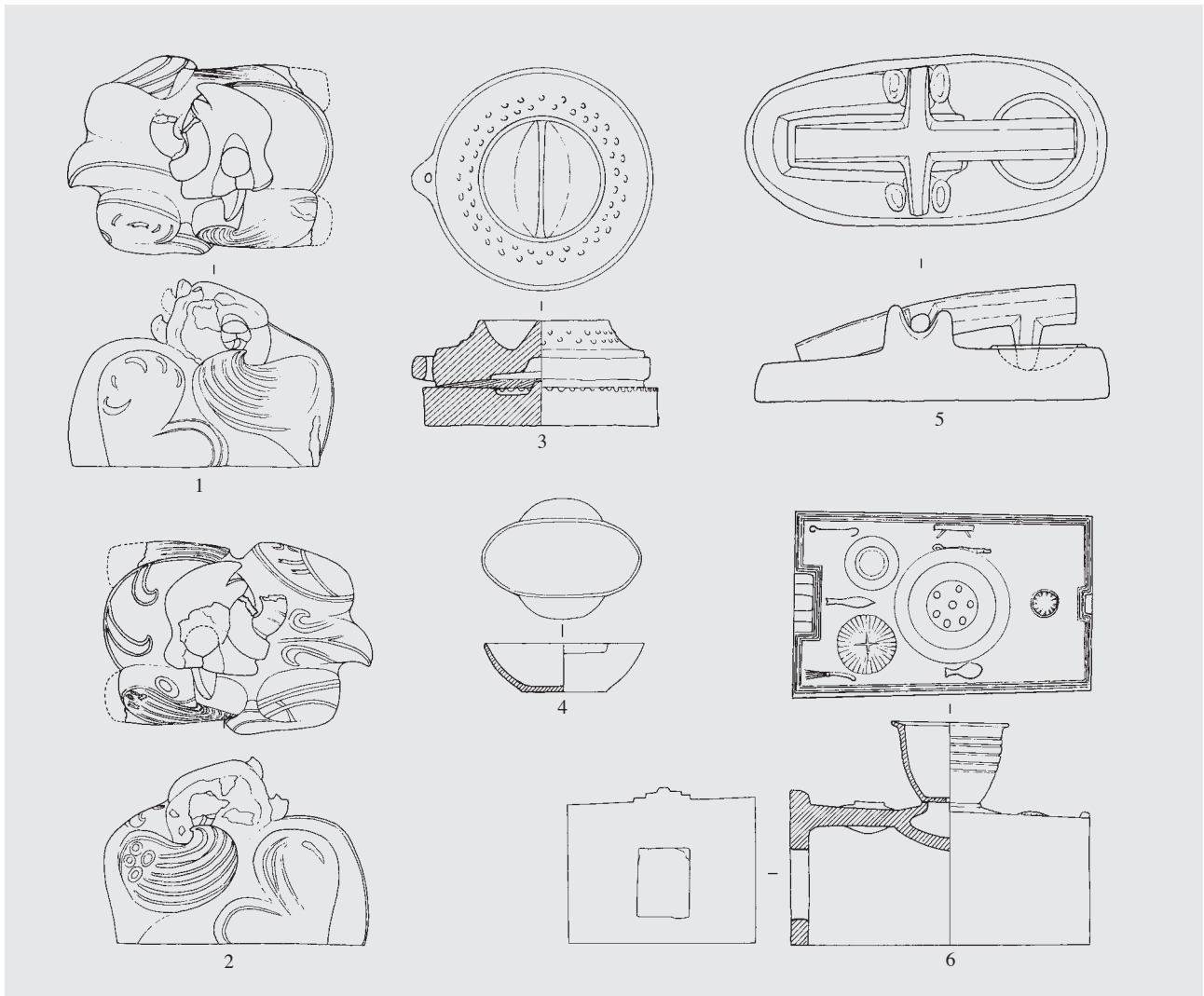


Fig. 16 Funerary earthenware objects

1, 2. clay paper weights (M1:41 and 58) 3. mill (M1:23) 4. handled cup (M1:10) 5. earthenware hulling hammer (M1:24) 6. stove (M1:18) (scales: 5. 2/5; the rest 1/5)

lamp is 15.7 cm in height (Fig. 17:3).

Oven, one item (M1:33). It has a wide mouth, narrow middle and a flat base. It is fitted with a grate inside. The exterior is decorated with two raised ridges. Near the base and to one side is a fuel opening; at the time it was excavated, charred wooden fragments and ashes were found inside. The diameter is 28.7 cm (Figs. 17:2; 18).

Well, one item (M1:19). The awning above the well has a roof that slopes down on two sides. Fitted inside are support posts and a winch. The well itself is shaped like a bucket with flared mouth and flat bottom. A water bucket is placed inside the well. It is 21 cm in height (Figs. 17:5; 19).

Granary, one item (M1:22). It has a gable roof that slopes down on four sides. There is a raised roof ridge. The entrance is in the middle of the front wall. It is 16.4 cm in height (Fig. 17:1).

Pig sty, one item (M1:60). It comprises a pig sty and a latrine. The lower section is the rectangular pig sty. A

wall with an opening divides the pig sty into a pig pen in front and pig hut in the back. On the left side of the pig sty is a staircase leading to the latrine on the second storey above. The roof slopes down on two sides over the latrine. The pig sty is 22.3 cm in height (Fig. 17:4).

Stove, one item (M1:18). It is rectangular in shape and hollow inside. In the middle of the front side is a square-shaped stoking access hole. The back side has a chimney. There are three stove tops with a pot in the middle, a cauldron and frying pan in front, and the arrangement forms a pattern like the “品” character. A hook, a ladle, a brush, and similar cooking tools are arranged around the stove tops. The stove measures 23.5 cm in length (Figs. 16:6; 20).

Mill, one item (M1:23). It is round with a top and a bottom disc. The grinding surfaces of the two rotating discs have radiating grooves. The diameter is 8.5 cm, and it is 4 cm in height. Attached to the mill is an arm with posts forming a triangle that measures 11.5 cm in

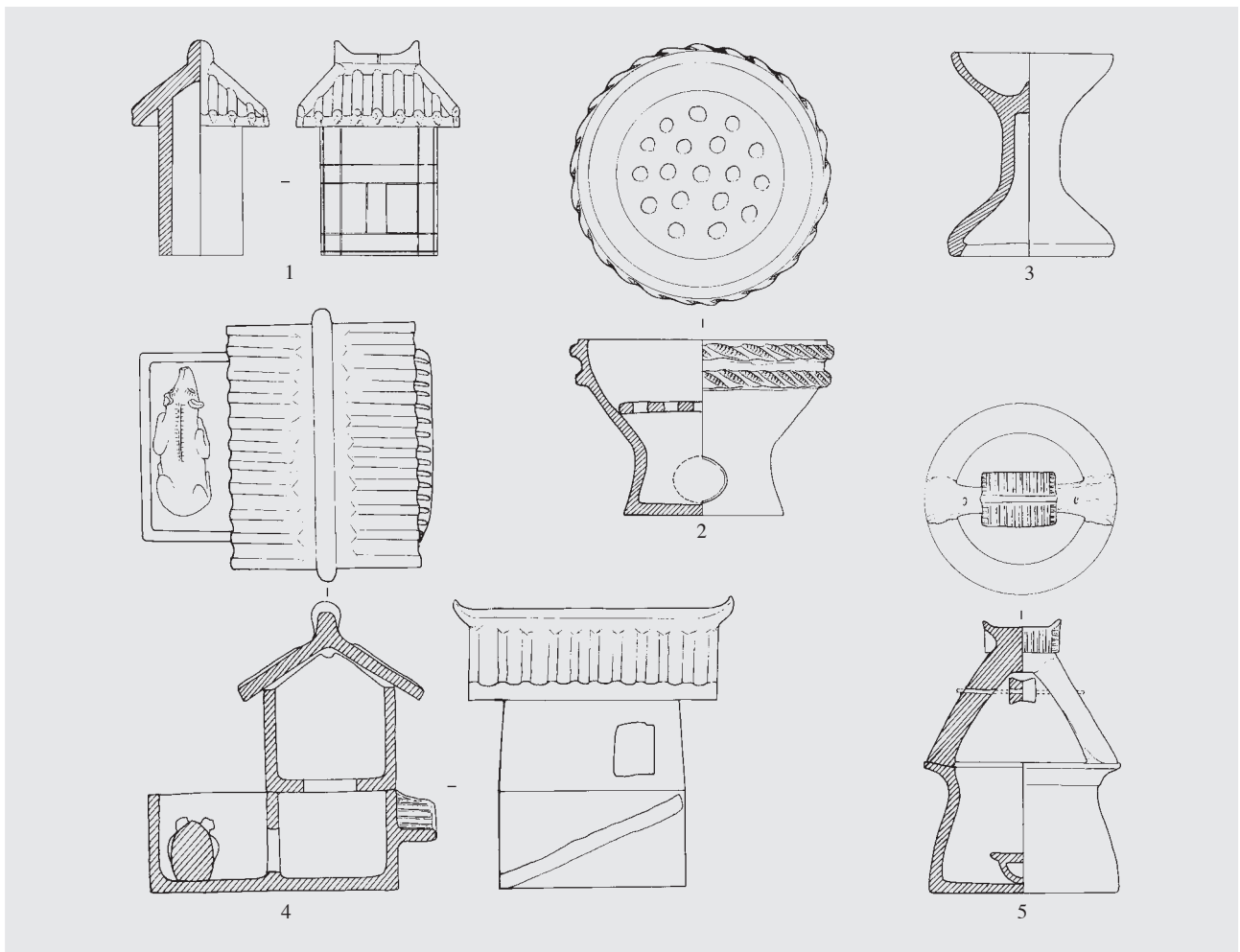


Fig. 17 Funeral earthenware objects

1. granary (M1:22) 2. oven (M1:33) 3. lamp (M1:14) 4. pig sty (M1:60) 5. well (M1:19) (scales: 3, 5, 1/5; the rest 2/15)



Fig. 18 Earthenware oven (M1:33)



Fig. 19 Earthenware well (M1:19)



Fig. 20 Earthenware stove (M1:18)



Fig. 21 Earthenware mill (M1:23)

length (Figs. 16:3; 21).

Hulling hammer, one item (M1:24). It comprises a base, treadle, poles, and a trough. The poles are arranged to form a “+” shape. The outer rim of the trough has a raised ridge. The hammer is 13.6 cm long (Fig. 16:5).

Canopy base, one item (M1:17). It is shaped like a truncated pyramid with a square base and square socket in the middle. One side of the base measures 17.4 cm long.

9. Clay paper weight, two items, slight damaged. Each is shaped like an animal with a coiled body. M1:41 is 20.2 cm long (Fig. 16:1). M1:58 is 19.5 cm long (Fig. 16:2).

10. Bronze coins, 40. 35 of them are *wu zhu* 五铢 coins with square holes, each measuring 2.6 cm in diameter. There are 5 *huo quan* 货泉 coins with square holes, each measuring 2.2 cm in diameter.

III. Concluding Remarks

Among tombs that have been recently excavated from the Zhengzhou 郑州 area, this Jin tomb is a relatively well-preserved example of a tomb built according to high standards. It can be classified as a mid-sized tomb, and it is comparable to the Eastern Han painted tomb at the Luoyang machinery factory, the tomb with picture stones and vaulted ceiling from the west slope of Dushan 独山

in Nanyang 南阳. The Eastern Han and Cao-Wei traditions are still continued in this tomb. As indicated by the tomb furnishings, many objects have been recovered from this tomb. In particular, the bronze water dropper for the ink stone has an exquisite design, and it is a finely crafted and rare artistic treasure. Although the lacquer box at the feet of the male tomb occupant contains a crossbow triggering device, a slab of ink stone, a fork-shaped bronze ornament, and personal weapons such as iron knife, etc., the considerable amount of scholar implements indicates that the tomb occupant had a strong affiliation with the literati social class. As for

Note: The original report, published in *Wenwu* 2004.11: 39–53, with 39 illustrations including 19 color plates, is written by Zhang Wenxia 张文霞 and Wang Yanmin 王彦民. This summary is prepared by the same authors and English-translated by Judy Chungwa Ho.

the time of burial, the tomb furnishings reflect the style of the early Jin Dynasty.

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