

The Three Kingdoms tomb at Caiyue, Fancheng District in Xiangyang, Hubei

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Abstract

In October 2008, a rescue excavation in Fancheng District of Xiangyang City, Hubei Province recovered a tomb of the Three Kingdoms Period. A large number of grave goods were unearthed, including potteries, porcelains, bronzes, lacquer wares, jades, and iron, stone, silver, or gold implements. A bronze horse unearthed in this tomb is the largest ever found in China. Based on the structural features of the tomb and the grave goods, this tomb appears to belong to a general and his wife of a rank only below that of the feudal lords. The excavation provides important material data on the burial system and customs from the late Eastern Han to the Three Kingdoms Period and is of great value for the study of the culture of that period.

Keywords: brick-chamber tombs; Caiyue (Xiangyang, Hubei); Three Kingdoms Period.

Introduction

In October 2008, Xiangyang (Xiangfan then) Municipal Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology excavated an ancient tomb dated to the Three Kingdoms Period. The tomb situated at the southeastern corner of the intersection between Jianshe Road and Changhong Road within the Caiyue Neighborhood in Fancheng district, Xiangyang City, Hubei Province. The tomb was given the serial number Fancheng Caiyue M1 (abbreviated M1).

Tomb structure and furniture

M1 was a brick-lined multi-chambered vertical shaft tomb oriented at 175° . The structure comprised of a shaft pit, a descending passage, and the brick chambers. The roofs of the chambers had been damaged and the silt had slid into the chambers (Figure 1).

1. Passage and shaft

The opening of the passage and the shaft situated 4.2m below the present ground surface. The passage was



Figure 1 Full-view of Fancheng Caiyue M1 (SE–NW).

located to the south of the chambers. Its southern section was overlaid by modern building, and thus the full length is unknown. The passage had a rectangular plan. The excavated part totaled 10.5m long. It descended at a grade of 13° and became leveled at 0.6m in front of the sealing wall. The west wall of the passage was almost vertical. The ceiling measured 3.1-3.38m wide and the floor measured 3.04-3.36m wide. The passage was filled with grayish-yellow earth.

The shaft was in a 吕-shaped plan 13.96m long and 5.6m wide at the opening. The trimmed walls became increasingly narrow inside. The pit was filled with grayish yellow earth that contained brick sherds.

2. Brick chambers

The brick crypt had an inner length of 13.14m and an inner width of 4.2m. It comprised of sealing wall, stone gates, corridor, ante chamber, hallways, and rear chamber. The ceilings of the chambers had been damaged in the past and had partially collapsed. They were filled with silt tempered with brick fragments.

The sealing wall closely hugged the corridor's walls. The center of the wall bulged outward. It was laid with flat bricks in juxtaposed stretcher courses at the lower part and single stretcher course at the upper part from floor to ceiling. The wall measured 2.8m high, 2.6m wide, 0.37m thick at the lower part, and 0.18m thick at the upper part.

A pair of out-swinging stone door leaves was set behind the sealing wall on the corridor opening. The lintel measured 1.98m wide, 0.39m high, and 0.28m thick. Its face was embellished with relief in zigzag pattern and rhombus and ring pattern. The door stiles were 1.73m high, 0.33m wide and 0.28m thick. The plain stone door leaves were 1.43m high, 0.66m wide and 0.09m thick. The threshold measured 1.98m wide, 0.22m high and 0.28m thick.

The double-layered corridor with vaulted ceiling was 3.12m long with an inner width of 1.8-2.5m and an inner height of 2.06-2.18m. The walls were laid with layers of header course alternated with layers of two juxtaposed stretcher courses. The floor was paved with bricks arranged in herringbone pattern. A reinforcement arch was laid with a single layer of bricks on the south opening intersected the entrance. A retaining wall was built above the arched roof to the south of the corridor.

The antechamber had a rectangular plan and a dome-shaped ceiling. It measured 4.58m long, 4.2m wide, and the remaining height was 2.84m. The walls were laid with layers of header course alternated with layers of two juxtaposed stretcher courses topped with a layer of wedge-shaped bricks, forming the foundation of the dome-shaped ceiling, which was laid by a single layer of bricks in L-pattern whose angle started from the middle of the four walls concentrating toward the ceiling crown. The baseboard was embellished with a line of bricks standing on their sides and alternating in horizontal and vertical postures. The center of the floor was paved with a layer of bricks in inverted herringbone pattern. The floor was uneven due to sinking of the east wall. Upon the leveling

of the filling earth, the bricks of eastern baseboard were overlaid by the paving bricks in herringbone pattern. The back wall of the antechamber between the east and west hallways leading to the rear chamber was painted with cinnabar.

Both the east and the west hallways had vaulted ceilings. They measured 1.78m in length and 1.7m in inner height. The inner width of the east hallway was 0.98m, and that of the west hallway was 1.1m. Their walls were laid with layers of header course alternated with layers of two juxtaposed stretcher courses.

The rear chamber had a trapezoid plan and a dome-shaped ceiling. It was 3.58m long, 3.12m wide in the south, 3.32m wide in the north, and the remaining height was 4.47m. The laying of the lower walls was similar to that of the antechamber. The vaulted ceiling was obliquely laid into a double L-pattern.

The floors of the hallways and rear chamber were laid with bricks in herringbone pattern. Two rectangular coffin platforms were laid with flat bricks in the rear chamber; the smaller coffin platform that measured 2.96m long and 0.81m wide was located by the west wall. It was built of bricks into a rectangular frame but hollow inside. The bigger coffin platform by the east wall was a solid rectangular one that measured 3.02m long and 1.48m wide. In addition to the brick pavement, the floor of the east corridor had a second layer of flat bricks laid on top.

With the exception of some reddish brown bricks used on the sealing wall, the rest of the bricks were bluish gray. They came with two shapes: rectangle and wedge. The rectangular bricks measured 35-36cm long, 17.3-18cm wide, and 4.4-5cm thick. The wedge-shaped bricks measured 35-36cm long, 17.8cm wide, and 3.5-5cm thick. The longer side (stretcher) of the bricks showed a variety of molded geometric patterns.

3. Burial furniture

Two wooden coffins were placed in the rear chamber. They were oriented to the north and parallel to each other from east to west. The wood had rotten away; but the lacquered peel was preserved. The side panels and end panels of the coffins were joined with iron nails. The exterior of the east coffin was painted with black lacquer. It measured 2.34m long, 0.66-0.74m wide, and 0.36m of remaining height. The centers of the front and the rear panels were embellished with a gilt bronze circular ornament. The skeleton had deteriorated to the extent that only the cranium, one tooth and a few bone fragments were recoverable. The west coffin was larger than the east one. Its exterior was painted with red lacquer. The dimensions were 3.12m long, 1m wide and 0.42m of remaining height. The skeleton was in better condition that we could tell it was interred in supine flexed position.

Grave goods

The assemblage of grave goods comprised of artifacts made of pottery, porcelain, bronze, iron, lacquer, jade, stone, silver, gold, lead and tin, crystal, agate, and bone,

and large quantity of bronze coins.

1. The pottery assemblage comprised of artifacts in the shapes of vase, jar, *zun*-wine vessel, *lian*-cosmetic case, saucer and cup, bottle, *bo*-bowl and Boshan censer, and models of pestle, mill, oven, well, pig-pen, dog, chicken, duck, tomb-guardian beasts, and storied house. The bottle and *bo*-bowls were made of fine grey pottery. The remaining pottery artifacts were made of fine red pottery.

Vases, two pieces. Green glaze was applied on the exteriors of the vessels, parts of which have been weathered into silver gray and most of the glaze has come off. The vessels have dish-shaped rim, restrained neck, and oblate body. A set of three indented bowstring patterns run around the body. M1:203 has false ring foot and flat bottom. The vessel measures 24.6cm in height (Figure 2:2). M1:204 has trumpet-shaped foot and a pair of symmetrical door knocker rings set on the shoulder. The vessel measures 33cm in height (Figure 2:1).

Jar, one piece (M1:133). The vessel has green glaze, contracted mouth, short neck, one round of indented bowstring embellishes the shoulder, in-curving belly, and slightly concave flat base. Its height is 18.8cm (Figure 3).

Zun-wine vessel, one piece (M1:194). Greenish-brown glaze is applied on the interior of the vessel; wherein, lead gray glaze is applied on the exterior. Unglazed body outcrops on the bottom and the foot. It has vertical rim, cylindrical body, flat base, three hoof-shaped feet, and

four rounds of indented bowstring patterns are applied on the body. The vessel measures 15.6cm high (Figure 2:10).

Lian-cosmetic cases, two pieces. They have brown glaze; but unglazed body outcrops in some areas. They share features of contracted rim, out-curving walls, concave base, and having lid cover. M1:190 has flat-topped lid, straight walls, three nipple-shaped knobs, two rounds of indented bow strings embellish the top, and five rounds of indented bowstring patterns run around the body. Its height is 21.6cm (Figure 2:3). M1:193 has spheroid-topped lid, three rounds of indented bowstring patterns on the lid, and three rounds on the body. Its height measures 15.8cm (Figure 4).

Saucer and cup, one set (M2:186). Yellowish brown glaze is applied on the exterior of the upper (cup) part and the interior of the dish part. Unglazed body is revealed on other areas. The upper part has contracted mouth, out-sloping wall, one ear on the body, and flat base. It is embellished with indented bowstring. Its mouth measures 7.6cm in diameter. The dish part has flaring mouth, round body, bending interior walls, false ring foot, and slightly concave base. Its diameter measures 16.8cm (Figure 2:9).

Bottle, one piece (M1:135). It has flaring mouth, restrained neck, slender shoulder, deep belly, and small flat bottom. The upper body is embellished with stamped rhombus linen pattern partitioned by two stripes of wipe marks. The vessel is 36.8cm tall (Figure 2:8).

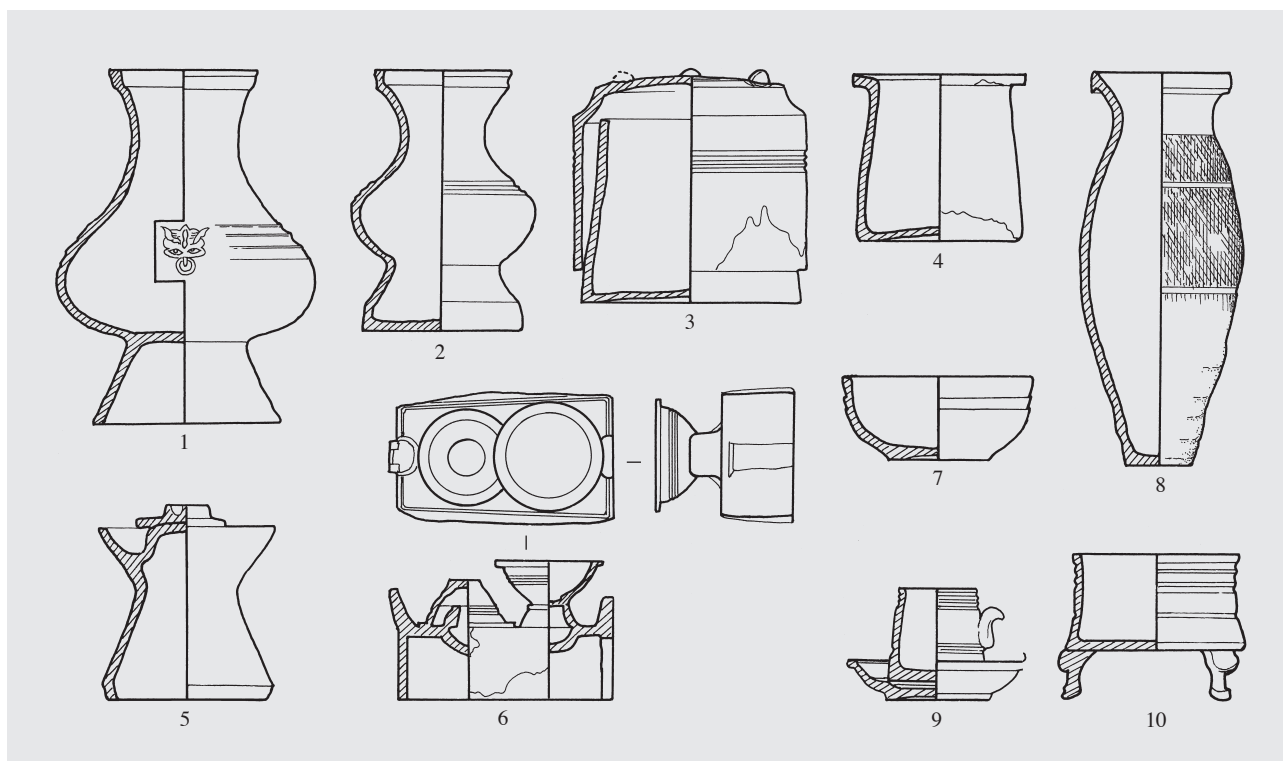


Figure 2 The potteries unearthed from M1.

1 and 2. vases (M1:204 and M1:203) 3. *lian*-cosmetic case (M1:190) 4. well model (M1:196) 5. millstone model (M1:202) 6. oven model (M1:192) 7. *bo*-bowl (M1:165) 8. bottle (M1:135) 9. saucer and cup (M2:186) 10. *zun*-wine vessel (M1:194)

Bo-bowls, three pieces. They share many characteristics in size and shape. M1:165 has flaring mouth, round body, two rounds of indented bowstring patterns embellish the upper body, and slightly depressed flat base. Its diameter measures 17.6cm (Figure 2:7).

Boshan censer, one piece (M1:187). Brown glaze is applied on the exterior of the body and the lid, and the interior of the pallet bowl. The pallet bowl has flaring rim, shallow bending body, a round of indented circle on the center, and flat base. A hollowed stem rises in the center of the pallet to hold the burner. The burner has spigot rim, crested shoulder and round body. The conical lid is embellished with animal and plant motifs. The burner's orifice measures 9.4cm in diameter. Its overall height is 20.4cm (Figure 5).

Pestle model, one piece (M1:200). It measures 14.7cm long and 6.8cm high (Figure 6).

Millstone model, one set (M1:202). Green glaze is

applied on the exterior of the entire model. The top of the runner stone has two semi-circular funnels matching into a circle. Its side has a crescent-shaped handle. The base stone rises slightly above the receiving tray. The receiving tray has flaring rim and is joined to the stand; the stand has restrained waist and tall trumpet-shaped ring foot. The millstones measure 7.4cm in diameter and 18cm in overall height (Figure 2:5).

Oven model, one piece (M1:192). The model has brown glaze, rectangular plan, straight walls, blocking wall in the center of the front, and an inclined chimney without hole in the rear. Two *fu*-cauldrons, each has one pot on it, join with the oven. A rectangular door is located in the front of the oven. The dimensions of the stove are 20cm long and 12.8cm high (Figure 2:6).

Well model, one piece (M1:196). Green glaze is applied on the exterior, but unglazed body outcrops on the lower portion. The model has cylindrical body and



Figure 3 Glazed pottery jar (M1:133).



Figure 4 Glazed pottery *lian*-cosmetic case (M1:193).



Figure 5 Glazed pottery Boshan censer (M1:187).



Figure 6 Glazed pottery pestle model (M1:200).



Figure 7 Glazed pottery pig-pen model (M1:191).

concave base. It measures 15.6cm in height (Figure 2:4).

Pig-pen model, one piece (M1:191). The model has dark brown glaze, but paste outcrops in some areas. The pen is circular shaped with circumferential walls and a standing pig figurine within it. A house stands on one side of the model. It has hipped roof with tile ridges. The diameter of the model is 20cm, and the height measures 12.8cm (Figure 7).

Dog figurine, one piece (M1:195). The model is green glazed with partly exposed body. The dog is standing on four limbs, barking furiously with wide-open mouth, sticking up tail and hallowed body. It stands at 21.6cm tall (Figure 8).

Chicken figurines, two pieces. The glaze of the models has fallen off, revealing the white body. They are depicted in standing posture and hallowed body. M1:197 is a cock with high comb, long tail and measures 18.6cm long (Figure 9:left). M1:198 is a hen with sticking up tail, and



Figure 8 Glazed pottery dog figurine (M1:195).



Figure 10 Glazed pottery duck figurines.
left. M1:188 right. M1:189



Figure 9 Glazed pottery chicken figurines.
left. M1:197 right. M1:198



Figure 11 Glazed pottery tomb-guardian beast (M1:201).

measures 16cm long (Figure 9:right).

Duck figurine, two pieces. Most of the green glaze has fallen off, revealing the white bodies. They are depicted in standing posture and hallowed body. M1:188 is 24cm long. M1:189 is 23.8cm long (Figure 10).

Tomb-guardian beast, one piece (M1:201). The brown glazed figurine shapes like a bear in crouching posture with opened mouth and long sticking out tongue. A crawling animal is attached onto the tip of the tongue. It is 13.4cm tall (Figure 11).

Storied house model, one piece (M1:128). The model is covered with yellowish brown glaze. The structure comprises of a gatehouse, enclosing walls and a two-storied mansion. The enclosing walls frame a rectangular area that measures 31cm long and 33cm wide. The tops of the walls on the left, right and rear are covered by double-pitched eaves. The front wall is higher. It shores a double-pitched roof and each of the exterior corners has an octagonal porch column with bear-shaped footing. The interior corners have two horse stakes. The main entrance, located in the center, is set with a two-leaf door and a threshold. Each door leaf is decorated with two feathered human figurines and one door knocker ring. A secondary and smaller entrance with a single leaf door decorated with a feathered human figurine is located to the right of the main door. A tertiary entrance is located to the left of the main entrance at the base of the wall. It is a small opening circular in the upper half and triangular in the lower half. A #-shaped window with grid lattice is opened to the upper right of the small entrance. A bear stands underneath the window. A two-storied mansion rises inside the courtyard. The lower story has a two-leafed door in the front. The door is embellished with vertical stripes. The wall above the door is decorated with lattice pattern intertwined with vertical stripes. A rectangular window is opened on each of the upper sides. A hipped waist eave with five ridges and four pours wraps around the building in between the first story and the second story. The ends of the main ridge and the hanging ridges are decorated with linden leaf style *chiwei* 鸱尾 ridge-ends. Above the waist eave is four bear-shaped bases supporting a platform with baluster railings. The second story is built on the platform. Louver-shaped windows open on all sides of the second story. The roof is fully hipped with five ridges and four pours. The tips of the ridges are decorated with linden leaf style *chiwei* ridge-ends. At the top of the roof stands a mast holding a pile of umbrellas like the *chattrā* atop the Buddhist *stupa*. Its base is hollowed out like a half spheroid engraved with a pattern of mother-and-son bears scuffling with a tiger. Multiple layers of terraces stack on the base. A crescent-shaped beast stands on the apex of the pagoda. The roof has tile ridges. The round end tiles are embellished with cloud pattern. The whole structure stands at 104cm (Figure 12).

2. The porcelain assemblage comprised of jars with two lugs and four lugs.

Four-lugged jars, two pieces. They share many characteristics: bluish grey body, light green glaze,

paste outcrops at the base, small mouth, short collar, bulged body, slightly concave flat base, four symmetrical horizontal lugs and two rounds of indented bowstring patterns on the shoulder, linen pattern on the shoulder and



Figure 12 Glazed pottery storied house model (M1:128).

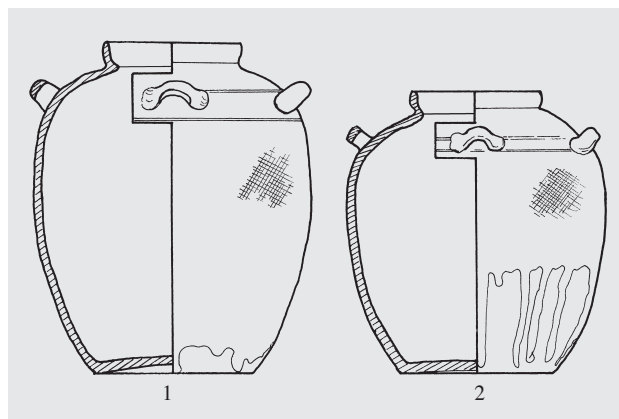


Figure 13 Four-lugged porcelain jars.
1. M1:130 2. M1:132

the body. M1:130 is 33cm high. M1:132 is 27.6cm high (Figures 13:1 and 13:2).

3. The bronze assemblage comprises of a horse figurine, vase, *pan*-plate, *xi*-basin, *bo*-bowl, *fu*-cauldron, *yan*-steamer, censer, iron, vessel stand, lock, lamp, crossbow trigger, saber, mirror, belt bucket, ornamental string, etc.

Horse figurine, one piece (M1:168). The horse figurine is in standing posture, has erected ears, protruded eyes, opened



Figure 14 Bronze horse figurine (M1:168).



Figure 15 Bronze vase (M1:147).

mouth, long and broad neck, upright mane, and drooped tail. Both its length and height are 163cm (Figure 14).

Vases, two pieces. They have dish-shaped rim, long restrained neck, a pair of symmetrical door knocker rings on the shoulder, oblate body, flat base, and ring foot. The bodies are embellished with ridged bowstring pattern. M1:147 is 29.6cm high. M1:148 has eight rounds of ridged bowstrings embellish the ring foot. The vessel stands at 36.8cm (Figures 15 and 16).

Pan-plate, four pieces. The *pan*-plates have common features in flaring mouth, outward-bending rim, crested round body, and short ring foot. M1:137 bears inscriptions on the exterior bottom that read, "On the eighth day of the eighth month of the second year of Yongchu 永初 Era (108 CE), made by Zhang with three rounds of refining (Sanlian 三 鍊)." Its diameter measures 21cm. M1:156 had chicken bones in the vessel upon recovery. This vessel has the inscriptions that read, "Homage of the Dong Family" on the exterior base. Its diameter is 21cm. M1:151 has crested sloping wall and slightly concave base. The base's interior is embellished with indented bowstring pattern. Two characters, "Dong X [illegible]" were written with cinnabar on the base's exterior. The vessel has a diameter of 20.8cm (Figure 17:1-3).

Xi-basin, four pieces. M1:103 has flaring mouth, round body with crested in-curving lower part, and slightly concave base. A symmetrical pair of bow-shaped handles embellishes the body. A fish design embellishes the interior bottom. The vessel measures 37.8cm in diameter (Figure 18). M1:154 has outward-bending rim, round body, a symmetrical pair of animal mask-shaped knockers and four rounds of ridged bowstring patterns embellish the body. The bottom is slightly concave. Its interior is



Figure 16 Bronze vase (M1:148).

inscribed in the center with the words “*Fugui Yi Gu* 富贵宜固 (Secured Wealth)”, and embellishes with double-fish pattern on both sides. It measures 33.2cm in diameter and 16.2cm in height (Figure 19).

Bo-bowls, two pieces. They have similar shape and size. M1:139 has flaring mouth, round body and concave bottom. The interior rim is embellished with indented bowstring pattern. The diameter is 19cm (Figure 17:4).

Fu-cauldron, one piece (M1:150). It has restricted orifice, crested rim, round body, and round base. The

diameter measures 20.8cm (Figure 17:5).

Yan-steamer, one piece (M1:158). This is a composite utensil made of a *zeng*-steamer stacking on a *fu*-cauldron. The *zeng*-steamer has an outward-bending rim, round body, concave interior base, circular and rectangular grate eyes, a ring foot, a pair of symmetrical door knocker rings on the body, one round of band pattern under the rim, and one round of band pattern with ridged bowstring on the body. The *fu*-cauldron has short collar, a pair of symmetrical door knocker rings on the shoulder, bulged body, one round

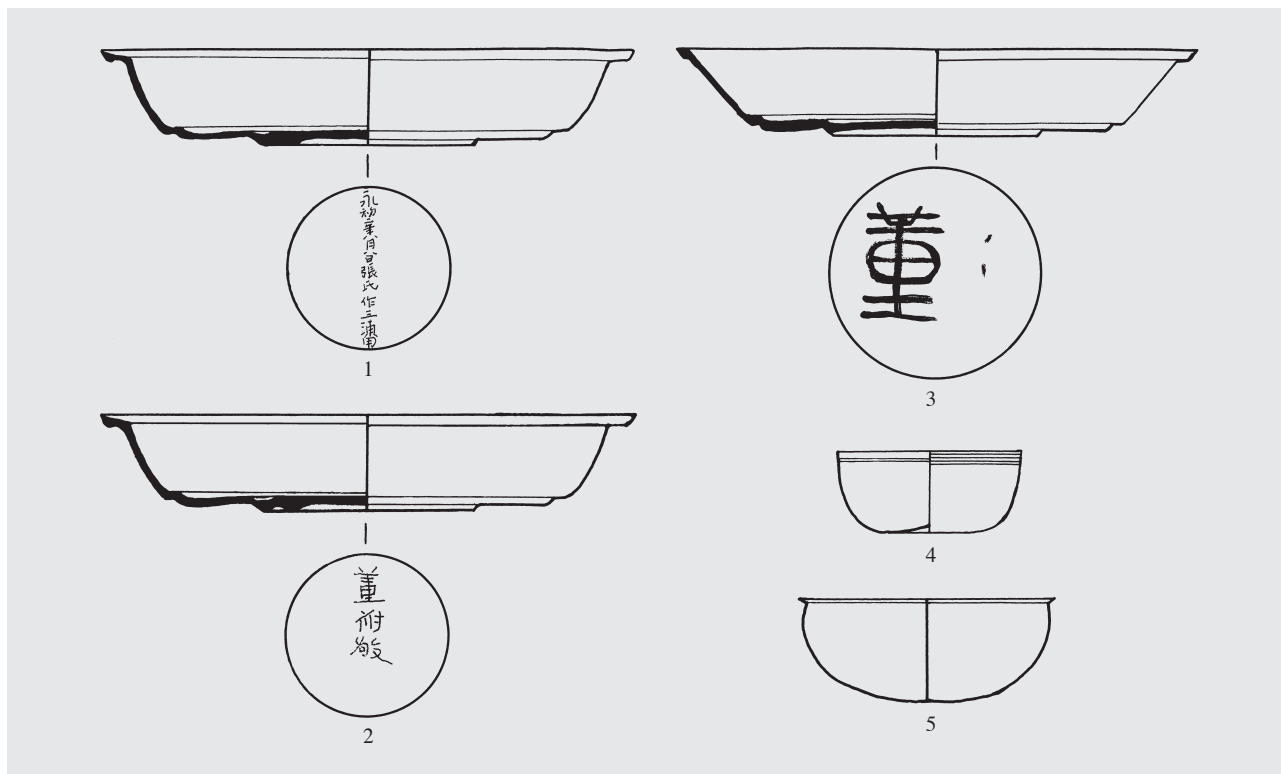


Figure 17 The bronzes unearthed from M1.

1-3. *pan*-plates (M1:137, M1:156 and M1:151) 4. *bo*-bowl (M1:139) 5. *fu*-cauldron (M1:150)



Figure 18 Bronze *xi*-basin (M1:103).



Figure 19 Bronze *xi*-basin (M1:154).

of ridge in the middle, and flat base. It measures 25cm in diameter and 26.4cm in height (Figure 20).

Censers, two pieces. The lid and the body of M1:2 are joined by rotatable hinge. The lid has a spheroid shape, spigot rim, and one round of cord pattern embellishing the rim. Its surface is engraved with three successive white tigers in single file. A scarlet bird stands on the top of the lid. The censer has flaring mouth, round body, round bottom and three legs. The opposite side of the hinge has a dragon-shaped handle. The rim is embellished with one register of cord pattern and one register of engraved overlapping lotus pod pattern. The anthropomorphic legs depict human in crouching posture with both hands holding the knees. The receptacle has diameter that measures 7.4 cm, and height that measures 11.8cm (Figure 21). M1:104 was found inside a *pan*-basin during excavation. They are supposed to be used as a set. The censer has flaring mouth, oblique belly, and flat base. A conical pick is located in the center of the inner bottom.

It has three hoof-shaped legs and a handle. The semi-spheroid lid joins the burner through a movable hinge. Its surface is engraved with hydra pattern 蟠螭, natural scenery of landscape and flower and plant patterns. The *pan*-basin has unrestricted orifice, horizontally crested rim, shallow body, flat base, and ring foot. The base has three round holes that fit the three legs of the burner. The burner measures 8cm in diameter. Its handle is 13.2cm long. Its height is 9cm. The *pan*-basin measures 15.2cm in diameter and 1.4cm in height (Figure 22).

Irons, two pieces. They have bending rim, shallow body, and round but almost flat base. A long hollowed handle with hexagonal cross-section is fixed to the middle of the body. The handle of M1:22 measures 20cm long, the mouth diameter is 15.4cm, the waist diameter is 12.8cm, and the height is 6.4cm (Figure 23).

Vessel stand, one piece (M1:82). This is a zoomorphic utensil depicting a beast turning its head and biting a tube. Back side of the upper left limb has a short tube attached.



Figure 20 Bronze yan-steamer (M1:158).



Figure 21 Bronze censer (M1:2).



Figure 22 Bronze censer (M1:104).



Figure 23 Bronze iron (M1:22).

The beast has a pair of curly horns on the forehead and fur all over its body. It has four extended limbs and a curled tail. The stand measures 8.6cm long and 9.5cm high (Figure 24).

Locks, two pieces. The two locks have similar shape and size. They are rectangular in shape, hollowed inside, and have movable bolt on one end. The edges of the front and the rear are embellished with zigzag pattern. One side bears the inscriptions “*Yan Shi Zuo* 严氏作 (Made by Yan).” M1:108 is 13.2cm long, 6.6cm wide, and 3.1cm

thick (Figure 25).

Lamp, one piece (M1:160). The artifact has straight rim, a band under the rim, shallow and straight body, slightly convex base, and three hoof-shaped legs. The interior base has a conical candle pick, and the exterior has a circular tube. A long handle is fixed on the side. The lamp measures 12.8cm in diameter, and the handle is 14.8cm long (Figure 26).

Crossbow triggers (mechanisms), two pieces. The frame of M1:66 measures 14cm. Its front part is 2.6cm



Figure 24 Bronze vessel stand (M1:82).



Figure 26 Bronze lamp (M1:160).



Figure 25 Bronze locks (M1:108 and M1:109).



Figure 27 Bronze crossbow trigger (M1:66).

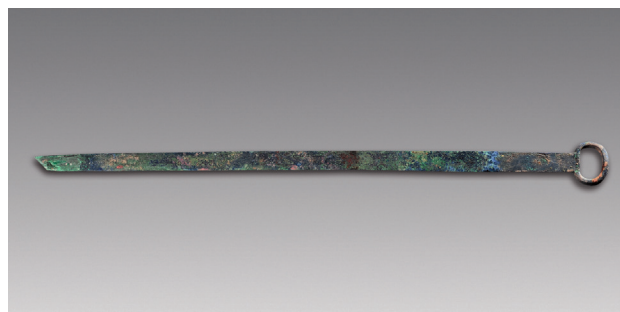


Figure 28 Bronze saber (M1:155).

wide and 2.8cm high. The sight is higher than the frame by 8.3cm. The overall height of the artifact is 16.5cm and overall width is 6.2cm (Figure 27).

Saber, one piece (M1:155). It has a hilt with a ring-shaped pommel, single blade, heavy back, and measures 97.6cm long (Figure 28).

Mirror, one piece (M1:56). The mirror has a round knob with quatrefoil base, surrounded by *kui*-one-legged demon and phoenix figures, and inscriptions that read “*Chang Yi Zisun* 长宜子孙 (To Benefit the Descendants Forever)” is inscribed by the side of the knob. It is then encircled by a mosaic of patterns that include stylized quatrefoils, four sets of paired phoenix holding a ribbon in their mouths, inscriptions that read “*Wei Zhi Sangong* 位至三公 (May the Holder Get the Position of the Three Dukes)” in between them, followed by centrifugal joined curves, cranes in different postures, and finally curly cloud pattern on the edge. The mirror measures 16.8cm in diameter (Figure 29).

Belt hook, one piece (M1:71). The belt hook has round and elongated body, beast head-shaped hook head, and a

round knob on the waist. It measures 18cm long (Figure 30).

Twelve bronze ornaments in a string (M1:110). The cylindrical ornaments with spiral denticulate are similar in shape and greenish grey in color. Six of them have circular perforations; wherein the other six have square perforations. They were strung together when unearthed. Each measures 1.8cm in diameter (Figure 31).

4. The iron assemblage comprises of lamp, brazier, mirror, saber, sword, cutter, and hook.

Lamp, one piece (M1:185). The *dou*-shaped lamp is rusted. It has a shallow crested basin and long handle. The stand is in the shape of upturned bowl. The basin measures 15.6cm in diameter, and 44cm in height.

Brazier, one piece (M1:159). The rusted utensil comprises of a stove and a basin. The stove shapes like a *ding*-tripod-shaped vessel with round body, circular base, and three hoof-shaped feet. A symmetrical pair of round knobs each connecting to one end of a chain that comprises of six sections of joined circular and rectangular rings are attached to the sides of the stove body. The body has eight evenly distributed elongated



Figure 29 Bronze mirror (M1:56).



Figure 30 Bronze belt hook (M1:71).



Figure 31 Cylindrical bronze ornaments (M1:110).



Figure 32 Iron brazier (M1:159).

holes, whilst the base has seven. The basin has flaring mouth, shallow belly, flat base, and three hoof-shaped feet. The stove diameter measures 19.4cm, and the overall height is 18.6cm (Figure 32).

Saber, one piece (M1:65). The iron saber is corroded and the tip is slightly damaged. The hilt has a ring-shaped pommel, is embellished with two rounds of ridges, and wrapped with gold thread. The back is heavy but the blade is thin. The wood sheath has deteriorated, leaving the black lacquer peel. An iron band and a clip lock are fixed on the sheath's opening. Its end has a silver chape. The remaining length measures 115.5cm.

Sword, one piece (M1:67). The wood sheath has deteriorated, but the lacquer peel survives. The oval wood handle and the sheath were wrapped with silk textile then painted with lacquer. The sword has double blades. The cross section of the blade shapes like a flattened rhombus. It is 105cm long.

5. The lacquer assemblage comprises of *lian*-cosmetic case, *zun*-bottle, jar, and ear-cup.

Lian-cosmetic cases, 10 pieces. The wood bodies of all

the lacquer cases have completely deteriorated, leaving behind the lacquer peel and bronze curbs. Black lacquer is applied on the exterior and red lacquer is applied on the interior of the cylindrical cases. The bronze curbs are gilt with gold. Most of them had fallen off at the time of recovery. M1:93 does not have a lid. Its base is flat. The exterior is fastened with three bronze curbs. Square gold foils are pasted in between the curbs. Its diameter is 23.2cm and its height is 7.6cm. M1:94 has a bulged lid embellished with bronze decoration in quatrefoil shape and two rings of bronze curbs. Round talc pieces are inlaid onto the center and four sides of the quatrefoil motif. The wall of the lid is embellished with three rounds of bronze curbs. The contents inside the box have yet to be examined. The lid measures 18cm in diameter and 13.2cm in height (Figures 33 and 34).

6. The jade assemblage comprises of one hollowed disc and one pig figurine.

The jade hollowed disc (*yuan* 瑗, M1:61) is made of Hotan greenish-white jade that has greenish grey spots. The jade piece has almost perfect circular shape. Both



Figure 33 Lacquer *lian*-cosmetic case M1:93 *in situ*.



Figure 34 Lacquer *lian*-cosmetic case M1:94 *in situ*.



Figure 35 Jade *yuan*-hollowed disc (M1:61).



Figure 36 Jade pig figurine (M1:72).



Figure 37 Stone pig figurine (M1:24).



Figure 38 Silver disc (M1:74).



Figure 39 Gold disc (M1:73).

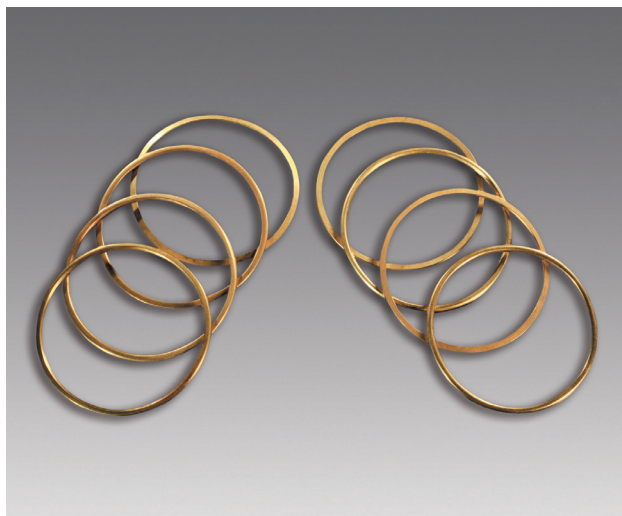


Figure 40 Gold bracelets (M1:3–M1:10).



Figure 41 String of crystal and agate beads (M1:11).



Figure 42 Bone comb (M1:178).

sides are engraved with dragon and tiger patterns. The outer diameter measures 10.8cm (Figure 35).

The jade pig figurine (M1:72), made of Hotan suet jade, is depicted in sleeping posture. Its limbs are engraved with thin hair. The model measures 9.9cm long (Figure 36).

7. The stone assemblage comprises of pig figurine, *huang*-semicircular pendant, pendant, and string beads.

Pig figurine, one piece (M1:24). The model is light grey in color and 9.6cm long (Figure 37).

In addition, the inventories of grave goods also included silver disc, silver bowl, gold disc, gold bracelet, string of crystal and agate beads, bone comb, bone tube, and a large number of bronze coins (Figures 38–42).

Conclusions

1. The Date of burial

Despite that the tomb yielded a bronze *pan*-basin with inscribed date of the second year of Yongyuan 永元 Era (108 CE), its style, structure and grave goods bear diagnostic features of the late Eastern Han or the early Three-Kingdoms Period.

The domed ceilings of M1's ante chamber and rear chamber were built with the cross-joint dome method to seal the arch. This brick-laying method appeared in the Three-Kingdoms Period, and no earlier than the terminal years of Eastern Han in this region.

The pottery assemblage of the tomb bears diagnostic features of late Eastern Han. Yet, *ding*-tripod, a pottery vessel common among grave goods during late Eastern Han, was absent from M1's offerings. The vase was similar to or later than that of Shaogou phase VI of Luoyang. The pig-pen model, dog figurine, tomb-guardian beast figurine, *zun*-wine vessel, and oven model shared characteristics with their counterparts of M8 of Jiexiang Cemetery in the same region. The brown-glazed porcelain jar decorated with linen pattern was common among burials of the terminal years of Eastern Han and the Three Kingdoms Period. Its style is similar to that of early Six Dynasties tomb of Renjiawan in Wuchang. The four-lugged porcelain jar is similar to that of the tomb at Dayi in Sichuan dated to the first year of Jian'an Era (196 CE). The glaze of the former strongly stuck to its paste, which is a characteristic very similar to the A II type porcelain jar yielded from the dated Western Jin tomb of Lilou at Laohekou in the same region. The lacquer cosmetic cases are comparable to those of late Eastern Han tomb of Shaogou in Luoyang. The majority of bronze coins are the "wuzhu 五铢" coins of Eastern Han. However, M1 also yielded *Yanhuan Wuzhu* 缿环五铢 (fringe *wuzhu*, only the outer rim and nearby body of a *wuzhu* coin was kept but its central part was clipped away as another *wuzhu* coin) and *Jianlun Wuzhu* 剪轮五铢 (flange cut-away *wuzhu*, only the central part of a *wuzhu* coin was kept but its rim was clipped away as another *wuzhu* coin) commonly seen in burials of the terminal years of Eastern Han and the Three Kingdoms Period. Some of the coins are coarsely

made, thin-bodied and light weight. Taken together, we tentatively date the tomb to the early years of the Three Kingdoms Period.

2. Occupants of the tomb

The rear chamber housed two coffins. According to the grave goods, the west coffin interred the remains of a male individual, wherein the east coffin contained the remains of a female individual. The tomb, therefore, is very likely the joint burial of a married couple. The male interment was that of a high-ranking military officer. Expert of the Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology identified the male lived to the age of about 45. The female was an adult, but the exact age at death was unidentifiable.

Compared to the cotemporary tombs, such as the Han tomb at Leitai in Wuwei, Gansu, the tombs in the family cemetery of Cao Cao 曹操 in Bozhou, and the tomb of Liu Biao 刘表, M1 was inferior that it did not have a main chamber and side chambers. However, the entire tomb occupied an extensive area of 40.3sq m, and it yielded a large assemblage of sumptuous handicrafts, including a bronze horse that is the largest ever yielded archaeologically to date in China. We argue that the tomb was a husband-and-wife joint burial of a general at a rank lower than adjunct marquis.

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Postscript

The original report published in *Wenwu* 文物 (Cultural Relics) 2010. 9: 4–20 with four line drawings and 43 photographs was authored by Liu Jiangsheng 刘江生. This abridged version is prepared by the author and translated into English by Lee Yun Kuen 李润权.