

# The Western Zhou cemetery at Dahekou in Yicheng County, Shanxi

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## Abstract

Since 2007, the excavations to the Dahekou Cemetery of the Western Zhou Dynasty located in Yicheng County, Shanxi Province have found over 600 burials and 20 chariot-and-horse pits, over 300 burials of which have been excavated. All of these burials were vertical shaft pit tombs in rectangular plan, most of which had waist pits containing dogs, some of which even had recesses on the walls. The burial furniture assemblages were single coffin, one outer coffin and one inner coffin or one outer coffin and two inner coffins. Most of the tomb occupants were in extended supine position; the grave goods of large- and medium-sized tombs were mainly bronzes and that of the small-sized tombs were mainly potteries. It is known from the inscriptions of the bronzes unearthed in this cemetery that the state clan name of the occupants of this cemetery was Ba 霸 and Ba Bo (the Earl of Ba) was the paramount ruler. The excavation to Dahekou Cemetery is significantly meaningful for the researches on the enfeoffment system, ritual vessel-using system and the ethnic assimilation of the Western Zhou Dynasty.

**Keywords:** Bronzes–Western Zhou Dynasty; Dahekou Cemetery (Yicheng County, Shanxi)

## General introduction

The Dahekou cemetery is located approximately 6km to the east of the county seat of Yicheng County, in the southern portion of Shanxi. A ravine surrounds it at all points except for the northwest corner, which is connected to the terrace lying to the west. The Kuai River and one of its tributaries lie to its west and south; the terrain of the cemetery has its high point in the north and slopes gently to the south. Coring and excavation results have approximated the area of the cemetery at more than 4ha, containing more than 1500 Western Zhou tombs. This paper will simply provide a brief introduction to the important discoveries made in this cemetery.

Trial excavations in 2007 and 2008 revealed eight tombs. From 2009 until May of 2011, a large-scale excavation of the cemetery was conducted, exposing an area of over 1.5ha and uncovering 579 tombs and 24 chariot-and-horse pits. All of the tombs were vertical earthen shaft pit tombs in rectangular plan; most were smaller at the mouth than at the floor. The vast majority of the

tombs were in east-west orientation, mostly with the occupant's head toward the west, though a few had the heads oriented eastwards; only four tombs were in north-south orientation. Very few intrusion relationships were observed. Medium- and large-sized tombs were scattered across the excavation area, without a clear arrangement. The tombs showed obvious clustering characteristics. All of the chariot-and-horse pits were positioned on the east sides of medium- or large-sized tombs, and with the exception of one north-south case, all were in east-west orientation. Some tombs had foot-holes and terraces of natural earth; a few also contained recesses on the walls. The burials employed a single inner coffin, one inner and one outer coffin, or one outer and two inner coffins. The planks of the outer coffin covers were mostly arranged transversely, while those of the inner coffin covers and the tomb floors were mostly placed longitudinally. Mortise-and-tenon joints connected most of the planks lining the tomb walls.

Most of the tomb occupants were in extended supine position, though a few were in flexed supine position. A relatively high proportion of the tombs included waist pits containing dog burials. The sole exception was tomb M1, excavated in 2008, which contained four angling holes on the corners. Grave goods were most commonly placed in front of the tomb occupants' heads; the next most common placements were between the inner and outer coffins, on the tomb terrace, inside the inner coffin, and atop the covering planks. Bronze vessels were chief among the grave goods of the medium- and large-sized tombs, while the small tombs favored pottery implements. Types of bronze vessels were varied, including food, liquor, and water vessels, weapons, tools, chariot and horse fittings, musical instruments; etc. Pottery assemblages were mainly a single *li*-cauldron, a *li*-cauldron and a jar, a single jar, a *li*-cauldron, a basin and a jar, and a few other combinations. Jade, stone, bone and shell items, as well as cowries and various types of string ornaments, were relatively numerous. Some tombs contained tin items or lacquer ware, and a few yielded gold items. A small proportion of the tombs did not have grave goods.

## Tomb M1

Tomb M1 was oriented to 278° and tapered upwards. The mouth of the tomb measured 4.25m long and 3.22m wide, while the tomb floor measured 4.6m long and 3.78m wide; the tomb was 9.75m deep (Figure 1). Four diagonal holes leading to the tomb walls were discovered outside the four corners of the tomb opening, and 11 recesses were discovered in the walls of the tomb above the tomb



Figure 1 M1 (top is north).

terrace. The burial employed one inner and one outer coffin, with a waist pit at the bottom of the latter. The occupant was interred in an extended supine position heading west.

The wall recesses contained lacquer wares, proto-porcelain, ceramics, and other items. The lacquer wares included *zu*-trays, *lei*-wine vessels, *dou*-stemmed bowls, pots, cups (including double-handled, single-handled and horn-shaped varieties), animal-shaped *zun*-vessels, standing screens, etc. Proto-porcelain items included *zun*-vessels, *pou*-vases, etc. Potteries included *li*-cauldrons, *ding*-tripods, and cups. Atop the terrace in the eastern part of the tomb were discovered two lacquered figurines standing with paired feet atop a lacquered turtle, their hands arranged as though grasping something. Lacquer items were placed before and to the sides of the two figurines. Bronze weapons with wooden handles, lacquered shields, and other items were discovered on the remaining portions of the tomb terrace. Numerous bronze, proto-porcelain, pottery and other items were discovered atop the outer coffin and between the inner and outer coffins.

Bronze items were the most numerous; these included ritual vessels, musical instruments, weapons, tools, chariot accoutrements, etc. Bronze ritual vessels included 24 *ding*, nine *gui*-tureens, seven *li*-cauldrons, eight *zhi*-cups, six *jue*-cups, four *you*-wine vessels, and two *zun*-vessels,

as well as one *yan*-steamer, one *pan*-basin, one *he*-pitcher, one *gu*-goblet, one *lei*-wine vessel, one jar with a single handle, and one ladle. Musical instruments included one group each of *zhong*-bells, *nao*-bells, and *goudiao*-bells, totaling eight items in all. Weapons included wooden shields with bronze ornamentation, *ge*-dagger axes, *ji*-halberds, spears, *yue*-battle axes, etc., for a total of over 30 items, many of which still had fragmentary wooden handles; a large number of bronze arrowheads was also found. Tools included bronze hatchets, chisels, spades, etc. Chariot implements included bronze halter-hooks, bells, chariot linchpins, forehead plates for horses, etc. Proto-porcelain items were also discovered, including four *zun*-vessels, six *dou*-stemmed bowls, and one *pou*-vase. Pottery items included two *ding*-tripods, six *dou*-stemmed bowls, and two cups, as well as one *li*-cauldron, one cylindrical *zun*-vessel, one pot, one round-footed *pan*-basin, one three-footed *pan*-basin, etc. Further discoveries included large numbers of jade, stone, and bone implements, turtle shells, antlers, clamshells, cowries, etc. Judging from the use of weapons as grave goods, as well as other features of the tomb, the occupant was probably male.

The tomb contained 24 bronze *ding*, of which two were *fangding* (square *ding*) with four feet; one of these had rounded corners, while the corners of the other were squared off. There were eight round *ding*-tripods bearing

flanges on their bellies and feet; 12 round cauldrons without flanges and with pillar-shaped feet; and two cauldrons with flat feet.

M1:14 is a *fangding* with rounded corners. The surface of its lid is slightly bulged, with four rectangular knots. It has a hanging belly with two rectangular, upright ears at the sides; two raised bowstring patterns adorn the belly. Its feet are round and pillar-shaped. The vessel stands 26.5cm tall (Figure 2).

M1:4 has a peach-shaped and contracted mouth, a bending rim, a square lip, upright ears, a round, hanging belly, and round, pillar-shaped feet. The belly and the upper portions of the feet bear animal mask decorations with flanges. The outer bottom bears triangular lines encasing Y-shaped raised lines. An inscription of five characters in

two lines, reading “伯作宝尊彝 [The Earl makes a precious sacrificial vessel]”, is cast into the inner wall. The vessel is 42cm tall (Figure 3).

M1:18 has a peach-shaped mouth, a bending rim, a square lip, upright ears, a hanging belly, and round, pillar-shaped feet. The upper portion of the belly bears three groups of animal mask and whorl decorations, and the outer belly bears triangle patterns composed of raised lines. The vessel is 26.5cm tall (Figure 4).

M1:62 has a slightly contracting mouth, a bending rim, a square lip, upright ears, a shallow belly, and three flat feet in the profile of *kui*-dragons. The belly is adorned with three groups of animal mask and whorl decorations, and the outer bottom bears raised lines in a Y-shape. The vessel is 21cm tall (Figure 5).



Figure 2 Bronze *ding*-tripod (M1:14).



Figure 3 Bronze *ding*-tripod (M1:4).



Figure 4 Bronze *ding*-tripod (M1:18).



Figure 5 Bronze *ding*-tripod (M1:62).



Figure 6 Bronze *gui*-tureen (M1:9).



Figure 7 Bronze *gui*-tureen (M1:17).



Figure 8 Bronze *gui*-tureen (M1:99).

Nine bronze *gui*-tureens were recovered. These included two with square bases; two with high ring feet; one tureen decorated with vertical stripes; one with a flared, trumpet-shaped foot; one *ding*-style tureen; one tureen with raised stud patterns; and one tureen with three pillar-shaped feet.

M1:9 has an open mouth, a square lip, a hanging belly with a pair of bridge-shaped ears, and a high, outward-sloping ring foot. The ears are decorated with dragon heads on the top, phoenixes in the middle, and elephant heads on the bottom. The upper belly bears a band of decoration divided into four sections by animal heads and by the vessel's two ears; each of these sections comprises alternating eye patterns and whirling flame patterns. The ring foot is likewise adorned with alternating eye patterns and flame patterns, both with whorl ground patterns. An inscription of three characters, “父戊 [X Father Wu]”, is cast into the inner bottom. The vessel is 18.5cm tall (Figure 6).

M1:17 has an open mouth, a curling rim, a square lip, and a straight but slightly bulging belly. Its paired ears are bridge-shaped and adorned with animal head decorations, with rectangular “earrings” hanging downward. It has a high ring foot. The upper belly bears a band of decoration that is divided by animal heads and by the vessel's two ears into four sections, each with alternating eye patterns and whirling flame patterns, with whorl pattern as their background. The middle and lower belly bear a band of vertical stripes. The ring foot is decorated with four groups of animal masks and whorl patterns. The outer bottom bears a grid of raised lines. The vessel is 14.3cm tall (Figure 7).

M1:99 has an open mouth, a curling rim, a square lip, a straight belly, a pair of bridge-shaped ears with hanging earrings and animal head decorations, and a high ring foot. Its belly bears four sections of raised *kui*-dragon designs with coiled bodies, and its ring foot bears four sections of long-tailed bird designs; each has whorl patterns as background. The vessel is 14.7cm tall (Figure 8).

M1:86 has an open mouth, a square lip, a bulging belly, a pair of bridge-shaped ears with animal head decoration and with inwardly hooked eardrops, and a ring foot attached to a square base. The upper belly is adorned with *kui*-dragon designs divided into four sections by animal head decorations and by the vessel's paired ears; the remainder of the belly bears stud decorations; and the ring foot bears *kui*-dragon designs; all of these have whorl patterns as background. A small bell is suspended from the outer bottom, while the inner bottom is cast with a three-character inscription: “伯作彝 [The Earl makes a vessel]”. The vessel stands 21.2cm high in all (Figure 9).

M1:93 has an interlocking rim and lid; its ring-shaped grip has two square holes. Its belly is cast with a pair of bridge-shaped ears bearing animal head decorations, with small, outwardly hooked “eardrops.” It has three round pillar-shaped feet. The surface of the cover and the upper portion of the belly each bear two raised bowstring patterns. The inside of the lid and the inner bottom bear the

matching inscription “芮公舍霸马两玉金用铸簋 (The Duke of Rui gives Ba two horses, jade, and metal; [Ba] therewith casts a *gui*-tureen)”. The total height of the vessel is 22cm (Figure 10).

Seven bronze *li*-cauldrons were recovered. M1:11 has an open mouth, a square lip, upright ears with rope pattern, a slightly bulging belly, a separated crotch, and round pillar-shaped feet. The upper belly bears three sets of animal mask designs. The vessel is 17.3cm tall (Figure 11).

Four bronze *you*-wine vessels were recovered. The largest two of these are identical in shape, as are the smallest two. The largest, M1:276-1, has an oval body. It has an overlapping lid with a bulging top and a ring-shaped grip. The vessel itself has a hanging belly, an

outwardly slanting ring foot, and animal head-shaped ears with a swing handle attached. The surface of the lid and the upper portion of the belly bear a band of *kui*-dragon designs, bordered on the top and bottom by ring patterns. The top of the handle bears cicada designs, and the ring foot is decorated with two raised bowstring patterns. The inside of the lid and the inner bottom are each cast with an inscription of nine characters in two lines: “燕侯旨作姊妹宝尊彝 [Zhi, the Marquis of Yan, makes a precious sacrificial vessel for Gu Mei]”. The vessel is 33.5cm tall (Figure 12). A set of seven wine vessels had been placed inside the vessel, including five *zhi*-cups, a single-eared jar, and a ladle.

One bronze *he*-pitcher (M1:270) was recovered. Its body is in a rectangular shape with round corners. It has



Figure 9 Bronze *gui*-tureen (M1:86).



Figure 10 Bronze *gui*-tureen (M1:93).



Figure 11 Bronze *li*-cauldron (M1:11).



Figure 12 Bronze *you*-wine vessel (M1:276-1).

an inwardly overlapping lid with an upward bulge and a mushroom-shaped pillar for a grip. The vessel itself has an open mouth, a straight neck, and a bulging belly. The upper portion of the belly has a bridge-shaped ear and a pipe-shaped spout; the lid and the handle are linked by a chain. The vessel has a divided crotch and four round pillar-shaped feet. The crown of the cover bears two groups of animal mask designs; the neck bears a single band of cicada patterns; and the belly bears animal mask designs; all of these have whorls as background. The four legs and the spout are adorned with both regular and triangular whorls. The wall of the belly below the ear bears an inscription. The vessel is 25cm tall (Figure 13).



Figure 13 Bronze *he*-pitcher (M1:270).



Figure 14 Bronze *jue*-cup (M1:256).

Six bronze *jue*-cups were recovered, two of which bore the inscription “旨作父辛爵世 (Zhi makes a *jue*-cup for Father Xin [and his] descendants)”. M1:256 has mushroom-shaped pillars, a bridge-shaped handle with animal head decoration, and three knife-shaped feet. The belly bears two groups of animal mask and whorl decorations. The wall of the belly below the handle bears the inscription 父丁 (“X Father Ding”). The vessel is 21cm tall (Figure 14).

Eight *zhi*-cups were recovered. M1:252 has an oval-shaped body and an overlapping lid with a ring-shaped grip. The vessel itself has an open mouth, a hanging belly, and an outwardly sloping ring foot. The edge of the lid



Figure 15 Bronze *zhi*-cup (M1:252).



Figure 16 Bronze *zun*-vessel (M1:273).

is decorated with four sections of *kui*-dragon designs, the upper belly bears a double-bodied dragon design, and the ring foot bears a bird design; short flanges top the bands of ornamentation. The short three-character inscription “析父丁 (*Xi* Father Ding)” is cast into the inside lid, and the top of the grip bears an inscription of the single character 册. The total height of the vessel is 19.8cm (Figure 15).

Two bronze *zun*-vessels were recovered. M1:273 has an open mouth, a deep, bulging belly, and a high, flared ring foot. The areas above and below the belly are both ringed by pairs of raised bowstring patterns. The belly bears two bands of backward-looking *kui*-dragon designs against a background of whorls; both of these are bordered on upper and lower sides by bands of small circle patterns. The vessel is 31.7cm tall (Figure 16).

One pottery pot, six pottery *dou*-stemmed bowls, two pottery *pan*-basins and two pottery cups were found.

Four proto-porcelain *zun*-vessels were found, of a light whitish-grey color, with a pale green glaze intermixed with slight tint of yellow. M1:81 has a flared mouth, a bending rim, a high neck, and bending shoulders surmounted by four bridge-shaped lugs in two groups of two. It has an sloping, arching belly and a short ring foot. The vessel is 25cm tall (Figure 17).

Two *lei*-wine vessels of lacquered wood were found, identical in shape. The crowns of their lids bore small, round studs. The vessels themselves had straight necks and bending shoulders. The shoulders and bellies of the vessels were slightly bulged, with bridge-shaped ears atop the upper bellies. The vessels had ring feet. Black lacquer marked out designs against a red background; the surfaces of the lids, the bellies and the shoulders of the vessels were inset with roundels made of shell. The lids, as well as the necks, shoulders, and bellies of the vessels, were painted with several circuits of lines. The surfaces of the lids, the shoulders, and the upper portions of the bellies were decorated with whorls alternated with eye patterns; the ring feet bore triangle patterns. M1BK2:1 was 45cm tall; M1BK2:2 was 41cm tall (Figure 18).

### Tomb M1017

Tomb M1017 was oriented to 280°. The mouth of the tomb was 5m long and 3.4m wide, and the tomb was 10m deep (Figure 19). The mouth of the tomb was smaller than the floor. There was a single waist pit. The head of the tomb occupant was placed toward the west. This tomb was relocated indoors in its entirety and has yet to be completely cleared; the nature of the burial implements and the exact burial position are therefore still unclear. Large numbers of bronze, jade, stone, tin, and shell items, as well as cowries, etc., were discovered in the tomb chamber. Several tens of bronze vessels were placed near the tomb occupant's head, between the inner and outer coffins; the remaining bronze vessels were discovered between the coffins or atop the lid of the inner coffin. Bronze implements included food vessels, wine vessels,



Figure 17 Proto-porcelain *zun*-vessel (M1:81).



Figure 18 Lacquered wood *lei*-wine vessels (M1BK2:1 and M1BK2:2).

water vessels, musical instruments, martial implements, tools, chariot implements, etc. Among the bronze vessels, *ding* and *gui*-tureens were the most numerous, their numbers including five *fangding* (square *ding* with four legs), eight *ding*-tripods, six *gui*-tureens, seven *jue*-cups, and four *dou*-stemmed bowls; three each of *gu*-goblets, *zun*-vessels, and *you*-wine vessels; two each of *zhi*-cups, *xu*-vessels, and basins; and one each of *yan*-steamers, *li*-cauldrons, *lei*-wine vessels, *jia*-cups, ladles, pots, *yu*-basins, *pan*-basins, and *he*-pitchers. Three bronze *yongzhong*-bells were found. Bronze weapons included several *ge*-dagger axes, arrowheads and spearheads. Bronze tools included chisels, knives, etc. There was also a gold handle-shaped object, as well as six tin items. A single pottery *li*-cauldron was found on the southeast corner of the tomb terrace.

13 bronze *ding* were found. M1017:2 is a rectangular



Figure 19 M1017 (top is north).



Figure 20 Bronze *fangding* (M1017:2).

*fangding* with a slightly flared mouth; a bending rim; square, upright ears; a sloping belly, and four round pillar-shaped feet. The four corners of the belly bear flanges. The top portion of the belly bears a band of snake designs,

while the bottom is decorated with three rows of studs forming an 凹-shape; the center is adorned with interlocking whorl patterns. The top portions of the feet bear animal-mask designs, while the bottom of the belly bears pairs of perpendicular, raised lines. The inner wall of the belly bears the vertically oriented inscription “伯作鬻 [The Earl makes a cooking vessel]”. The vessel is 19.5cm tall (Figure 20). M1017:10 is a rectangular *fangding* with rounded corners. It has a slightly open mouth, an slanting bending rim, upright ears, a hanging belly that rounds off at the corners, and four round pillar-shaped feet. The four corners of the belly are decorated with four sections of animal mask patterns, while the feet bear whorls and triangles. The vessel is 20cm tall (Figure 21).

Six bronze *gui*-tureens were recovered. M1017:8 has a bulging lid with an interlocking rim and a ring-shaped grip with two square openings. The vessel itself has a contracting mouth, a bulging belly, a ring foot sloping outwards, and bridge-shaped ears adorned with animal heads and hung with small, hooked “eardrops.” The lid and the belly bear tile patterns, while the outer bottom is reinforced by a pair of raised lines in a cross shape. The inner side of the lid and the inner bottom of the vessel have identical inscriptions of 50 characters in six lines (Figure 22). The vessel is 18cm tall (Figure 23).

Four bronze *dou*-stemmed bowls were recovered. M1017:14 has a gathered mouth, an arching belly, a thick





Figure 21 Bronze *fangding* (M1017:10).

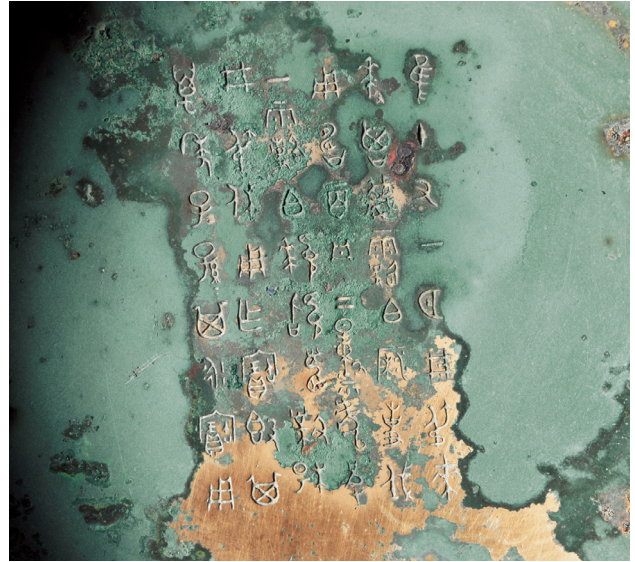


Figure 22 Inscription of bronze *gui-tureen* (M1017:8).



Figure 23 Bronze *gui-tureen* (M1017:8).



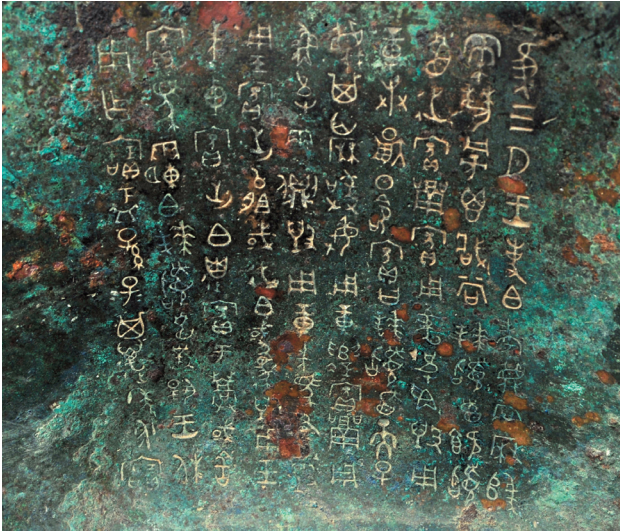
Figure 24 Bronze *dou-stemmed bowl* (M1017:14).

stem, and a flared ring foot. The outer bottom of the belly has a hook in its center. The outer belly is decorated with a band of roundels interspersed with eye designs. The upper part of the handle bears six sets of *kui*-dragon designs in the shape of a horizontal S, looking backwards, with curled tails; the lower portion of the handle bears three groups of animal mask designs; and the surface of the foot is decorated with three groups of whorl patterns with angled corners. The interior bottom and wall are cast with an inscription of 16 characters in four lines: “霸伯作大□宝尊彝其孙孙子子万年永用 (The Earl of Ba makes Da [?] a precious sacrificial vessel. May [his] sons’ sons and grandsons’ grandsons eternally use [it] for ten thousand years)”. The vessel is 21.5cm tall (Figure 24).

One bronze *yu*-basin (M1017:6) was discovered, with

an open mouth, a straight belly, three feet in the shape of elephant trunks, and a pair of attached ears. The upper belly is decorated with three sets of animal mask designs. There are raised lines in a Y shape between the bottom and the three legs. An inscription of over 100 characters in ten lines is cast into the interior wall; it contains the sentence “霸伯拜稽首对扬王休用作宝盂 (The Earl of Ba salutes and kowtow, praising the king’s beneficence. [He] therewith makes a precious *yu*-basin)” (Figure 25). The total height of the vessel is 34cm (Figure 26).

One human figure with a basin atop head (M1017:20) was discovered. It depicts a person seated in a kneeling position, hands placed separately on the left and right legs. The upper body is bare, with a belt around the waist from which hangs a loincloth. A circular mat is depicted



**Figure 25** Inscription on the inner wall of bronze *yu*-basin (M1017:6).



**Figure 26** Bronze *yu*-basin (M1017:6).

between the crown of the head and the round basin that sits atop it. The basin has a straight mouth with a bending rim and a shallow, straight belly with ears attached at the sides. The belly of the human figure is hollow. The vessel is 13.5cm tall (Figure 27).

Three bronze *you*-wine vessels were discovered. M1017:16 is in a distended square shape, with an overlapping lid and a ring-shaped grip. The vessel itself has a contracting mouth, a hanging belly, a ring foot, and a flat swing handle. The surface of the handle is decorated with four cicada designs separated by raised rhombuses; the surface of the lid bears four bird designs in two groups, looking backwards, with hanging crests. The edge of the lid and the upper part of the belly bear four sections of decorations separated by animal heads; each section consists of two *kui*-dragons in a horizontal S-shape, look-



**Figure 27** Bronze human figure with a basin atop head (M1017:20).



**Figure 28** Bronze *you*-wine-vessel (M1017:16).

ing backwards, with tails curled. The lower belly bears four bird designs in two groups, looking backwards, with hanging crests. All of these have whorl patterns as their bases. The total height of the vessel is 20cm (Figure 28).

Three *zun*-vessels were recovered. M1017:21 has an open mouth, a hanging belly, and a ring foot. The belly and the foot bear four decorative flanges. The upper belly

is adorned with four banana-leaf patterns containing opposed bird designs with curled tails, separated from each other by the flanges. The middle and lower portions of the belly bear four large bird designs in two groups, separated by flanges and meeting at the beaks, with hanging crests and curled tails. The top of the foot bears small bird designs between the flanges. All of these have whorl patterns as background. An inscription of four characters in one line is cast into the inner bottom: “作宝尊彝 (Makes a precious sacrificial vessel)”. The vessel is 24.5cm tall (Figure 29).

One bronze *lei*-wine vessel (M1017:66) was found, with a round mouth and an oval belly and base. It has a flared mouth, a straight neck, and bulging shoulders cast with a pair of bridge-shaped, animal-headed ears, each enclosing a single ring. One side of the lower belly is cast with a bridge-shaped, animal-headed ear. The vessel has a ring foot sloping outward. There is a groove inside the mouth, below the surface of the lip. The neck bears four bird designs with long, curled tails, while the shoulders bear spiral roundels, with whorls between them. The belly is decorated with four tiers of hanging feather decorations. The five-character inscription in two lines “霸伯作宝尊 (The Earl of Ba makes a precious *zun*-vessel)” is cast into the inside wall of the mouth and neck. The vessel is 34.5cm tall (Figure 30).

## Conclusions

The characteristics of the Dahekou Cemetery are quite distinct. The large- and medium-sized tombs lack obvious cases of joint interment of husband and wife, nor is there an obvious principle underlying the arrangement of the tombs. The tomb occupants are for the most part interred with heads toward the west; a certain proportion have their heads toward the east, while few examples have their heads toward the north. Waist pits and dog victims are observed, but there are no human victims found. Most of the occupants were interred in an extended supine position, followed by the ones with a flexed supine position as the next most common. Chariot-and-horse pits are placed to the east side of the main tombs they accompany; the vast majority are in east-west orientation. Bronzes appear as grave goods in the larger tombs with relative abundance; these exhibit the custom of using day-names.

The diagonal holes found at the Dahekou Cemetery are the second discovery of such, after those found at the Hengshui Cemetery in Jiangxian County (Song et al. 2007). The lacquered wooden figurines found atop the terrace in the eastern side of tomb M1 are the first such discovery in a Western Zhou tomb in the Central Plains area.

The inscriptions of the bronzes found at the cemetery show that “Ba 霸” was the clan/state name of the occupants of the cemetery, while “the Earl of Ba (*Babo* 霸伯)” was the paramount power-holder in the area. “Ba” has previously been encountered in the bronze record, includ-



Figure 29 Bronze *zun*-vessel (M1017:21).



Figure 30 Bronze *lei*-wine vessel (M1017:66).

ing a *ding*-tripod and *gui*-tureen found in *Yin Zhou jinwen jicheng* 殷周金文集成 (Collected Bronze Inscriptions from Yin and Zhou) with the inscribed phrase “霸姑作宝尊彝 (Ba Ji makes a precious sacrificial vessel)”, as well as a *gui*-tureen excavated from tomb M6197 of the Tianma-Qucun Cemetery and bearing the phrase “霸伯作宝尊彝 (The Earl of Ba makes a precious sacrificial vessel)”. The State of Ba is not found in the historic textual records. Previously discovered materials show that Ba had contact with the States of Yan, Jin, and Peng, as well as with the Zhou royal court. The burial customs seen in the Dahekou Cemetery, including head orientation, the use of waist pits and dog burials, the presence of diagonal holes, the use of day-names, etc., are close to those of the Hengshui Cemetery in Jiangxian County. The arrange-

ment of chariot-and-horse pits, the absence of interment in prone positions, the absence of human victims, and other phenomena also share similar points with the Tianma-Qucun cemetery.

The pottery assemblages and the style of bronze vessels also show obvious Zhou cultural characteristics. Both Shang and Zhou cultural elements are relatively clear, but there are also unique, local cultural qualities. The dating of the cemetery cuts across the whole Western Zhou Dynasty, extending on the late end into the early years of the Spring-and-Autumn Period. Its constituent population was probably a branch of the ethnic group of the Di peoples, who were assimilated by the Shang and Zhou cultures of the Central Plains; cultural features show that the constituent population was relatively simple. The discovery of the Dahekou Cemetery is of great significance to the study of the Western Zhou systems of enfeoffment and ritual vessel use, the fusion of ethnic groups and communities, and other issues of relevance to the understanding of the period.

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## Postscript

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