



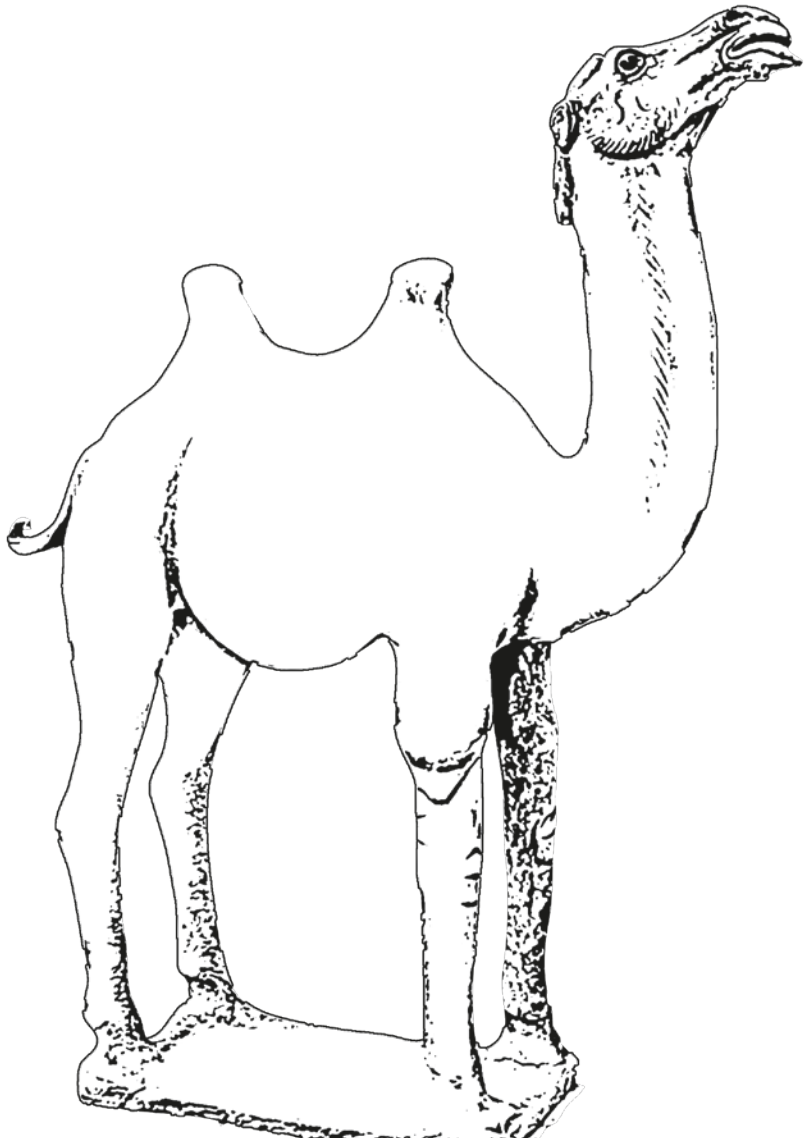
# UNWEARTHED

Recent Archaeological Discoveries from Northern China

**ACTIVITY BOOK  
FOR FAMILIES**

## Welcome to the Clark!

Draw a picture of yourself with  
this camel and let's go exploring!



**JUNE 16—OCTOBER 21, 2012**

# UNEARTHED

Recent Archaeological Discoveries from Northern China



**ACTIVITY BOOK  
FOR FAMILIES**


**W**elcome to the Clark and to the special exhibition *Unearthed: Recent Archaeological Discoveries from Northern China*. We invite you to join us on a journey to a very wonderful and very faraway place ...



**btw** With 7,000 years of continuous history, China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. The USA isn't even 250 years old!

# Found in the Ground

This exhibition explores another type of journey: the journey from *mortal* life in this world to *eternal* life in the afterworld, a journey that ancient Chinese people hoped to take when they died. We can learn about their beliefs by looking at some of the objects that were buried with them in their tombs. *Unearthed* focuses on three tombs that were discovered underground in recent archaeological digs in China. These tombs give us some sense of what it was like to live in China during the times that these tombs were made.

 **Look at the panels on the walls to see pictures of the sites.**

These types of tombs contained precious possessions and objects that represented activities, events, and things in the lives of the people who were buried there. These things were intended to comfort and care for their spirits in the afterlife.

If you could choose **three things** that you could have with you forever and ever, what would they be? (**Things**, not **people**, because, according to the beliefs of the time, the **people** who were special to you would be there in the afterlife with you.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask some of your friends or family members who came here with you today what they would pick.**

**Did they choose the same kinds of things?**

**Did they choose anything you would want to add?**

## **btw**

Archaeologists (pronounced “ar-kee-AH-logists”) dig below the surface of the earth to uncover all kinds of things that people who lived a long time ago left behind. By peeling away the layers of time and piecing together the clues they discover, archaeologists can reveal fascinating information about what people in the past were like and how they lived their lives.

# Symbols of a Life

As we begin our trip, you will meet two figures—a Civil Official (on your right) and a Military Official (on your left)—who stood outside of the burial chamber in the tomb of an unknown person. The word “official” means “a person in authority.” A civil official might be responsible for a town or a village, and a military official would have a leadership position in the armed forces (like the army or the navy).

**If the objects in a tomb tell us about the life and time period of the person buried there, what would these officials suggest about the life of the person buried in the tomb in which they were found? Put a check next to any answers you think might be true:**

- This person was an official. These figures would remind other people of his or her importance.
- This person was a member of the upper class and was well taken care of by the officials in the community.
- The officials would remind visitors to behave themselves because the authorities were watching.
- The tomb needed to be protected from grave robbers.
- The officials would protect the spirit on its journey to the afterlife.
- Maybe all of the above.

**btw**

In ancient China, the civil service was an opportunity for talented young men from all levels of society to rise to the ruling class. Officials enjoyed high status, but to get there they had to spend years studying history and government. Students taking the civil service exams were watched by armed guards to eliminate any possibility of cheating. Men and women applying for the American civil service today also need to study hard and take an exam, and they are watched by people called “proctors” during their tests to make sure they don’t cheat. Proctors today are NOT armed!

In our modern world, we also have officials. Police officers, judges, mayors, governors, and even the President of the United States are all civil officials. The generals and admirals in our armed forces are examples of military officials. The officials in *Unearthed* may seem very different from the ones you are familiar with, but there are still a lot of similarities.

 Take a close look at the cartoon below of a modern police officer. Find three things that are similar to the Civil Official on display here.

### SIMILARITIES

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_



### DIFFERENCES


1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_



The Civil Official and the Military Official are objects called *mingqi* (pronounced “ming-chee”).

 To learn more about *mingqi*, continue your journey in the next room.

# Everyday Things

In this room you will meet a number of other *mingqi*.

*Mingqi* were objects made to be placed in tombs. *Mingqi* is a Chinese word that means “spirit utensils.” Typically, they were made out of clay and were carefully designed miniature versions of things like pets, buildings, tools, kitchenware, entertainers, and even entire farms. *Mingqi* were intended to comfort and satisfy the dead because they represented the things they knew and used during their life on earth. People often spent a great deal of time and money during their lifetime preparing the *mingqi* for their tombs.

Find the case that contains the Sitting Camel. *Mingqi* in the form of camels were quite popular because in ancient China camels were symbols of wealth and power. What do you think camels can do that other animals cannot that would have made them so valuable to people? Look carefully at this camel and see if it gives you any ideas.

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How would you describe this camel's face? Circle the expression(s) you think match(es):

surprised

angry

sad

amused

mischievous

pleased

afraid






*Mingqi* were typically designed with exaggerated and animated expressions. As you continue through the exhibition, look carefully at the faces of the different *mingqi*. They can be quite entertaining!



### btw

Because these highly detailed figures were sealed under the ground for centuries, they are sometimes well preserved. They can teach us about daily life in ancient China. For instance, we have learned a lot about old forms of architecture in different regions of ancient China because the *mingqi* buildings often outlast many of the real buildings.



 Continue through the next room and you will find what looks like a small house.


# House of Stone

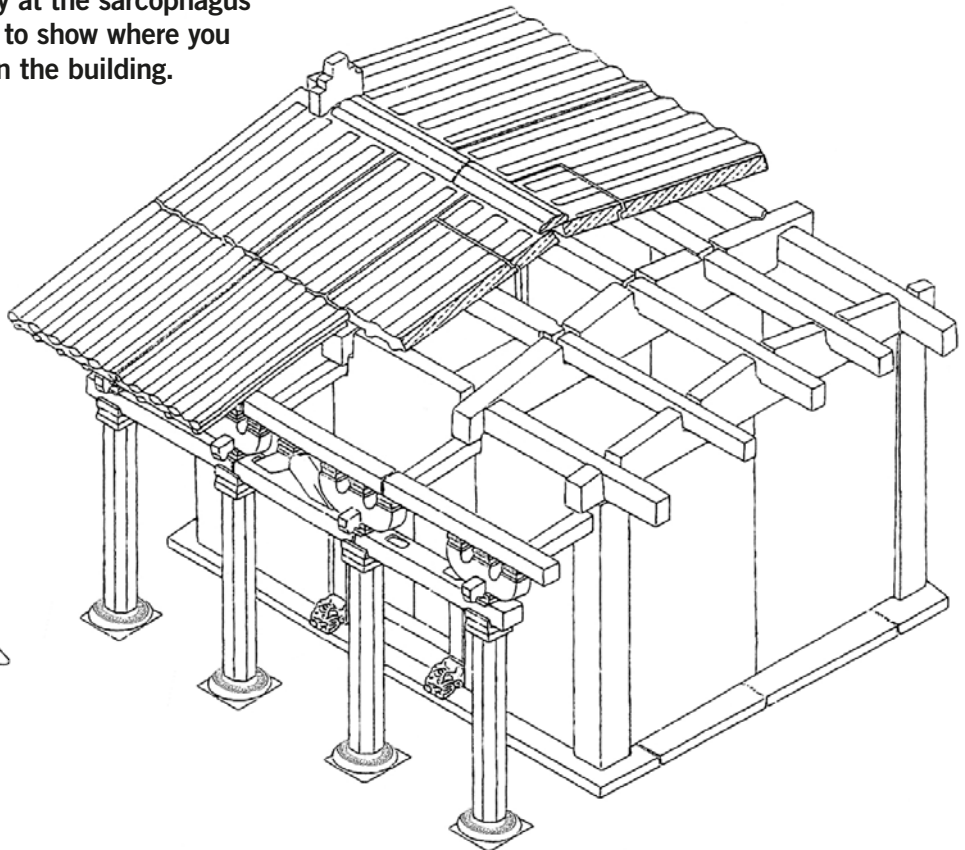
This small building is actually a sarcophagus. A sarcophagus is like a coffin and is usually made from stone. This sarcophagus was made for the tomb of a man named Song Shaozu (pronounced “sung SHAO-zoo”) and his wife. Even though it looks like a house, this sarcophagus is actually a miniature version of a ceremonial hall. A village’s ceremonial hall was the center of public life and served as a meeting place for the government, and for public functions and religious ceremonies. Why do you think Song Shaozu’s sarcophagus was made to look like a ceremonial hall?


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This sarcophagus is made out of 101 stone pieces. The stone was carefully measured and cut so the pieces would fit together like a 3-D puzzle. The pieces were carried underground and then put together side the tomb, so they had to be small enough to fit through the entrance to the tomb. The entire sarcophagus was put together without any mortar or cement to hold the pieces in place.

 **Look carefully at the sarcophagus and draw an arrow to show where you find these pieces in the building.**




 Take a closer look at the walls and you will notice some images that look like faces with rings through them. The faces are called *pushou* (pronounced “PU-show”). They resemble fancy coffin handles that were in style at the time, but here they were used for decoration. On this sarcophagus, you will see several slightly different *pushou*.



**Choose your favorite *pushou* and sketch it below:**

A large dashed rectangular box intended for sketching a chosen pushou.

 Look at the photos on the wall to see what else was in the burial chamber with the sarcophagus. Some of the objects pictured are here in the exhibition. Make sure you check out the Two Mounted Military Figures with Cockscomb Headgear and the Ox Cart *mingqi*.

**btw**

This sarcophagus is made of sandstone and weighs 18 THOUSAND POUNDS! That’s about as much as 40 full-grown camels!



***Cross the hallway into the last gallery of the show as we near the end of this journey through Unearthed.***

# Mingqi



By now, you have met different types of *mingqi*. You've seen officials, a camel, musicians, and an ox and cart. Take a look at the *mingqi* in this gallery. You will notice that in addition to everyday forms, some *mingqi* were fantasy creatures, combining animal and human features. These mixed-up creatures are fun to look at and think about. The different parts likely symbolized what was meaningful to the deceased during their lives. If you were to design a *mingqi* that represented the things that are important to you, what kinds of features would you include?



Would it have a strong body? A scary face? A friendly face?  
A dragon's wings? A lion's paws? A fish's tail?



Would it wear fancy jewelry, a hat, a special costume, or a uniform?



Would it carry anything? A trophy? A bow and arrow?  
Knitting needles and a ball of yarn?



**In the space below, sketch a design for a *mingqi* that would be unique to you and would show off your strengths and talents.**

A large dashed rectangular box intended for sketching a unique *mingqi* design.

# Fearsome to Behold

In the back of this gallery, find the case with two figures who look really mad. These are *zhenmushou* (pronounced “JIN-moo-show”). The word *zhenmushou* means “guardian beasts.”

*Zhenmushou* are usually made in pairs like this: one with a lion face, one with a human face. Why would there be a tradition of having these two different faces? What do you think their purpose was in the tomb?

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**Take a look at the *zhenmushou* with a human face.  
Write down a description of the features you see:**

Head \_\_\_\_\_

Eyes \_\_\_\_\_

Nose \_\_\_\_\_

Body \_\_\_\_\_

Arms \_\_\_\_\_

Hands \_\_\_\_\_

Other characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

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When you get home, read this description to a friend or family member who hasn't yet visited *Unearthed*. Ask them to draw a creature from your description. When they are finished, compare their drawing to the picture of the *zhenmushou* from the exhibition. Do they look anything alike?

## More to See

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to *Unearthed*. You can continue your exploration by following our walking trails up to Stone Hill Center. Once you are there, be sure to check out our special exhibition *Through Shên-kan: Sterling Clark in China* to learn about the exciting journey our founder took through Northern China more than 100 years ago. You can see some of the equipment the explorers used on the trek, and some of the animal specimens the team's naturalists collected and preserved through a process called taxidermy.

**btw**

Taxidermy is the art or operation of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of dead animals for exhibition.



**Here's a map to Stone Hill Center.  
Draw pictures and label some of the  
interesting things you see on your  
expedition!**

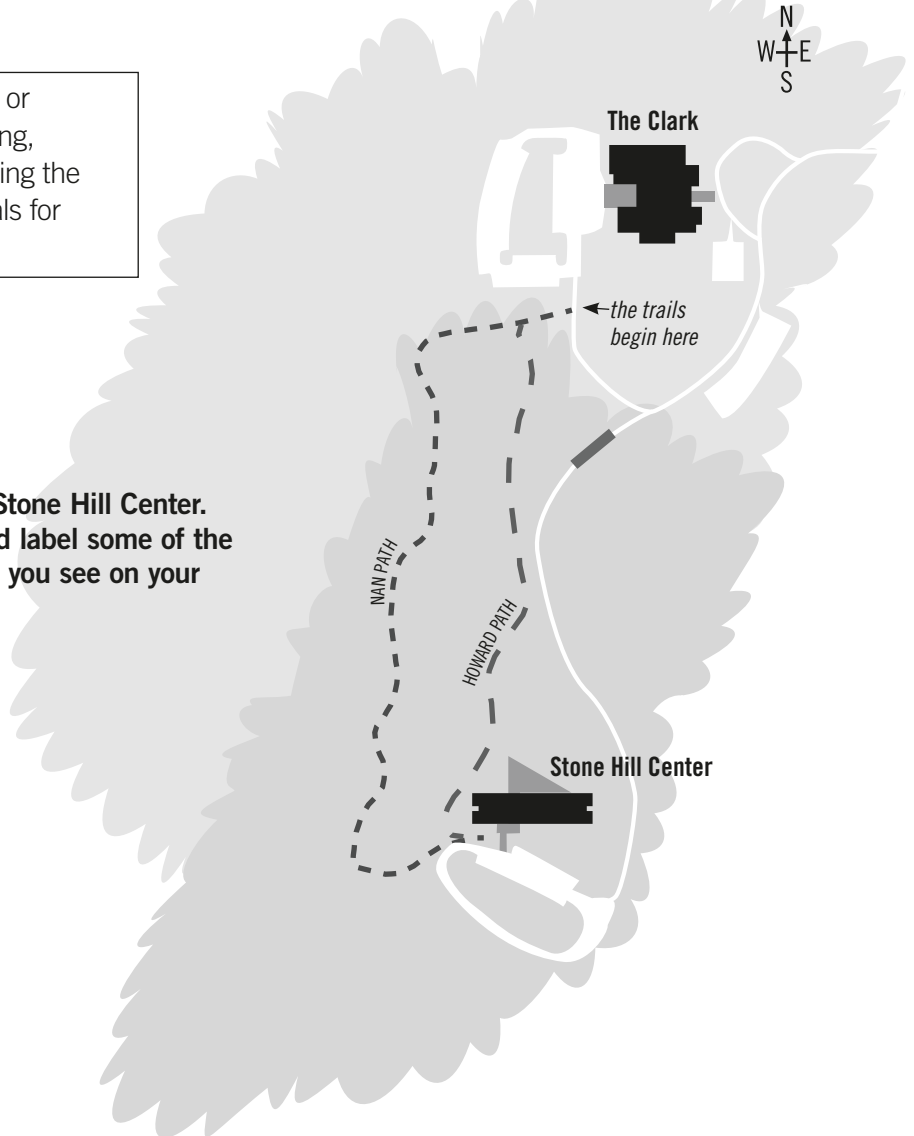


IMAGE CREDITS

**COVER:** *Zhenmushou* (Tomb Guardian Beast)  
Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)  
Painted and gilt earthenware, 65.7 x 30 cm  
Unearthed 2009, Tomb M2, Fujiagou Village,  
Lingtai County, Gansu Province  
Lingtai County Museum, Pingliang

**INSIDE COVER:** Illustration of Camel  
Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)  
Painted earthenware, 72 x 58 cm  
Unearthed 2009, Tomb M2, Fujiagou Village,  
Lingtai County, Gansu Province  
Lingtai County Museum, Pingliang

**PAGE 1:** Detail illustration of Sarcophagus  
Northern Wei dynasty (386–535 CE), tomb dated 477 CE  
Sandstone, 240 x 348 x 338 cm  
Unearthed 2000, tomb of Song Shaozu (d. 477 CE),  
Caofulou Village, Datong, Shanxi Province  
Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan

**PAGE 5:** Civil Official  
Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)  
Three-colored lead glazed (*sancai*) earthenware,  
height: 133.5 cm  
Unearthed 1965, tomb at Yejiabao, Qin'an County,  
Gansu Province  
Gansu Provincial Museum, Lanzhou

**PAGE 6:** Sitting Camel  
Northern Qi dynasty (550–577 CE), tomb dated 570 CE  
Painted earthenware, 24.7 x 29.7 cm  
Unearthed 1979, tomb of Lou Rui (d. 570 CE),  
Wangguo Village, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province  
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**PAGE 7** (clockwise from top left):  
Ox (without cart)  
Northern Wei dynasty (386–535 CE), tomb dated 477 CE  
Painted earthenware, length with cart: 32.6 cm  
Unearthed 2000, tomb of Song Shaozu (d. 477 CE),  
Caofulou Village, Datong, Shanxi Province  
Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan

Camel  
Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)  
Painted earthenware, 72 x 58 cm  
Unearthed 2009, Tomb M2, Fujiagou Village,  
Lingtai County, Gansu Province  
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*Zhenmushou* (Tomb Guardian Beast)  
Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)  
Painted and gilt earthenware, 65.7 x 30 cm  
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Lingtai County, Gansu Province  
Lingtai County Museum, Pingliang

Ox  
Northern Qi dynasty (550–577 CE), tomb dated 570 CE  
Painted earthenware, 35 x 35.5 cm  
Unearthed 1979, tomb of Lou Rui (d. 570 CE),  
Wangguo Village, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province  
Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan

Mounted Military Figure with Cockscomb Headgear  
Northern Wei dynasty (386–535 CE), tomb dated 477 CE  
Painted earthenware, height: 31.2 cm  
Unearthed 2000, tomb of Song Shaozu (d. 477 CE),  
Caofulou Village, Datong, Shanxi Province  
Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan

**PAGE 8:** Illustration of Sarcophagus, with details  
(see credit for page 1)

**PAGE 9:** Detail of Sarcophagus (see credit for page 1)

**PAGE 10** (top to bottom):  
Detail of Ox (see credit for page 7)

Detail of Warrior Guardian  
Northern Qi dynasty (550–577 CE), tomb dated 570 CE  
Painted earthenware, height: 63.5 cm  
Unearthed 1979, tomb of Lou Rui (d. 570 CE),  
Wangguo Village, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province  
Shanxi Museum, Taiyuan

Detail of Sitting Camel (see credit for page 6)

*Zhenmushou* (see credit for cover)

**PAGE 11:** *Zhenmushou* (see credit for cover)

**THIS PAGE:** Illustration of *Zhenmushou* (see credit for cover)

Color me!



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# THE CLARK

NOW

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