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978-1-107-06922-0 - Han Material Culture: An Archaeological Analysis and Vessel Typology

Sophia-Karin Psarras

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HAN MATERIAL CULTURE

An Archaeological Analysis and Vessel Typology

Han Material Culture is an analysis of Han dynasty (206 BC–AD 220) Chinese archaeology based on a comparison of the forms of vessels found in positively dated tombs. The resultant chronological framework allows for the cross-dating of tombs across China, of which approximately one thousand are documented here. In the context of this body of data, the development of not only vessel types but also tomb structure and décor are reevaluated together with the pervasive intercultural exchange visible in all areas of this material. The Han dynasty emerges as a creative, surprisingly open society, heir to the Bronze Age and herald of what might be called the Age of Ceramics.

Sophia-Karin Psarras is an independent scholar specializing in the political history and the archaeology of Han dynasty China and of contemporaneous non-Chinese cultures. Her work has appeared in such journals as *Monumenta Serica*, *Early China*, *Dialogues d'histoire ancienne*, and *Artibus Asiae*. Of particular importance in her research is the exploration of interregional relations within Han China and of China's international relations, not only with its immediate neighbors but also with territories extending through India and Central Asia to the classical West.

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SOPHIA-KARIN PSARRAS

Independent Scholar



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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	page vi
<i>List of Figures</i>	vii
<i>List of Maps</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Han Emperors</i>	xv
1 Problems of Chronology	i
Methodological Problems	i
Positive Dates	3
Coinage	ii
2 The Tombs	15
Guangzhou (Guangdong), Yinshanling (Pingle, Guangxi), Shixing (Guangdong)	27
Shangsunjiazhai (Datong, Qinghai)	31
3 Tomb Décor	34
The Problem of Meaning	34
Décor as Product	51
4 Vessels in the Typologies	60
Preimperial Bronzes as Heirlooms	87
Mancheng M2:4028	87
Mancheng M2:4029	89

<i>Nanyue C53</i>	90
<i>Sanlidun (Lianshui, Jiangsu) Bronzes</i>	91
<i>Hejiayuan (Wuhu Municipality, Anhui) Bronzes</i>	93
<i>Hejiayuan M1:5</i>	93
<i>Hejiayuan M1:4</i>	94
<i>Hejiayuan M1:3</i>	95
<i>Imitation of Preimperial Bronzes</i>	96
<i>Mancheng M1:5019</i>	96
<i>Mancheng M1:5014</i>	97
<i>Mancheng M1:5015, 5018</i>	98
<i>Mancheng M1:4282 (series)</i>	99
<i>Nanyue G40</i>	101
<i>Nanyue G41</i>	101
5 Conclusion	104
<i>Chronological Listing of Dated Han Sites</i>	109
<i>Alphabetical Listing of Dated Han Sites</i>	169
<i>Alphabetical Listing of Dated Non-Chinese Sites</i>	177
<i>Object Typologies</i>	179
<i>Chronological Summary of Vessel Forms</i>	281
<i>Notes</i>	283
<i>References for Dated Sites</i>	315
<i>Index</i>	337

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-06922-0 - Han Material Culture: An Archaeological Analysis and Vessel Typology

Sophia-Karin Psarras

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES

2.1	Distribution of dated Han tombs and other items	page 16
2.2	Distribution of dated Han tombs	17
2.3	Distribution of dated Han grave types	18
2.4	Distribution of dated Han tomb structures	19
2.5	Chronological distribution of tomb structures at Shaogou (Luoyang Municipality, Henan)	19
2.6	Chronological distribution of tomb structures at Guangzhou (Guangdong)	25
3.1	List of dated tomb décors	36
4.1	Distribution of vessel forms	61
4.2	Distribution of dated vessels in bronze and iron	68
4.3	Distribution of vessel types providing eight or more examples	70
4.4	Distribution of dated vessels in stoneware and porcelain	71
4.5	Distribution of Far South vessel forms	72
4.6	Formal series of vessels in the typologies	73
4.7	Pre-Han antecedents for vessels in the typologies	83
4.8	Pre-Han vessels in dated Han tombs	88

FIGURES

1.1	Han coinage. A) 118 BC initial minting Wudi issue <i>wushu</i> ; B) 87–74 BC initial minting Zhaodi issue <i>wushu</i> ; C) 73 BC initial minting Xuandi issue <i>wushu</i> ; D) AD 40 <i>post quem</i> Eastern Han issue <i>wushu</i> ; E) <i>yanhuan wushu</i> ; F) <i>jianlun wushu</i> ; G) AD 7 initial minting <i>daquan wushu</i> ; H) AD 9 initial minting <i>daoping wuqian</i> ; I) AD 9 initial minting <i>qidao wubai</i> ; J) AD 10 initial minting <i>xiaobu yibai</i> ; K) AD 14 initial minting <i>huobu</i> ; L) AD 14 initial minting <i>huoquan</i>	page 12
2.1	Tomb of the King of Nanyue (Xianggangshan [Guangzhou Municipality, Guangdong]).	20
2.2	Beizhuang (Dingxian, Hebei).	20
2.3	Suijayituo (Suide, Shaanxi).	21
2.4	Ganquan (Hanjiang, Yangzhou Municipality, Jiangsu) M2.	21
2.5	Guangzhou (Guangdong) M5041.	22
2.6	Baiji (Tongshan, Xuzhou Municipality, Jiangsu), stone.	22
2.7	Tomb of Liu Qi (Yuemiao [Huayin, Shaanxi]) M1.	23
3.1	Yaozhuang (Hanjiang, Yangzhou Municipality, Jiangsu) M101:190, lacquer toiletries box (<i>lian</i>).	35
3.2	Left Wu family shrine (Jiaxiang, Shandong), banquet scene, stone 9.	46
3.3	Balimiao (Yanggu, Shandong) M1, stone.	47
3.4	Songshan (Jiaxiang, Shandong) M1, stone 14.	48
3.5	Tomb of Bu Qianqiu (Luoyang Municipality, Henan), painting.	49
3.6	Feicheng (Shandong), stone.	51
3.7	Beiguan (Huaiyang, Henan), stone.	53
3.8	Xinye (Henan), brick.	54
3.9	Yihe (Pengxian, Sichuan), undatable, brick.	55
3.10	Chengguanzhen (Fangcheng, Henan), stone.	56
3.11	Songshan (Jiaxiang, Shandong) M2, stone 1.	57
3.12	Zhangxu (Suining, Xuzhou Municipality, Jiangsu), stone.	58
4.1	Shangma (Houma Municipality, Shanxi) M1004:11, ca. early 5 c. BC.	86
4.2	Xiasi (Xichuan, Henan) M3:6, Early Late Springs and Autumns (ca. late 6 c. BC), bronze.	86
4.3	Tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng (Leigudun, Suixian, Hubei), d. 433 BC, EC 8:1, earthenware <i>guan</i>	87
4.4	Mancheng (Hebei) M2:4028, bronze.	89
4.5	Mancheng (Hebei) M2:4029, bronze.	89
4.6	Shuihudi (Yunmeng, Hubei) M3:3, bronze.	90
4.7	Tomb of the King of Nanyue (Xianggangshan [Guangzhou Municipality, Guangdong]) C53, bronze brazier.	90
4.8	Tomb of the King of Nanyue (Xianggangshan [Guangzhou Municipality, Guangdong]) G40, bronze brazier.	91
4.9	Gebukou (Zhucheng, Shandong), Middle Warring States, bronze.	92
4.10	Sanlidun (Lianshui, Jiangsu), silver- and gold-inlaid bronze.	92
4.11	Sanlidun (Lianshui, Jiangsu), silver-plated bronze, turquoise and silver inlay.	93
4.12	Hejiayuan (Wuhu Municipality, Anhui) M1:5, bronze.	94
4.13	Baijia (Handan, Hebei) M57:1, Middle Warring States, bronze.	94
4.14	Hejiayuan (Wuhu Municipality, Anhui) M1:4, bronze.	94

4.15	Hejiayuan (Wuhu Municipality, Anhui) M1:3, bronze.	95
4.16	Jincun (Luoyang, Henan), Middle/Late Warring States (ca. 4 c. BC), gilded bronze, silver, glass.	96
4.17	Tomb of the Marquis of Cai (Shouxian, Anhui), d. 491 BC, bronze <i>bo</i> bell.	97
4.18	Mancheng (Hebei) M1:4284, 4286, gilded bronze.	100
4.19	Zangjiazhuang (Zhucheng, Shandong) M5, ca. 4 c. BC, bronze <i>bianzhong</i> bell.	101
4.20	A) Tomb of the King of Nanyue (Xianggangshan [Guangzhou Municipality, Guangdong]) G41, bronze brazier; B) Baijia (Handan, Hebei) M57:43, Middle Warring States, bronze <i>pan</i> basin.	102

MAPS

Note: Maps are approximate, not to scale, based on Anon., *Zhonghua renmin gongheguo fensheng dituji* (Shanghai: Ditu, 1984) and (for Map 3) Tan Qixiang, *Zhongguo lishi dituji: yuanshi shehui, Xia, Shang, Xi Zhou, Chunqiu, Zhanguo shiqi* (Shanghai: Ditu, 1982), 20–1.

Map 1. <i>Modern China: Provinces</i>	xvii
A Heilongjiang	
B Jilin	
C Liaoning	
D Inner Mongolia	
E Beijing Municipality	
F Tianjin Municipality	
G Hebei	
H Shanxi	
I Shaanxi	
J Gansu	
K Ningxia	
L Xinjiang	
M Tibet	
N Qinghai	
O Sichuan	
P Hubei	
Q Henan	
R Shandong	
S Jiangsu	
T Anhui	
U Zhejiang	
V Jiangxi	
W Hunan	
X Guizhou	
Y Yunnan	
Z Guangxi	
AA Guangdong	
BB Fujian	

Map 2. <i>Modern China: Selected Archaeological Sites</i>	xviii
1 Holingor ([Helin'ge'er,] Inner Mongolia)	
2 Tangshan (Hebei)	

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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It goes without saying that any errors in this work are my own.

NOTE

With few exceptions, I have used Hans Bielenstein's translations of official titles from *The Bureaucracy of Han Times* (Cambridge University Press, 1980). For the identification of coins, I have followed Guojia wenwuju "Zhongguo guqian pu," eds., *Zhongguo guqian pu (Illustrative Plates of Chinese Ancient Coins)*, Beijing: Wenwu, 1989). For material included in my typologies and in the lists of dated sites, full references are provided

separately under the heading "References for Dated Sites"; in the typologies and text presented here (but not in the footnotes), only the name of the site, with an abbreviated form of the publication reference, is used. Because of space constraints, only a minimum of Chinese characters is provided. Characters for site names (but not locations) are given in the Alphabetical Listings of Dated Han and of Dated Non-Chinese, Sites.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>BMFEA</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities</i>
<i>KG</i>	<i>Kaogu</i>
<i>KGXB</i>	<i>Kaogu xuebao</i>
<i>KGXJK</i>	<i>Kaoguxue jikan</i>
<i>KGYWW</i>	<i>Kaogu yu wenwu</i>
<i>HHS</i>	Fan Ye, <i>Hou Hanshu</i> . Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1982. 12 volumes.
<i>HS</i>	Ban Gu, <i>Hanshu</i> . Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1983. 12 volumes.
<i>HXKG</i>	<i>Huaxia kaogou</i>
<i>NMGWWKG</i>	<i>Neimenggu wenwu kaogu</i>
<i>SJ</i>	Sima Qian, <i>Shiji</i> . Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1982. 10 volumes.
<i>WW or WW</i>	<i>Wenwu</i> (the journal) or <i>Wenwu</i> (the publishing house)
<i>WWCKZL</i>	<i>Wenwu cankao ziliao</i>
<i>WWZLCK</i>	<i>Wenwu ziliao congkan</i>

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

HAN EMPERORS

<i>Western Han</i>	32–7 BC Chengdi	AD 25–57 Guangwu	AD 145 Chongdi
206–195 BC Gaozu	6–1 BC Aidi	AD 58–75 Mingdi	AD 146 Zhidi
194–188 BC Huidi	1 BC–AD 5 Pingdi	AD 76–88 Zhangdi	AD 147–167 Huandi
187–180 BC Empress Dowager Lü		AD 89–105 Hedi	AD 168–188 Lingdi
179–157 BC Wendi		AD 106 Shangdi	AD 189 The Young Emperor
156–141 BC Jingdi	AD 6–8 Child Emperor, Regency of Wang Mang	AD 107–125 Andi	AD 189–220 Xiandi
140–87 BC Wudi		AD 126–144 Shundi	
86–74 BC Zhaodi			
73–49 BC Xuandi			
48–33 BC Yuandi			
	<i>Xin Dynasty</i>	AD 9–24 Wang Mang	

PRE-HAN CHRONOLOGY

Late Shang ca. 13 c.–mid-11 c. BC
 Western Zhou ca. 1050/1040–771 BC
 Early Western Zhou ca. 1050/1040–950 BC
 Middle Western Zhou ca. 950–850 BC
 Late Western Zhou ca. 850–771 BC
 Eastern Zhou ca. 771–221 BC
 Springs and Autumns ca. 771–475 BC

Early Springs and Autumns ca. 771–670 BC
 Middle Springs and Autumns ca. 670–570 BC
 Late Springs and Autumns ca. 570–475 BC
 Warring States ca. 475–221 BC
 Early Warring States ca. 475–390 BC
 Middle Warring States ca. 390–310 BC
 Late Warring States ca. 310–221 BC

GENERALIZED HAN CHRONOLOGY

Western Han ca. 206 BC–AD 6
 Early Western Han ca. 206–157 BC
 Middle Western Han ca. 156–74 BC
 Late Western Han ca. 73 BC–AD 5
de facto Wang Mang AD 6–24

Eastern Han ca. AD 25–220
 Early Eastern Han ca. AD 25–105
 Middle Eastern Han ca. AD 106–167
 Late Eastern Han ca. AD 168–220

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Map 1. Modern China: Provinces



Map 2. Modern China: Selected Archaeological Sites



Map 3. Pre-Han China: Springs and Autumns (ca. 771–475 BC)