

Spring 2020 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Visions of the Afterlife in Asia
Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art

Gods, Ghosts, and Felicitous Writing: Visions of the Afterlife in Ancient China

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Key Sites/Artifacts

Fu Hao's Tomb, Anyang, Henan Province, c. 1200 BCE

- Jade Tiger, possibly from Xin'gan, Jiangxi Province, c. 1200 BCE
- Bronze Square Cauldron *Fangding* with Inscription

Cattle Scapula with Divination Records, Anyang, Henan Province, c. 1200 BCE.

Bronze Wine Container in the Shape of a Rhinoceros, c. 1100-1050 BCE, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Bronze Ritual Bell, c. 550 BCE, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Set of 65 Bronze Bells, From the Tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng (d. 433 BCE), Leigudun, Suizhou, Hubei Province.

Lidded Vase with Molded Low-Relief and Painted Decoration, Western Han Period (206 BCE – 9 CE), Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Tomb of Lady Marquis of Dai (d. Shortly after 168 BCE), Mawangdui Tomb No.1, Changsha, Hunan Province

- Lacquer Wine Cup, Upper Compartment
- Silk Painted Banner in T Shape

Terms

Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-c. 1050 BCE)

Warring States Period (475-221 BCE)

Western Han Period (206 BCE – 9 CE)

Scapulimancy/Plastronomy

Section-Mold Casting

Oracle-Bone Inscriptions

Pentatonic scale

Suggested Readings

Jessica Rawson, *Ancient China, Art and Archaeology*. London: British Museum, 1980.

Bagley, Robert. "Anyang Writing and the Origin of the Chinese Writing System." In *The First Writing: Script Invention as History and Process*, edited by Stephen Houston. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, 190-249.

Wu, Hung. *The Art of the Yellow Springs*. London: Reaktion Books, 2015.