



The Artifact

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Silk, Status and Power in Shang China FEBRUARY LECTURE

Bronze ritual vessels and jade artifacts wrapped in exquisitely woven silk textiles have been excavated from the tombs at Anyang, the royal center of the Shang Dynasty, dated to between the 13th and 11th centuries BC. While weaving tools have been found in the tombs of commoners of both genders, spatulas have only been discovered in the tombs of Shang kings, not queens. What did the use of silk in burials symbolize? While silk production in China can be traced back 7000 years, it quickly became a royal institution and was controlled by elites. As such even before the Shang dynasty, silk had come to represent the power and prestige of high ranking elites. How much control did Shang royalty exercise over silk production and use? Were members of the nobility other than the royal family allowed to use silk? And why weren't the tools representing silk production found in the tombs of queens? What was the pedigree of the styles and patterns of Shang silk textiles? The discovery of these extraordinary pieces of fabric raises these and other intriguing questions that may help us better understand the social organization and culture of the Shang empire and their influence on subsequent Chinese civilizations.

Assistant Professor Ying Wang teaches in the Department of Art History at the University of Wisconsin –Milwaukee. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000. Her studies in Chinese art have covered a broad spectrum from oil paintings to bronze and jade works in museum collections. Her current research focuses on rank and gender associated with bone carvings from the time of the Bronze Age in China.



Shang Dynasty Bronze Vessel

This lecture will be held on **Sunday February 10, 2002, at 3:00 PM** in **Room G90 Sabin Hall**. Sabin Hall is on the UWM Campus, on the west side of Downer at the intersection of Downer Avenue and Newport Avenue. (See map on last page.)

Letter From the President

Greetings from the President! I hope you all had a happy, healthy and not too stressful holiday season, and that the New Year will bring you all of the above in addition to lots of archaeological adventures. We have an exciting line-up of lectures for you this spring, all of which will be held in our new lecture space in **Sabin Hall G-90**. For those of you who were unable to attend Jennifer Tobin's fascinating talk on her fieldwork in Roman Turkey, the first lecture held in Sabin, be sure to make a note of the new venue! For the complete schedule of talks, please see the Web site at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA/>. Check the site periodically for any changes in times or locations of lectures as well as other news.

The first lecture of the spring series is a talk on February 10 by UWM's specialist on the cultures of Bronze Age China, Assistant Professor Ying Wang of the Art History Department. She will be presenting her research on **Shang period** material culture and its significance in the socio-political developments of this remarkable civilization. In March there will be a special appearance by independent scholar Paul Bahn, who presented new research in Upper Paleolithic art to the Milwaukee AIA at a SRO lecture two years ago. Many of you probably own one or two of his books; here's your chance to see him in person! This year he will be discussing another of his research areas, the enigmatic culture of **Easter Island**. That lecture will be on Sunday March 31 at 3pm. If you missed his Upper Paleolithic art talk during his last visit, be sure to attend the Anthropology Department's Colloquium

on Friday March 29; he will be discussing his interpretation of the motivations of **Ice Age art** in that lecture. Check the Web site for details. In April we have a special lecture presenting a culture that tends to get less attention than other civilizations of the Italian peninsula: **the Etruscans**. Professor Claudio Bizzarri of the Universita di Macerata will be presenting his research on an underground Etruscan town in Umbria on Tuesday, April 2 at 8:00pm. Please make a note of the mid-day time! Finally, in May the Maya civilization will be showcased in a lecture by Assistant Professor Jason Yaeger of UW-Madison's Anthropology Department, our sole New World presentation this spring. Professor Yaeger also has a new book out; look for it on-line! Overall, it's a pretty impressive group of presenters, and I hope you will be able to join us to hear about new developments in research first-hand from the people who are actually engaged in it!

Here is where I make the inevitable plug for new members: I can't stress enough how important it is that you not only renew your memberships for the coming year, but also actively recruit new members for the Milwaukee society. Times are tough across the board this year, but especially so for organizations like the AIA. The Milwaukee chapter has managed to stay active and even grow somewhat in past years because of the untiring efforts of a large number of volunteers, mainly UWM and Marquette faculty and students. If you have been coming regularly to lectures, but don't have time to volunteer or serve as an officer, think about ways that you might be able to interest friends and family members in attending talks and possibly

becoming members. An AIA membership plus *Archaeology* magazine is still one of the best deals out there, and we can't keep the number of lectures at current levels without you. Remember: for each new member who signs up for the Milwaukee Society the national office provides us with additional funding to support speakers who are not paid for by the national office. So if you enjoy the talks, and want the organization to continue to thrive, talk some friends into becoming members!

Last but not least, an announcement: Professor Jane Waldbaum will be retiring from UWM's Art History Department this summer, but as most of you know, she will be far from retired as regards the AIA, since she begins her four-year term as President of the national AIA next year, taking over from current President Nancy Wilkie. During her tenure as AIA President, Professor Waldbaum will be the Visiting Scholar in the Archaeological Research Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology, and will have an office in Sabin Hall, where the AIA lectures are now being held as well. So we hope to be able to draw on her expertise and experience for some time to come!

Happy New Year, and I'll expect to see you at the first lecture on February 10 in Sabin Hall G-90!

Bettina Arnold
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Report of the AIA Annual Meeting January 2002

by Jocelyn Boor

The 103rd annual meeting took place in Philadelphia from January 3-6, 2002. Jane Waldbaum, Mary Kohli, and Jocelyn Boor of the Milwaukee Society attended. All three did more than attend sessions, and participated in many of the Governing Board, Council, and committee meetings that compose the infrastructure of the AIA itself.

The opening reception at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum was held in the Upper Egyptian Gallery. Over 200 attendees gathered to talk and tour the exhibits.

Both Mary & I participated in the Orientation, a brief introduction to the meeting for new attendees. We each hosted a table, and explained the news and outs of the sessions.

I attended the meeting as our Milwaukee delegate. The following were elected General Trustees: Elizabeth Bartman, Kathleen Pavelko, Alice Riginos, John J. Roche, Joan Schiele, Robyn Woodward, and Lucille Roussin, Esq. In addition, Patty Jo Watson, Kevin Glowacki, and Andrew M.T. Moore were elected as Academic Trustees.

Combating Pseudoarchaeology was an outstanding and well-attended workshop. Garret G. Fagan of Penn State University chaired a panel consisting of Nicholas Fleming, Ken Feder, Donald Redford, and Chris Hale. Each reviewed his experience with pseudoarcheologists (threats, lawsuits, and general unpleasantness) and answered questions – in a lively discussion – of how to combat this. It was interesting that none of the pseudos came, even though they were invited. A consensus of sorts emerged – that archaeologists, both professional and avocational, need to educate the public as to how archaeology actually works, and students need to be given the intellectual tools to know the difference between real and fake archaeology.

The second annual Kids' Fair, *Diggin Into Archaeology*, was well-attended. In addition to activities presented by many local museums, Jocelyn Boor of the Milwaukee Society guided kids through *Plot the Artifacts: What's the Story?* This activity is designed to teach mapping and interpretation skills.

Our Elusive Past: How Memory Plays Tricks with History was the theme for the Saturday evening lecture program, which was open to the public. The room was full as Rebecca Yamin spoke on *The Past in Philadelphia's Future: How Little One Has To Do with the Other*, followed by Susan Alcock's address on *The Murder of Memory: Material Culture is the Killer, Archaeology Solves the Crime*.

Upcoming annual meetings:
January 3-6, 2003 in New Orleans
January 2-5, 2004 in San Francisco
January 3-6, 2005 in Boston

Make plans to attend one of them!

2002-2003 Lecture Series

It's that time again – to plan next year's lectures. The AIA national office will provide at least two lectures, and we will schedule another three or four. If you have any suggestions, please contact Dr. Bettina Arnold at 414-962-5350 or email: barnold@uwm.edu.

Refreshment Coordinators

Jackie Lillis and Janean Mollet are the new refreshment coordinators. Your help is needed in providing treats for our informal receptions. Please contact them at: jelillis@uwm.edu or janean@uwm.edu. Our thanks to Diane Grubisha and Mary Kohli, who served as refreshment coordinators over the past months.

Fall 2001 Lectures

The three lectures presented last fall were all well-attended. Dr. Kevin Crisman from Texas A&M University gave a fascinating talk on *Shipwrecks and Archaeology in Portugal's Azore Islands*. The overview of his work since 1996 focused on three ships: the *Lidador*, built ca. 1870 and wrecked in 1877, now scheduled to become an underwater historic preserve; the *Our Lady of the Light*, which sank during a storm in 1614 when the crew, weakened from a long voyage, was unable to work; and the Cunard liner *Slovenia*, built in 1902 and shipwrecked in 1909 when the captain agreed to the request of the first class passengers to see the Azores. The 5,000 foot liner slammed into the side of the island, tearing out the bottom. All of the passengers and crew were saved.

The Palace Gardens of King Kasayapa at Sigiriya (Sri Lanka) was presented by Dr. Robert L. Vann of the University of Maryland. This little-known complex of gardens ascending to a palace is intricate and stunning. The final lecture of 2001 was presented by Dr. Jennifer Tobin of the University of Chicago-Illinois in our new venue, the recently renovated lecture room in Sabin Hall. *The Site in the Sand Dunes: Survey of a Roman Mansio in Smooth Silicia* was fascinating.

Member News

Congratulations to Diane Grubisha for successfully completing her MS in Anthropology, and good luck in Jordan!

Spring 2002 Lectures

Underground Etruria: A Town in Umbria

In the course of the centuries much of our past heritage has been lost as buildings were torn down and rebuilt, one on top of the other. What we find underground, however, still bears witness to the everyday life of those who lived above ground. The geological nature of Orvieto (Italy) forced the inhabitants of the plateau to dig down into the soft tufa rock to solve some of the problems involved in living on a hilltop settlement. Tombs, tunnels, cisterns and wells, storage spaces, wine cellars, mills, cult areas, aqueducts and kilns were all part of the subterranean aspect of the town. They provide us with invaluable hints regarding the original town plan of the Etruscan city and of the changes that gradually took place in subsequent periods.

Claudio Bizzarri received his Dottorato di ricerca (Ph.D.) from the Università per gli Studi di Perugia in 1999. His research concentrates on Etruscology, Italic Antiquities, and Greek and Roman art and archaeology.



Etruscan horse figurine

Making a Maya City-State: Linking the City and the Countryside at Xunantunich, Belize

Scholars studying Maya civilization have historically been fascinated by the largest Maya sites, with their towering pyramids, labyrinthine palaces, and exquisite sculptures. As a consequence, archaeologists studying Maya urbanism have tended to restrict their investigations to the cities themselves. To fully understand these cities, however, we must see them within the larger context of their sustaining hinterlands. Indeed, the very form of a Maya city depends on the relationships between the people and institutions in the city, and the residents of the city's hinterland. The data from seven seasons of work at the Late Classic (AD 600-900) Maya city of Xunantunich - including excavations in the city itself and in the households, villages, and agricultural systems of the city's hinterland - show that the social and political ties that bound urban and hinterland dwellers together were critical elements in the founding and early growth of Xunantunich. One of the primary concerns of the rulers of the newly-founded city-state was to construct an urban space where thousands of people could come together in celebrations that fostered a new urban identity. When we look at hinterland settlements, however, we find that the strategies of the urban elite were but one factor in the emergence of the new city-state. Although the rulers' ambitions required new levels of labor and tribute from the local populace, they also brought changes that represented an opportunity for some hinterland families to enhance their political position by serving as intermediaries

between local settlements and the ruling elite. Indeed, the entire history of the city of Xunantunich was profoundly influenced by the constant negotiation and interaction between the Xunantunich rulers, the leaders of established local communities, and other hinterland community residents.

Jason Yaeger received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000. One of his primary research interests is the nature of social relationships in hinterland Maya communities, and the role of small communities in the growth and decline of Classic-period Maya city-states. He is currently directing a multi-disciplinary project that combines archaeological data, oral history, and archival documents to examine the incorporation of Maya Caste War refugee villages into the British Honduras colony during the 19th century. He is also directing excavations at Tiwanaku, Bolivia, to study how the Inka reconfigured the sacred space of the Pumapunku Temple to reflect their mythic history, and how that relates to Inka imperial ideology.



Mayan stela with warrior figurines

What Really Happened on Easter Island? and Motivations of Ice Age Art

Dr. Paul Bahn, authority on Paleolithic art, has chosen Milwaukee for his base during the months of March and April, when he will be traveling throughout the U.S. as AIA's Kress lecturer. He will be presenting two lectures, one on **Easter Island** (see Lecture Schedule, back page) and the second on **Ice Age art** for the Anthropology Colloquium. This lecture will be on Friday, March 29, at 4pm, Sabin Hall G90.



Easter Island Head

Easter Island is over 2,000 miles from the nearest population center, (Tahiti and Chile), making it one of the most isolated places on Earth. A triangle of volcanic rock in the South Pacific - it is best known for the giant stone monoliths, known as Moai, that dot the coastline. The early settlers called the island "Te Pito O Te Henua" (Navel of The World). Admiral Roggeveen, who came upon the island on Easter Day in 1722, named it Easter Island.

Today, the land, people and language are all referred to locally as Rapa Nui. (For more information on Easter Island, please visit: <http://www.netaxs.com/~trance/rapanui.html>)

Dr. Bahn will present an account of the discovery, study and assessment of all the evidence on the world's remotest inhabited island that provides clues about how its extraordinary material culture developed and crashed. A cautionary tale for the planet as a whole!

While discussing Ice Age art, Dr Bahn noted, "All the theories about the motivations behind Ice Age art have proved unsatisfactory for one reason or another, and the current fad about shamanism is merely a great leap backward. Obviously, we cannot grasp precise motivations in the absence of the artists, but nevertheless we can learn a great deal just from the location of some art and from associated material – evidence which points clearly to some kind of religious activities."



Paleolithic Cave Art

AIA-Milwaukee Society Spring 2002 Lecture Schedule

February 10: *Silk, Status and Power in Shang China*

Dr. Ying Wang, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Sunday, 3 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

March 31: *Easter Island*

Paul Bahn, Independent Researcher
Sunday, 3 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

April 2: *Underground Etruria: A Town in Umbria*

Dr. Claudio Bizzarri, Università di Macerata
Tuesday, 8 p.m., Mitchell Hall 195

May 5: *Making a Maya City-State: Linking the City and the Countryside at Xunantunich, Belize*

Dr. Jason Yaeger, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sunday, 2 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

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