

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO THE ECONOMY OF ANCIENT CHINA

An Afternoon of Presentations in Memory of Pochan Chen (1973-2015)

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Charles E. Young Research Library (YRL)

2:30 p.m. Introduction
Lothar von Falkenhausen, Professor of Chinese Archaeology and Art History, UCLA

2:40 p.m. **Changing Technologies on the Proto-Silk Road**
Rowan Flad, John E. Hudson Professor of Archaeology, Harvard University

Abstract: Dramatic technological changes during the third to second millennia BC were crucial in laying the foundation for Chinese Civilization. Northwest China played an important role in the spread of some of these new technologies, stimulating developments toward greater social complexity in the areas where China's early royal dynasties were to arise. Based on his recent fieldwork in the Tao valley (Gansu province), Rowan Flad outlines the background to these transformations. How can we better understand the relationship between these technological changes and social change in the region, while yet maintaining our focus on local developments?

3:10 p.m. **The Problem of Technology Transfer During the Shang-Zhou Dynastic Transition**
Yung-Ti Li, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the College, University of Chicago

Abstract: In 2013, archaeologists in Baoji, Shaanxi found several Early Western Zhou (ca. 1059-950) elite burials richly furnished with bronzes of high quality. Curiously, the ornamentation and manufacture of these bronzes relate them to the mold fragments excavated in 2000 at the late Shang (ca. 1300-1046 BC) foundry at Xiaomintun, within the the Shang royal capital at Anyang. These finds call into question the periodization of Shang and Zhou bronzes, the terminal dates of Anyang, and the dates and clientele of the Baoji bronzes; more basically, they direct our attention to the issue of technology transfer during the dynastic transition from Shang to Zhou. Yungti Li emphasizes the need for an approach that emphasizes historical and technological processes rather than specific dates or historical events.

- 3:40 p.m. Break
- 4:00 p.m. **The Economy of Mass Craft Production in Late Bronze China: A Case Study**
Hao Zhao, Ph.D. Candidate, East Asian Languages and Cultures,
Stanford University
- Abstract: During the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1050-221 BC), craft production in China underwent a series of significant changes, involving not only technical innovations, but also a thorough transformation of production organization management, increasing cross-sectoral cooperation, and mass craft production in restructured urban environments. Hao Zhao will address these fundamental issues from the perspective of his new fieldwork at a bone-working workshop at the Zhouyuan site, a royal capital during the Western Zhou period (ca. 1046-771 BC).
- 4:30 p.m. **The Field System of the Lu Capital: Economic Archaeology and State-Building during the Late Bronze Age**
Li Min, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Civilizations, and of Anthropology,
UCLA
- Abstract: Recently a multidisciplinary team conducted an archaeological study of deep sections in the southern suburbs of Qufu, the capital of the regional state of Lu during much of the first millennium BC. Analysis revealed extensive evidence of an ancient field system. Buried approximately six meters under modern surface, remains of irrigation canals, ditches, and rice paddies with associated datable ceramics provided a rare glimpse of the rural hinterland of a Bronze Age city. Li Min's study shows how Qufu was transformed from a military stronghold during the Western Zhou period (ca. 1046-771 BC) to a full-blown Eastern Zhou (ca. 770-221 BC) urban center--a case study of how landscape archaeology can reveal the economic aspects of Zhou state building.
- 5:00 p.m. **Pochan Chen's Unfinished Legacy**
Kuei-chen Lin, Assistant Research Fellow, Academia Sinica
- Abstract: As a graduate student at UCLA and subsequently as a professor at National Taiwan University, Pochan Chen developed a variety of sophisticated approaches to address central issues in the economic and political development of early societies in East Asia. Pochan's closest associate, Kuei-chen Lin, presents an overview of his tragically unfinished life's work and sketches out what he left for others to complete.
- 5:30 p.m. Wine and cheese break

6:00 p.m. **China's Economic Boom in the First Millennium BC: Archaeological Perspectives**
Lothar von Falkenhausen, Professor of Chinese Archaeology and Art History, UCLA

Abstract: Archaeological finds from the past half-century show increasingly clearly that the political unification of China in 221 was preceded by several centuries of steadily rising standards of living. Coming during a time of political fragmentation, this economic florescence was unparalleled in earlier Chinese history and has few parallels elsewhere in the world. Lothar von Falkenhausen plumbs the material culture of the time for indications of economic developments, focusing on new technologies of mass-production that simultaneously allowed adhering to heightened standards of quality.

6:50 p.m. Panel Discussion

7:00 p.m. Main Reception