

Chinese Lacquer of 4th Century B.C. to 2nd Century A.D. in the British Museum



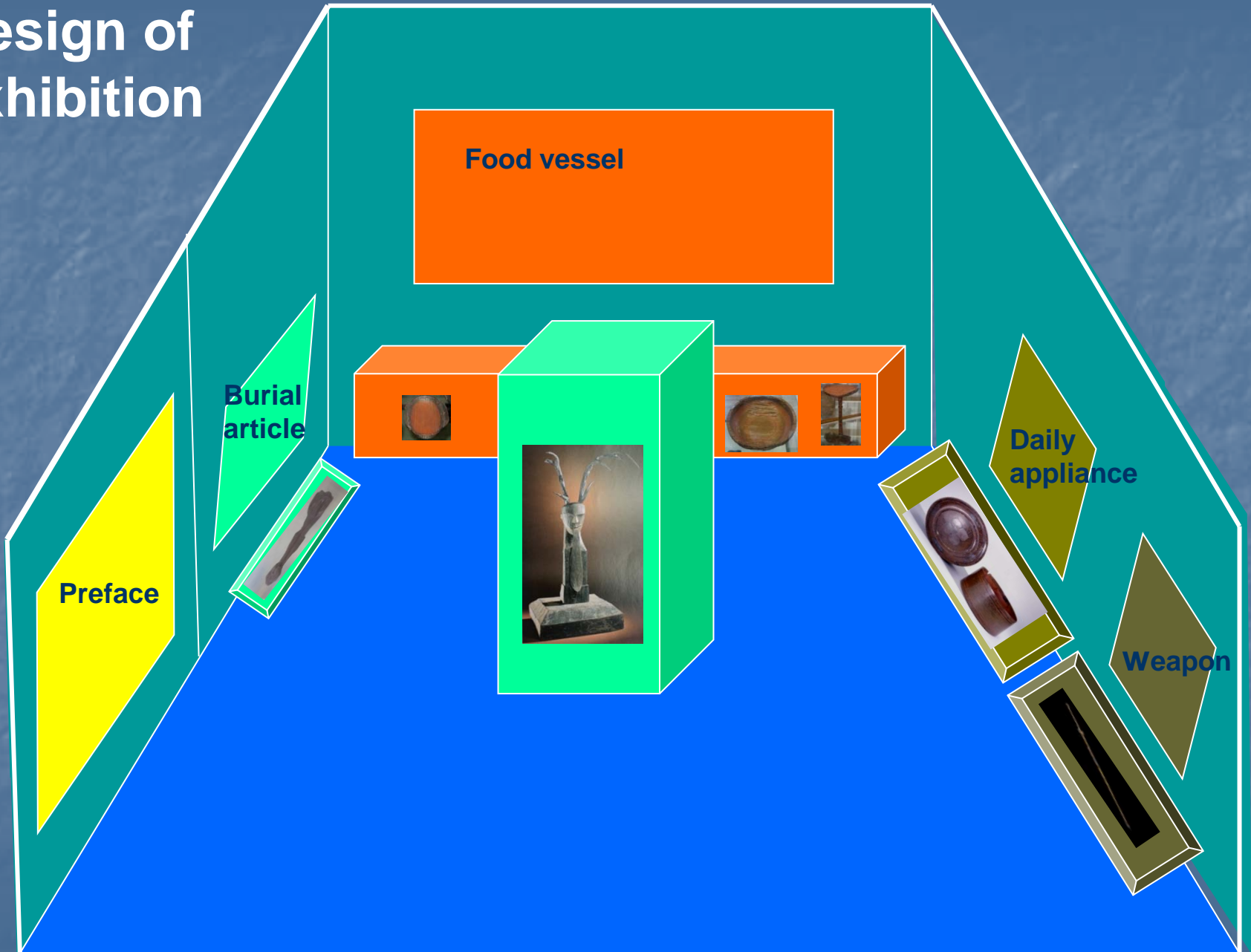
BM ITP 2011
Chen Chun
Hubei Provincial Museum

About the theme and way of exhibition

- ◇ **The theme of the exhibition is the culture of Chinese lacquer of 4th Century B.C. to 2nd Century A.D.**
 - The Warring States Period to Qin & Han Dynasty is the first period of splendid achievement in the history of Chinese lacquer development.
 - The main goal of the exhibition is to give the visitor a preliminary impression about the development of lacquer ware in this important period.

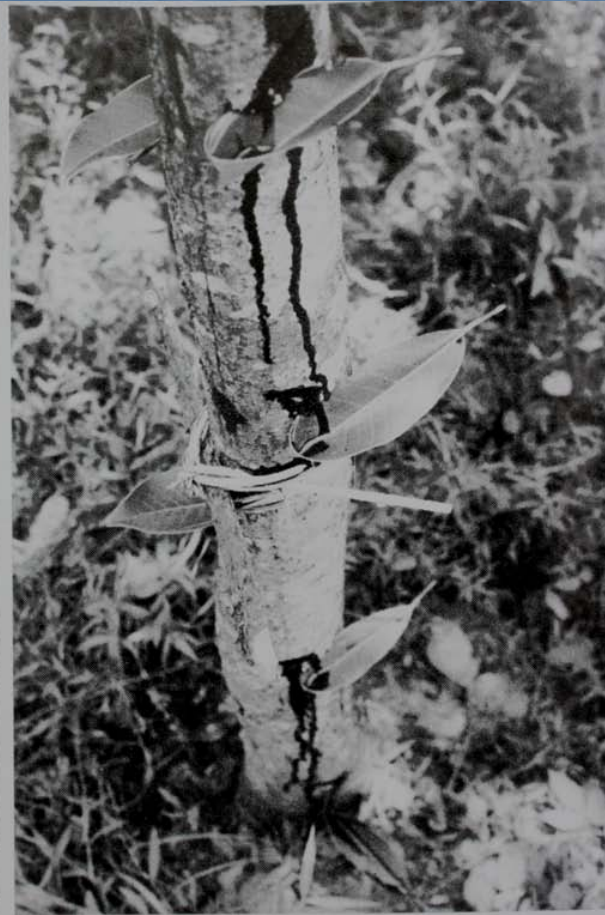
- ◇ **Apart from the object display, pictures in the exhibition will give the visitor the better understanding to these objects.**
 - All lacquers appeared in the pictures are the unearthed relics from the tombs which had been excavated in China.
 - Meanwhile, in the section of food vessel, the music of Chime Bell will be used to let the visitor have a feeling of the spectacle of ZhongMingDingShi (have a meal accompanying with music).

Design of exhibition

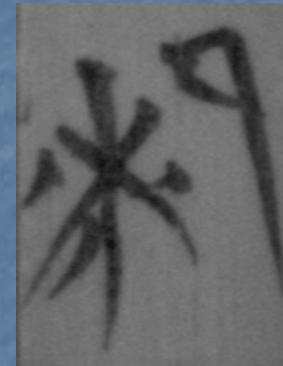


Preface

◇ With the warm and moist climate, the area of the southern China was suitable to raising lacquer trees and endowed with the conditions for lacquer ware production from the ancient time to the present.



The word of lacquer 漆 written by the Chu character (L) and the Han character (R) on bamboo manuscripts.

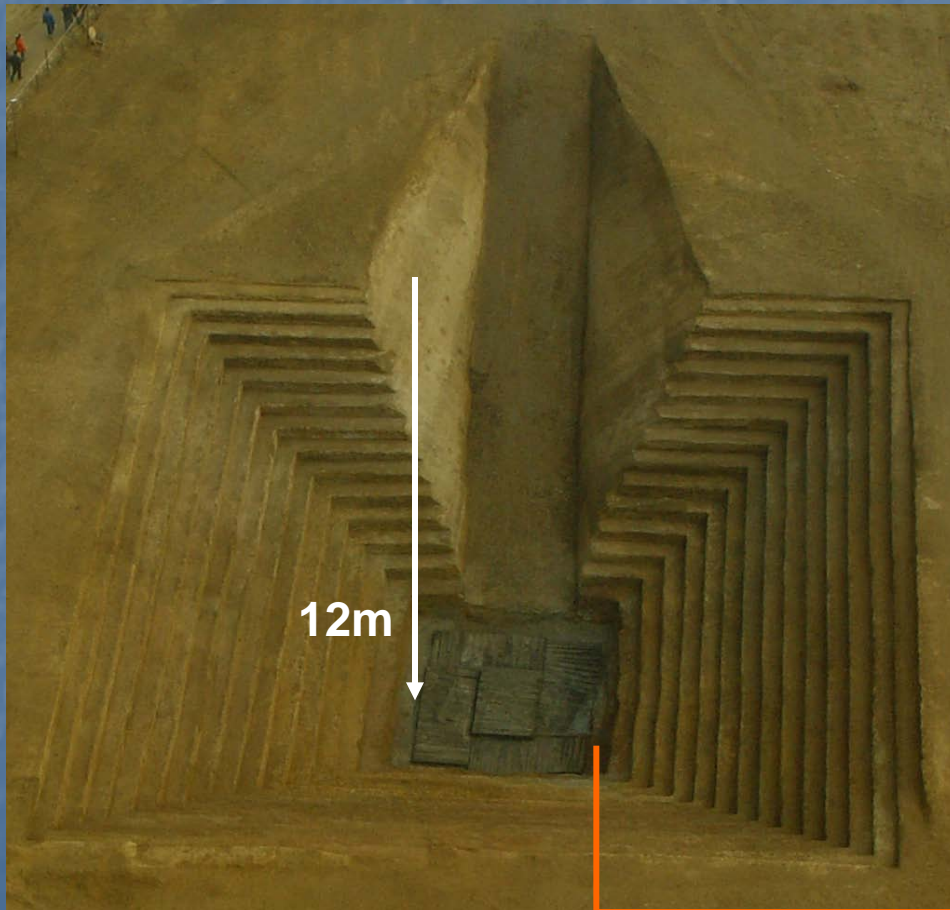


The form of the character shows there are some lacquer liquid exuded from the trunk of tree.

Lacquer trees & gather lacquer by cutting

Preface

◇ The plentiful underground water in the Southern area and the deep burial of tomb led to the better preservation of lacquers for a long time due to their saturated condition.



Lacquer wares in the chamber of tomb covered with water



Jiuliandun(九连墩) Tomb No.2 (about 300B.C.)

Burial article



BM

Painted tomb guardian



彩绘龙云纹单头镇墓兽

战国
高（不计鹿角）17.5厘米
1986年江陵县雨台山6号墓出土
湖北省博物馆藏品

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Yutaishan
(雨台山)
Chu tomb

According to recent research, it may be played in family as a furniture, not just as service in tomb



双头镇墓兽

战国
高170厘米
1978年江陵县天星观1号墓出土
荆州博物馆藏品

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Burial article



Lacquered wooden figurine



Jiuliandun Chu Tomb



Mawangdui Han Tomb

Food vessel



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Painted stem-cup



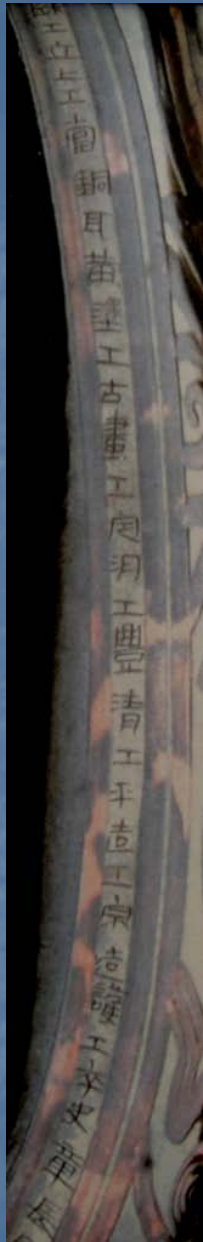
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Painted dish



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Painted two-handled cups and carved characters



Food
vessel



Mawangdui
(马王堆)
Han Tomb



Carved picture in bronze pot (四川百花潭)

Food vessel

战国
通长71.5 宽25.6 通高19.6厘米
1986年荆门包山2号墓出土
湖北省博物馆藏品



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Set of wine cup, dish
& bottles in a case



Baoshan (包山) Chu Tomb

Daily appliance



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Painted toilet box

Daily appliance



Haiqu (海曲) Han tomb in Rizhao (日照), Shandong Province, excavated in 2002

Mawangdui Han Tomb



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Daily appliance



Baoshan Chu Tomb



Weapon



Sword with
painted
scabbard



Painted sword scabbard and box

Yutaishan Chu tomb

◇ Although only nine objects display in this exhibition, I believe, with the supplement of those unearthed relics from China, it should be able to attract the visitor with the unusual model and vivid designs of Chinese ancient lacquer.



◇ The number of lacquer unearthed in Hubei province was vastly greater than other areas of China. I am looking forward to the more exchange of collections and the better development of relationship between the Hubei Provincial Museum and the British Museum.

All the best to the British Museum!

Thank you very much!