

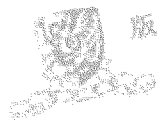
Ch'in-Han Mortuary Architecture*

Cheng Te-k'un

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Tombs of the Ch'in-Han period in China suffered the same fate as architecture. With the exception of a few dozens of much reduced tumuli and some ruins of stone gateways mentioned in the paper on the architectural remains of this period (JICS, 9 [1978] 508-583)†, none of the surface structures have survived the ravages of time. The constructions underground, however, are quite different. Although a large number of tombs had long been rifled and the burial chambers collapsed and destroyed, many have remained intact. So far more than 20,000 Ch'in-Han tombs have been discovered and no less than several thousands properly excavated. (10, 74; KG, 79.5.389)

The significance of the Han tombs in archaeology are manifold. First of all, their distribution marks the extent of the Han culture which began to exert its influence throughout the Chinese world, reaching Korea in the east, Siberia in the north, Central Asia in the west and Indo-China in the south. Han tombs and Han remains are common relics everywhere in Eastern Asia. Secondly, they provide a whole series of concrete examples for the various forms of funerary customs and practices in the Han times. The basic feature is to bury the dead lying fully extended on its back mostly in a coffin surrounded with a supply of mortuary objects. The burial chambers vary greatly in size while the construction and the mortuary furniture are determined by the wealth and position of the family. Some of these are prescribed in detail as recorded in history. Thirdly, they represent a wide variety of wood work, brick and stone construction, and as most of the Han architecture had long been

† All references in the text are placed in parentheses. The number or group of letters in bold face refers to the book or journal listed in the Bibliography which follows the text. In most cases the page reference is also given. Where the three numbers follow the bold face group of letters, for example '(KX, 59.2.46)', the first refers to the year, the second the number and the last the page of the journal.

destroyed these underground structures throw much light on the carpenter's art and masonry of this ancient period. And finally, they serve to preserve an enormous corpus of new and extraordinary material which sets the foundation for the study of Han culture and art. Han history and literature may now be more fully supported with archaeological finds than before.

Besides, the newly excavated materials are so rich that the development of the various types of burial tombs may clearly be traced. Therefore, it would be worthwhile to present in this paper a general description of the various types of Han burials in successive stages before going into the details over the numerous finds in various regions. This will serve as a background for the understanding of the burial remains in time as well as in space.

I. Interment

Ever since the Shang and Chou times, inhumation was practiced in China. The dead was interred in an underground pit, which varies greatly in size and shape with the corpse in an extended or hockered position. The extended burials were generally supine, but prone burials were also known. In the Han times the face-down burial seemed to have gone out of fashion. A few burials in the contracted position were noted, but the extended burial with the body lying on its back was the most common form of interment throughout the period. It became the standard practice in the following dynasties. For the common people the body was simply dressed and laid to rest in a pit or in a wooden coffin before it was lowered into the grave. For the well-to-do they were clothed according to their means and those in high position according to the prescribed rituals. The Marchioness of Tai 韋侯夫人 from Ma-wang-tui 馬王堆 in Ch'ang-sha, for instance, is dressed in a total of twenty layers of all sorts of garments and beddings and then tied up horizontally from the head to the feet with nine bands. It is further covered by a floss-wadded robe of yellow gauze with painted decorations and a piece of red silk embroidered in a "longevity" design (5). For the top members of the royal family, jade clothes were provided. The burial suit of Lady Tou 竇, wife of Prince Ching of Chung-shan 中山靖王, for instance, was made of 2,160 tablets of jade, trimmed to fit each other and sewn together with gold wire, which weighs in all 700 grammes. The suit is made in twelve parts, mask and head, back and front of torso, arms, legs, gloves and shoes, each with piping of silk-wound iron wire along the edges. (KG, 72.1.15) In accordance with feudal rank this type of mortuary suits were divided into three categories, sewn with gold, silver and copper thread respectively. So far four complete suits have been restored and more recently, an incomplete one, consisting of a mask and head, a pair of gloves and a pair of boots, has been unearthed at I-t'iao-ts'un 一條村 in Lin-i 臨沂, Shantung. It was also common to have the nine orifices of

the body inserted or stopped with small pieces of jade because it was believed that the precious material could prevent the corpse from decay.

On the whole most of the ancient tombs contain each a single burial. There is no definite rules with regard to orientation, though the head is more often orientated to the south. In pre-Han times, twin burials, in which a husband and his wife were buried side by side, were known though rare. The custom continued to prevail in the early Western Han times. Beginning with the middle of Western Han, however, it started to be widely practised. (7, 136) In Eastern Han, it became quite common not only to have a couple buried in the same grave, but to maintain a family tomb in which members of more than one generation could be laid to rest at various occasions under the same roof, so to speak. (KG, 55.1.63)

It remains to be noted that as a result of natural calamity, war or mass labour, mass burial was also practised in Han times. It was common for the government to employ large number of man running to hundreds of thousands, usually criminals and convicts, in war as well as in large scale public works. When they died, they were just buried at their stations. A group of 29 tombs have been discovered in the compound of Yang-ling 陽陵, the tomb of Emperor Ching-ti 景帝 (154-141). The graves are merely pits in rectangular or other shapes, dug in the ground. They contained a total of 35 skeletons mostly with fetters at the ankle or manacles around the neck. The bodies seem to have been thrown into the pit at random, some with severed heads and others with contracted limbs. They are no doubt some of the convicts employed in the building of the royal tomb. (WW, 72.7.51-53)

The interment of victims at the execution grounds in the southern suburb of Lo-yang furnishes another example of mass burial. Here, 522 rectangular pits in systematic array have been found. It is interesting to note that they are each provided with a wooden coffin and an inscribed brick tablet giving the name of the criminal, his home address, prison, criminal offence, number in the group to be punished and the date of execution. In a few grave there are also some mortuary pottery vessels. (KG, 72.4.2-29)

II. *Kuan* 棺 Coffin

In prehistoric and Shang and Chou times, it was quite common for ordinary people to be buried in a rectangular pit together with some mortuary objects. In this way the underground grave served more or less as a coffin. In various regions the walls of the pit were lined on the inside with additional re-enforcements, stamped earth or wood work in general and blocks of stone, sheets of slate, piles of river pebbles, layers of shell or large hollow bricks in particular. All these, in all sorts of variation, continued to be used in Han times in their respective areas. Towards

the end of Western Han, small solid bricks were introduced.

As a whole, Han coffins were made of wood. They are elongated and rectangular in shape, broader and taller at the head end, but those shaped like simple rectangular boxes are also common. In coffins of the Western Han, the planks are connected with tenons and mortises and the joints sealed either with plaster of lime or lacquer. (KG, 79.4.322; Fig. 1) In Tomb 167 at Fung-huang-shan 鳳凰山, Chiang-ling 江陵, Hupei, the coffin is further provided with a cover, consisting of layers of silk fabrics and bamboo works. (WW, 76.10.47; Fig. 2) At Ma-wang-tui Tomb 1, a set of four coffins has been found in a wooden chamber and they are closely fitted into one another. The outer-most one, measuring 2.95 x 1.5 x 1.44 metres high, is painted black. The next one is painted in gold on a black background with elaborate cloud designs interposed with lively mythological figures and birds and animals. The third one is painted in polychrome on a red ground with designs of dragons, tigers, red birds, deer, gnomes and other propitious figures. The inner-most coffin is decorated on the cover and outer walls with satin stitch embroidery and a fabric glued with applied feather decoration. They are all built without using metal nails and fitted together with wooden nails and mortises and tenons. (Fig. 3) The entire set is placed in the coffin compartment fitting into the middle of the wooden tomb chamber perfectly. (5, Tomb 1. 6; Fig. 4)

The wooden coffins of Eastern Han are constructed by joining the planks together with iron nails, but they are treated with plaster of lacquer and lacquer paints as in the Western Han.

There are a number of exceptions in the making of coffins in the Han period. In Yünnan a bronze coffin has been unearthed from a wooden chamber tomb of Western Han. It is constructed of seven decorated copper plates forming a gable-roofed house on 12 flat stilts. It was probably designed after a *Kan-lan* 杆欄 building, a common type of pile-dwelling in south China. (KG, 64.12.607-14; Fig. 5) In Szechwan earthenware or red sandstone (1, 221-222) coffins were introduced in Eastern Han. The former is composed of a rectangular body fitted with a cover. The latter is simply chiselled out a solid rock, in two pieces, together with a body fitted with a cover and decorated with all sorts of designs in low-relief. (Fig. 6)

Han babies and small children are buried in the pre-Han fashion with pottery urns. (8, 131) The custom prevailed throughout the entire period, but in the Eastern Han, they are sometimes replaced by small earthenware coffins, rectangular in shape and decorated with designs in low-relief. (KG, 55.2.38; 8, 131)

In the Lo-yang region, tile interment was widely practised by the common people. The dead has been found buried between two large curved tiles, facing each other to form a depressed tubular container. In some cases fragments of bricks and tiles are used in the interment. (8, 131; KX, 56.3.45)

It was in the Eastern Chou period, as mentioned in *Chou China* (2, 46-184)

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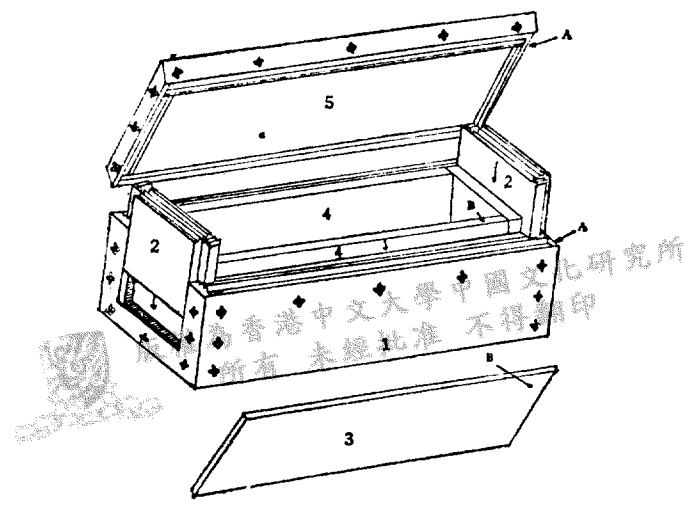


Fig. 1 — Wooden coffin, Tomb 6, T'ien-ch'ang-hsien, Anhui — KG, 79.4.322.

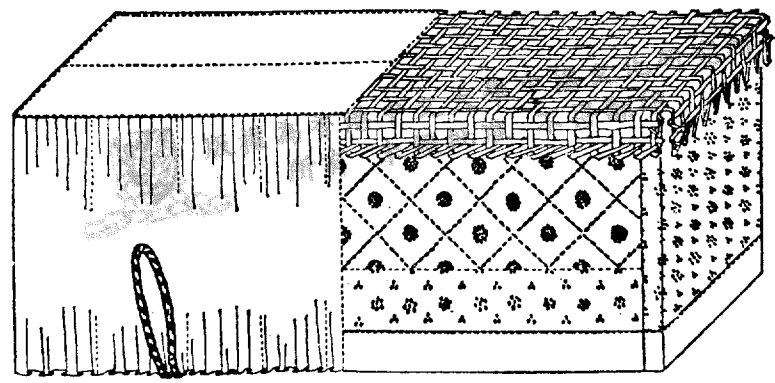


Fig 2 — Wooden coffin with cover of silk fabrics and bamboo works, Tomb 167, Feng-huang-shan, Hupei — WW, 76.10.47.

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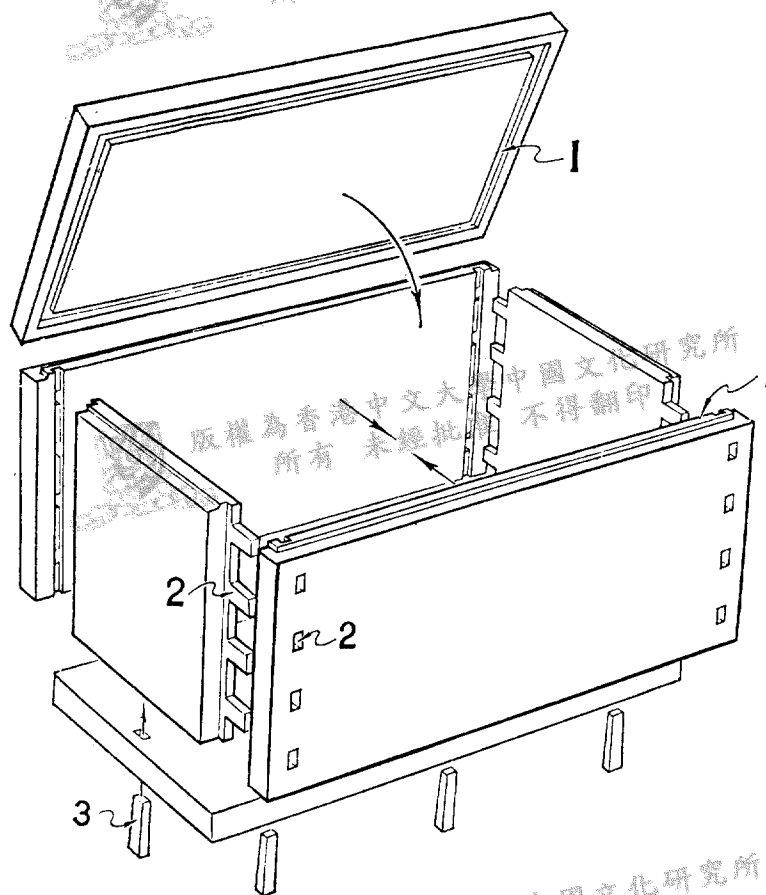


Fig. 3 — Wooden coffin, Tomb 1, Ma-wang-tui, Hunan — 5, 6.

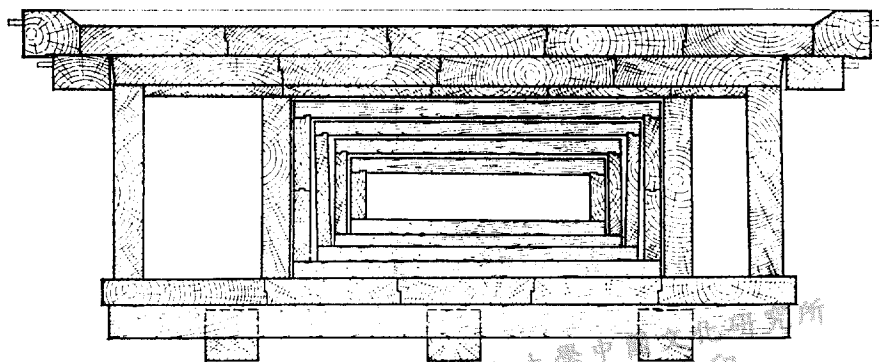


Fig. 4 — Four-layered wooden coffin in a wooden burial chamber, Tomb 1, Ma-wang-tui, Hunan — 5, 6.

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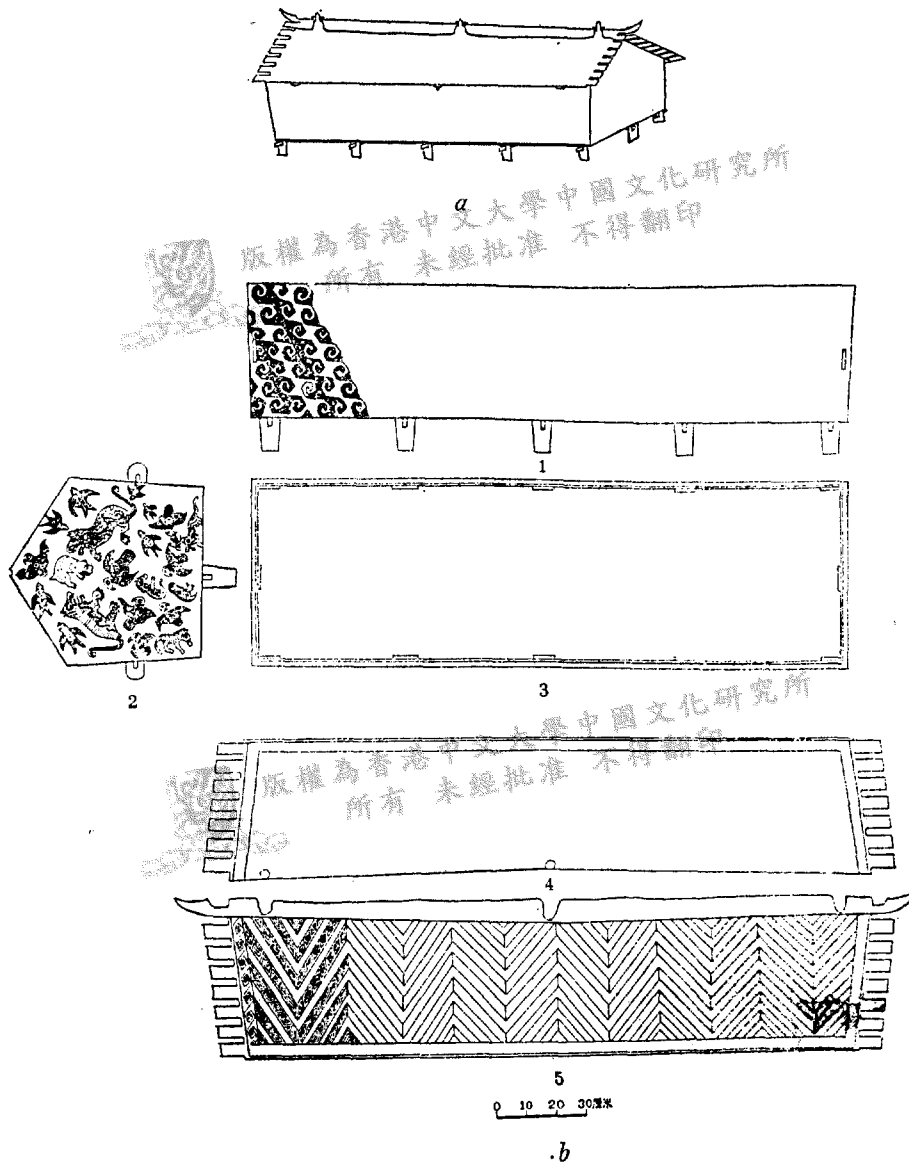
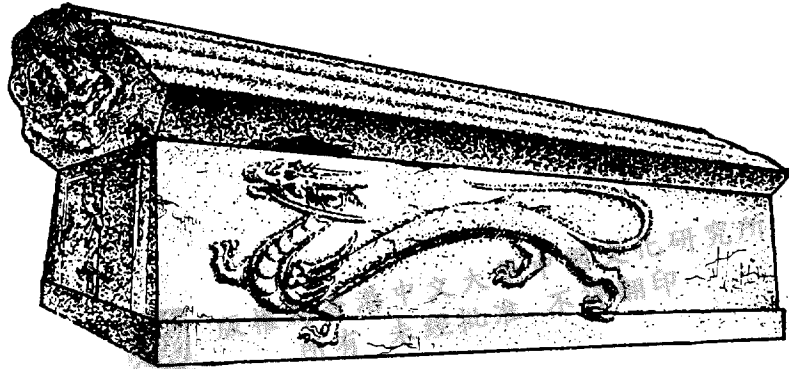


Fig. 5 — a. Bronze coffin in the shape of a *kan-lan* long house,
b. Parts of the bronze coffin, Ta-po-na 大波那, Hsiang-Yün 祥雲, Yünnan — KG,
64.12.610.

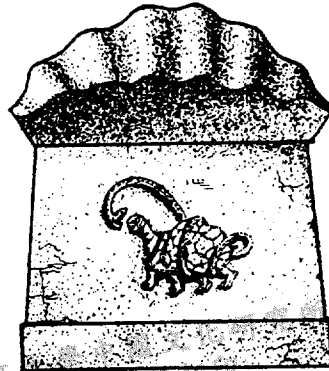
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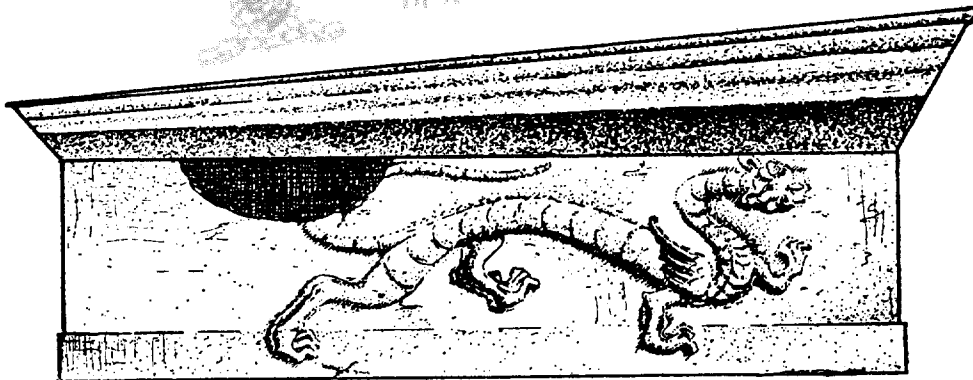
1



2



3



4

Fig. 6 — Decorated stone coffin of Wang Hui 王暉, Lu-shan 廬山, Szechwan — 1, P1. 23.

that the tomb construction in China, especially the burial chamber, began to adopt a number of new features. Some large rectangular graves continued in the Shang and Chou fashion to have a *Yao-k'eng* 腰坑 pit in the bottom, an *erh-ts'eng-t'ai* 二層台 on the four sides and one or more passages leading up to the surface of the ground. The majority of the small and medium sized tombs began to have a niche in the wall for the mortuary furniture. Others were provided with a cave dug into one side which was used as the coffin chamber, leaving the original pit as a "court yard". The wooden *kuo* 槨 burial chamber became more elaborate in construction and soon large hollow bricks and ceramic tiles were added to the building material. Most of the large tombs were filled with layers of such protective substances as charcoal, gravel, sand and clay. Besides, all over the northern frontiers from Yünnan, Szechwan and Kansu to the Northeast and Korea, the stone-cist tomb was the most predominate type of burial. Many of these were large enough to take a coffin and some funerary furniture. In Szechwan there were two special types. One was a simple burial with the dead left on the ground surrounded by a series of pottery vessels (2, 171), and the other, a boat-burial in which the coffin was left in a wooden boat which was in turn deposited in a rectangular pit. (2, 173) All these were handed down to the Ch'in-Han period when their continued development produced a wide variety of burial chambers, varying greatly in size and shape as well as in the structural plans of construction to be described later on.

III. Royal Tombs

The enlargement and elaboration of the burial chamber reached a peak in the Ch'in dynasty. According to the *Shih-chi* (14, ch.118) the first emperor started to build his own tomb at Li-shan 驪山 as soon as he ascended the throne in 246 B.C. After his success in unifying the land he employed more than 700,000 men from all over his empire on the project. The enormous burial pit was dugged deep into the water level. The *kuo* chamber was cast in copper, large enough to contain a model of his empire, the terrestrial world below and the celestial firmament above. The interior, according to a local gazetteer, measured 5 *li* 里 in circumference. There was enough space to accommodate a representation of his palace and temples together with his ministers and officials and numerous examples from his wonderful collection of precious and rare objects. The rivers and the sea were filled with moving quick silver and the whole chamber was lighted with candles of *jen-yü* 人魚 whale fat. It was further protected with devices of bows-and-arrows which were mechanically set and would be released at the approach of any intruders.

Ch'in Shih-huang, however, did not rest in peace for long. As soon as Hsiang Yü 項羽 arrived in Hsien-yang 咸陽 after the fall of the Ch'in dynasty, he sent his troops to rifle Li-shan. The 300,000 strong ransacked the royal tomb for 30 days,

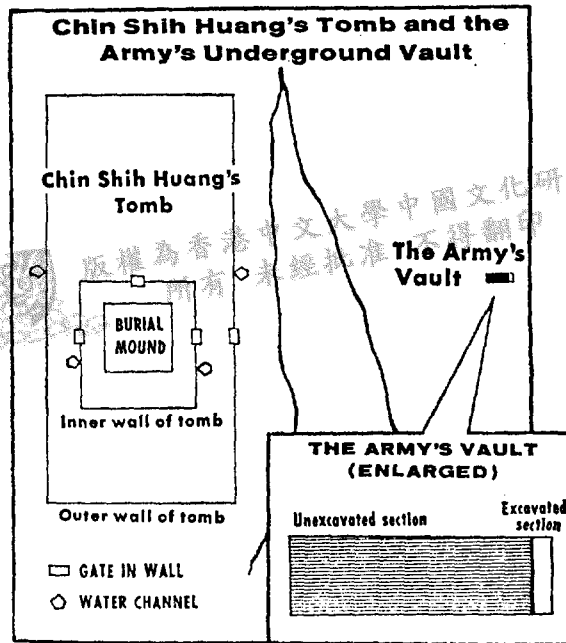
removing all of the treasures in it. Even the copper burial chamber was melted down for the metal. All that was left now is the huge mound surrounded by a square inner wall and a rectangular outer wall.

Recently a group of 3 burial annexes have been found 4-5 metres below the ground surface to the east of the royal burial mound. (Fig. 7 a-b) The largest measures 210 metres from east to west and 60 metres from north to south covering a total area of 12,600 square metres. A preliminary excavation of 1,100 square metres in 1974 disclosed a buried army of life-size warriors and horses made of terra cotta and charred remains of wooden war chariots. The warriors, holding real bows and arrows, crossbows, swords and spears, had once stood militantly in neat columns with the swords remaining stainless and shiny. Each chariot was drawn by four horses. 591 warriors and 24 horses have been unearthed in this area alone. The floor of the underground structure is paved with cord-impressed bricks. All the beams and other wood work have been burnt down, presumably by Hsiang Yü's men, so it seems no doubt that the burial ground of the Ch'in emperor extended way beyond the limit of the burial mound. It is estimated that this burial annex holds a total of 6,000 warrior figures. (WW, 75.11.1-30; Fig 8)

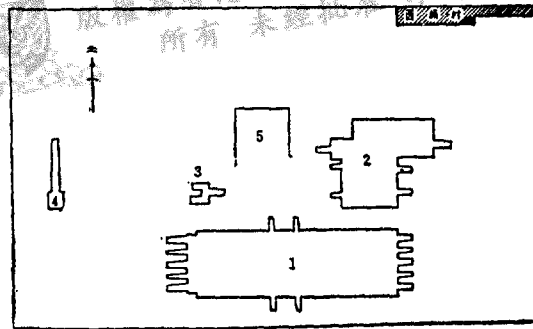
The second annex of Ch'in Shih-huang's tomb was discovered in May 1976, 20 metres to the north-east of Annex I. 17 text pits have subsequently been sunk uncovering 11 wooden chariots, with 28 charioteers and 67 horses, 32 riders, 29 saddled horses, 163 infantry and a commanding officer all in pottery. (Fig. 9) They are equipped with 1,929 pieces of metal military weapon. Constructed in the same fashion as Annex I of heavy timber, Annex II is estimated to cover an area of about 6,000 square metres, housing total of some 89 chariots, 261 charioteers, 356 horses, 116 riding warriors, 116 saddled horses and 562 infantry. (WW, 78.5.1-19)

The third annex, the smallest of the three, was excavated in 1977. It covers an area of about 520 square metres, roughly one-twenty-seventh of the largest annex, and is divided into three units, a chariot park in the middle, flanked by two parade grounds for warriors. The chariot takes four horses in front and four attendants behind. The parade ground on the right contains 42 warriors and that on the left, 22, all neatly arranged in military array. (Fig. 10)

The formation of the 3 annexes with their chariots and warriors seems to show that they were related to each other. It may be presumed that they form a military regiment or division, with the commanding officer and his close attendants in the smallest annex. The other two hold a total of some 7,000 warriors, more than a hundred chariots and about the same number of horses. It is worth-noting that there exists a Ch'in burial tomb to the west of this group of annexes with a burial chamber about 300 square metres in size. It is quite possible that this was the tomb of the commanding general himself. It seems reasonable that the emperor, who took ten years of fighting to unify the country should have some of his lieutenants and



a



b

Fig. 7 — a. Tomb of Ch'in Shih-huang and army's underground vault — CR, 76.2.38.
b. Burial annexes of the royal tomb: 1-3, army's vaults, 4, ancient burial tomb — WW, 79.12.1.

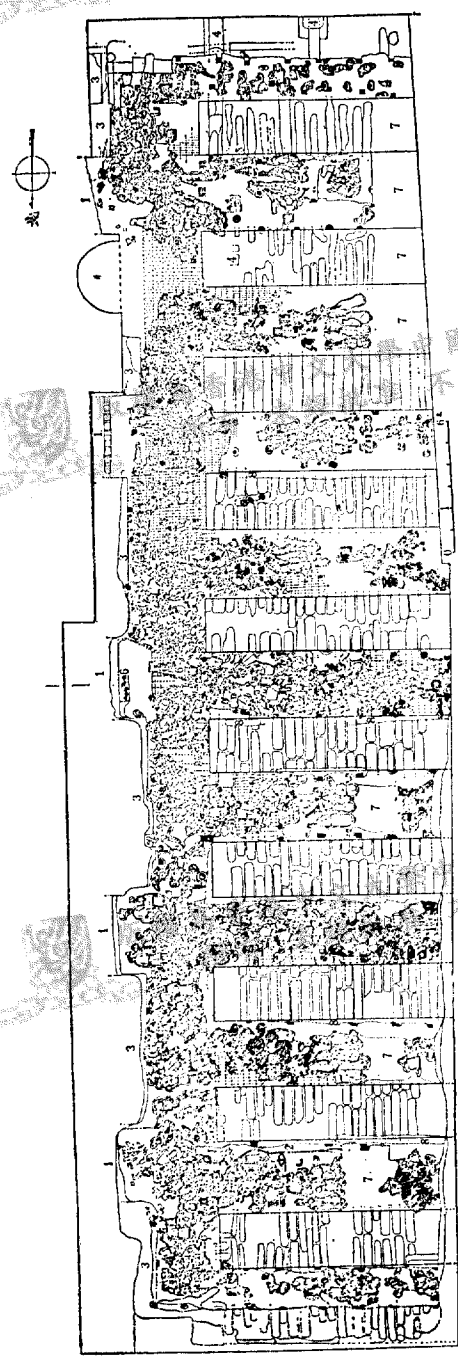
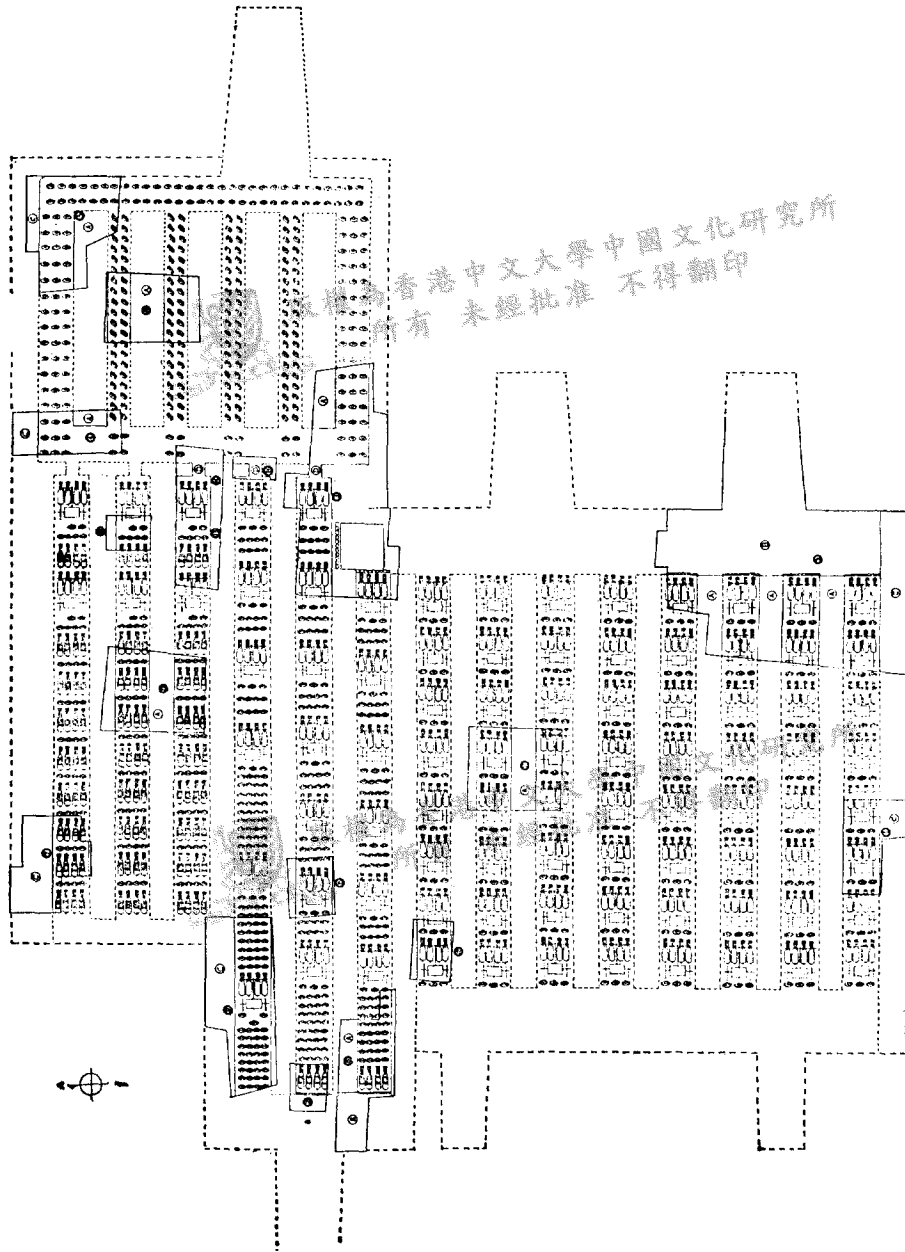


Fig. 8 — the excavated section of Annex I of the royal tomb of Ch'in Shih-huang — WW, 75.11.15.

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Fig. 9 — Annex II of the royal tomb of Ch'in Shih-huang — WW, 78.5.2.

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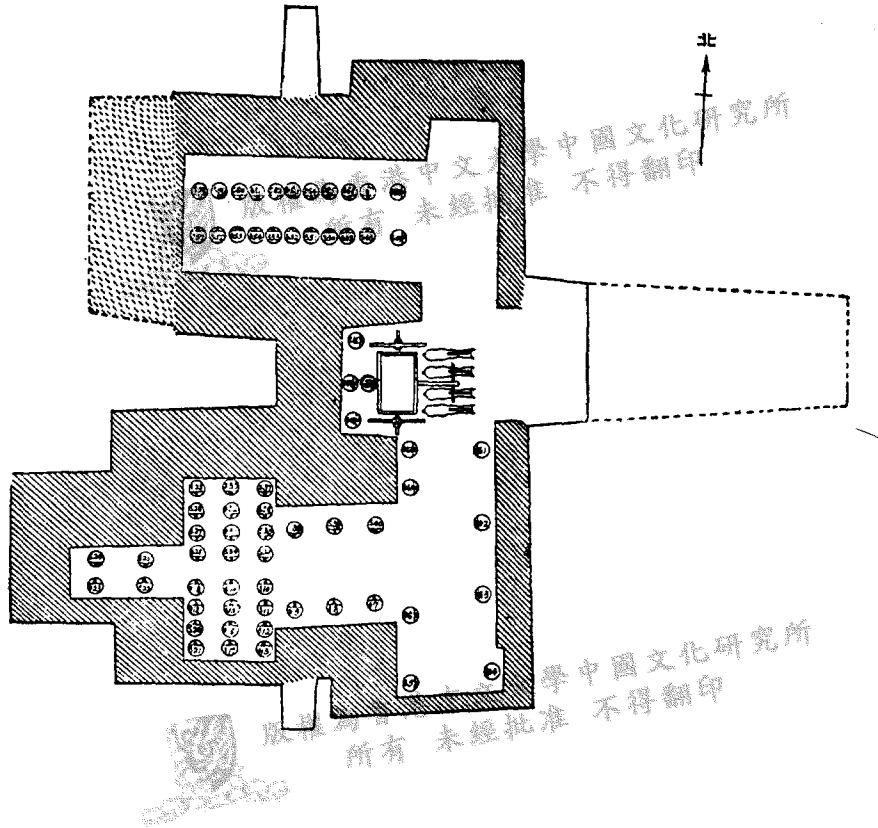


Fig. 10 — Annex III of the royal tomb of Ch'in Shih-huang — WW, 79.12.5.

replicas of their troops buried near him. More burial annexes of his tomb may yet be found around the royal burial mound.

The investigation of the royal tomb at Li-shan reveals some architectural remnants in the form of stone door sills, pillar bases, drainage channels and pottery roof tiles, bricks and pipings. Apart from the military weapons there are also many iron farm tools, gold, jade and bone objects as well as linen, silk fabrics, leather goods and wooden vehicles. (WW, 75.11.30; 78.5.3 -13; 79.12.4-16)

The elaborate construction and rich furnishing of the Ch'in tomb probably set the style for the Han emperors. The royal cemetery usually covers a whole countryside with wide territories for the tombs of the queen and concubines, meritorious ministers and close attendants. In the compound of Ch'ang-ling 長陵, the tomb of Emperor Kao-tsu 高祖, there are 73 burial annexes or attendant tombs. Eleven of these have been excavated in 1965, recovering 1,965 humans and infantry men and 583 cavalry pottery figures. (Fig. 11) They are arranged in neat military array, in association with 410 pieces of shield, more than 1,100 pieces of bronze chariot and horse fittings and 55 other articles in shell, bone, pottery and iron. Subsequently in 1970-76, two of the attendant tombs (Nos. 4 and 5) have been thoroughly investigated. The underground structure which had been badly damaged in a fire is recognized as an elaborate copy of some palace architecture. (Fig. 12) Tomb 4 includes a series of seven mortuary annexes, one of which serves as a sacrificial chapel, three others are found to contain sets of daily utensils and the rest are full of pottery figures of riders and horses. It has been suggested that these two tombs could be the resting places of General Chou Po 周勃 and his son, General Chou Ya-fu 周亞夫. (WW, 77.10.10-32)

The magnificence of construction and sumptuousness of provision of the royal tomb were very much reduced by Emperor Wen-ti 文帝, the fourth ruler of the Han dynasty. Capable and benevolent, he governed with the welfare of the people at heart. He championed Confucianism, and practised temperate and frugal expenditure in government. The *Shih-chi* records that his tomb, the Pa-ling 霸陵 was built only of earthenware material, no decorations of gold, silver, copper or lead was used and no effort was made to heap up a tumulus over his grave. Hence the natural environment was left undisturbed. However, it was customary for the Han emperor to have his queen buried by his side though not in the same grave. Pa-ling may now be identified at Jen-chia-p'o 任家坡 in the eastern suburb of Sian, where the Tou-ling 竇陵, the tomb of Queen Tou and the Nan-ling 南陵, the tomb of Queen Mother Po 薄 and a whole array of attendant graves and burial annexes stand. (KG, 76.2.129-133;75) 37 of these burial annexes have been excavated in 1966. They are invariably common graves of plain rectangular pits, simple brick enclosures or earthenware coffins together with a few mortuary objects. (Fig. 13) The discovery testifies to the trustworthiness and sincerity of this benevolent emperor.

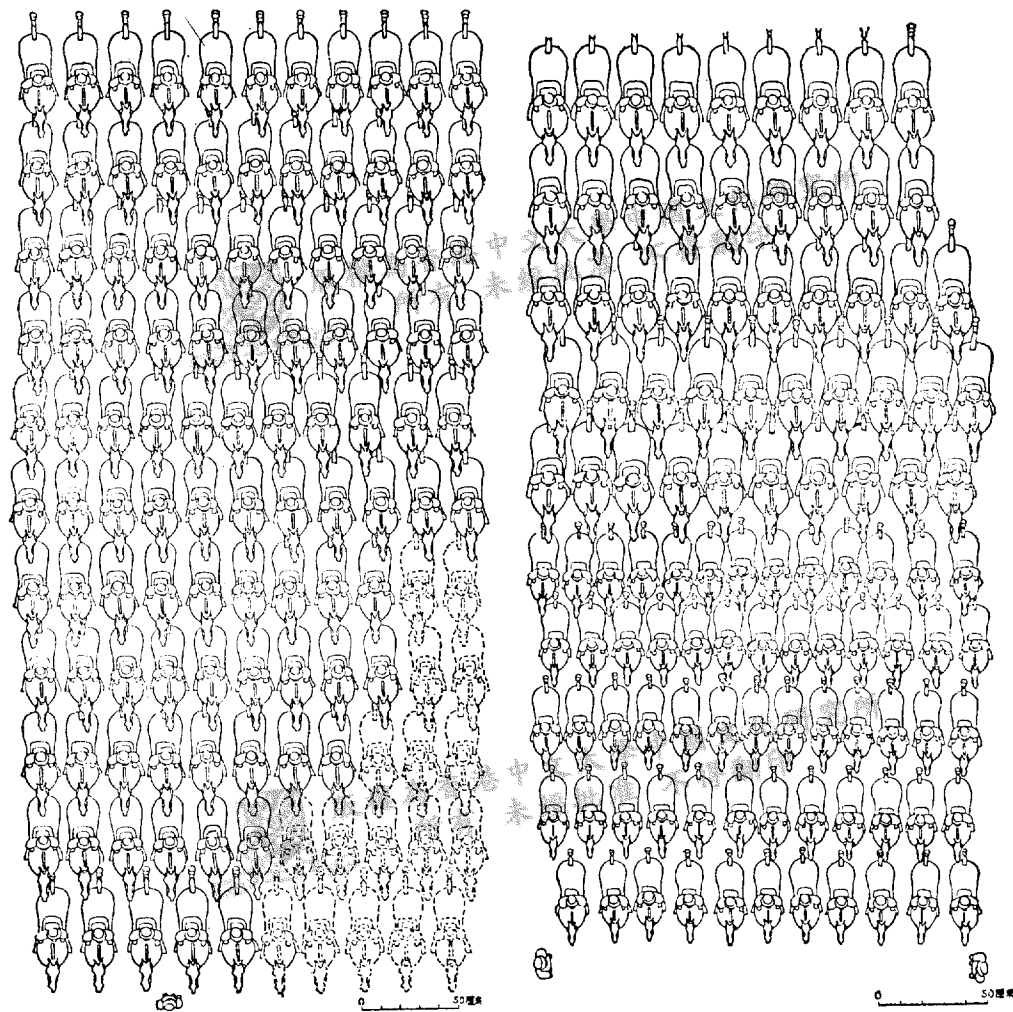


Fig. 11 — Cavalry pottery figures in one of the burial annex at Ch'ang-ling — WW, 77.10.24.

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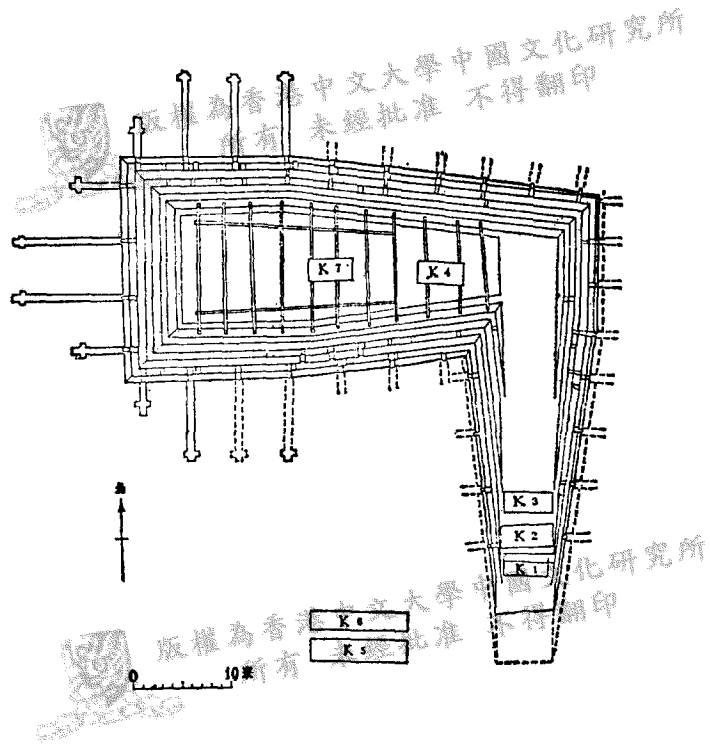
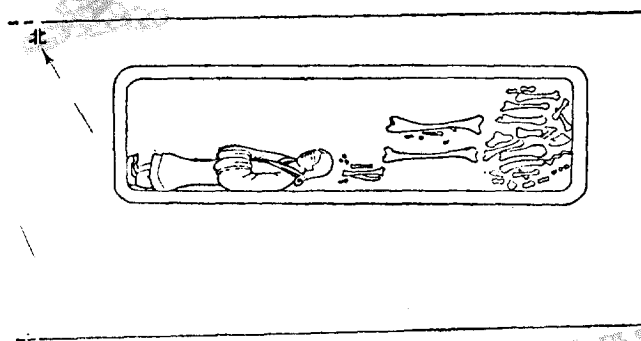
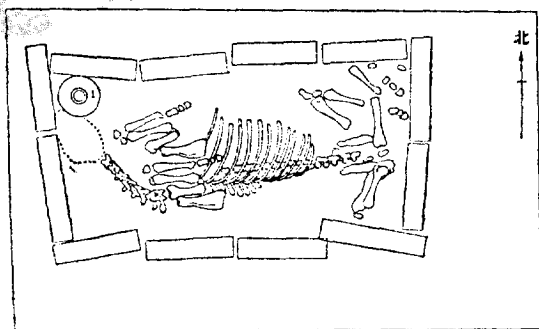


Fig. 12 — Attendant tomb 4 of Ch'ang-ling and seven burial annexes — WW, 77.10.13.

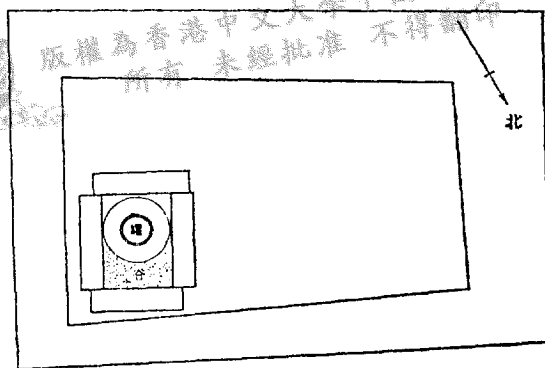
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Fig. 13 — Attendant tombs, rectangular pits, Nos. 35(a), 33(b) and 23(c) of Tou-ling and Nan-ling — KG, 76.2.131.

The simplicity in burial custom set by Emperor Wen-ti did not remain for long. His grandson, Emperor Wu-ti, the most powerful and enterprising ruler of the Han dynasty, enjoyed the largest burial ground and tallest tumulus some 45 kilometres northwest of Sian. In his Mao-ling 茂陵 stand the tombs of many famous generals and ministers of his time, mentioned in the chapter on architectural remains.

In the Eastern Han times regulations for the construction of a royal tomb was standardized. According to a chapter on rituals in the *Hou Han-shu* (3, ch.6.4) a royal tomb covers an area of 700 *mou* 畝: 100 *mou* are devoted to the grave pit, which is 130 ft. deep. The pit itself is outlined by a wall and covered with a mound 120 ft. high. The royal coffin is placed in a chamber 20 sq. ft. by 17 ft. high. From the chamber four passages are constructed leading to four doors in the four directions. In the galleries are deposited a chariot, six horses, weapons, silk fabrics, gold and jade utensils, rice and grains, domestic animals, sacrificial vessels, funerary objects and other valuable articles for the royal spirit. In the galleries there are also false-doors with swords, bows and arrows, and traps which are released automatically at the approach of any intruder. The tomb is of stone construction within which are stone beds and screens. The walls are decorated with pictorial representations. The mound on the surface of the ground is round or square, made of a mixture of earth, sand, lime and vegetable fibres and more than 100 ft. high. The latter are still decorating the hillsides of Sian and Lo-yang. (1, 142-3)

IV. *Kuo* burial chamber

None of the Han imperial tombs themselves have been investigated so far. But it is interesting to note that the Han emperors did not impose a monopoly of their funerary rituals, nor reserve any copy-right for the plans of their tomb construction. The style became the fashion of the day and the structural plans were freely copied and elaborated by their subordinates in all sorts of material according to the fashions of the time and localities as well as the means of the family involved. As a result, apart from following their Chou proto-types Han burial architecture appear in a large number of styles varying greatly in size and shape. The evolution of each type varies according to the material used in the construction as well as to its free mixture with one another. They may be briefly described as follows —

a. NATURAL PIT BURIAL—popular in Yünnan. In this type of burial hardly any burial chamber is recognizable. It may be taken as a form of pit burial because it is characterized by the use of a natural depression, preferably between huge pieces of boulder for the purpose. The T'ien 滇 burial group at Shih-chai-shan 石寨山 furnishes some good examples. (18, 10-11) In the middle of a suitable site a shallow pit is simply levelled leaving the rocks on one, two or three sides as

walls of the burial and the coffin is placed in it together with all sorts of mortuary furniture. Then the entire depression is filled with stamped earth, sometimes mixed with river pebbles. In one case the rockless side of the burial is bounded by a wooden plank, re-enforced with a sheet of copper. Sometimes a simple natural depression in the open is used in the same way. The pounding of the earth in the burial is responsible for a large number of the mortuary objects in damaged and fragmentary conditions.

b. RECTANGULAR PIT BURIAL — the most common type of Han burial. It is a rectangular pit large enough to hold a coffin. Some are elaborated with one or more side niches for the mortuary objects. Others may have one of the niches enlarged into a burial chamber leaving the original pit as a passage or "court yard" for the tomb. In the case of Tomb 149 at Liu-li-ke 琉璃閣, Hui-hsien 輝縣, the pit is large enough for a twin burial and the entrance is blocked by a brick wall. (Fig. 14; 6, 55) In the Eastern Han, it was a fashion to provide the burial pit with a brick roof.

In the central region of China, where the loess formation is suitable for tunnelling, some pit chambers are driven into the yellow earth cliff to form a room with a ceiling, either flat or round or pointed in shape. They are merely replicas of the cave dwellings of the local inhabitants. Most of these belong to the Eastern Han times.

c. SHELL OR PEBBLE BURIAL CHAMBER — This is basically a grave pit lined with sea or freshwater shells or pebbles on the four sides and floor, also large enough to take a coffin and an assortment of mortuary objects. Shell tombs are common in the Northeast and the coastal regions. The structure is sometimes re-enforced with bricks or blocks of stone. (KG, 57.3.25-41) In the interior, especially on the central plain river pebbles are used in the construction. At Miu-chia-chai 繆家寨 in Sian for instance, a rectangular burial has been found with the four sides built of large river pebbles and the vaulted roof constructed of large rectangular bricks with socketed joints. The structure and the contents may be ascribed to the transition between the Western and Eastern Han. (WW, 56.2.70-71)

Pebbles are often used as floor pavement for Han burial chamber. At Yin-shan-ling 銀山嶺 in P'ing-lo 平樂, Kwangsi, most of the tombs with Erh-ts'eng-t'ai on the two sides are paved with a layer of pebbles probably to keep the place dry. Tomb 116 has a sloping passage leading to the surface of the ground. It ends with a channel in front of the burial chamber which might have been meant as a drainage. (Fig. 15; KX, 78.4.471)

d. ROOF-TILE BURIAL CHAMBER — a rare type only reported in the northern suburb of Tientsin in Hopei. Basically also a rectangular pit, the walls

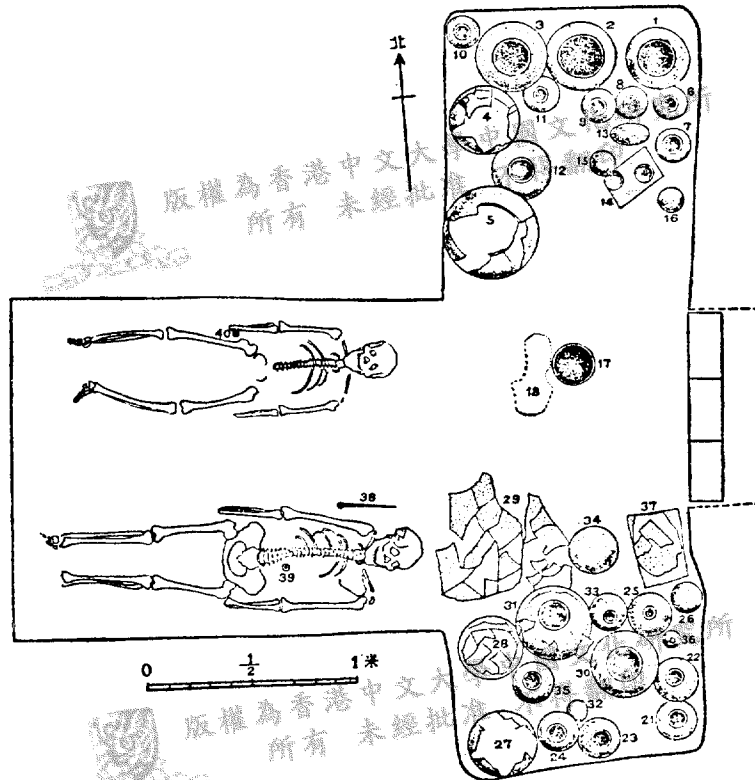


Fig. 14 — Rectangular pit burial, Hui-hsien, Honan, — 6, 55.

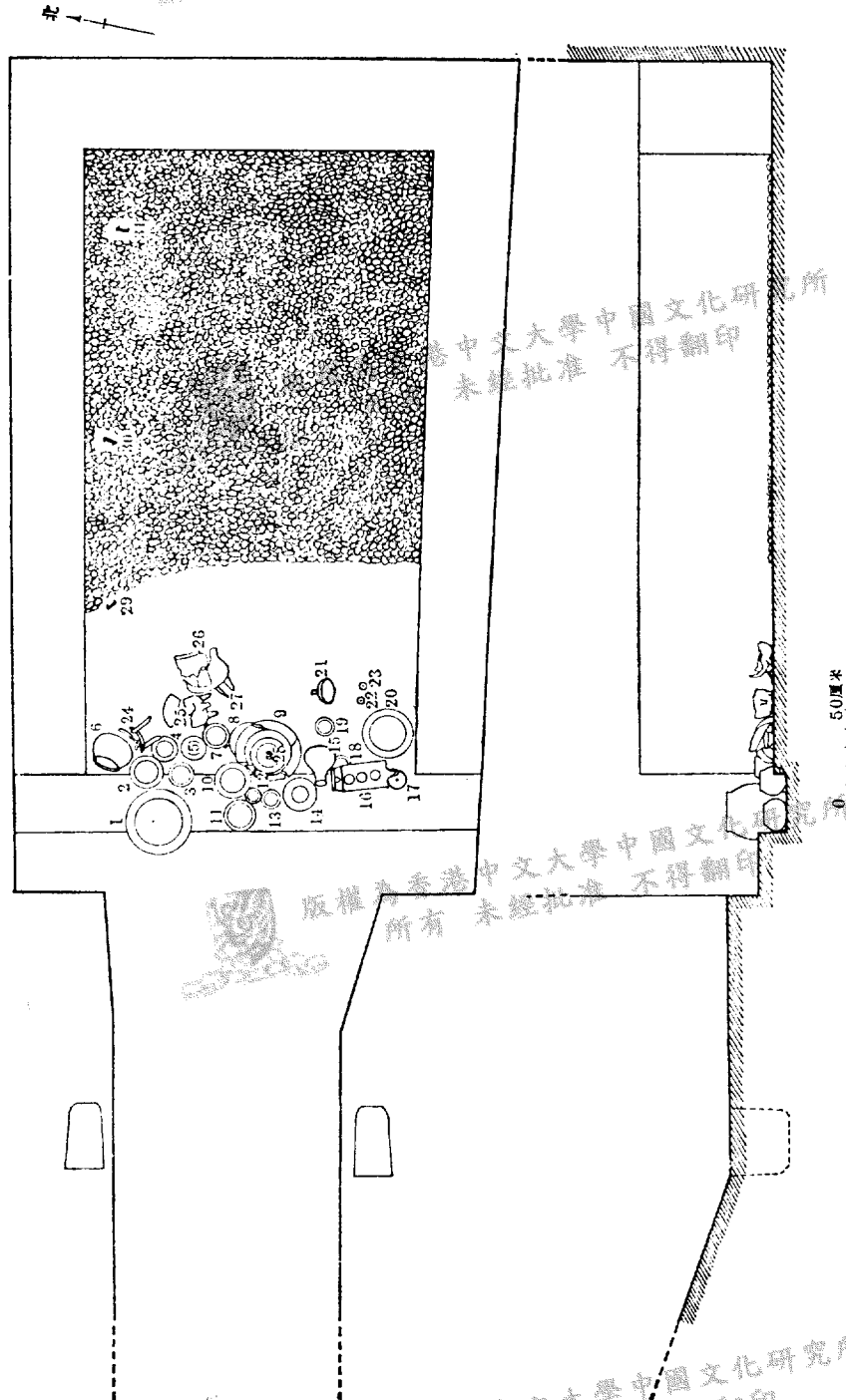


Fig. 15 — Pebble pit burial, Lo-p'ing, Kwangsi — KX, 78.4.471.

are lined and the roof covered exclusively with ordinary semi-tubular roof tiles. In the burial chamber are two coffins, containing a man and his wife. The husband was buried first and the chamber was extended later to accommodate his wife. The floor of the original burial chamber is paved with potsherds and tile fragments while that of the extension is covered with a layer of white limy substance. The tiles and a few pieces of mortuary pottery and a bronze belt buckle seem to indicate that the burial belonged to the early Western Han period. (KG, 72.6.16-17)

e. WOODEN BURIAL CHAMBER — common in every region. Han wooden burial chambers vary greatly in size and shape and in construction plan. They are invariably built in underground pits, simple ones just large enough to take a coffin and a few mortuary figurines and pottery containers. A large and more complex example is usually composed of several compartments, one for the coffin and the others for funerary furniture. In the Ch'ang-sha region the coffin which is sometimes made of several layers as described above occupies a compartment in the middle of the chamber and it is surrounded by smaller ones on the four sides. Sometimes, as in the tomb of Ts'ao Chuan 曹嫺, a double burial chamber was used, with the smaller chamber inside the larger, and more mortuary furniture scattered in between them. Fig. 16 shows the detailed ground plan while Fig. 17 gives the two side views and three types of joinery used in the wooden structure. In the Western Han, it was common to have the timbers prepared first and marked with its position and number before the prefabricated material was assembled in the burial pit. (WW, 78.8.12-13)

To the southwest of Peking, a more complex wooden structure has been excavated at Ta-pao-t'ai 大葆台 in 1974. It is a large rectangular burial chamber consisting of four layers one inside the other. The innermost room, reserved for the coffin, is square in shape and it leads into an elongated front hall and further on into a hall way and a passage which leads out of the chamber. Along this central axis, the interior is partitioned by the four layers of chamber walls into a series of passages and corridors in symmetrical arrangement. (Fig. 18a). There are two outer corridors and two inner passages which are a bit narrower (Fig. 18b). The tomb may be that of Prince Liu Tan 劉旦 of the Yen 燕 state who died in 80 B.C. (WW, 77.6.23-33)

A group of seven wooden chamber tombs have been investigated at Kwang-hua 光化, Hupei, collectively known as Wu-tso-fen 五座墳 the "Five Tombs". They are all set in large rectangular pits and one of them, M3, surrounded on all sides with a thick layer of white limy clay, remains in very good condition. The chamber, built of heavy blocks of timber, is set on a low platform supported by 3 sleepers and the interior is partitioned into two floors with the rooms on the upper floor on two levels. The coffin chamber is located on the lower level in the upper floor. There are two staircases, a taller one connecting the two floors while a shorter one leading from the

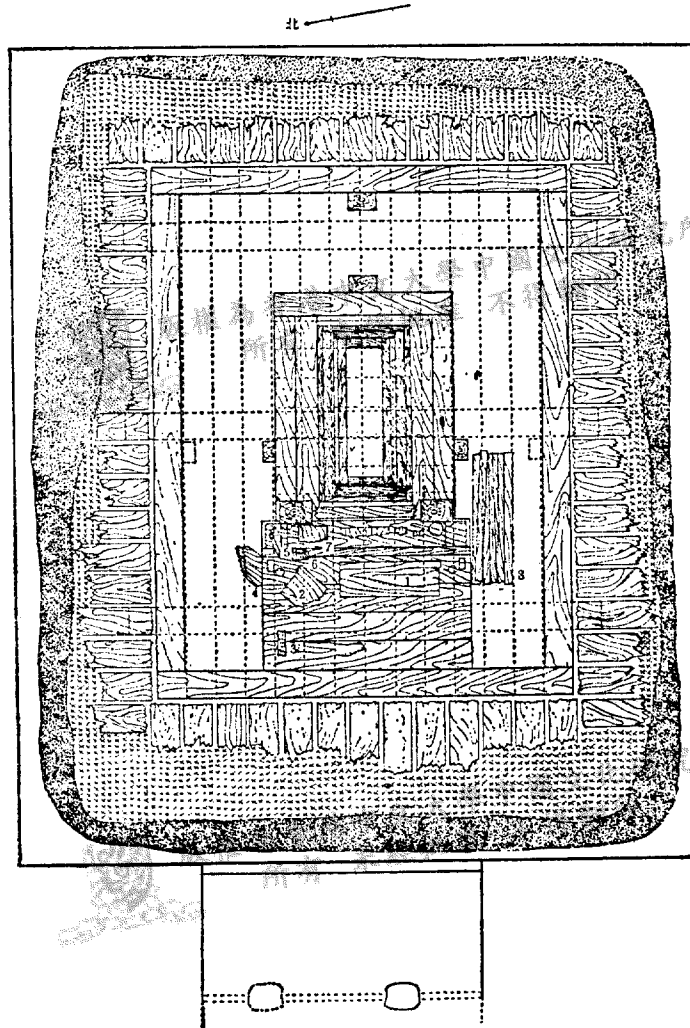


Fig. 16 — Tomb of Ts'ao Chuan, ground plan, Hsien-chia-hu 咸家湖, Ch'ang-sha, Hunan — WW, 79.3.2.

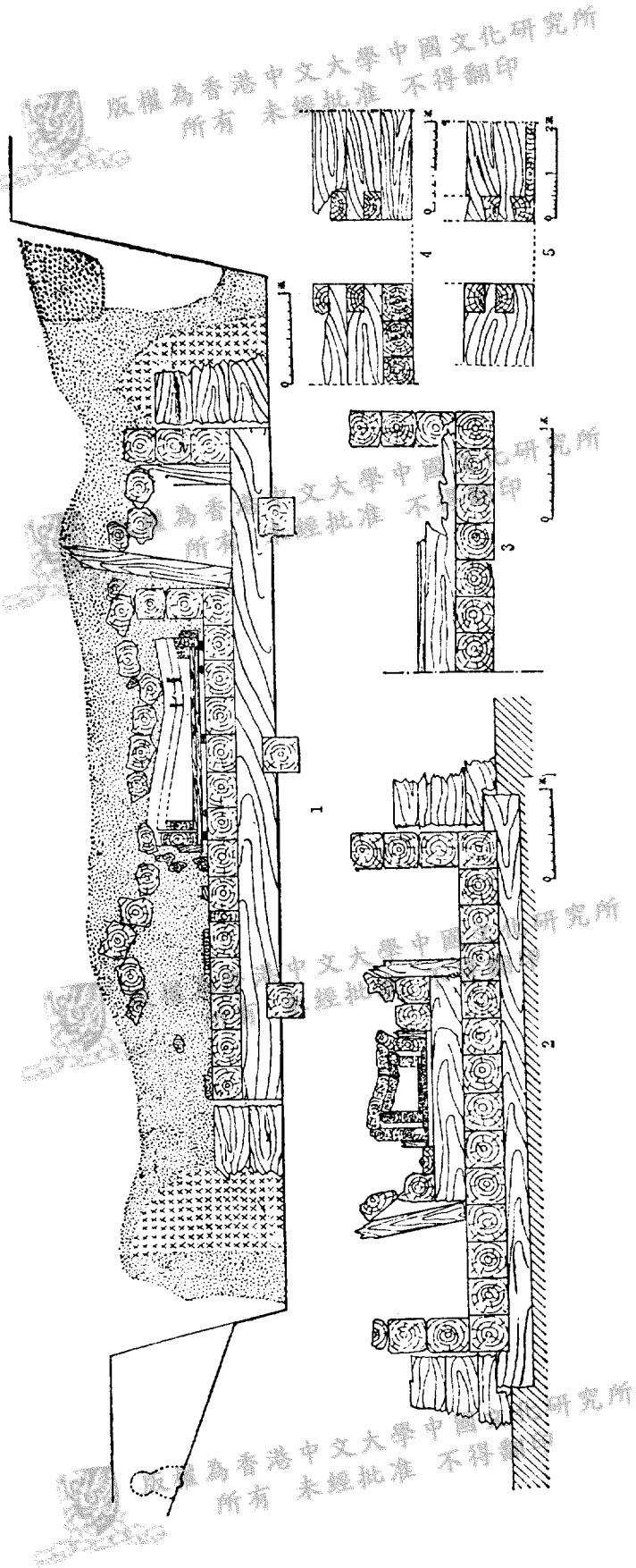


Fig. 17 — Tomb of Ts'ao Chuan, 2 side views and 3 types of joinery — WW, 79.3.10.

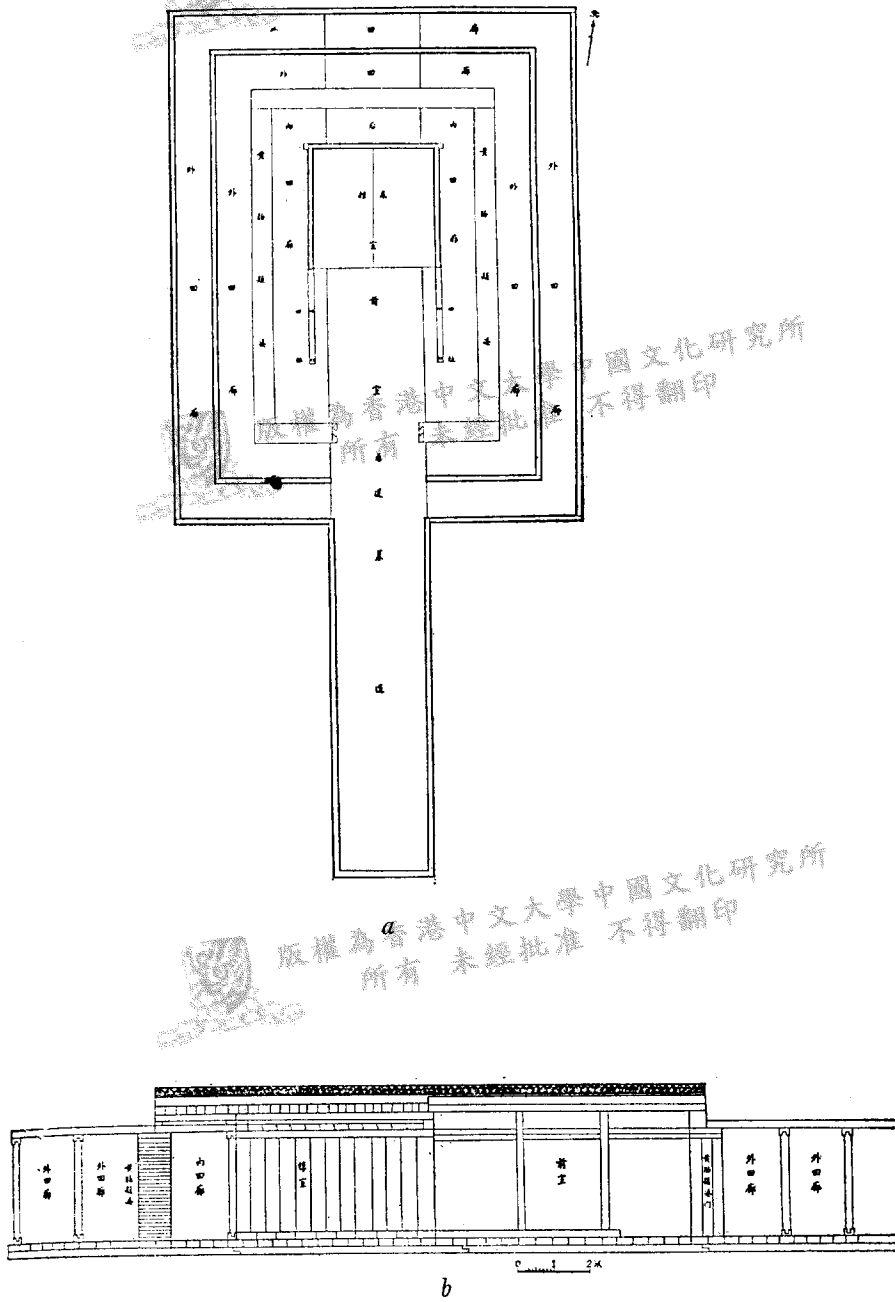


Fig. 18 — Wooden burial chamber of Ta-pao-tai, Peking:
a. ground plan; b. side view — WW, 77.6.24-25.

lower level to the upper level on the upper floor. Some of the partition walls are decorated with designs of lattice work. (Fig. 19) The structure, unusual and impressive, was apparently modelled after a two-storeyed house of the West Han period. (KX, 76.2.149-170)

Although most of the wooden burial chambers in the Western Han were built to accommodate only one coffin, twin burials are also known. One of these has been excavated at Hai-chou 海州, Kiangsu, in 1973. The heavy timbered chamber, also rectangular in shape, contains a male coffin in the middle and a smaller one with a female skeleton by its side on the right. The mortuary furniture for the couple is deposited in the remaining compartments inside the chamber. (Fig. 20) The contents of the tomb seem to show that the man was buried first and he was joined subsequently by his wife. (KG, 74.3.180)

Apart from the tomb passage which projects beyond the burial chamber described above, some Western Han wooden burial chambers are provided with one or more additional pits around the chamber structure itself. Tomb 9 of Chin-ch'üeh-shan 金雀山, at Lin-i 臨沂, Shantung, for instance, has a small elongated compartment attached to the main chamber by its side. (Fig. 21) The structure is apparently adapted from the common rectangular pit chamber with a side niche, serving the same purpose of storing the mortuary furniture. (WW, 77.11.25)

A more elaborate wooden burial chamber may be represented by the Lo-po-wan 羅泊灣 tomb at Kwei-hsien 貴縣, Kwangsi. The main chamber here is partitioned into three sections. The front one may be described as a sacrificial hall with two side rooms for the sacrificial utensils. The middle part contains an empty coffin, also with two side rooms for some mortuary articles. The section at the back is the main coffin chamber which had been damaged by tomb robbers in the past. The tomb has nine burial annexes in the form of rectangular pits. Seven of these, constructed right under the burial chamber, contain each a coffin, 3 square and 4 round in cross-section. The bodies inside are wrapped up in bamboo or straw mats, each accompanied by a few pieces of mortuary objects. (Fig. 22) They were possibly attendants of the master of the tomb serving as sacrificial victims in the ancient *yao-k'eng* fashion. The remaining two pits are located in front of the burial chamber beyond the tomb passage to the north. They are used as storage of all sorts of funerary furniture. (WW, 78.9.25-42)

The wooden burial chamber was in fashion throughout the Late Chou and Western Han times. Its popularity diminished gradually in the Eastern Han period, when most of the elaborate tombs were constructed of small bricks which will be described further on. The wooden chamber tomb No. 6 at T'ien-ch'ang hsien 天長縣, Anhui, may be taken as an example for this transitional period. The burial chamber is built of thick and heavy timber in the traditional fashion and partitioned into three compartments with movable doors leading into one another. (Fig. 23) The coffin with

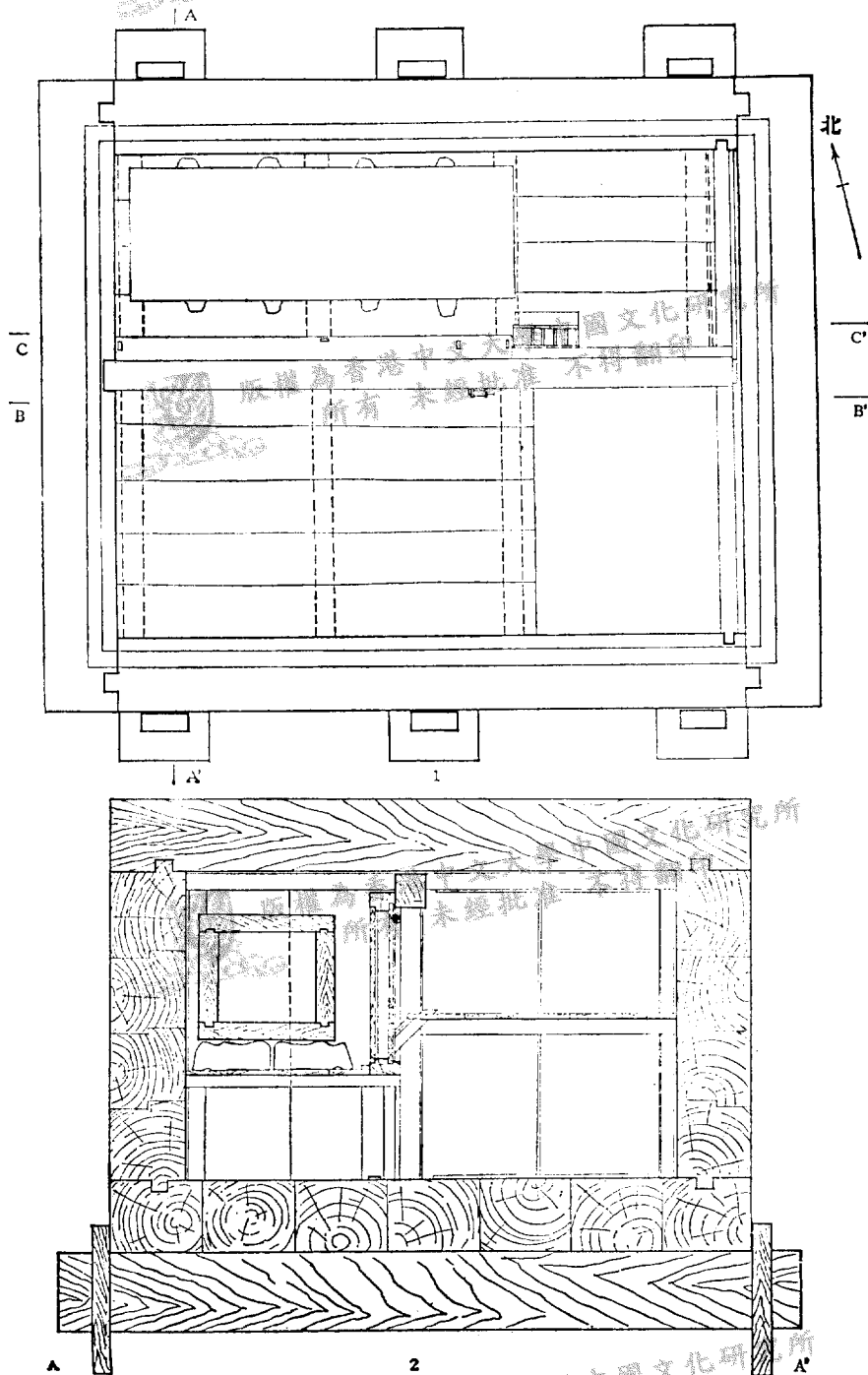


Fig. 19 — 4 views of a wooden burial chamber M3 at Wu-tso-fen, Kwang-hua, Hopei — KX, 72.2.152-53.

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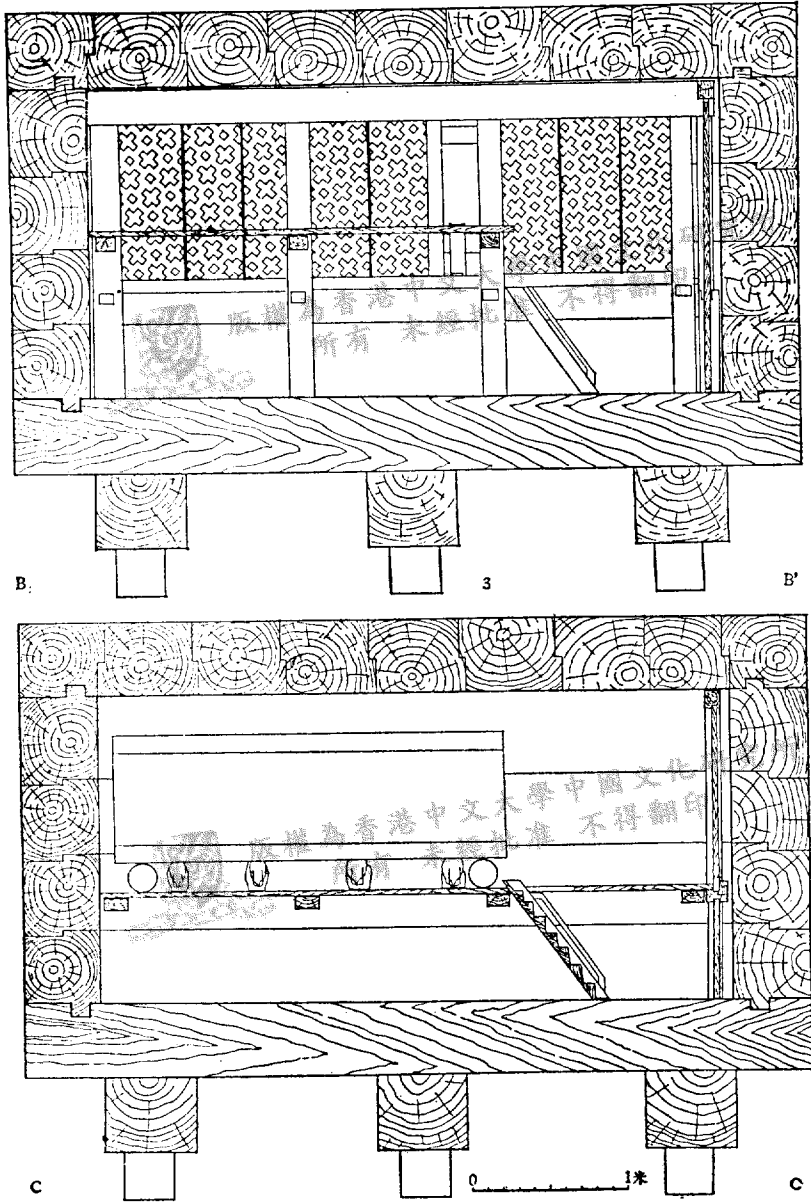


Fig. 19 (Con't)

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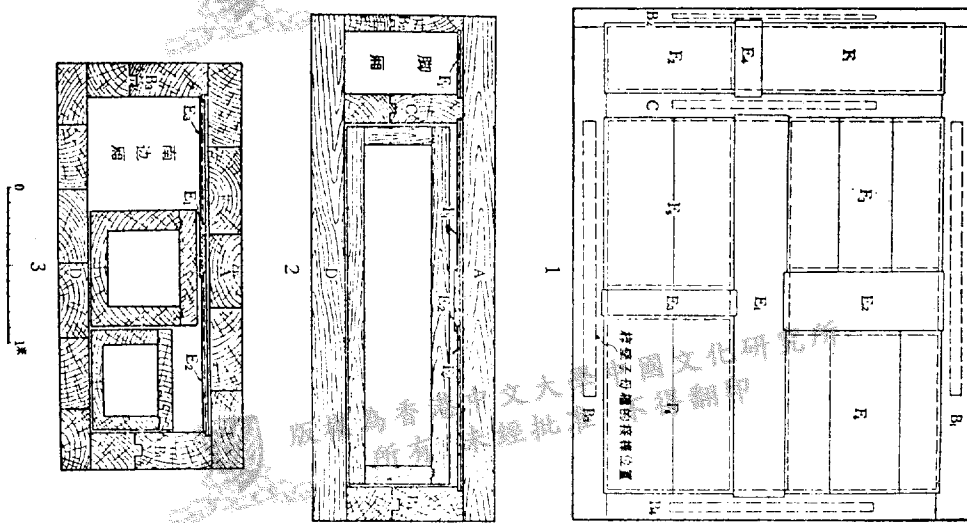


Fig. 20 — 3 views of a wooden burial chamber, Hai-chou, Kiangsu — KG, 74.3.180.

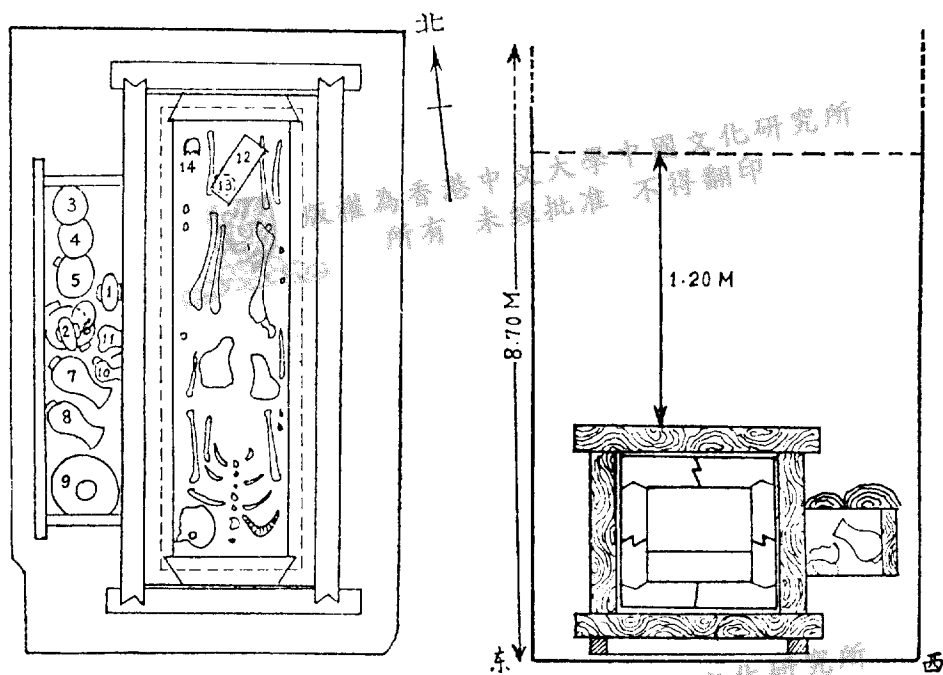


Fig. 21 — 2 views of a wooden burial chamber, Chin-ch'ueh-shan, Lin-yi, Shantung — WW, 77.11.25.

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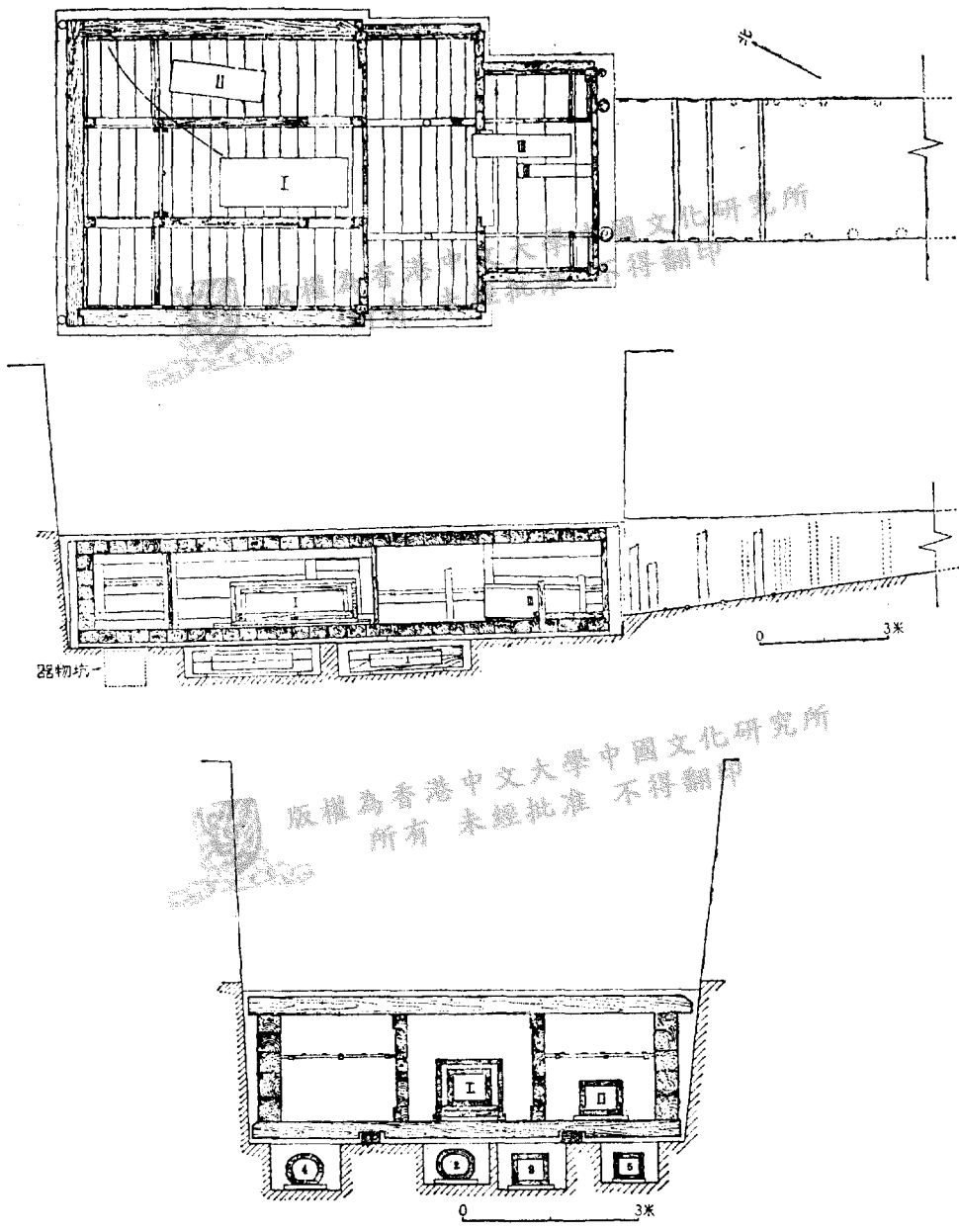


Fig. 22 — 3 views of a wooden burial chamber, Lo-po-wan, Kwei-hsien, Kwangsi — WW, 78.9.26 and 35.

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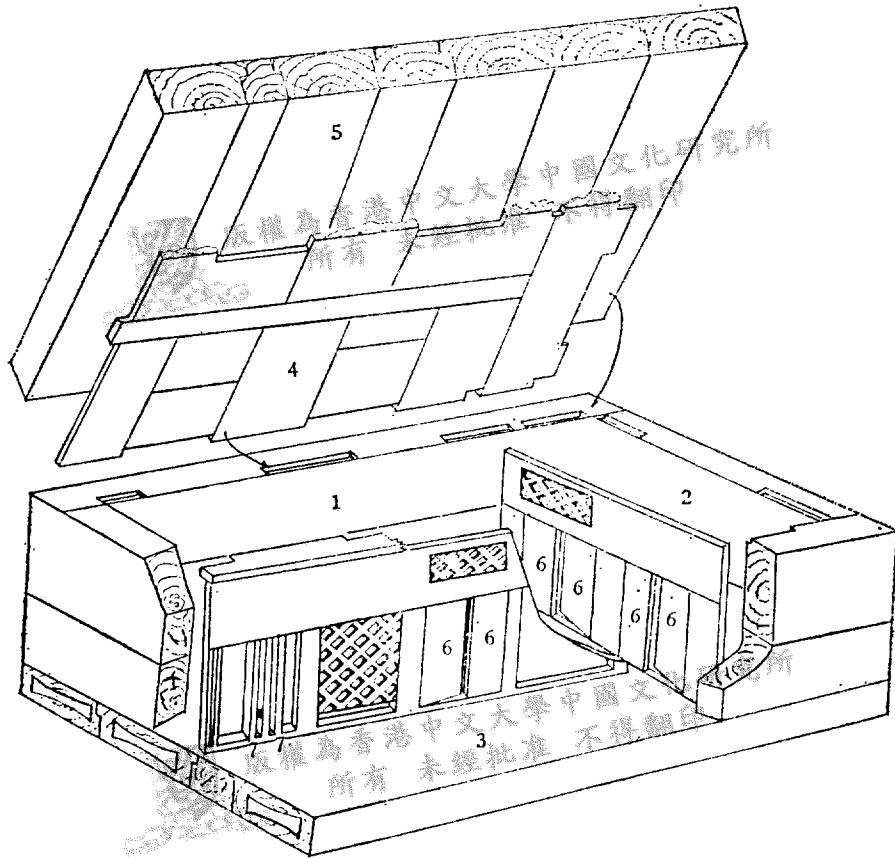


Fig. 23 — Wooden burial chamber, Tomb 6, T'ien-ch'ang-hsien, Anhui — KG, 79.4.325.

some mortuary objects in it is placed in the room on the right and a large collection of mortuary furniture occupies the room on the left. The front room is empty probably because it contained only perishable articles. There is also a ceiling covering all the rooms and the partition walls are decorated with designs of lattice work. The chamber is evidently designed after a common dwelling quarter in the traditional manner. It may be dated some time in the transitional period between the Western and the Eastern Han, thus representing the last stage of development in this type of underground architecture. (KG, 79.4.320-329)

The use of wood for the construction of burial chamber presented the ancient tomb builder with the problem of preservation. No matter how durable the timber, the material could not stand the humidity underground for very long. The Han people used to choose such suitable material like cypress and catalpa and the finished product was covered with layers of paint and lacquer to prevent immediate decay. The more elaborate and important constructions would usually be further protected with layers of protective materials, preferably charcoal and limy clay. The construction of Tomb I at Ma-wang-tui, for instance, shows that the grave-pit was first filled with a layer of limy clay 15 centimetres thick. After constructing the burial chamber and placing the multiple coffins and the prescribed mortuary furniture in it, the wood work was covered by 26 pieces of bamboo mats. Then the space around the chamber inside the pit was filled with charcoal to a thickness of 40-50 centimetres, which was then further strengthened by a layer of limy clay to a thickness of 1-1.3 metres. Above this the remaining part of the pit was filled with stamped earth and finally an earthen mound was heaped over the grave. From the bottom of the grave pit to the top of the mound it has a height of 20 metres. The burial chamber is so solidly packed with charcoal and limy substance that the coffins are completely insulated. The air-tight sealing of charcoal and limy clay is probably the main reason for the remarkable preservation of the corpse, coffins and the large quantity of the funerary furniture found in the tomb. (5, 3-13) With this type of air-tight tomb the method of building was perfected in the Late Chou and continued in fashion into the Western Han period.

f. BRICK BURIAL CHAMBER — the most common form used in China ever since the Late Chou period. It may be classified according to the material used into two categories, namely the large hollow brick chamber and the small solid brick chamber. The former was first introduced in the Late Chou period and continued in use in the Western Han. (WW, 53.1.95-106) The small solid brick, on the other hand, was first included in the construction of the hollow brick tomb and eventually became the main building material and developed into a very elaborate and celebrated tradition of underground architecture in Eastern Han.

Following the Late Chou tradition, the hollow brick burial chamber of the Han

period was built either in the form of a rectangular box or an oblong house with a gable roof. The building material, mostly about 20 centimetres thick were cast specifically for the purpose in at least three varieties, large rectangular, narrow elongated or triangular in shape. The large rectangular bricks, measuring usually 60 x 160 centimetres in size, are used mainly for the walls and partitions of the chamber. They are arranged vertically lengthwise in rows of two in height, making a chamber of roughly 160 x 320 x 120 centimetres high. The floor and ceiling are paved with the bricks in horizontal position. Sometimes they are replaced by the ordinary solid material, elongated or square in shape. The triangular bricks are reserved for the construction of the roof, especially at the two ends, while the roof itself is laid with a series of narrow elongated ones, leaning against each other at the top in a slanting position. Many of these bricks are inscribed with written character in red, denoting the position they are to occupy in the construction. This shows that the number of each type of bricks to be used in the building was calculated and assembled in advance. In a simple structure 20-30 pieces are enough for an ordinary chamber, but a larger one requires no less than 70. In a more elaborate example, when the main chamber is greatly enlarged, many special types of material, such as columns, corners and squares, are added for the partition work on the inside. These are cast in prescribed sizes and shapes and also hollow inside. The structure takes the appearance of a house with a main chamber for the coffin and a number of extensions forming side chambers in all directions. The front wall and the door are built also with hollow bricks, but they are erected in the upright position.

The hollow bricks of Western Han are almost always decorated with impressed designs. The decorative elements range from human figures, animals, birds and trees to geometric and floral patterns. Each of these were carved as individual units and stamped on to the brick surface while the pottery was still soft. The impressions may be applied at random or in groups to form a picture or a definite pattern. (17)

The construction of the hollow brick burial chamber became most elaborate in the Western Han. The work was made possible with the help of the small solid bricks. Many chambers of this type have been excavated in and around the region of Lo-yang in a wide variety of construction plan. Tomb 3227 in the western suburb of the city may be taken as an example. The main chamber measures 4.5 x 2.03 metres wide with an arched roof. The latter is constructed of a series of three elongated bricks, a short one for the cover and two long ones for the two sides. The two long ones are cast with a tenon on each end, to support the short one on top and to rest on the chamber walls below, forming an arched roof with a flat top measuring 2.14 metres high. The floor is paved with two rows of large hollow bricks and filled with an additional line of small solid bricks at the end. In the front part of the chamber, a small side chamber opens to the east, measuring 2.56 x 1.00 metres wide. To the west two larger side chambers which lead into one another at right

angles are also added. One of these measures 5.85 x 1.34 metres wide and the adjoining chamber 4.6 x 1.14 metres wide. All these side chambers, each with a curve arched roof, are all built with small solid bricks. The front gate is sealed with two layers of brick work, a wall of hollow bricks set in vertical position, re-enforced with a thick layer of small solid bricks on the outside. (KX, 63.2.6) The whole structure of the tomb forms an asymmetrical ground plan with the four chambers projecting in the four directions. (Fig. 24)

It is more common to have the brick tomb constructed in symmetrical balance. The Pu Ch'ien-ch'iu 卜千秋 tomb, recently excavated also to the west of Lo-yang, is built in this fashion. The tomb passage, leading into the entrance hall and main coffin chamber forms the central axis, and four side chambers are set in pairs, one on each side in symmetrical balance. (Fig. 25)

The construction of the door way of the Pu tomb deserves special attention. The door itself is built of five large brick in vertical position and another in horizontal position on top to form the lintel. The latter is overlaid by a square brick in the centre, flanked on both sides by two triangular ones. These are set to support the roof, which is formed by a piece of short brick in horizontal position and two long ones in slanting position. Most of these bricks are cast in individual sizes and shapes with tenons at the two ends to fit into their prescribed position. The roof over the chamber which measures 4.6 x 2.1 x 1.86 metres high is constructed in the same fashion, forming an angular archway throughout. The ceiling and the triangular space at the two ends are covered with painted multi-coloured decorations, mainly composed of animals and deities common in Han mythology.

The side chambers are built of small solid bricks, but their doorways are constructed of large hollow bricks, two erected in upright positions to support a lintel on top. The roofs of these chambers are built of wedge-shaped small solid bricks, which naturally made a carved arch when laid on top of one another with the thicker end of the brick on the outside.

Judging by the underground architecture and the collection of mortuary objects recovered in it, the tomb of Pu Ch'ien-ch'iu may be dated 86-94 B.C. It is evident that the use of ordinary bricks in tomb building was already well established in the middle of the Western Han dynasty. (WW, 77.6.1-22)

The use of ordinary small brick in tomb construction was in fact quite common in the Western Han. It was widely used by the common people in the countryside. Tomb 9 at Hsia-ho-ch'ing 下河清, Chiu-ch'uan 酒泉, in Kansu may be cited as an example. (Fig. 26) This is simply a rectangular pit lined on the four sides with bricks which are laid vertically on the long side to form a chamber large enough to hold the corpse in extended position. The roof is constructed by laying two layers of bricks in horizontal position, the lower layer in two rows and the upper one in one row. (WW, 60.2.56)

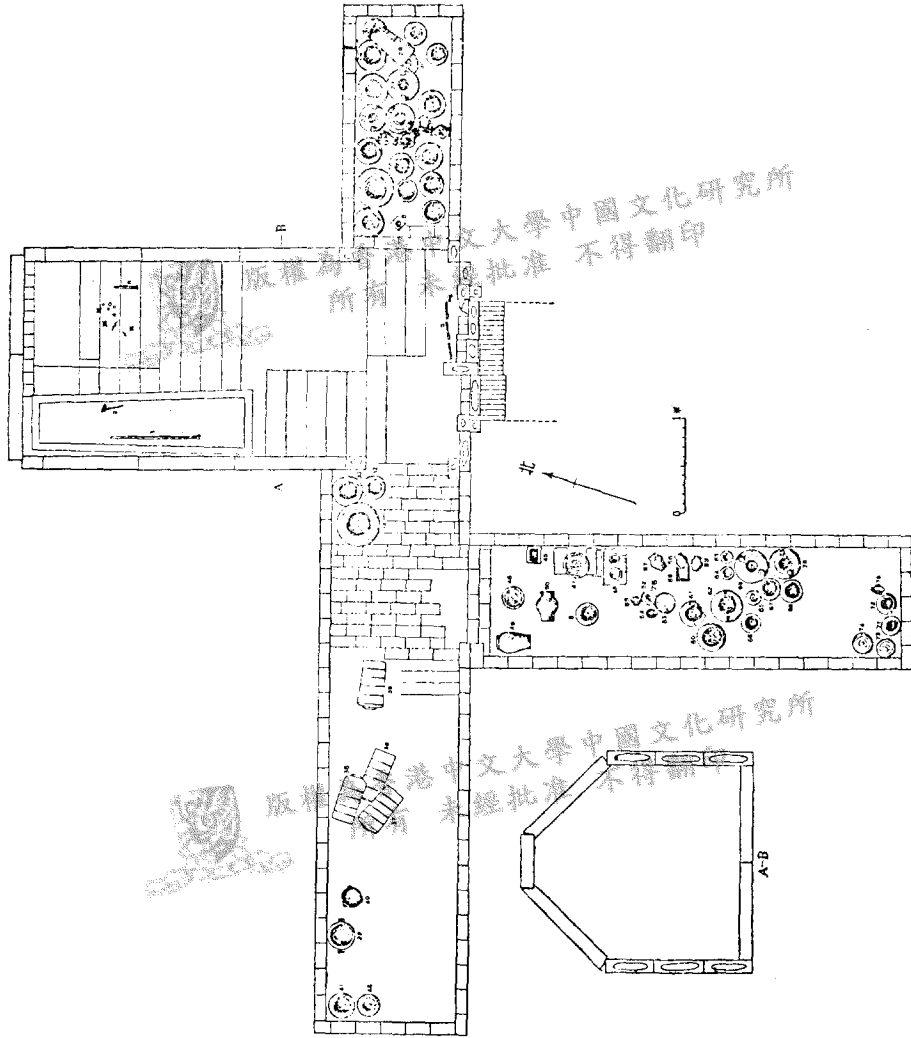
The small solid bricks began to replace the hollow ones as the chief building material in tomb construction in the Eastern Han. These being easier to handle, the technique of brick-laying developed and soon enjoyed popularity throughout the land. In the same tradition, this type of tomb architecture composed usually of an enormous and elaborate complex with many adjacent compartments. As a rule, the latter are grouped around the main chamber in various directions, as side chambers, totalling sometimes as many as thirteen in number. (4) The material varies in size and shape and for decoration the exposed side is covered with decorative designs, which include a wide variety of geometric and floral patterns, animal figures and scenes of human life. Some of these pictures may sometimes be made to form a large composition. Others are inscribed, giving the date of the burial as well as auspicious phrases common in the Han times. The fashion began in the later part of the Western Han and soon became the most prominent feature in the Eastern Han and later dynasties.

This type of underground architecture is generally very well constructed. For the simple rectangular structure the vaulted roof is built in many ways. In its simplest form, the roof is constructed out of large curved bricks with socketed joints forming a round arch like a saddle. The most common type is built with wedge-shaped bricks, which form a curved arch in the manner as one of the hollow brick burial described above. Occasionally, ordinary oblong bricks are used with each layer moving inward until the two slanting walls gradually meet at the top to form a gable roof. In this case, the arch takes a triangular outline in shape. Another type may be described as a 'Gothic arch', as it is supported by a framework of slightly curved wedge-shaped slabs of stone, on which elongated bricks with socketed joints are laid. The most complicated structure may be represented by a low cone-shaped dome on a large square chamber. The curve roof rises from the walls of the chamber and curves inward to form a squarish dome with a round or pointed top. The bricks are laid in such a way that the arch would stay together without the danger of collapsing. (1, 143-44; cf. 16)

In Tomb 1029 at Shao-kou 燒溝, Lo-yang, one large square chamber and a large rectangular back chamber are built side by side. (Fig. 27) The two roofs, which are erected in this fashion in two square domes, are connected to each other with a narrow saddle-shaped archway while the square roof on the rectangular chamber which covers only its front part is extended further back in a curve arch to cover the rest of the back chamber. (9, 59)

The roof of a brick chamber of this type is sometimes built in more than one layer. It is common to have the layers constructed one on top of the other forming a thick vaulted roof or a heavy archway over the door. In some cases, each layer is constructed in a different way, probably in order to re-enforce one another. In the case of Tomb II at Wang-tu 望都, the upper layer is not laid directly over the lower

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Fig. 24 — Hollow brick tomb chamber, 2 views, Tomb 3227, Loyang, Honan — KX, 63.2.5.

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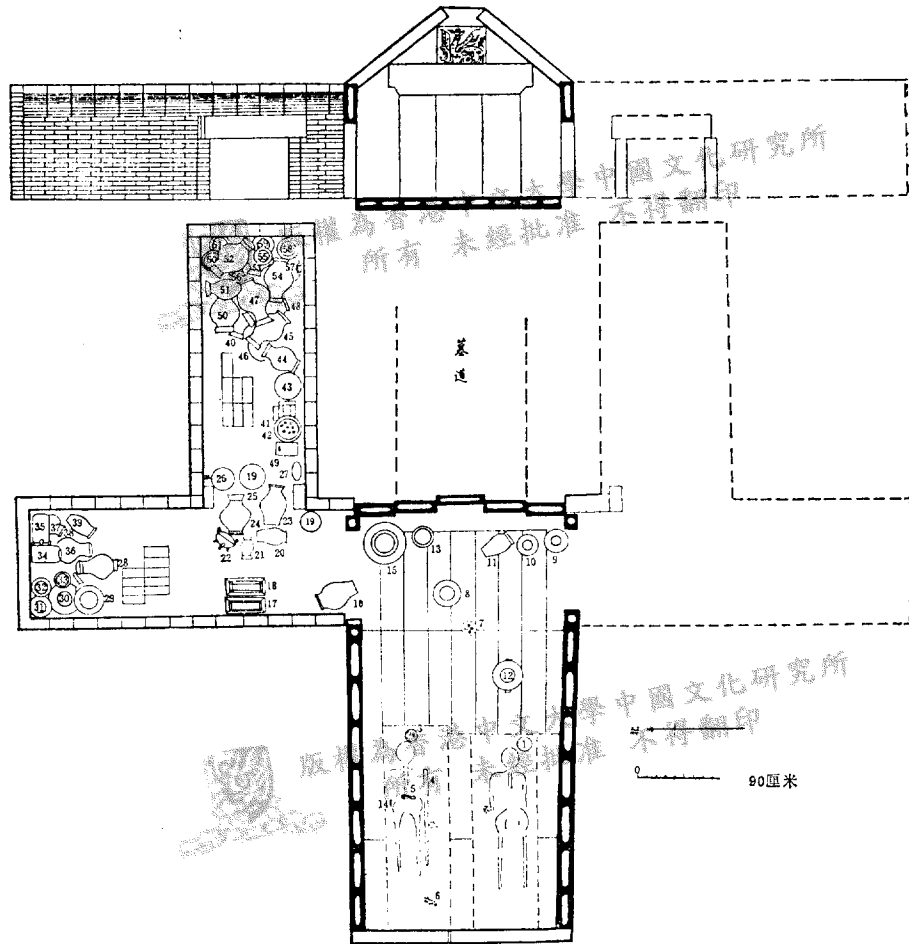


Fig. 25 — Hollow brick tomb chamber, 2 views, Pu Ch'ien-ch'iu tomb, Loyang, Honan — WW, 77.6.2.

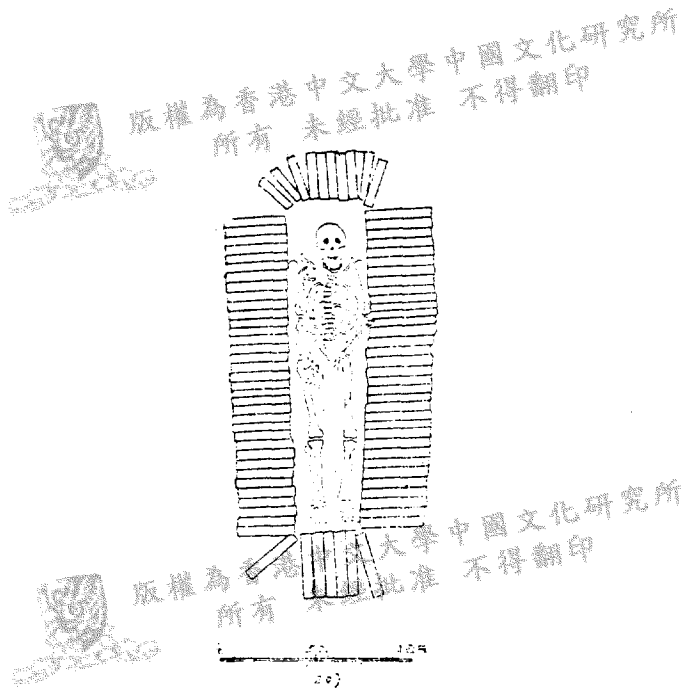


Fig. 26 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 9, Hsia-ho-ch'ing, Chiu-ch'uan, Kansu — WW, 20.2.56.

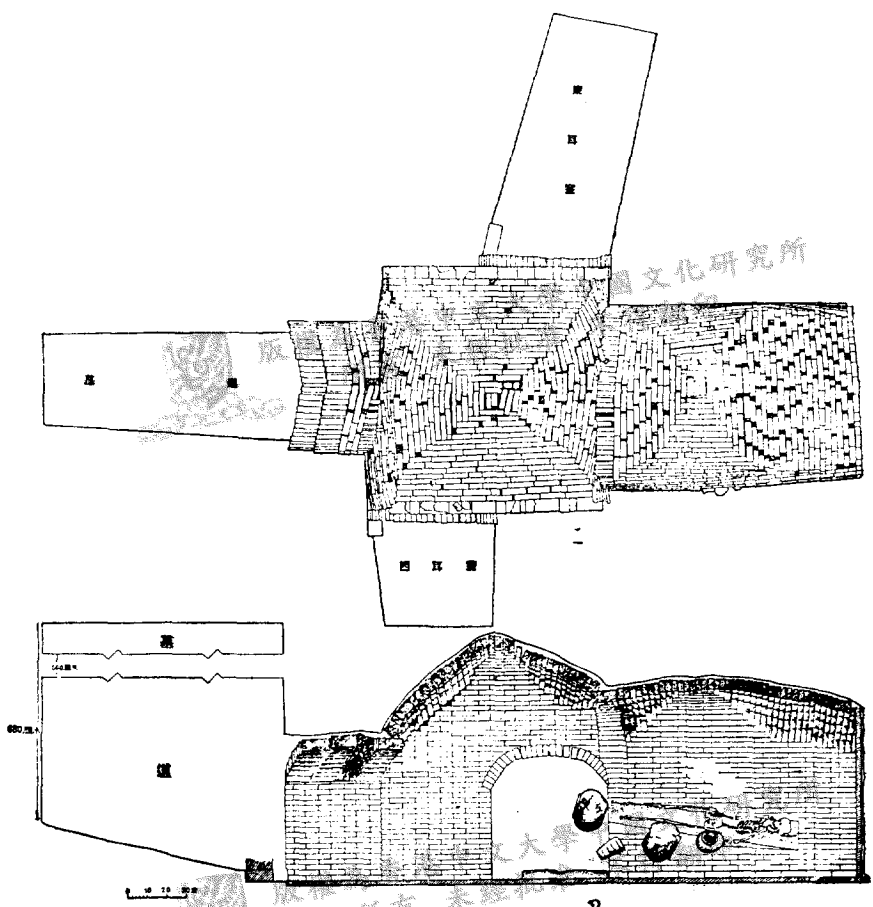


Fig. 27 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 1029, 2 views, Shao-kou, Honan — 9, 61.

one, so that a crescent-shaped space is left in between. (13, 8) In the western suburb of Lo-yang, Tomb 3247 has a square main chamber with an entrance hallway in front, a side chamber on the left and a rear chamber at the back. (Fig. 28) The vaulted roof of the main chamber has an outer cover which springs like a bridge from the roof of the entrance hallway on one side, touching the top of the chamber roof in the middle and descending downward to rest on the roof of the back chamber. All the other units of the tomb are flat on top. (KX, 63.2.9)

Apart from the superstructure described above, this type of Han tomb structure, large and impressive, complex and elaborate, are built on a wide variety of ground plans. They are as a rule laid out with the tomb passage, the entrance hall and the main chamber as the central axis and a number of side chambers which are located either in symmetrical balance on the two sides or asymmetrically at random in various directions. The symmetrical structure appears in neat, systematic array, ranging from one to as many as four or five units, each with a central chamber flanked by a pair of side chambers. They are provided with doors or passage ways to lead into one another.

The enlargement of this type of tomb structure seems to have been done in two ways. Some of them achieve this by increasing the size of the main chamber and partitioning it into many sections or compartments. Tomb 1 of Feng-huang-t'ai 鳳凰台, at Po-hsien 亳縣, Anhui, for instance, has the tomb passage, entrance hall, main chamber and the back chamber leading into each other in a straight line. (Fig. 29) The main chamber is greatly enlarged with the roof supported by a pair of large brick columns which are built in the shape of a cross in cross-section. As a result the chamber is actually divided into five rooms, three square ones in the middle and two elongated side chambers on the two sides, all set in symmetrical balance. Some fragments of coloured plaster on the wall indicate that the interior was originally decorated with painted works. The entrance was sealed with a stone wall. (KG, 74.3.187-190)

The enlargement of this type of brick tomb is sometimes carried out in the back chamber. At T'eng-chia-chuang 滕家庄, Wu-wei 武威, the Han tomb which was excavated in 1959, has the back chamber partitioned in two identical compartments. They were meant probably as a double burial accommodating two coffins, each with some mortuary objects. Besides, the main chamber is opened on one side into an oblong side chamber (Fig. 30). Thus the tomb acquires an asymmetrical ground plan. (KG, 60.6.13-15)

Tomb 10016 in the western suburb Lo-yang is built on a symmetrical ground plan (Fig. 31). The central axis, composed as usual of a passage, an entrance hall, a main chamber and a back chamber leading into each other in a straight line and the main chamber is provided with two burial annexes, one on each side. The latter are tunneled out from the chamber wall on to the surrounding earth forming a pair

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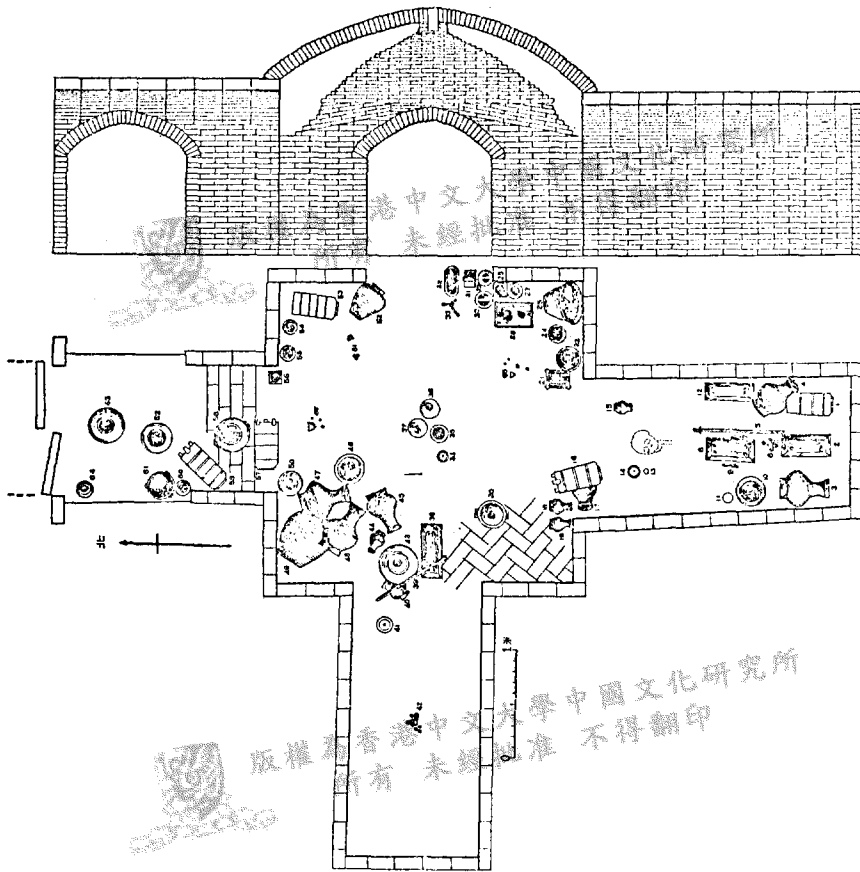


Fig. 28 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 3247, 2 views, Lo-yang Honan — KX, 63.2.9.

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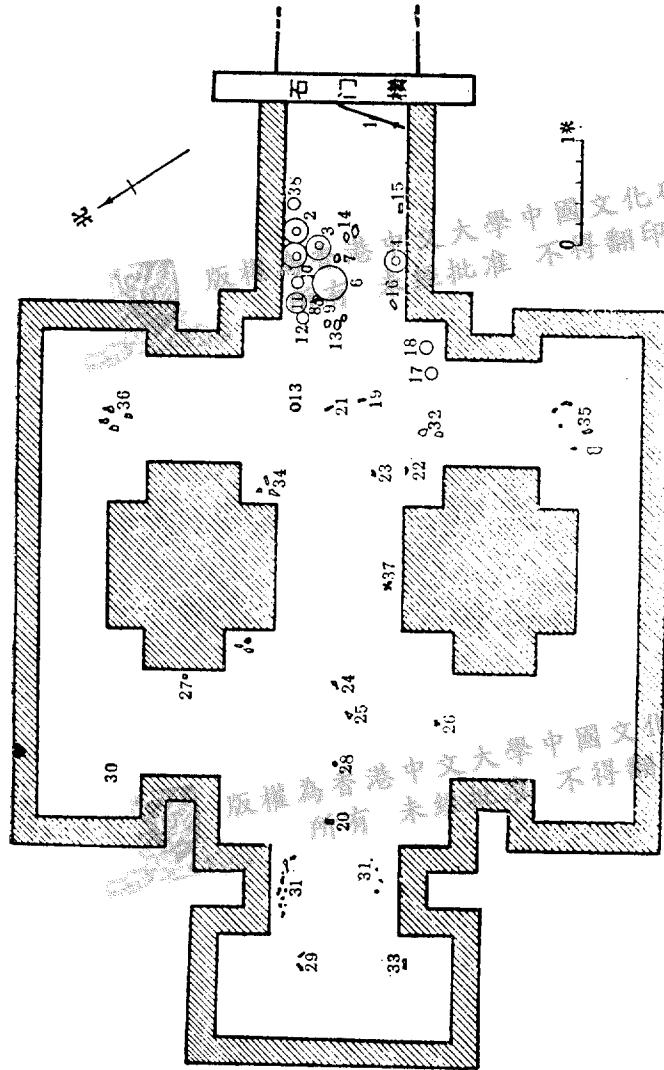


Fig. 29 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 1, Feng-huang-t'ai, Po-hsien, Anhui — KG, 74.3.188.

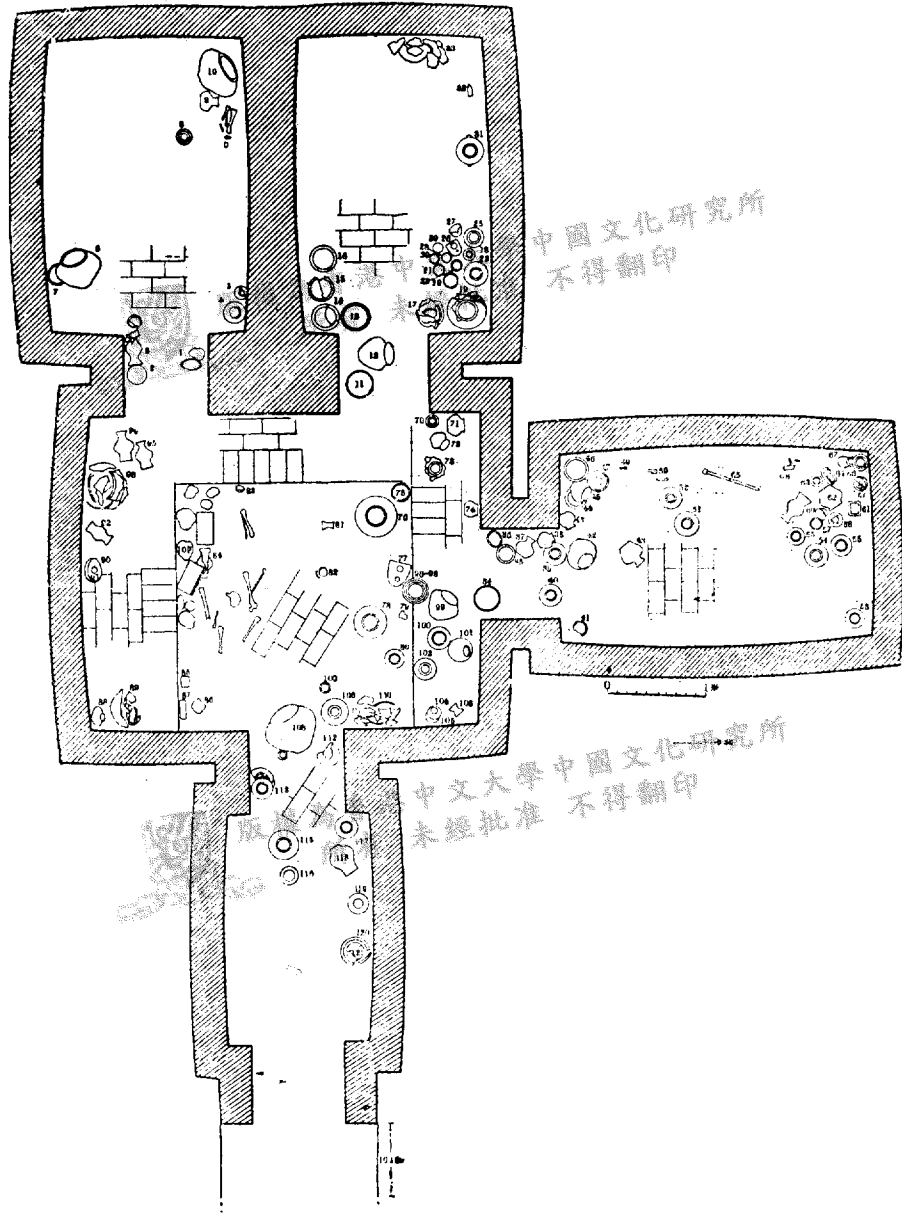


Fig. 30 — Brick burial chamber, T'eng-chia-chuang, Wu-wei, Kansu — KG, 60.6.14.

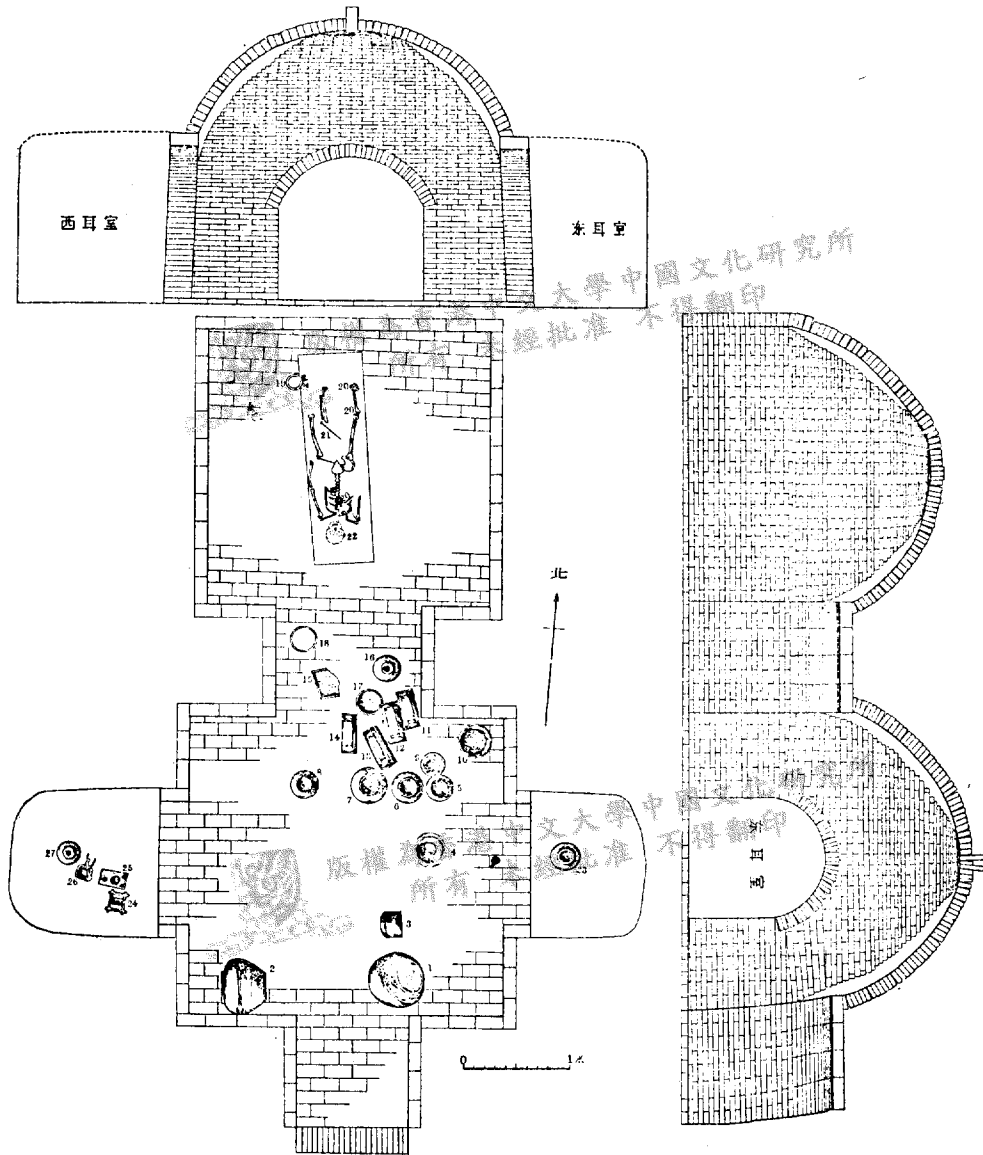


Fig. 31 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 10016, 3 views, Lo-yang, Honan — KX, 63.2.9.

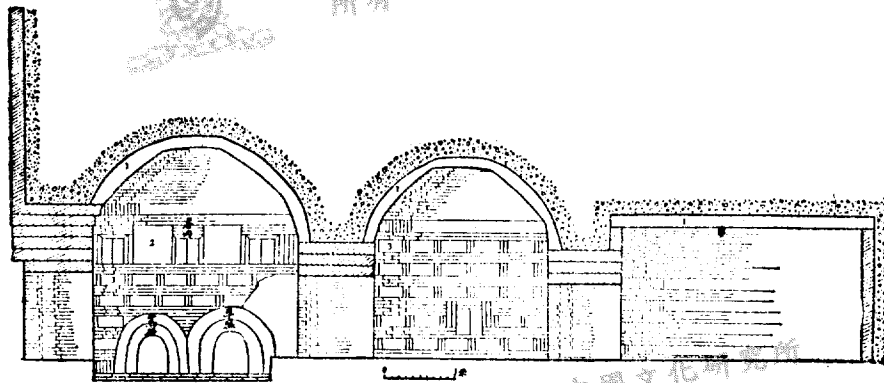
of square caves rounded on one side. This is evidently in the tradition of the rectangular pit burial with side niches described above. (KX, 63.2.10-11)

It is also common to have a symmetrical tomb plan expanded into an asymmetrical structure. Tomb 3 of Chia-yü-kuan 嘉峪關 in Kansu has 3 chambers and the entrance hall and tomb passage built in a straight array as usual, but the front chamber takes four additional rooms, varying greatly in size. The largest one is oblong in shape and about 5-6 times the size of the three smaller ones. (Fig. 32) Apart from the ornamental bricks with decorative designs in low relief, a large number of the plain ones are adorned with pictures of human activities in colours on white background. Furthermore, the gate is made of two movable leaves of stone door, with typical Han decorative designs in low relief. The tomb may be dated to the very end of Eastern Han, showing that various techniques and styles of tomb building had mixed and intermingled to form a tradition handed down to later times. (WW, 72.12.24-41)

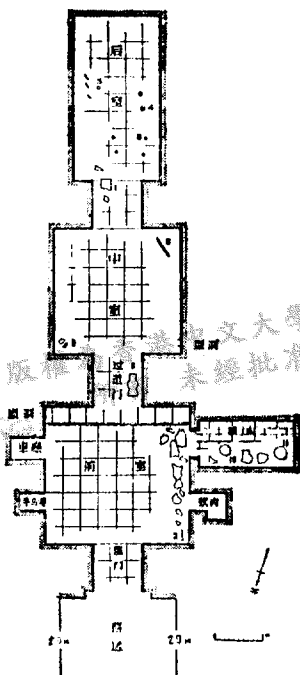
The symmetrical brick tomb of the Eastern Han period may sometimes appear in two or three units in compound structure. Tomb 72 South M2 of Nan-ch'ang 南昌, Kiangsi serves as a good example. Here three symmetrical units identical in size and shape are constructed side by side. Consisting each of three compartments, the central chambers are connected to one another by a door way and further provided with two side chambers one on each side in symmetrical balance. (Fig. 33) The bricks are decorated on the inside with circular, cash and other geometric design. (WT, 77.1.116-117)

A splendid asymmetrical brick tomb of the Eastern Han period has been excavated at Ho-lin-ko-erh 和林格爾 in Inner Mongolia. Apart from the tomb passage and entrance hall, it is composed of 6 chambers in 3 units. The front unit is composed of a square chamber and two side compartments; the middle unit, a square chamber placed slightly to the left with a side compartment on the right; and the back unit is a square room by itself. All these rooms are connected to one another with 5 passage ways (Fig. 34). Parts of the floor are paved with decorative square bricks which are moulded on the surface with geometric designs and tabulated inscription of auspicious phrases in low relief. All the walls are covered with a layer of white plaster and decorated with colourful pictures in various sizes and shapes, depicting all sorts of human activities. (WW, 74.1.8-50) The tomb may be dated around 189 A.D. in the last few decades of the Eastern Han. (12, 1)

Another splendid example of the Eastern Han brick tomb from Kansu may also be mentioned. It is composed of four units in a straight line with 3 side chambers. The first unit consists of a rather long entrance hall; the second unit, a rectangular chamber flanked by two side chambers one on each side; the third unit, a larger chamber with a side chamber on only one side; and the last, a back chamber by itself. The total length from the gate at the entrance to the back wall of the back



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Fig. 32 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 3, 2 views, Chia-yü-kuan, Kansu —
WW, 72.12. 26-27.

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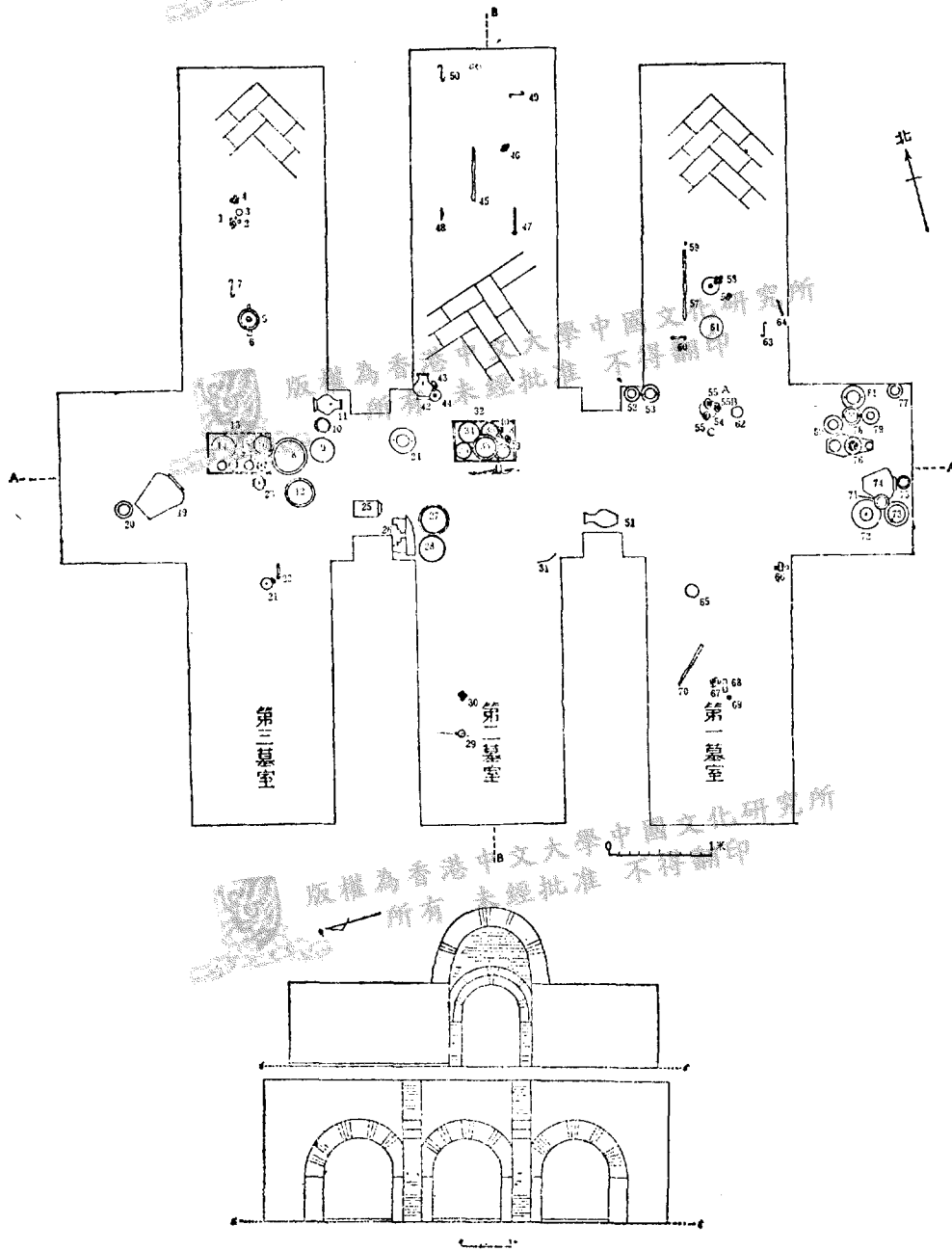


Fig. 33 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 72 South M2, 3 views, Nan-ch'ang, Kiangsi — WT, 77.1.116-117.

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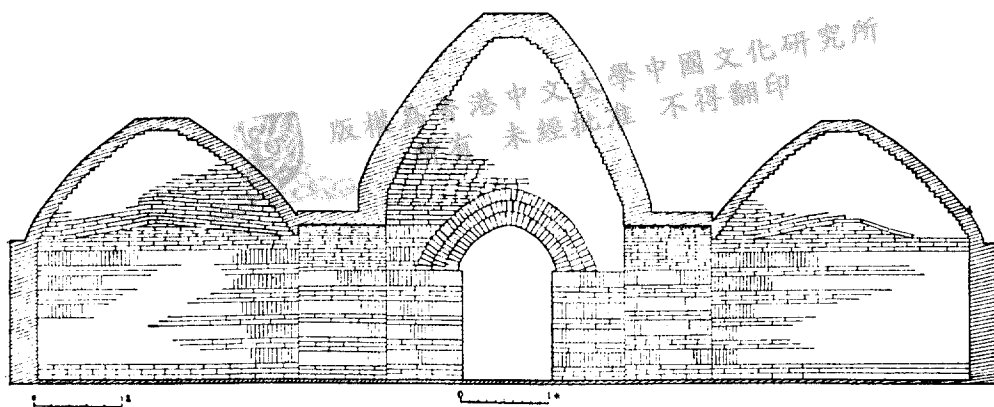
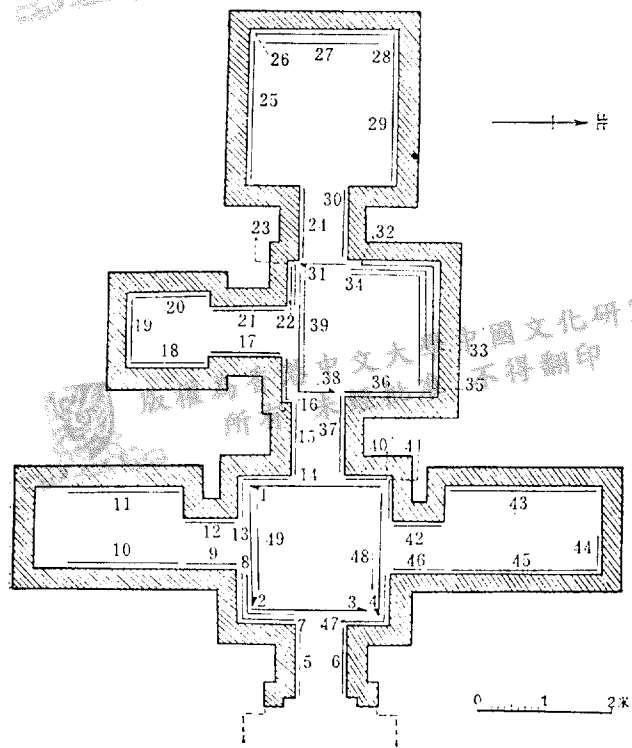


Fig. 34 — Brick burial chamber, 2 views, Ho-lin-ko-erh, Inner Mongolia — WW, 74.1.9-10.

chamber is sixteen metres. (Fig. 35) Although the tomb had been rifled, the remaining furniture amounts to over 230 items, including a collection of more than 20,000 pieces of Wu-shu 五銖 coins and some very important objects of art. There are also remains of some paintings from the walls and on the ceiling. The tomb dates from the end of the Eastern Han, very probably between 186-219 A.D. (KX, 74.2.81-109)

Tomb II of Wang-tu in Hopei may be taken as a representative of the most elaborate construction of the Eastern Han brick tomb. It is built in six units, one leading into the other in a straight line. With the exception of the entrance hall and the back chamber which forms each a unit by itself, the remaining four units have each a large chamber in the middle and two small side chambers one on each side. Three of them are laid out in symmetrical balance, but the fourth has the eastern side chamber placed a little bit further back, thus making the entire structure slightly asymmetrical. The back chamber has a small niche on the back wall. The total length of the tomb is 32.18 metres (Fig. 36). The gate is provided like the Chia-yü-kuan tomb mentioned above, with a stone door in two movable leaves, which may be closed from the inside. (13, 2-9)

Another unusual example of Eastern Han brick tomb construction has been excavated at Ying-ch'eng-tzu 營城子 in the southern tip of the Liao-tung Peninsula 遼東半島. The tomb is constructed on an asymmetrical ground plan with a total of five rooms which are built separately all in the shape of a tall cone in cross-section. The smallest is placed inside the large main chamber and the remaining three located on the three sides. The construction seems to have been carried out one by one independently and then connected with one another by arched passages. As the walls are tall and curved, they are invariably re-enforced by a series of hoop-like projections in the lower part so as to keep them from collapsing in the process of building (Fig. 37). The bricks are all ornamented with stamped geometric designs and mostly coloured with various pigments. The walls of the main chamber are further decorated with painted pictures. They are freehand drawings, executed mainly in black with only a few strokes in red or yellow. The compositions include scenes of human activities, birds and animals, geometric designs and mythological figures. It is interesting to note that wall painting has become a popular and prominent feature in Han brick tomb construction and its interior decoration. (11)

Some of these large brick tombs have been found to contain more than one coffin and the structural parts seem to indicate that the chambers were constructed in separate occasions forming, as a result, a family burial place. This is probably the reason why some of the chambers in the same tomb are not of uniform size and shape and the ground plan not quite in perfect symmetrical balance.

It remains to be mentioned that Han brick tomb builders have developed a wide variety of ways in brick-laying. Some of the techniques of roof and archway construction have already been described. The paving of the floor, the erection of the

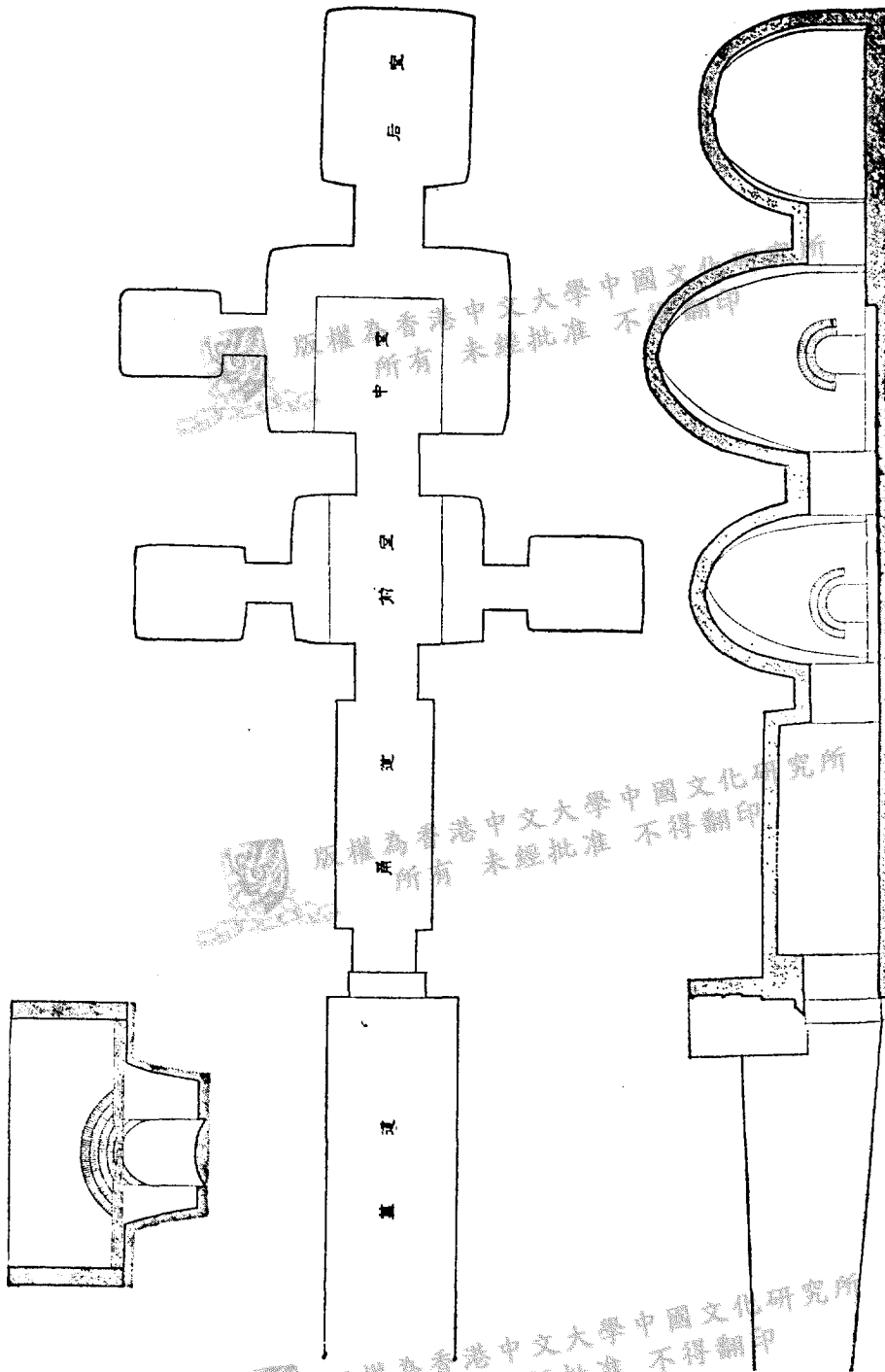


Fig. 35 — Brick burial chamber, 3 views, Lui-t'ai 雷台, Wu-wei, Kansu — KX, 74.2.88

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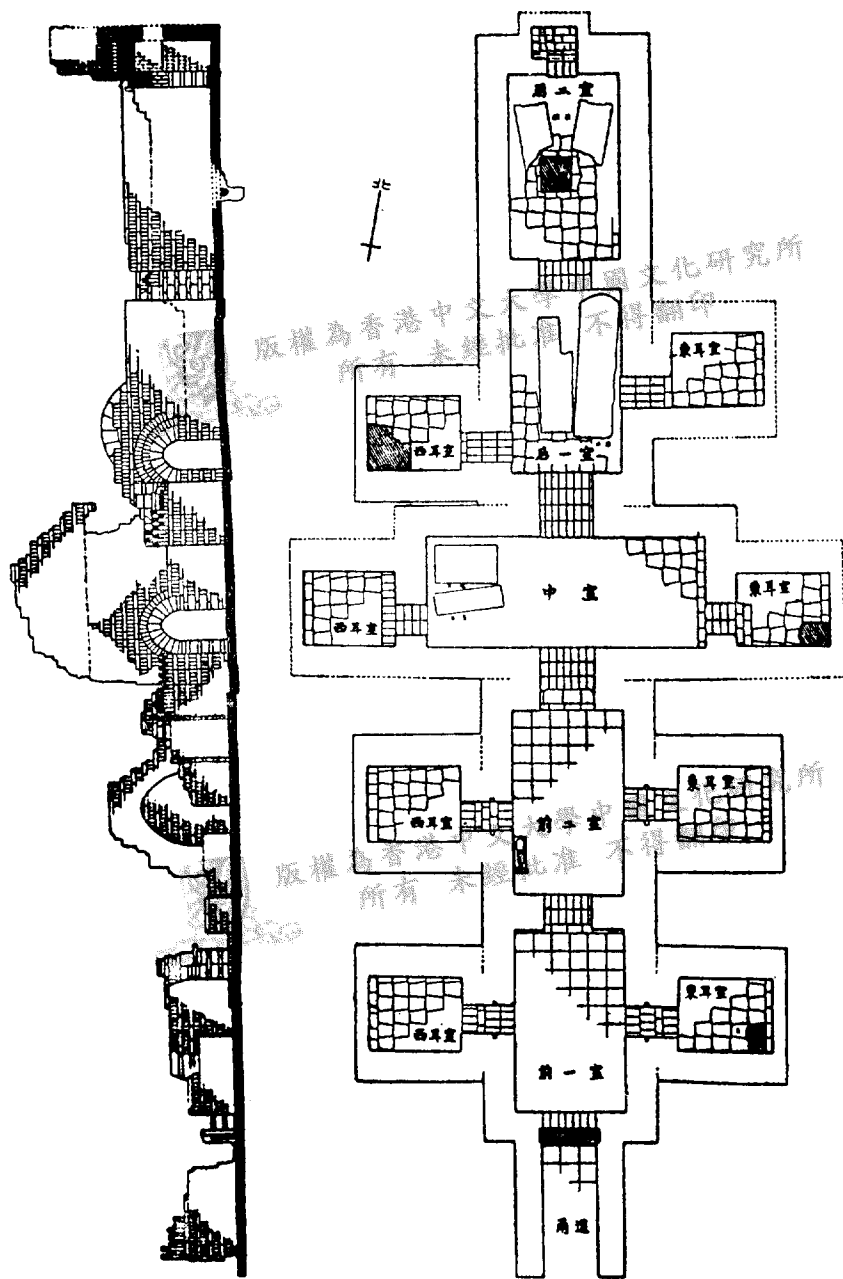


Fig. 36 — Brick burial chamber, 2 views, Tomb II, Wang-tu, Hopei — 4.2.

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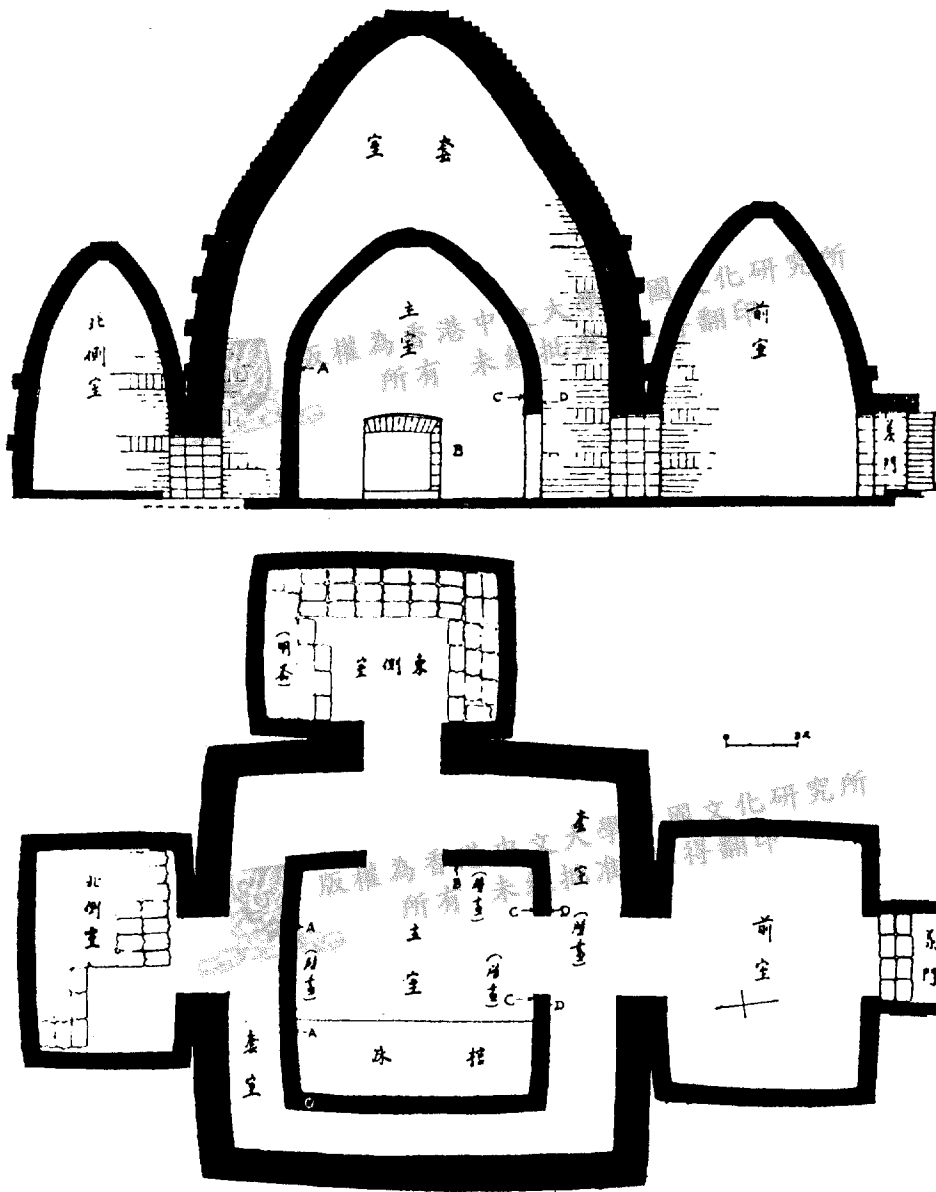


Fig. 37 — Brick burial chamber, Tomb 2, 2 views, Ying-ch'eng-tzu, Liao-tung Peninsula — 11, 22.

wall and the sealing of the entrance all contribute in one way or another to improve the technique and produce all sorts of brickwork patterns. A number of these has been collected in the excavation of the Han tombs at Shao-kao. (9, 85-86) Eleven types of floor pavement are illustrated on Fig. 38 and seven types of tomb sealing, on Fig. 39.

g. **STONE BURIAL CHAMBER** — The stone chamber burials in the Han times may also be divided into two different types, one with a simple, the other with a pictorial stone tomb. They are distinguishable from each other in space as well as in time. In general, the simple stone tombs, belonging to the Western Han, are distributed mainly in the northern periphery, all the way from the Northeast through Inner Mongolia to Kansu, Szechwan and occasionally Yünnan. The pictorial stone tombs mostly of the Eastern Han period are limited in distribution to only the North China plain.

The simple stone burial is basically a rectangular pit, but it is further lined on the inside with blocks of stone or sheets of slate, generally known as a stone-cist or slate tomb. The walls of the chamber are built systematically, straight and smooth on the inside, but irregular ones are also common (Fig. 40; KG, 75.4.245). They are all quite small in size, just big enough to hold the corpse or coffin and a few pieces of mortuary articles. In some cases, especially those found in north China, one or more burial annexes are attached for the display of mortuary furniture (Fig. 41; 6, 134). This is apparently due to the influence of the provision of side niches in the rectangular burial pits introduced since the Late Chou period.

In Szechwan, this type of stone burial appears to be very common in the western part of the province. It varies greatly in size and shape as well as in construction plan. Some look like a long oblong house and others are large and broad with a porch at the entrance. The more important ones are usually re-enforced with blocks of stone forming a burial mound (Fig. 42; KG, 78.2.104). At Hsi-ch'ang 西昌, one of these huge burial mound contains an elongated chamber, measuring 5.6 metres long, 1.56 at the west end and 1.1 at the east end, with a narrow passage 4.1 metres long, 1.1 at the west end and 0.82 at the east end. The mound is built of boulders of various sizes and covered with a layer of earth, 0.7-1.2 metres thick on the outside, making a smooth curve surface. The chamber and its passage are roofed with a series of large blocks of stone. Inside the burial chamber no less than 95 human skeletons are piled together in mixed condition and among them there are 41 pieces of personal ornaments (Fig. 43). The excavators are of the opinion that the tomb might have served as a communal burial for a local tribal clan and used as a repository of "secondary burial". (KX, 76.5.326-30)

Another variety of stone burial has been reported from Mi-chih-hsien 米脂縣 in northern Shensi, south of the Great Wall. A group of 4 tombs of this type was

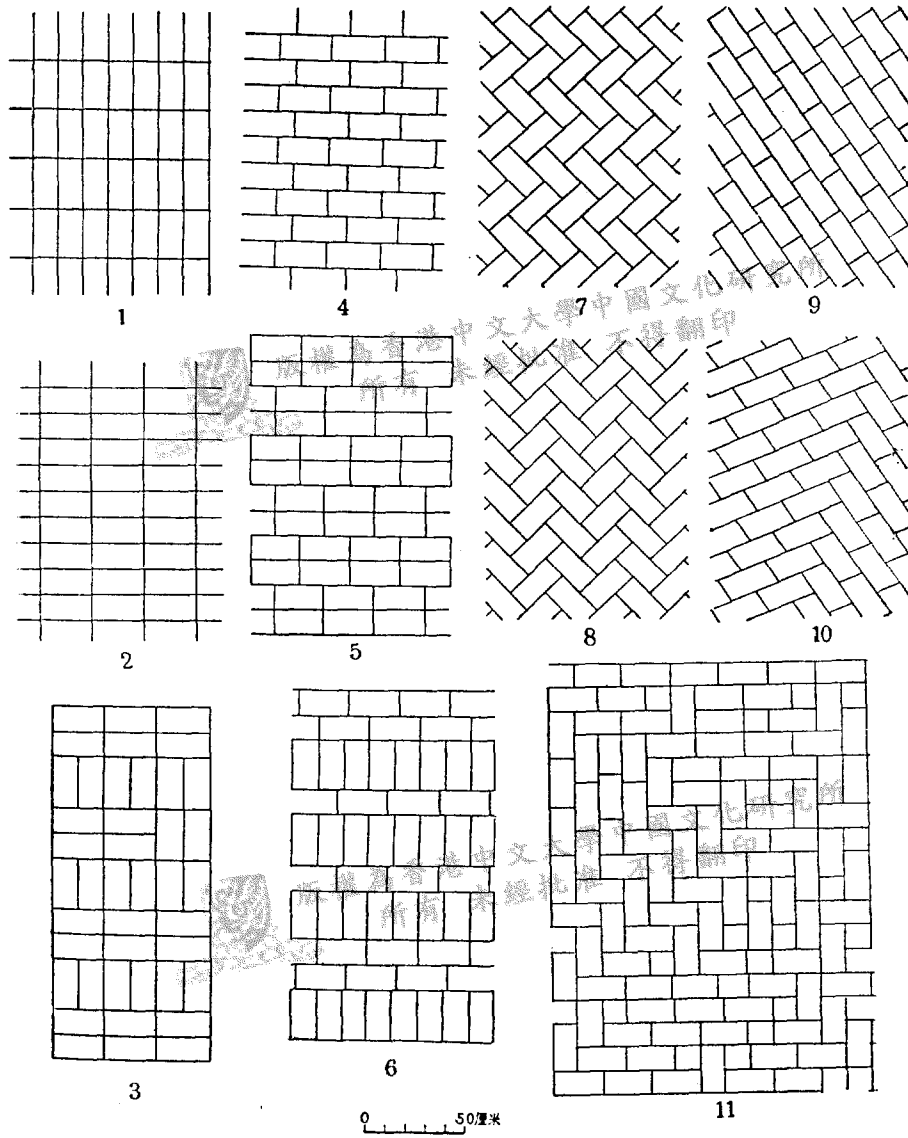


Fig. 38 — Some brick patterns of chamber floors, Shao-kou, Honan — 9, 85.

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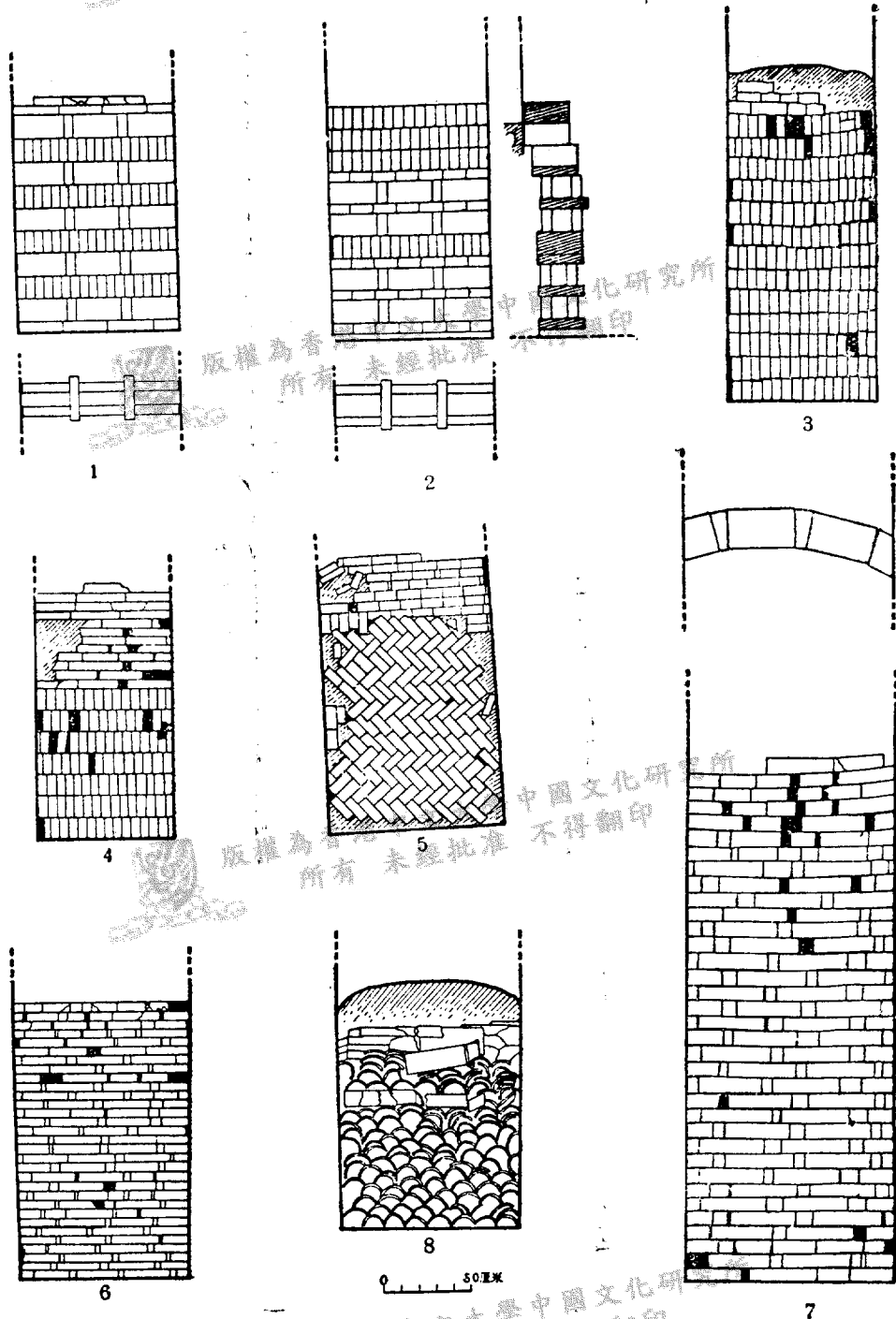


Fig. 39 — Some brick patterns of gate sealing, Shao-kou, Honan — 9, 86.

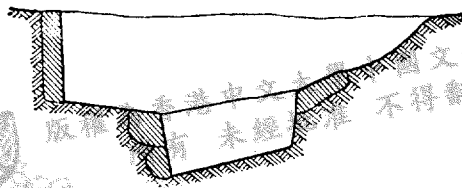
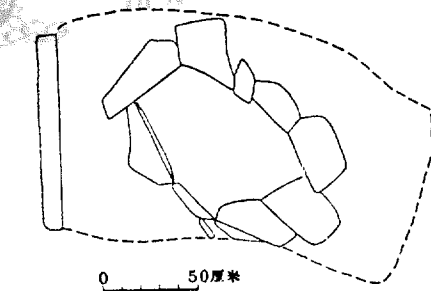


Fig. 40 — Stone burial chamber, 2 views, Yung-chih 永芝, Te-ch'in 德欽, Yünnan — KG, 75.4.245.

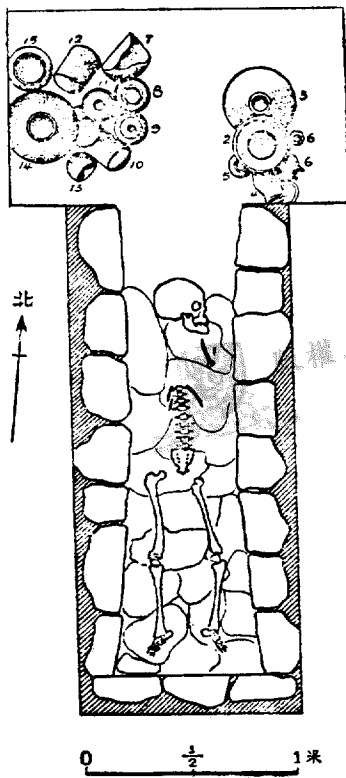


Fig. 41 — Stone burial chamber, Ch'u-ch'iu 褚邱, Hui-hsien, Honan — 6, 134.

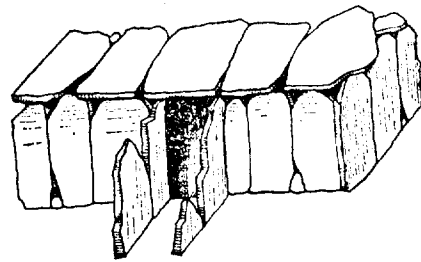
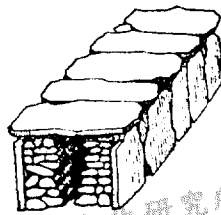


Fig. 42 — Stone burial chamber, 2 types, South-western Szechwan — KG, 78.2.104.

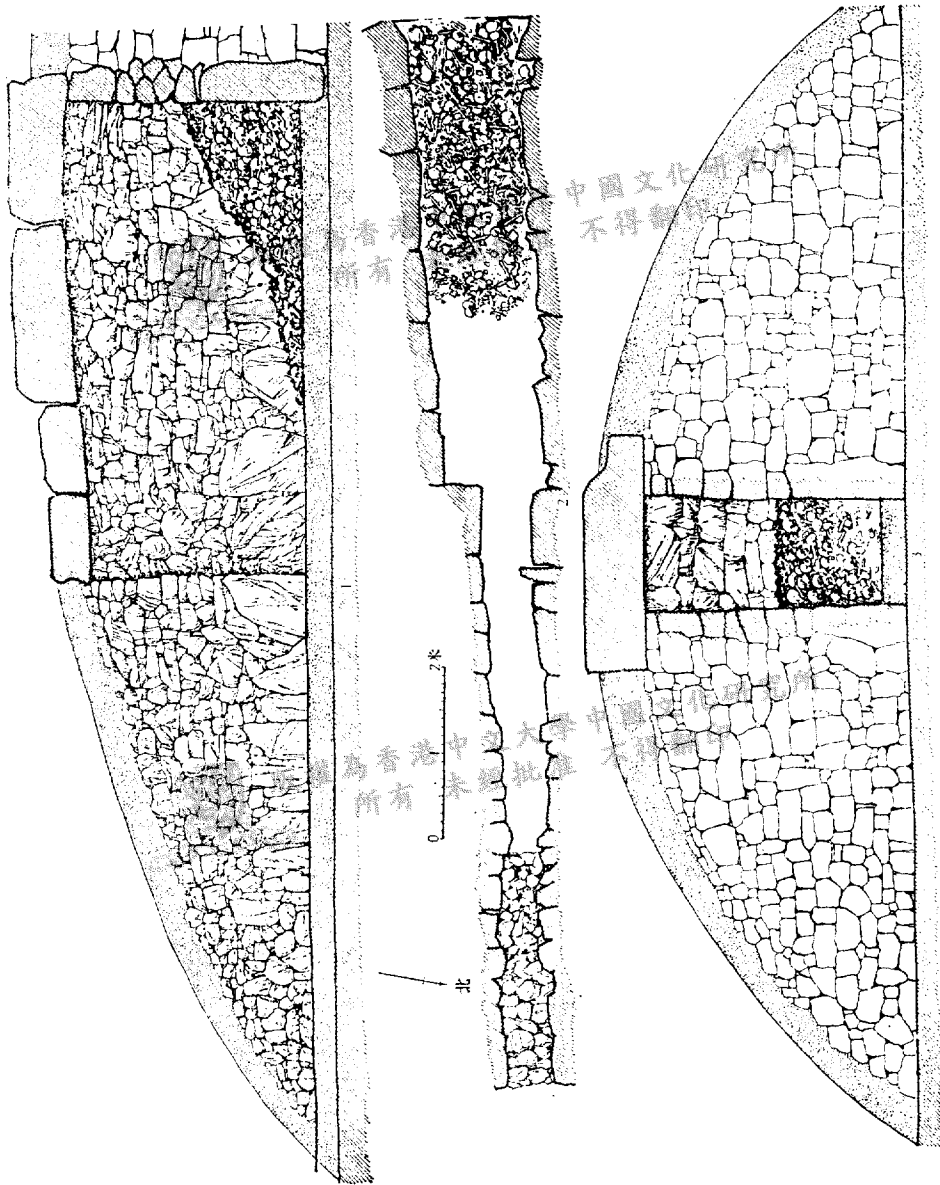


Fig. 43 — Stone burial chamber, 3 views, Pa-ho-pao-izu 壙阿獲子, Hsi-ch'ang, Szechwan — KG, 76.5.327.

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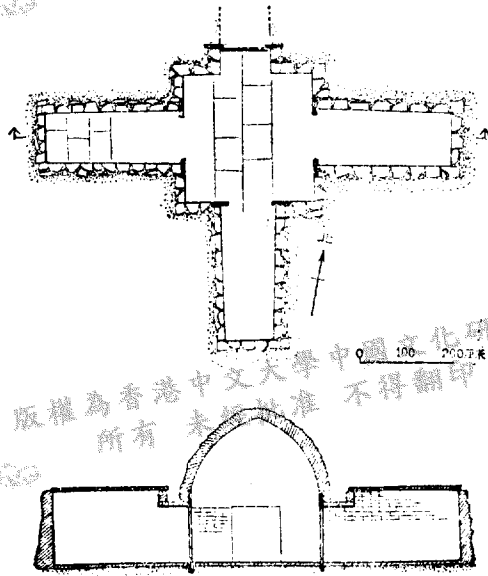
excavated in 1971. They are all built of blocks of stone, smooth on the inside and carved with all sorts of pictorial designs in low relief. The burial chamber consists each of a main chamber with an entrance hall and one to three side chambers. The structural plan seems to be based on the rectangular pit burial with side extensions mentioned above. Apart from the entrance hall or passage, Tomb III has a large square central hall with three oblong chambers, one on each side. The roof of the former forms a pointed dome while those of the other units are flat (Fig. 44). The decoration of the walls is in the same tradition as those on the pictorial stone tombs to be mentioned presently. Moreover, according to the inscription, one of these tombs is dated 107 A.D. in the late Eastern Han (WW, 73.3.69-73). It seems likely that this type of burial chamber constitutes a mixed version of the northern stone cist and the southern pictorial stone tomb as well as the brick tomb mentioned above. It is evidently more practical to use small solid brick to construct a round vaulted roof.

To support the construction of a stone burial chamber with bricks is a natural development. A large number of burial chambers are constructed of mixed building material, especially in Honan. The Han tomb of Hsiang-ch'eng 襄城 excavated in 1963 serves as a fine example. The tomb is of a rather impressive scale, built on an asymmetrical ground plan, similar to those of the brick tombs described in the preceding section. The tomb passage, the entrance hall and the chamber proper are laid on the same axial line with four side chambers, irregularly attached, two on each side. Built of bricks and stone, the chamber proper measures 11.6 x 9.22 metres wide and all the chambers are connected with each other by stone gates or long passage ways (Fig. 45).

The stone gate ways, especially the lintels are decorated with relief designs. These include a pair of inter-twining dragons, an animal combat scene and pictures of a winged man and other animals. A circular stone on the ceiling of the back chamber with the picture of a toad on the surface represents the moon. The brick work, especially the roofs and gateways are constructed in various ways according to the size and shape of the structure. Most of the bricks are decorated with geometric designs on the exposed surface and some of them are stamped with numbers and locations showing the position in the building. All these shows that the building industry was in a high stage of development. Besides, an inscription written in vermillion has been found under the white wash in the central chamber giving the date of the building, 132 A.D., and the names of two builders, Chang Po-ho 張伯和, the brick master and Ch'u Chih 褚置, the stone master. It is evident that there was a cooperation between the two trades and a division of labour was in practice at that time (KX, 64.1 111-131).

The pictorial stone burial chamber became rather popular in the Eastern Han period. Most of the large stone tombs are elaborate in construction and impressive in scale. The chamber proper is often partitioned systematically into a series of com-

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Fig. 44 — Stone burial chamber, 2 views, Mi-chih-hsien, Shensi — WW, 72.3.69.

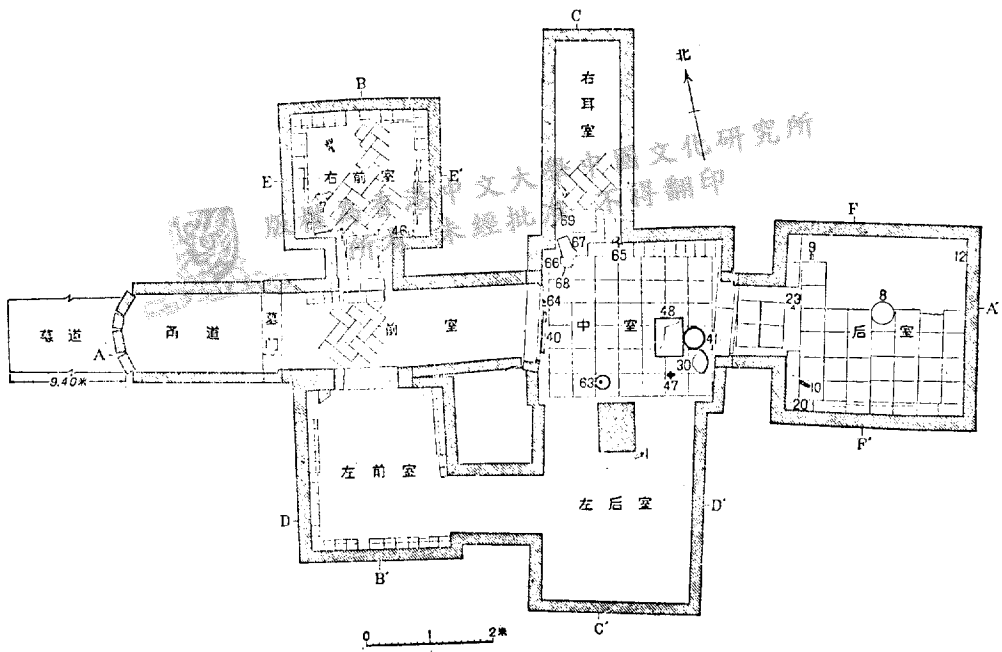


Fig. 45 — Stone burial chamber, Hsiang-ch'eng, Honan, — KX, 64.1.113.

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partments and hall ways to accommodate the coffin or coffins and a rich consignment of mortuary furniture. The walls are covered characteristically with all sorts of pictorial design in linear or low-relief engraving. Examples of this type of art objects have been found over a wide area including Shensi, Honan, Shantung, Kiangsu and Szechwan.

The pictorial stone chamber tomb of Yang-kuan-ssu 楊官寺 at Nan-yang 南陽, Honan, may be taken as an example. The burial chamber is constructed of blocks of local stone, which had been first chiselled into the required size and shape. Regular and smooth on all sides they are quite reminiscent of the large hollow brick mentioned above. There are 82 pieces for the floor, 199 pieces for the walls and partitions, 10 pillars, 8 lintels, 4 doors, 4 blocks for sealing the entrance and 44 for the roof. These, 351 pieces in all, are assembled at the spot to form a structure, 6.47 x 5.6 x 2.3 metres high with 6 separate compartments leading into one another. The mortuary objects are scattered in the back chamber (Fig. 46). The decorations on the walls composed mainly of scenes of human activities appear in groups on several levels. They are also in the style of the large hollow brick. All these seems to suggest that the Yang-kuan-ssu pictorial stone chamber tomb may have dated from the early century of the Eastern Han period (KX, 63.1.111-139).

The development of the pictorial stone burial reached its height towards the end of Eastern Han. The architectural structure was then composed almost entirely of sculptured elements, including large beams, tall columns, brackets and other units of many shapes. The tomb of Yi-nan 沂南 in Shantung (15), for example, is a very well-planned building with a floor space of 7.55 metres east to west and 8.70 north to south. It is partitioned into eight compartments, 3 main chambers in the middle and 2 side chambers on the right and 3 on the left, all with doors leading into one another. The rear chamber on the left contains a partition for a lavatory (Fig. 47). The beams are supported by heavy columns each with a pedestal at the bottom and brackets on top. The roofs of the chambers are each constructed of blocks of stone, oblong or square in shape. They are built from the two sides in three or four layers each according to the size of the room, with each layer moving inward gradually and finally bridged over with a large block of stone on top, thus forming a ceiling with slanting walls. The floor on the inside is paved with sheets of stone, mostly oblong in shape (Fig. 48).

The whole building uses 280 pieces of stone and occupies a space of 326.34 cubic metres. The material came from a local quarry and each of the pieces was cut and prepared before hand to a prescribed size and shape for its respective position and finally assembled on the spot and fitted together. The space in front of the entrance is covered with a layer of heavy bricks, and with two thick walls on the two sides, it serves more or less as a porch 1.45 metres long and 3.95 wide. This is filled firmly with layers of stamped earth which serve to seal the tomb.

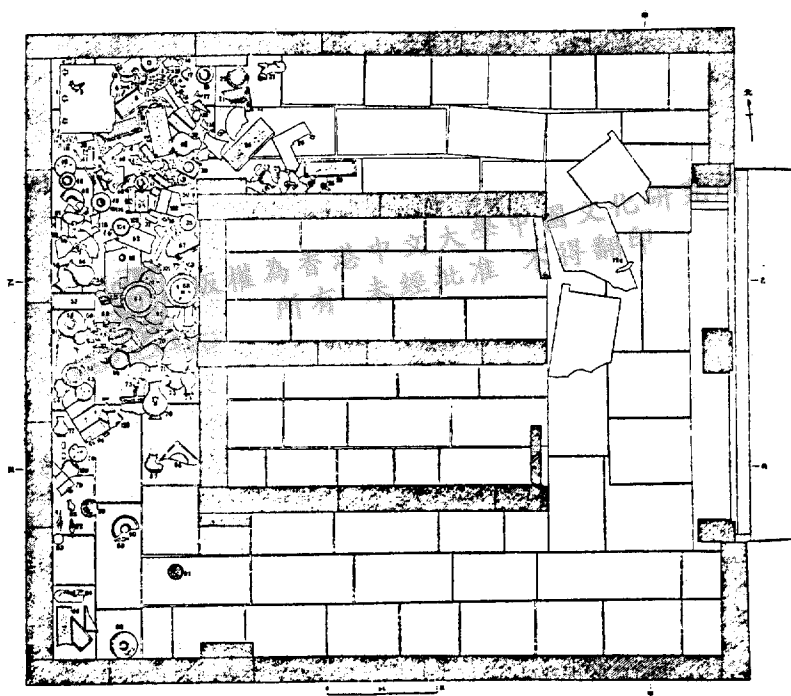
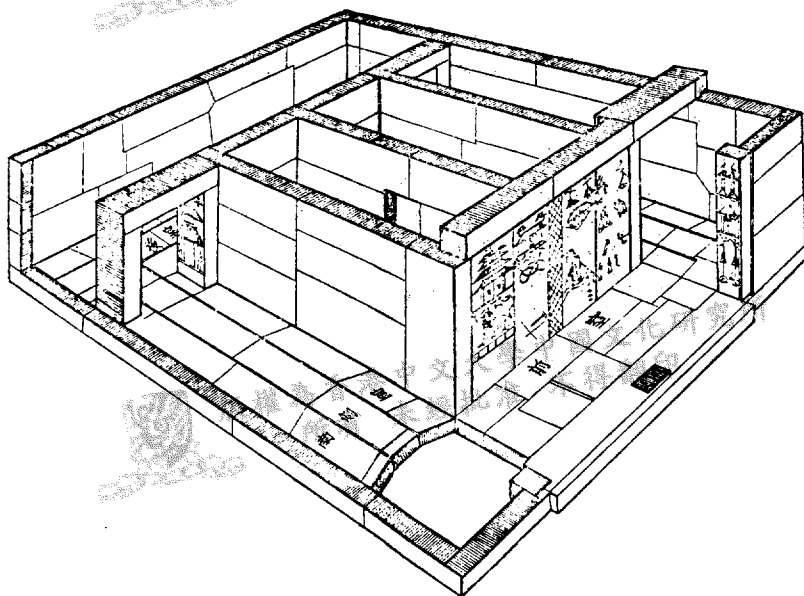


Fig. 46 — Pictorial stone burial chamber, 2 views, Yang-kuan-ssu, Nan-yang, Honan —
KX, 63.1.112; 115

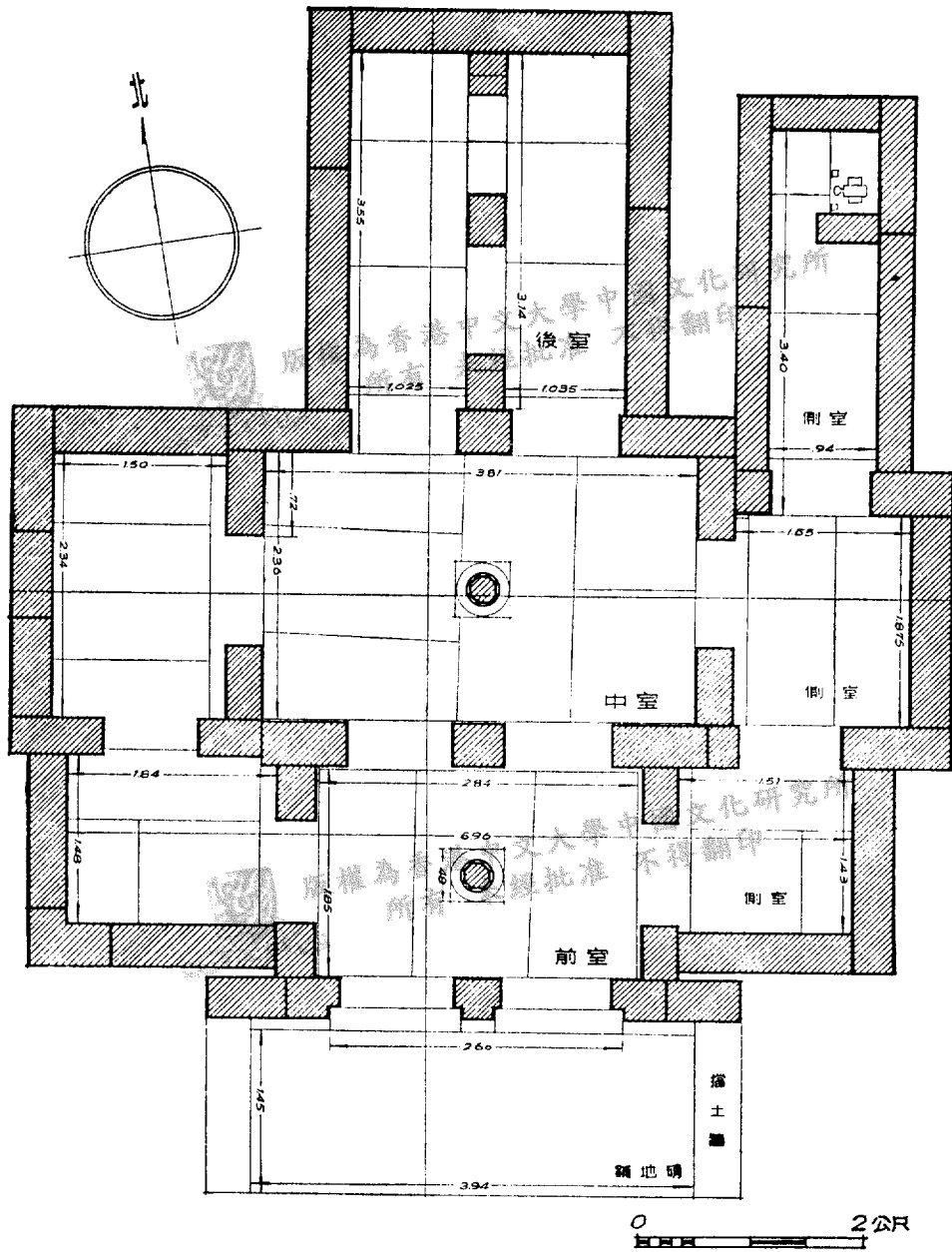


Fig. 47 — Pictorial stone burial chamber, ground plan, Yi-nan, Shantung — 15, 3.

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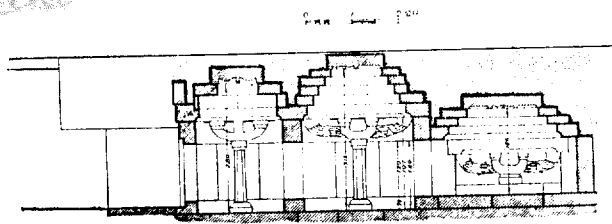
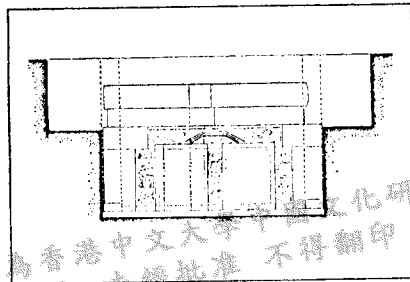
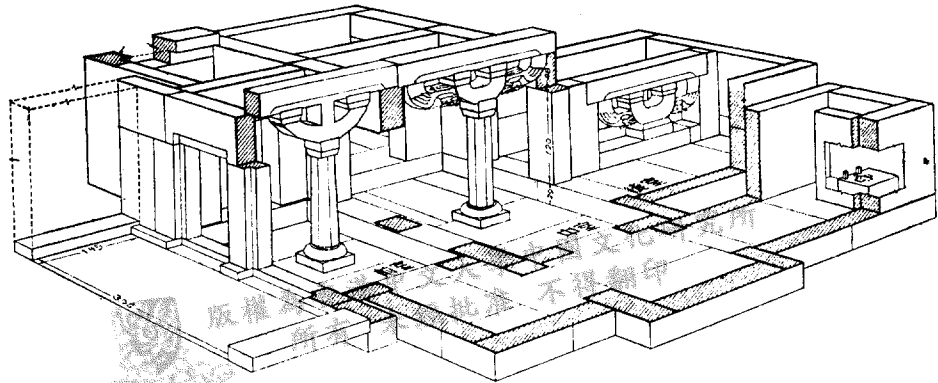


Fig. 48 — Pictorial stone burial chamber, 3 views, Yi-nan, Shantung— 15, 4.

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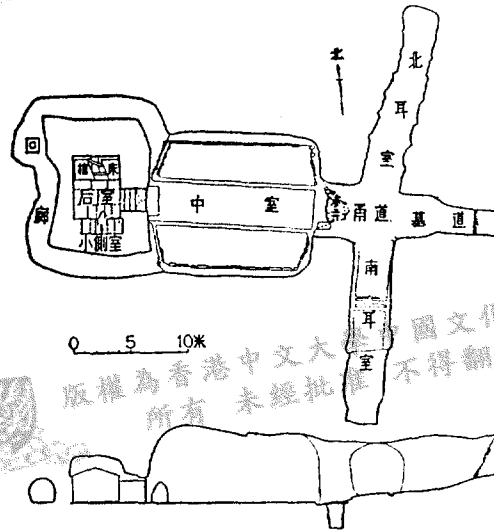
The columns and lintels at the entrance and the walls and ceilings and the pillars and brackets on the inside are all decorated with engraved pictures and designs. These are executed by linear incision or carved in low relief or sculptured in the round. The collection comprises a total of 42 pieces of stone and the compositions include pictures of human activities, mythological figures and animals, floral patterns, geometric designs and lattice works. They represent the decorative tradition in its full bloom. The pictorial stone tomb of Yi-nan may be ascribed to the few decades at the end of the Eastern Han.

h. STONE CAVE — The stone cave tomb of the Han period may be differentiated from the stone burial chamber just described. It takes advantage of a natural formation in the countryside by cutting into the solid rock to form a cave or a series of tunnelled chambers for burial. The custom prevailed throughout the period. Remains of this type of underground structure have been reported so far in a wide territory stretching from Hopei in the north to Kiangsu and Szechwan in the south. As most of them are cut from the cliff surface into the rock formation, they are known generally as "Yai-tung mu" 崖洞墓 cliff cave-burials.

The cave tombs of the prince and princess of Chung-shan 中山, Liu Sheng 劉勝 and Tou Wan 竇綰, have been excavated at Man-ch'eng 滿城, some 150 kilometres southwest of Peking. The two caves are cut side by side in a limestone hill to the depth of 50 metres into the rock. They are constructed in symmetrical ground plan as some of the brick and stone burial tombs mentioned above. In the tomb of the prince, the passage, entrance hall, and the main and antechambers form a central axial line, with two elongated side chambers projecting to the right and left of the entrance hall, but in the tomb of Lady Tou, the antechamber is open to the right side of the main chamber. The chambers are constructed like a house of stone and wood covered by a tiled roof. Some of the chambers are further provided with smaller compartments and lavatories. The spaces around the chambers are reserved as corridors with a rather complex drainage system to keep the burial place from inundation (Fig. 49). Prince Liu Sheng died in 113 B.C. and his consort was laid to rest here before 104 B.C. (KG, 72.1.8-18; 28).

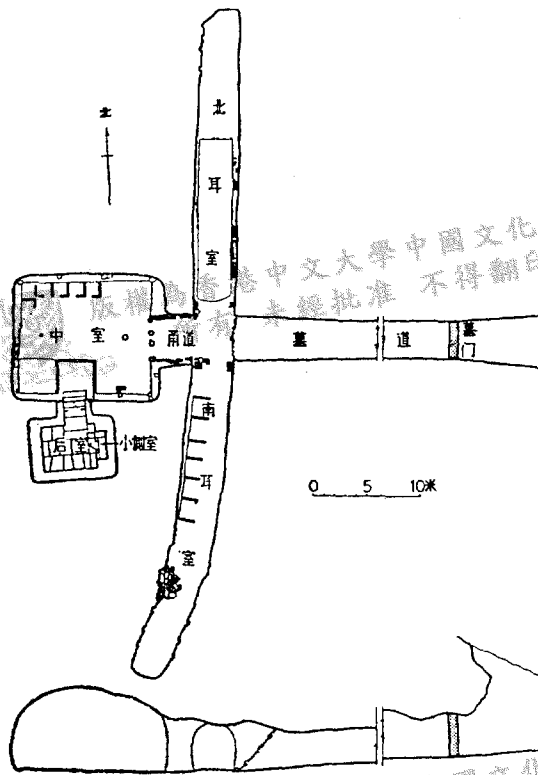
The stone cave tombs in Kiangsu are constructed in a different fashion. A vertical shaft was first cut into the solid rock, some as deep as nine metres. At the bottom, the hole was enlarged on one or two sides in the fashion of the rectangular burial pit with niches mentioned above. At Chiang-shan 江山, T'ung-shan 銅山, the shaft measures 3.1 x 1.45 metres wide and the side chamber, 3.1 x 1.4 x 1.55 metres high. The entire area roughly squarish in shape is partitioned with large stone slabs into two chambers. The outer room contains a male skeleton and the inner chamber, a female skeleton, together constituting apparently a twin burial (Fig. 50). This is dated from the early Western Han in the second century B.C. (WT, 77.1.105-110).

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a.



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b.

Fig. 49 — 2 stone cave burial chambers, a. tomb of Prince Liu Sheng, b. tomb of Lady Tou Wan, Man-ch'eng, Hopei — KG, 72.1.9.

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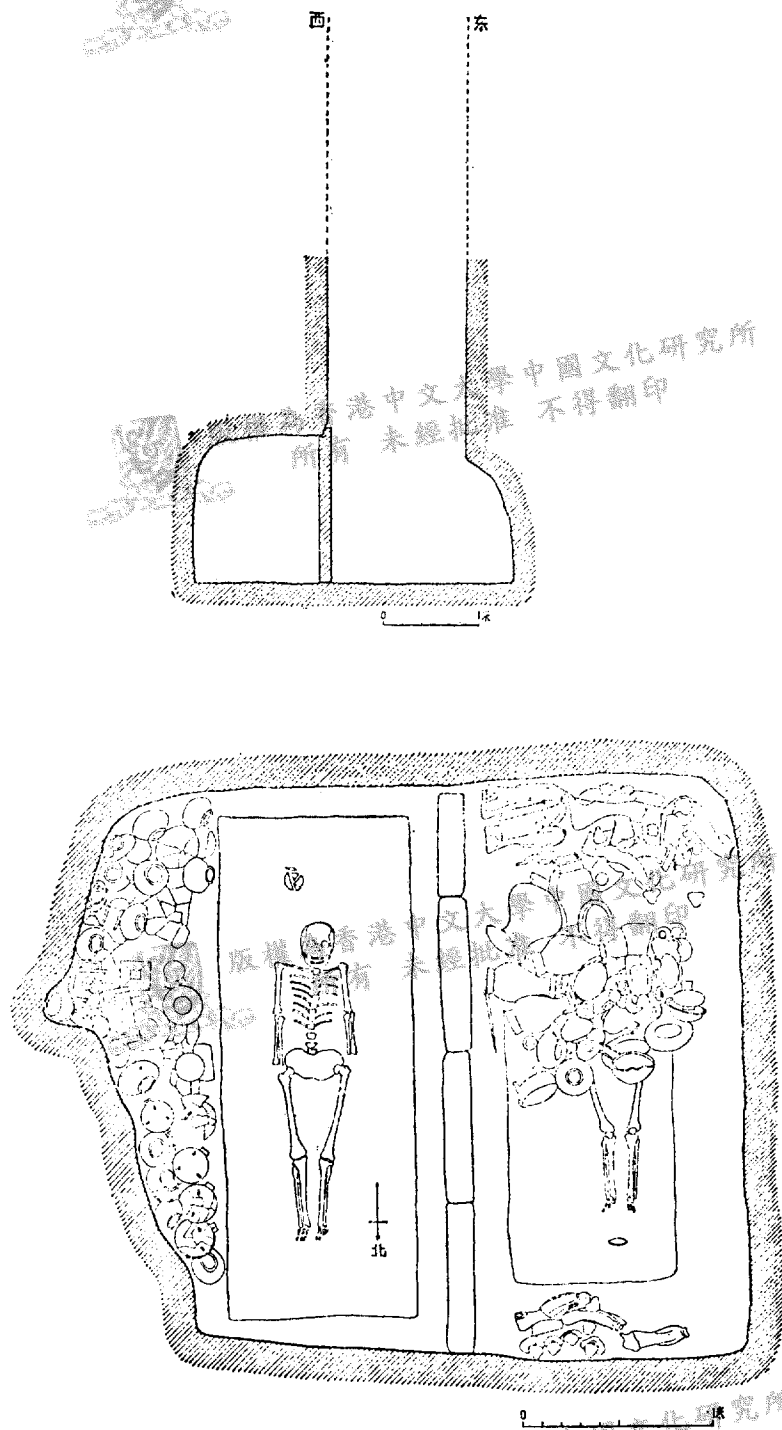


Fig. 50 — Stone cave burial chamber, 2 views, Chiang-shan, Tung-shan, Kiangsu — WT, 77.1:106.

In the same district at Hsiao-kuei-shan 小龜山, the shaft has a rather large extension at the bottom quite irregular in shape about two metres high. In one corner a rectangular chamber is constructed also with large slabs of stone for the coffin, leaving the space outside as courtyards for the display of mortuary objects (Fig. 51). The latter indicates that the cave tomb was constructed late in the Western Han between 118 to 69 B.C. (WW, 73.4.21-35).

The cliff cave burial became very popular in the red sandstone region in Szechwan. The material is soft and easy to cut. It is not unusual that a convenient location would harbour a large number of caves serving more or less like a cemetery. Varying from a single cave to multi-compartmental structure, they are all cut horizontally into the solid rock. Like the contemporary brick tombs, a simple cave consists of a single coffin chamber and one or more smaller ones for mortuary objects. The large and ornate ones penetrate the cliff to a depth of 30-40 metres and the interior is elaborated into gateways, passages, coffin chambers with multiple recesses and side chambers. The ceiling is usually 2-3 metres high and the floor rises slightly towards the interior, thus allowing the water which seeps through the cave walls to drain outside. Others are provided with pottery pipe-lines in the floor for the same purpose. The partitions of the interior are constructed of small solid bricks.

At Pai-yai-tung 白崖洞 in Chia-ting 嘉定, a whole group of 4-6 caves are chiselled side by side into the same cliff leaving a large "court yard" in front (Fig. 52). At the entrance to the caves, the surface of the cliff is carved with architectural designs in low relief. The sculptures represent buildings with bracketed pillars, columns with elaborated capitals, panelling beam cords, tiles and so forth. Inside the caves the walls of the chambers and coffins are also decorated with various types of designs in low relief. The subject matter of these decorations are also similar to those on the brick and pictorial stone tombs mentioned above, though usually cruder in execution. The entire floor space inside is large enough to hold several thousand people. It seems evident that such a complex was meant also as a family grave (1, 146-47).

In 1957, a group of cliff-cave burials has been investigated at T'ien-hui-shan 天迴山 in the northern suburb of Chengtu 成都. The caves may be classified into three types ranging from a simple single burial to a complex multi-chambered family grave. The most elaborate one, Tomb 3 (Fig. 53), is constructed as most Han tombs in a structural plan with the passage, entrance and coffin chamber in an axial line in the middle. The tomb passage with a slight outward inclination measures 10.8 metres long and 1.8 metres wide. Along the passage on the right an underground channel for water drainage from the cave is built of square bricks, which are arranged three in each section forming a pipe line triangular in cross-section. The entire channel has been estimated to be 30 metres in length (Fig. 53C). The gate of the tomb, which measures 1.68 metres high, 1.11 metres wide and 0.8 metre thick, was originally sealed

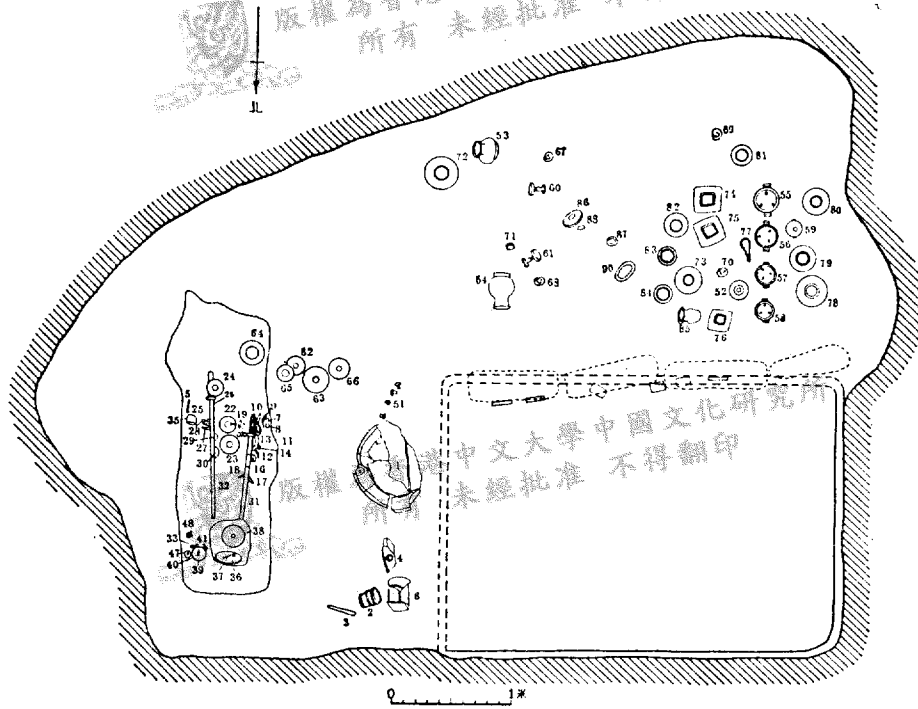


Fig. 51 — Stone cave burial chamber, Hsiao-kuen-shan, T'ung-shan Kiangsu — WW, 73.4.22.

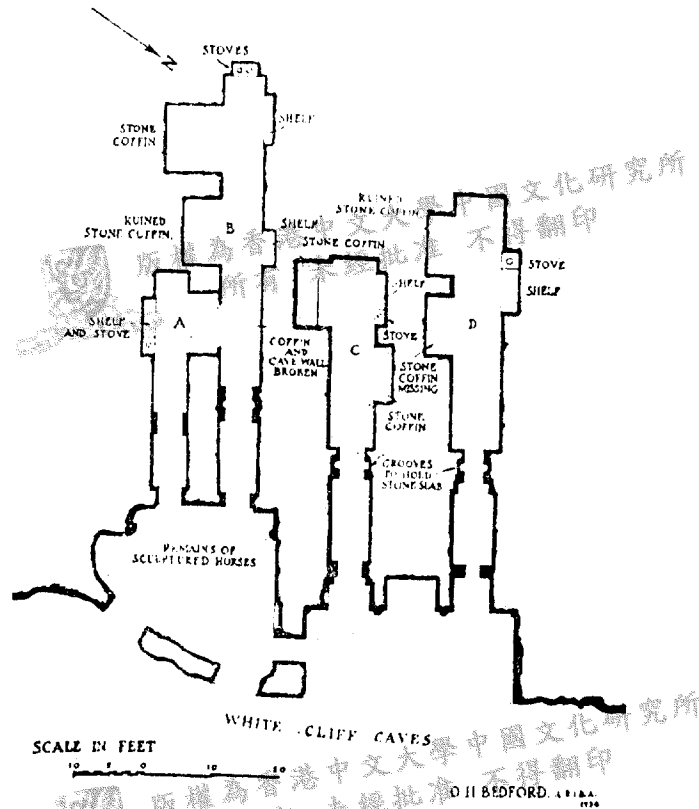


Fig. 52 — Stone cave burial chambers, Pai-yai-tung, Chia-ting, Szechwan — 1, P1.19.

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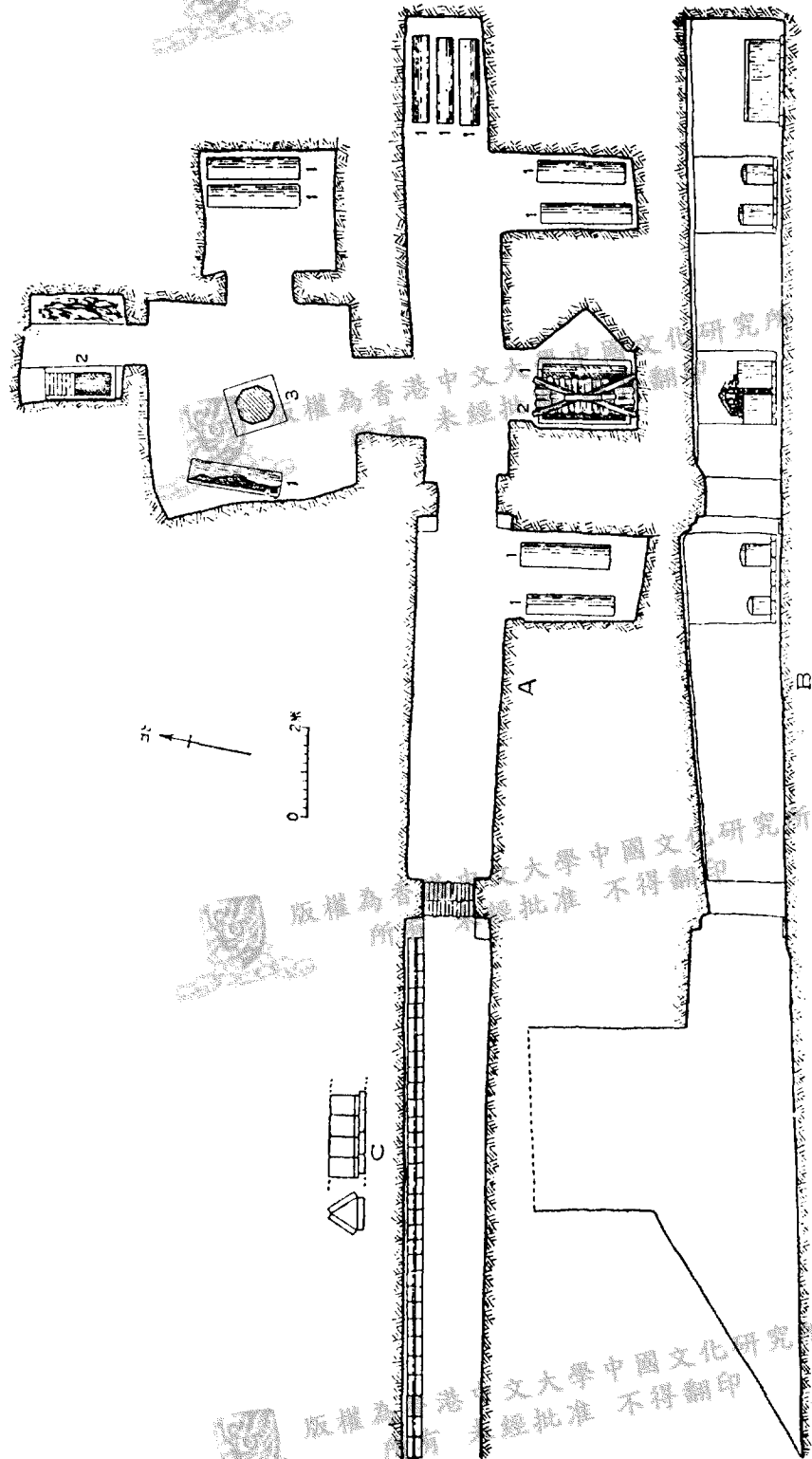


Fig. 53 — Stone cave burial chamber, 3 views, T'ien-hui-shan, Cheng-tu, Szechwan - KX, 58.1.91.

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with two layers of birchs. Inside the entrance there are two elongated chambers connected by a short passage way. The front chamber, 6.35 x 1.75 x 1.86 metres high, may be taken as the entrance hall and the main chamber of about the same length contains three earthenware coffins lying side by side with each other in the recess at the back. The entrance hall opens to a rectangular side chamber on the left, which contains a pair of earthenware coffins. From the main chamber, two side chambers oblong in shape are cut on the left and a large square one with two additional side chambers on the right. The front side chamber on the left contains an earthenware coffin and a stone coffin lying side by side, and the side chamber at the back contains another pair of earthenware coffins.

The side chamber on the right forms a complex by itself. The large square room, 4.8 x 4.2 x 2 metres high has an octagonal column in the middle, which is carved in three sections: 0.15 metres as the base, 1.45 for the pillar and 0.39 for the capital. The pillar itself measures 0.8 metre in diameter and must be a support for the roof. The square chamber contains an earthenware coffin lying to the left of the pillar. Besides, two smaller square rooms are attached to the main square chamber, one to the right and the other to the back. The side room contains two earthenware coffins while the back room has a stone coffin on one side and a platform on the other, both having been chiselled out of the solid rock.

Tomb 3 of T'ien-hui-shan contains altogether 13 coffins, 11 earthenware and 2 in stone. The former are all plain on the surface and each set on a low brick platform, while the latter are decorated with various decorative designs typical of Eastern Han art in low relief. One of these is chiselled in the shape of a house with ridges on the roof. As all these coffins are found in the side chambers or back recesses, it seems evident that the tomb was used as a family burial place and these coffin rooms were cut in separate occasions for the deposition of the deceased members of the same family. In spite of the fact that the cave tomb had been rifled, there remains several sets of mortuary furniture in pottery and metal. An inscribed small knife is dated A.D. 184 (KX, 58:1.87-103).

In the Shang and Chou times, a burial chamber was usually provided with one or more passages leading up to the ground surface. The feature of construction underwent some modification in Han times. On the whole the passage of a Han tomb appeared in the form of a rectangular shaft. In early Western Han, the shaft in front of the chamber was large and broad, serving more or less as a "court yard". This was further reduced in size and became rather small and narrow in later Western and early Eastern Han times. In some cases, it was narrow and slanting, sometimes with a flight of steps leading to ground surface. The most conspicuous change occurred in the Eastern Han in the construction of stone cave tombs. In the appropriation of a cliff for the purpose, the entrance required an open space in front to make room for the tunnelling activities. The passage was made to retreat inside the cave opening

forming a tunnelled passage way to be followed by the gate, the entrance hall and one or more burial chambers. It seems clear that the introduction of the stone cave tombs followed the same pattern as the other forms of burial in Han times. The same ground plan in its simple or complex form was followed, representing a standard cultural tradition throughout Han China.

Mortuary furniture

Practically all Han burial tombs were provided with an assortment of mortuary objects. The number and quality of the supply depended entirely on the position and means of the owner. Ordinary people were satisfied with a few pieces of pottery vessels filled probably with simple food and drink. The royal dignitaries did not hesitate to take with them treasures of their household and some commodities specially ordered for use in the other world. In some of these tombs, thousands of objects made of gold and silver, copper and iron, stone and jade, lacquer, glass and silk as well as carriages and horses have been unearthed. Many of these objects, especially bronze vessels, mirrors, coins and lacquer wares are inscribed, bearing the date of their manufacture. Others may be ascribed according to the shapes and decorative designs to their respective periods. So on the whole Han burials may be dated with a certain degree of accuracy. Moreover, when a region has been extensively explored, it is possible to classify the finds into successive stages.

The Han tombs in Honan, for instance, fall into six periods, three for the Western Han and three for the Eastern Han. In Kwangtung, Western Han tombs are recognized to belong to three periods while those of the Eastern Han to two. For Shensi and Hunan, four stages have been established, two in each period. Those in the outlying regions are as a rule rather meager in their mortuary articles, so they do not provide sufficient data for a more detailed chronology. But with the development of trade and commerce throughout Han China, goods and merchandise produced in various centres were readily exported far and wide furnishing some valuable evidence for the finds in distant lands. The burial remains are rich enough to show that cultural development in Han China proceeded in a rather uniform manner (10, 74-75). Some regional peculiarity is noticeable, but as a whole the impression of a close kinship far out-weighs regional diversity. The similarity of the majority of cultural remains from Korea to Yünnan and from Sinkiang to Vietnam confirms the fact that the Han culture maintained a universal standard (KG, 55.6.6-7). A more detailed account of a number of important Han burials discovered in various regions will be presented in due course.


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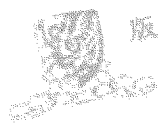
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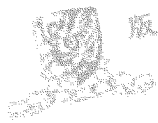
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秦漢墓葬建築


(中文摘要)

鄭德坤

本文是《中國考古學》第四卷的第二章。收集資料以秦漢墓葬的遺存殘跡為對象。近數十年來考古調查及田野發掘所得不下兩萬多座，其形制繁簡大小不一，帝王陵墓構造宏複精緻可與史書所載相對證。其他墓葬分佈遍天下，構造因時代及材料的不同，制度千變萬化。茲舉若干代表標本，分為下列諸類——

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- 二、長方形土坑豎穴葬
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- 四、陶瓦穴槨葬
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- 八、崖洞墓葬

陪葬明器的多寡也隨墓葬的大小繁簡而各異。重要墓葬出土文物的種類當另文報告。



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