

Three Kingdoms Unveiling The Story



October 1, 2019 (Tue) – January 5, 2020 (Sun)

Organizers: Kyushu National Museum and Fukuoka Prefecture, Art Exhibitions China, NHK Fukuoka Station, NHK PlanNet, Inc. Kyushu Branch Office, The Nishinippon Shimbun, The Asahi Shimbun

Co-organizer: Kyushu National Museum Promotion Foundation

With the Support of: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ADMINISTRATION,

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan, Fukuoka Prefectural Board of Education, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka City Board of Education, Dazaifu City, Dazaifu City Board of Education, Nishi-Nippon Railroad Co., Ltd., Fukuoka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dazaifu City Society of Commerce and Industry, Dazaifu Tourist Association

With the Sponsorship of: Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd., MITSUI & CO., LTD.

With the Special Cooperation of: Dazaifu Tenmangu

With the Cooperation of: IIDA CITY KAWAMOTO KIHACHIRO PUPPET MUSEUM, KOEI TECMO GAMES CO., LTD., JAPAN AIRLINES, HIKARI Production LTD.

Notes

- Exhibition numbers correspond to the catalogue entry numbers. However, the order of the artworks in the exhibition may not necessarily be the same.
- Works are on view throughout the exhibition period.
- Exhibition lineup may change as circumstances require. Missing numbers refer to works that have been pulled from the exhibition.
- ☆ = Chinese First Grade Cultural Relic.
- Audio Guide is available for ¥550 / unit.

Audio No.(), No., Designation, Title,

Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership

Explanatory notes of a work

Prologue: Legends of the Three Kingdoms Period

1	Guan Yu Ming dynasty, 15th–16th century Xinxiang Museum	Guan Yu was worshipped by later generations as a god of war. This work portrays him realistically. It is one of the finest examples of a Guan Yu statue passed down through the generations.
2	Zhuge Liang Emerges from the Mountain to serve Liu Bei Ming dynasty, 15th century Shanghai Museum	This painting depicts Zhuge Liang (Kongming) finally joining the service of the warlord Liu Bei as a military strategist, after Liu Bei had visited him in person three times to make that request.
3	Narrative Figure Painting By Qiu Ying Ming dynasty, 16th century Shanghai Museum	The artist Qiu Ying often painted subjects connected to the <i>Records of the Three Kingdoms</i> . This work is thought to portray the warlord Liu Bei visiting the strategist Zhuge Liang.
4	<i>Former Ode on the Red Cliffs</i> By Zhang Ruitu Ming dynasty, dated 1626 Tianjin Museum	Su Shi wrote the <i>Former and Latter Odes on the Red Cliffs</i> , a tribute to the heroes of the Three Kingdoms period. This work features the <i>Former Ode on the Red Cliffs</i> copied out by the calligrapher Zhang Ruitu.
5	Illustrated Scroll of the <i>Latter Ode on the Red Cliffs</i> By Lu Zhi Ming dynasty, dated 1553 Shanghai Museum	This calligraphy of Su Shi's <i>Latter Ode on the Red Cliffs</i> by the Ming dynasty artist and scholar Wen Zhengming is illustrated by the painter Lu Zhi, in dedication to the heroes of the historic battlefield described in the <i>Records of the Three Kingdoms</i> .
2 3	Guandi Temple Murals Passed down by Fulong Temple, Shuimentu, Qingshuihe County, Hohhot City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Qing dynasty, 18th century Inner Mongolia Museum	This is a mural from a hall in Guandi Temple. It vividly depicts several scenes, including: "Defeating the Yellow Turban Rebels," and so on.
7	Guan Yu and Zhang Fei By Zhang Yuting Qing dynasty, 19th century Tianjin Museum	Guan Yu was once captured by Cao Cao, who treated him well. On his way back, he encountered his sworn brother Zhang Fei. Wrongly assuming Guan Yu had joined the enemy, Zhang Fei flew into a rage, though he later expressed remorse after realizing his error.
8	Zhao Yun Passed down by Huaxi building, Bozhou City, Anhui Qing dynasty, 17th–18th century Bozhou Museum	Pursued by Cao Cao's forces, Liu Bei was separated from his wife and child at Changban. Liu Bei's general Zhao Yun raced alone to the battlefield and miraculously managed to save Liu Bei's son Liu Shan.
9	Episodes from the <i>Three Kingdoms</i> Qing dynasty, 18th–19th century Tianjin Museum	These paintings of famous scenes from the <i>Romance of the Three Kingdoms</i> show how narrative paintings of stories related to the <i>Records of the Three Kingdoms</i> achieved popularity among the common people.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
Chapter 1: Cao Cao, Liu Bei and Sun Quan – Tracing the Roots of the Three Great Leaders		
10	☆ Jade Pig Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Dongyuan Village, Bozhou City, Anhui,1973 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Bozhou Museum	This jade pig was discovered in a tomb that most experts believe was used to inter the bodies of Cao Cao’s father Cao Song and his wife.
11	Brick with Memorial Inscription for Cao Jun Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Yuanbaokeng, Bozhou City, Anhui, 1976–1977 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Bozhou Museum	The inscription on the brick reveals that an ancestor of the warlord Cao Cao was a magistrate of Kuaiji Commandery (the area that is now Zhejiang Province).
12	Brick with Illustration of Human Figure Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Baiguoshu Village, Bozhou City, Anhui, 1976 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Bozhou Museum	This brick probably depicts a figure connected to the Cao clan.
🔊4	13 ☆ Sword Adorned with Jades Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Sheng of Zhongshan and His Wife, Baoding City, Hebei, 1968 Western Han dynasty, 2nd century BC Hebei Museum	The Liu Sheng era saw iron replacing bronze as a material for swords. This is one of the last examples of a bejeweled bronze sword.
14	☆ Jar Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Sheng of Zhongshan and His Wife, Baoding City, Hebei, 1968 Western Han dynasty, 2nd century BC Hebei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics	The artifact is gilt with gold and silver, and inlaid with green glass. No. 14 and 15 stand testament to the splendor of King Liu Sheng of Zhongshan, an ancestor of the warlord Liu Bei.
15	☆ Leopard Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Sheng of Zhongshan and His Wife, Baoding City, Hebei, 1968 Western Han dynasty, 2nd century BC Hebei Museum	This is one of four bronze leopards. It is thought the leopards were used to hold down the four corners of a floor covering where a person of high rank would have sat.
16	Cargo and Passenger Boat Excavated at Tomb No. 14, Liangjuntong, Guigang City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 2010 Eastern Han dynasty-Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Guangxi Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology	This type of vessel would have navigated around rivers or coastal areas. It helped the state of Wu to conduct maritime journeys and foreign trade.

Chapter 2: The Han Dynasty – Shadow and Light		
🔊5	17 ☆ Lion Formerly at the County Academy of Linzi, Shandong Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Shandong Museum	The inscription reads: “This lion was made in Luoyang.” Lion ornaments like this were sometimes presented as gifts from China’s Western Regions during the Han dynasty.
18	Animal-shaped Ornaments Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Chang of Zhongshan, Dingzhou City, Hebei, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Dingzhou Museum	Small animal-shaped ornaments carved in the round and from all kinds of stones began to appear occasionally in various regions around the turn of the first century, and continued to be produced during the Three Kingdoms period and later.
19	Horn-shaped Pendant Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Chang of Zhongshan, Dingzhou City, Hebei, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Dingzhou Museum	Carved from precious jade, this pendant was a tool for undoing knots that might as well have symbolized the owner’s high-ranking status. It belonged to a king of the Eastern Han dynasty.
20	Metal Belt Fitting Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Chang of Zhongshan, Dingzhou City, Hebei, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Dingzhou Museum	This silver belt fitting is modeled after the hair ornament worn by the Queen Mother of the West, a goddess of immortality. Worship of the Queen Mother began during the Han dynasty, and continued into the Three Kingdoms period.
21	Man Riding an Elephant Excavated at Tomb No. 72, Flood Prevention Channel Section 2, Luoyang City, Henan, 1954 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Luoyang Museum	Elephants were items of tribute from the southern lands to the Han Emperors, and immortal sages were thought to ride them. Sun Quan, the ruler of Wu, also presented an elephant to Cao Cao, the ruler of Wei.
22	Brick with Chinese Characters “Cang Tian” (Blue sky) Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Yuanbaokeng, Bozhou City, Anhui, 1976–1977 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century National Museum of China	This brick was used in the Cao family tomb. The Chinese characters derives from the slogan of the Yellow Turban Rebels that read: “The blue sky has died; the yellow sky is rising.”
23	Tomb–Quelling Urn with the Chinese Characters “Huangshen Beidou” (Yellow God Northern Dipper) Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Chanchechang, Baoji City, Shaanxi, 1979 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Baoji Bronzeware Museum	The inscription reads, “The Yellow God and the Big Dipper shall spare the deceased and the bereaved family as well as their descendants from misfortune. Such is the law.” Although it is an incantation, the ending is styled after administrative documents of the time.
24	Seal with the Chinese Characters “Tiandi Shizhe” (Envoy of the Heavenly Emperor) Excavated at Jujia Village, Yangping Township, Baoji City, Shaanxi, 1987 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Baoji Chencang Museum	This seal used by an early Daoist society during the Eastern Han dynasty is carved with the inscription “Envoy of the Heavenly Supreme God.” The tortoise-shaped handle imitates the official seal of a government office.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
25	Mirror with Three–tiered Deity and Immortal Design Excavated at Xishan, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1984 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd–3rd century Mianyang Museum	The pattern on the back surface is split into three tiers, with each tier depicting deities, immortals and dragons. It is believed to be deeply connected to the Way of the Five Pecks of Rice, a religious movement that surrendered to Cao Cao in 215.
26	☆ Wine Cask Excavated at Leitai Tomb, Wuwei City, Gansu, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd–3rd century Gansu Provincial Museum	This lavish vessel fit for an emperor was excavated from the tomb of a “General Zhang.” Zhang may have been a commanding officer under Dong Zhuo, a warlord who wielded power during the late Eastern Han dynasty.
🔊7	27 Guards of Honor Figurines Excavated at Leitai Tomb, Wuwei City, Gansu, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd–3rd century Gansu Provincial Museum	This procession was apparently buried in the tomb of General Zhang, a powerful figure from modern-day Gansu province. He may have been one of Dong Zhuo’s officers. Dong Zhuo temporarily ruled the imperial court at the end of Eastern Han dynasty.
28	<i>Xiping Stone Classics</i> Excavated at the Taixue Academy Ruins, Yanshi City, Henan Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Shanghai Museum	The <i>Xiping Stone Classics</i> were carved out to correct discrepancies in the writing of Confucian texts including The <i>Analects</i> and so on. Unfortunately, most of these stones were soon destroyed during the Dong Zhuo war.
29	Spade Excavated at the Jiayuan Site, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2004 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Zhuozhou Museum	The iron tool is the blade tip of a farming implement. During the Eastern Han dynasty, control of iron farming tools shifted from the state to civilians.
30	Plow Excavated at the Yanzhao Site, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2001 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Zhuozhou Museum	This is also the blade tip of a farming implement. Increases in productivity facilitated the rise of powerful local ruling families.
🔊6	31 Eating Utensils Excavated at the Shangniantou Tomb, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2005 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Zhuozhou Museum	These gilt and painted bronze eating utensils were made to be interred in a tomb rather than for practical use, though they still reveal how people ate meals at that time. As chairs were unavailable, people sat on their heels or sat cross-legged before the low table.
32	☆ Mirror Stand Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Lingyun Kuodan Site, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2004 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Zhuozhou Museum	Although this was a model to be buried in a tomb, it demonstrates clearly how mirrors were used at the time. The mirror is set on a U-shaped frame toward the middle of the post.
33	☆ Multi–tiered Lamp Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Lingyun Kuodan Site, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2004 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Zhuozhou Museum	Decorative elements such as human figures and animals are formed into thin plates and arranged along seven tiers in a diorama-like construction thought to represent the afterlife. The top plate is designed to hold a votive light.
34	Coffin with Wickerwork Pattern Excavated at Tomb No. 3, Lingyun Kuodan Site, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 2004 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Zhuozhou Museum	This earthenware coffin feature wickerwork-mat imprints on the surface of its longer sides. The use of a coarse earthen coffin instead of a regular wooden coffin may reflect a preference for simple burials.
🔊8	35 ☆ Five–storied Granary Tower Excavated at Mazuo, Shanyang District, Jiaozuo City, Henan, 1973 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Jiaozuo Museum	This object was excavated in Jiaozuo city, where Emperor Xian, the last Eastern Han emperor, spent the remainder of his days after Cao Pi (Wen Di) established the state of Wei in 220.
36	☆ Four–storied Granary Tower Excavated at Baizhuang, Macun District, Jiaozuo City, Henan, 2009 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Jiaozuo Museum	This model includes figures carrying sacks of grain to be stored inside the granary, guards, and a watchdog. The figures on the top floor of the granary is most likely the members of the landowner family.
37	☆ Tripartite Granary Tower Excavated at the China Construction Bank Site, Jiaozuo City, Henan, 2005 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Jiaozuo Museum	During the Eastern Han dynasty, the ruling families of Jiaozuo attached so much importance to granaries that even model ones were the object of contest for opulence. The grain inside a storehouse was a source of wealth and power.
38	Mansion Excavated at the Jianye Company Site, Shanyang District, Jiaozuo City, Henan, 2001 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Jiaozuo Museum	Surrounded by watchtowers and high walls, this residence model is as impregnable as a fortress. Local ruling families during the Eastern Han dynasty also possessed private army, using their grain reserves to possess military forces.

Chapter 3: Wei, Shu and Wu – A Tripartite Battle for Supremacy		
🔊9	39 Crossbow Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Inkstone Pool at Former Residence of Wang Xizhi, Linyi City, Shandong, 2003 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), dated 241 Linyi Museum	Crossbows like this used a bronze mechanism built into the main body section to fire arrows.
40	Spears Excavated at the Tomb of King Liu Chang of Zhongshan, Dingzhou City, Hebei, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Dingzhou Museum	These weapons were common during the Three Kingdoms period. Spears consisted of flat, elongated heads mounted on wooden shafts, used to stab at enemies.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
41	<i>Ji</i> Polearm Excavated at the tomb of King Liu Chang of Zhongshan, Dingzhou City, Hebei, 1969 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Dingzhou Museum	The <i>ji</i> polearm was a weapon similar to a halberd or dagger-axe, which was either mounted to the end of a shaft or held directly in the hands.
42	Sword Excavated at Qigou Village, Zhuozhou City, Hebei, 1989 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd–3rd century Zhuozhou Museum	Sword was originally made of bronze, but cheaper, more durable iron swords eventually prevailed, and their blades became longer and larger as well.
43	Spears Excavated at Tomb No. 32, Baihuzui, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1998 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Mianyang Museum	This type of spear is completely made of iron, right down to the hilt. This type of weapon is believed to have been thrown at enemies.
44	<i>Ji</i> Polearm Excavated at Tomb No.1, Songlinpo, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 2007 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Mianyang Museum	<i>Ji</i> polearm grew more diverse in form over time, like this example with its curved side blade. The existence of special types requiring expert skill in the martial arts is also known.
45	Long Swords with Ring-shaped Ornament (1) Excavated at Hejiashan, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1990 (2) Excavated at Yangjiadian, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1987 (3) Excavated at Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1990 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 3rd century Mianyang Museum	Thanks to innovations in blacksmithing techniques that allowed different types of steel to be bonded together, long iron swords became common during the Three Kingdoms period.
46	<i>Gou Xiang</i> Shields Excavated at Baihuzui Tombs, Mianyang City, Sichuan, 1998 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 3rd century Mianyang Museum	These shields are of a type with a handle on the reverse side. The long shafts on the top and bottom and the central projection allowed the bearer to not only block the enemy's attacks, but even occasionally push them back.
47	☆ Crossbow Excavated at Jinancheng, Jingzhou City, Hubei, 1972 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 222 Hubei Provincial Museum	The bronze launching device called crossbow is engraved with an era name and year corresponding to 222, as well as the names of the maker, the owner, and the subordinate users. The specification of the latter two categories is a distinguishing feature of Wu examples.
48	Arrowheads Excavated at the Ancient Chibi (Red Cliff) Battlefield Site, Chibi City, Hubei [Iron arrowheads] Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Chibi Museum	Bronze arrowheads predominated in ancient China, but starting during the Han dynasty, advances in iron-making techniques and improvements on ever powerful crossbows facilitated the spread of stronger iron arrowheads.
49	☆ Long Sword with Ring-shaped Ornament Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Ezhou Iron and Steel Co. Materials Factory Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1987 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	The back of the sword bears an inscription inlaid in gold, praying for protection against evil. The swords that King Sun Quan of Wu had forged with the inscription <i>da</i> Wu (“Great Wu”) are thought to have been similar to this one.
50	Warrior Figurine Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Lulinfan, Chibi City, Hubei, 1999 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Chibi Museum	This warrior figurine was placed close to the entrance of a Wu tomb. The helmet-clad appearance offers a valuable glimpse into how warriors dressed during the Three Kingdoms period.
51	Model Warship Dated 2015 Ezhou Museum	The kingdoms of Wei and Wu built floating fortresses called <i>louchuan</i> (literally “tower ships”) for their battles along the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River). This model provides insight into <i>louchuan</i> of the time.
🎧 52	Caltrops Excavated at Mount Dingjun, Mian County, Hanzhong City, Shaanxi, 1985 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period, 3rd century Mian County Museum	These caltrops were planted along narrow paths, shallow, traversable waters and other key thoroughfares to impede the progress of enemy processions. A number have been excavated at Mount Dingjun, the site of a fierce battle between Wei and Shu.
53	Stone Rubbing of “Gun Xue” Chinese characters Original work: Shimen Tunnel, Hanzhong City, Shaanxi 20th century (Original work: Eastern Han dynasty, 3rd century) Hanzhong Museum	After capturing Hanzhong Commandery in the Battle of Yangping Pass, Cao Cao wrote the Chinese characters <i>gun xue</i> (“flowing snow”) on a rock face along the Bao River, inspired by how the splashing of its waters resembled snow. When one of his subordinates commented that the character gun was missing the radical for “water,” Cao Cao pointed to the river beside him, and replied, “Is this not water?”
54	☆ Gold Seal with Chinese Characters “Pian Jiangjun Yinzhang” (Lieutenant General’s Seal) Acquired close to Juxianyan, Jiangbei District, Chongqing City, 1982 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	The Chinese characters read “Lieutenant General’s Seal.” When Guan Yu, originally a follower of the warlord Liu Bei, yielded to Cao Cao, he was appointed as a lieutenant general, and at that time he must have received a seal such as this one.
🎧 55	Plate with Picture of Children Excavated at the Tomb of Zhu Ran, Ma’anshan City, Anhui, 1984 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ma’anshan City, the Three Kingdoms Zhu Ran Family Cemetery Museum	The inscription on the bottom tells us this was made in the country of Shu. It was excavated from the tomb of Zhu Ran, a Wu general who captured the Shu military commander Guan Yu.
56	Iron and Charcoal Stove Excavated at the Tomb of Zhu Ran, Ma’anshan City, Anhui, 1984 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ma’anshan City, the Three Kingdoms Zhu Ran Family Cemetery Museum	This set consists of an iron and charcoal stove. The heated charcoal was placed inside the iron and used to press the wrinkles out of clothes. It may have been used by the Wu general Zhu Ran during his lifetime.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
57	Hairpin Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Zhu Ran Family Cemetery, Ma’anshan City, Anhui, 1996 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ma’anshan City, the Three Kingdoms Zhu Ran Family Cemetery Museum	This hairpin was excavated from a tomb belonging to the generation of the Wu general Zhu Ran's offspring. Images of women wearing a similar kind can be seen in artifacts like pictorial stone carvings from the Han dynasty.
58	Warriors Going to the Battlefield Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	Based on the shapes of their diadems and hats, these warriors are thought to be the “southwestern barbarians” described in history books. Although they rebelled against Shu rule, they were suppressed and pacified by the Shu chancellor Zhuge Liang’s Southern Campaign.
59	☆ Seals with Chinese Characters “Meng Teng” Excavated at Tomb No. 2, Erpingzhai, Zhaotong City, Yunnan, 1954 Three Kingdoms period (Shu)–Western Jin dynasty, 3rd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	The <i>Three Kingdoms</i> recounts how Zhuge Liang fought against a local leader called Meng Huo during a military expedition in the south. These seals reveal that there was a powerful leader called Meng family.
60	Wine Warming Vessel Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Guijia Yard, Zhaotong City, Yunnan, 1960 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	The upper surface of this vessel's handle features a dotted-line engraving of a dragon. Dotted-line engravings are a common feature of bronze vessels from Jiaozhou in southern Wu. This vessel, excavated in southern Shu, points to the close relations between the two regions.
61	Jar with a Handle Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Guijia Yard, Zhaotong City, Yunnan, 1960 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	No. 60-63 were all excavated from the tomb of powerful clans that migrated from the interior of China to the southern part of Shu. As far as can be determined from these bronze vessels, their culture did not differ much from that of the interior areas. The items offer a faint glimpse into the true nature of the main force behind the “barbarous tribes” that Zhuge Liang fought in his Southern Campaign.
62	<i>Yan</i> Food Steamer Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Guijia Yard, Zhaotong City, Yunnan, 1960 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	It is a steamer consisting of a vat set on top of a cauldron.
63	Lamp Holder Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Guijia Yard, Zhaotong City, Yunnan, 1960 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Yunnan Provincial Museum	This artifact originally had a fire bowl on top, and the lamp would be lit using oil and a wick made from plant matter.
64	<i>She–Mao</i> (Snake Spear) Excavated at Tomb No. 3, Mount Shizhai, Kunming City, Yunnan, 1956 Shizhaishan culture, 2nd century BC Yunnan Provincial Museum	This spear is reminiscent of the “snake spear” described as the favorite weapon of the general Zhang Fei in the <i>Romance of the Three Kingdoms</i> .
🎧 65	Seal with Chinese Characters “Cao Xiu” Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Xiu, Mengjin County, Luoyang City, Henan, 2009 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Luoyang City Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute	This is the only seal attributed with certainty to a character from the <i>Records of the Three Kingdoms</i> . The size and antiquity of the excavated tomb leaves no doubt that this is indeed the seal of Cao Xiu, a relative of Cao Cao who served as a Wei general.
🎧 66	☆ <i>Daigou</i> (Belt Buckle) Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Xiu, Mengjin County, Luoyang City, Henan, 2009 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Luoyang City Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute	This object was excavated from the tomb of Cao Xiu, Cao Cao’s nephew. Cao Xiu died from an infection after fighting against the Wu forces.
67	<i>Daigou</i> (Belt Buckle) Excavated at the Cihu Electromagnetic Wire Factory Site, Ma’anshan City, Anhui, 1993 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ma’anshan Museum	This metal fastener for a waist sash is designed to represent an animal grasping a fish. Although it was excavated from a Wu tomb, the similar object (No. 66) was found in the tomb of the Wei general Cao Xiu.
68	Stone Sphere Excavated at the ruins of New Hefei Castle, Hefei City, Anhui, 2004 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Hefei Luyang Dongpu Wetland Park Management Center	New Hefei Castle was built by Wei forces. Stone spheres like these served as weapons at the fortress. It seems trebuchets were used to launch them at the Wu army.
69	Chariot Wheel Spikes Excavated at the ruins of New Hefei Castle, Hefei City, Anhui, 2004 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Hefei Luyang Dongpu Wetland Park Management Center	These spikes were excavated from New Hefei Castle, the Wei forces’ frontline base against the Wu. They may have been weapons attached to both ends of the axles of chariot wheels in order to scatter the enemy in the field.
Chapter 4: A Journey Through the Three Kingdoms		
🎧 70	☆ Gold Seal with Chinese Characters “Guannei Hou Yin” (Seal of Marquis Guannei) Excavated at Dongshilai, Xintai City, Shandong, 1976 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 2nd–3rd century Shandong Museum	Marquis of Guannei was a noble title that guaranteed a certain income. It was a prestigious title that ranked fourth after the emperor, regional kings, and full marquises.
71	☆ Gold Seal with Chinese Characters “Wei Guiyi Di Hou” (Submitted Marquis Di of Wei) Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Gansu Provincial Museum	This gold seal was presented by the state of Wei to the leader of the Di, an ethnic group that lived in northwestern China. The states of Wei, Shu, and Wu all gave gifts such as gold and silver seals to win favor with the local forces living along their borders.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
72 ☆	Ruler Excavated at Tomb No. 2, Xincheng, Jiayuguan City, Gansu, 1972 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Gansu Provincial Museum	This ruler was made by carving graduations onto a thinly-whittled animal bone. This reveals that a “chi” unit during the Three Kingdoms period measured around 24 cm.
73 ☆	Inkstone with Five Dragons Design Excavated at Tomb No. 2, Beizhai, Yinan County, Shandong, 1994 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 2nd–3rd century Yinan County Museum	This circular inkstone has a lid decorated with five dragons in relief. As ink during the Three Kingdoms period was granulated, it was mixed with water on top of the inkstone and ground with a stone to produce liquid ink.
74 ☆	Paper with Ink Writing Excavated at Fulongping Tomb, Lanzhou City, Gansu, 1987 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Lanzhou Museum	The writing suggests this round sheet of paper served as a cushioning material in a lacquered box used to store a bronze mirror before being reused as writing material.
75	Mirror with Animal Motifs Acquired in 1994 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–2nd century Luoyang Museum	Two animals are placed diagonally to each other. The inscription reads, “This mirror bears the auspicious creature, the <i>tianlu</i> . Thus it shall bring its owner such wealth as royalty or the nobility.” The <i>tianlu</i> was a mythical animal.
76	Table for <i>Liubo</i> (Ancient Chinese Board Game) Excavated at Wu Village, Song County, Luoyang City, Henan, 1988 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Luoyang Museum	This board was used for a game similar to snakes and ladders popular in ancient China. Players placed pieces on the board, and rolled a die-like object to determine how far to move their pieces.
77	Toilet Excavated at Baoji City, Shaanxi Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Baoji Bronzeaware Museum	This model shows a pig pen attached to an outhouse toilet. Human waste was used as feed for the pigs. Many models of this type of toilet have been excavated from the Wei capital region in what is now Henan Province.
78	Mirror with a Square and TLV Patterns, and Bird Motifs Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Sandaohao, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 1955 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 2nd–3rd century Liaoning Provincial Museum	This mirror has a similar design to the Table for <i>Liubo</i> (No. 76). This mirror’s design and inscription share many similarities with mirrors excavated from <i>kofun</i> burial mounds in Japan.
79	Three–legged Kettle Excavated at the Dongmenli Tomb, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 1983 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Liaoyang Museum	Both three-legged kettles and vessels (No.80) for warming wine were widely prevalent throughout the territory of the Han dynasty.
80	Food and Drink Warming Vessel Excavated at the Dongmenli Tomb, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 1983 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Liaoyang Museum	These objects with rotund bodies (No. 79-80) were particularly preferred in the area of what is now Liaoyang City.
81	Vessel with Handle Excavated at Tomb No. 16, Miaopu, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 2008 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Liaoyang Museum	This vessel features a handle resembling an upside-down letter “F” attached to a body shaped like a truncated cone. This type of vessel was mainly found in north–eastern China in Liaoyang, Liaoning province, the seat of power of the Gongsun clan regime. Similar vessels have been found on the Japanese archipelago near the Japan Sea.
82	Oven Excavated at Tomb No. 16, Miaopu, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 2008 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Liaoyang Museum	Many ovens with this shape combining circular and trapezoidal portions have been found in the area of Liaoyang City in northeastern China. They may be linked to the Gongsun clan who held power in the area.
83	<i>He</i> Container Excavated at Tomb No. 50, Miaopu, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 2008–2012 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Liaoning Province Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology	Many containers with curved sides have been excavated from the area of what is now Liaoyang City.
84	Cutting Board with a Blade and Fish Motif Excavated at Tomb No. 25, Miaopu, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 2014 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Liaoning Province Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology	Models of cutting board with a fish and sword design have been excavated from Liaoyang City as well. No. 81-84 may also have some link to the Gongsun clan.
85	Well Excavated at the Painted Tomb of Che Qi, Liaoyang City, Liaoning, 1943 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Liaoyang Museum	This model of a well is unusual for the surrounding railing and the ramps on each side. It may represent a communal well for fire fighting, etc.
86 ☆	Stele of Wuqiu Jian’s Achievements Excavated at Banchaling, Ji’an City, Jilin, Early 20th century Three Kingdoms period (Wei), dated 245 Liaoning Provincial Museum	The <i>Record of the Three Kingdoms</i> recounts how the state of Wei attacked and thoroughly defeated the Goguryeo kingdom before erecting a monument in the conquered land.
87	Copies of the Beiyuan No.1 Tomb Murals Original: Tomb No. 1, Beiyuan, Liaoyang City, Liaoning 20th century (Original: Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century) Liaoning Provincial Museum	
	-1 “Procession of Chariots and Horses”	This is a copy of a mural that decorated the wall of a tomb in what is now Liaoyang City in Liaoning Province, which was the base of the Gongsun clan. It depicts three chariots escorted by troops on horseback.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
	-2 “Procession of People on Horseback”	This mural copy shows part of a procession on horseback. The pole in the upper left has two tiers of black and red tasseled decorations. The “yellow banner” that the state of Wei presented to the ancient Japanese queen Himiko is presumed to have resembled to this one in shape.
	-3 “Pavillion”	The roof of the three-storied pavilion is decorated with a phoenix-shaped ornament and long, thin banners. Figures in black are shown to the left of the pavilion, with acrobats and jugglers along with spectators to the right.
88	Tomb Guardian Figurine Excavated at Tomb No. 47, Maituo, Wushan County, Chongqing City, 1999 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	This horned, fanged figurine with a long tongue dangling down to its chest controls a poisonous snake with its left hand. It was excavated from an Eastern Han dynasty tomb in Shu, where it was buried to protect the tomb with its supernatural powers.
🔊 89	Dancing Figurine Excavated at Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	A cap-wearing woman stoops slightly. Her raised right hang grips a sleeve while her left hand gently tugs at her robe’s long hem.
🔊 90	Dancing Figurine Excavated at Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Sichuan Museum	This figurine has the same posture as No.89. This might be a symbolic depiction of a dance that was popular in Shu from the Eastern Han dynasty to the Three Kingdoms period.
🔊 91	Zither–playing Figurine Excavated at Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	This type of figurine was made for burial in tombs. Colorful lifelike figurines with gentle countenances were produced in the Shu-controlled Yi province (modern-day Sichuan province and Chongqing).
🔊 92	Storytelling Figurine Excavated at Tomb No. 11, Huadeng Tombs, Zhong County, Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	A half-naked man kneels on one knee as he cheerfully tells a story. This unusual type of entertainer was known as a <i>shuochang</i> or <i>paiyou</i> .
🔊 93	Lady Figurine Excavated at Dashiba Subdistrict Junior High School 72 Site, Jiangbei District, Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	A woman holds what seems to be a fish in her left hand and a duck in her right. The scene portrays Yi province as a land in rich agricultural products.
🔊 94	Cooking Figurine Excavated at the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, Chongqing City Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	A man kneels before a chopping block laden with food such as fish or the heads of livestock.
95 ☆	Dog Excavated at Tomb No. 3, Mount Tianhui, Chengdu City, Sichuan, 1957 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Sichuan Museum	This large statue of a watchdog was buried near the entrance to a Shu tomb. Many similar figures dated to the late Eastern Han dynasty have been found, indicating the turbulent social climate of the times.
96	Model Pond Excavated at Tomb No. 3, Mount Tianhui, Chengdu City, Sichuan, 1957 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Sichuan Museum	This model of an irrigation pond for paddy fields has a small boat, ducks, lotuses, and fish. Paddy fields and ponds were the economic foundation of the manors run by the local ruling families of Shu, and the source of their wealth.
97	Brick with Image of the Queen Mother of the West Excavated at Zhaojue Temple, Chenghua District, Chengdu City, Sichuan Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Sichuan Museum	The Queen Mother of the West, a goddess of immortality, sits on the dragon and tiger throne in the center. The man before her pray to the Queen Mother to make him fly to the abode of the Daoist immortals, becoming one was believed to be the ultimate happiness.
98 ☆	Brick with Scene of Horses and Carts Embarking on a Journey Excavated at Tiaodenghe, Chengdu City, Sichuan, 1956 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Sichuan Museum	This brick was set in the wall of a tomb. A horse-drawn cart crosses a bridge, accompanied by an attendant on horseback. The group’s destination must surely be the paradise where the Queen Mother of the West resides.
99 ☆	Brick with Scene of Salt Production Excavated at Huapaifang, Qionglai City, Sichuan Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Sichuan Museum	Though inland, the state of Shu was a producer of salt since ancient times. Liu Bei earned vital funds for the state coffers by establishing a salt monopoly.
100	Bricks with Image of Sacred Tree Excavated at Zitong County, Mianyang City, Sichuan Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Mianyang Museum	These bricks shows human figures worshipping trees. On one of them, an inscription next to the tree reads <i>mulian</i> , a type of sacred tree. Many artifacts related to tree worship like Money Tree (No. 150) have been found in Shu.
101	Writing Knife with a Horse Motif Eastern Han dynasty, dated 104 Liaoning Provincial Museum	This is a <i>shudao</i> , a knife used like an eraser to scrape off characters written on wood or bamboo tablets. The inscription, inlaid in gold, indicates that it was produced at a government-managed workshop in Shu.
102	Bamboo Writing Strips Excavated at Zoumalou, Changsha City, Hunan, 1996 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Changsha Jiandu Museum	These are long, thin bamboo strip with writing. Many Wu bamboo writing strips like this were found at Zoumalou in Changsha city, Hunan province.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
103 ☆	Wooden Tablets with Chinese Characters “ <i>Tongzi</i> Shi Chuo” (The Boy Shi Chuo) Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Echeng Cement Plant Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1978 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	The inscription reads, "The boy Shi Chuo offers his regards. How are you? My ancestral home is Gaoyou County in Guangling Commandery, and my courtesy name is Jiaoyu." Tablets such as these were used like calling cards, and there were rules regarding their size, etc.
104 ☆	Cosmetic Tray Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Echeng Cement Plant Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1978 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	Boards like this one are thought to have been used as makeup palettes while drawing the eyebrows or preparing whiting. They are more often than not found buried with women in Wu tombs.
105	Figurines Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Caitangjiao, Huangpi District, Wuhan City, Hubei, 2001 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Wuhan Museum	Although Wu figurines were unsophisticated, their depicted subjects and formats were extremely diverse. These effigies, such as the ones with conical hats, the ones wearing diadems, and the one seated with a bound hairstyle, all reflect different official functions.
107 ☆	Cauldron Excavated at the Egang Factory Well Ruins, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1977 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 222 Ezhou Museum	The inscription indicates that this cauldron was the 3,438th piece to be produced at a government-managed workshop in the Wu capital of Wuchang (now Ezhou) in 222. This was soon after the relocation of the capital, making production and development urgent tasks for Wuchang.
108	Mirror with Images of Deities and Beasts Excavated at Egang 630, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1970 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 2nd–3rd century Ezhou Museum	Production of bronze mirrors flourished in the area of Ezhou City in Hubei Province during the Three Kingdoms period. Chinese mirrors depicting deities and beasts with similar projecting parts have been excavated in Japan.
109	Mirror with Images of Deities and Beasts Viewed from a Single Angle Excavated at Egang Elementary School Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1979 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 2nd–3rd century Ezhou Museum	Deities and beasts are depicted as if viewed from one and the same direction. Only a few parts of the inscription are decipherable.
110	Mirror with Images of Deities and Beasts and Chinese Characters “Jiahe Wu Nian” (Wu Jiahe Year Five) Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Echeng Xinmiao Spring Steel Plate Factory Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1991 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 236 Ezhou Museum	Images of various deities are arranged in a staircase pattern, showing that numerous deities were worshipped in Wu at the time. These ancient faiths later developed into Daoism.
111	Mirror with Buddhist Diety, <i>Kui</i> Phoenix Design Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Echeng Power Plant Site, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1994 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	A Buddhist deity with a halo is represented inside one of the leaves stretching out in the four directions. This artifact provides valuable insight into early Chinese Buddhism.
112	Flat Circular Flask Excavated at Tomb No. 7, Mount Guojia, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 1984 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 259 Nanjing Museum Administration	The smooth and lustrous green celadon glaze is typical of ancient Yue ware. The Mount Guojia area of Nanjing City where this flask was excavated contains many tombs of the Wu elite.
113 ☆	Ram-shaped <i>Zun</i> Wine Vessel Excavated outside Caochang Gate, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 1958 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 265 Nanjing Museum Administration	Full-scale celadon production began in the state of Wu during the Three Kingdoms period. Ram-shaped vessels like this one are a prime example of such stoneware.
114 ☆	Funerary Jar Excavated at the Tomb of Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 1993 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), dated 272 Nanjing Museum Administration	Funerary jars like this were made from the Wu period to the Eastern Jin dynasty. As if to emphasize the prosperity of the Jiangnan area, the upper section of this jar is tightly packed with pavilions, storage pots, cattle and people.
115 ☆	<i>Ge</i> -type Container Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Guojianao, Egang Technical Reform Area, Ezhou City, Hubei, 2008 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	A <i>ge</i> was a container with different compartments. During a period that continued from Wu through the Jin dynasty, more and more practical celadon items that could be used in everyday life were mass-produced.
116 ☆	Seated Buddha Excavated at Tomb No. 4, Tangjiaotou, Shishan, Ezhou City, Hubei, 1992 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Ezhou Museum	This seated Buddha was placed in the corridor connected to the front and back chambers of a tomb. This reveals how Buddhist statues were created to serve as objects of worship from the very beginning.
117 ☆	Jar with Plate-shaped Mouth Excavated at Daxinggong District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2002 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	Dragons and phoenixes are painted using iron pigment, and figures of Buddhist deities, etc. have been attached to the body. The exotic design demonstrates how the state of Wu, which prospered through external trade, became a fertile ground for culture.
118 ☆	Bronze Drum Excavated at Guzhu Village, Heping District, Teng County, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1964 Three Kingdoms period (Wu)–Northern and Southern dynasties, 3rd–6th century Guangxi Museum of Nationalities	Bronze drums like this one with three-dimensional ornaments of frogs, figures on horseback, and birds are thought to be connected to a group of tribes called the Shanyue that inhabited the Wu territories.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
🔊15 119	Glass Bowl Excavated at Tomb No. 5, Road and Railway Intersection Site, Guigang City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1955 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Museum	Glass produced in Jiaozhou in southern Wu (modern-day Guangdong and Guangxi, for example) used potassium nitrate and quartz, although glass was mainly made from lead and barium in ancient China.
🔊15 120	String of Beads Excavated at Tomb No. 13, Fengliuling, Guigang City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1955 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Museum	Shi Xie was a Wu vassal and a powerful figure in Jiaozhou (modern-day Guangdong and Guangxi). Glass products were among the tribute articles that Shi Xie gave to Sun Quan each year.
🔊15 121	String of Beads Excavated at Tomb No. 15, Guigang City High School Site, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1955 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Museum	Experts say the navy blue beads may have been produced in China and the red beads in India or Southeast Asia.
122	Raised-floor Storehouse Excavated at Tomb No. 8, Tuguiling, Hepu County, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1999 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Museum	In the province of Jiaozhou in the southern part of the Wu state (now Provinces like Guangdong, Guangxi, etc.), storehouses, even model ones, had raised floors.
123	Stove Excavated at Tomb No. 1, East Lake New Village, Guigang City, Guangxi Autonomous Region, 1955 Eastern Han dynasty, 1st–3rd century Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Museum	The stove displays features designed for the hot and humid climate, such as the chimney angled outward to expel both smoke and heat far away as much as possible.
124	<i>Wu Zhu</i> Coin Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Xiu, Mengjin County, Luoyang City, Henan, 2009 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Luoyang City Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute	The state of Wei continued to use the <i>Wu Zhu</i> bronze coins of the Han dynasty.
125	<i>Zhi Bai Wu Zhu</i> Coins Excavated at Shajiazhuang Village, Laodaosi Town, Mian County, Hanzhong City, Shaanxi, 1985 Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 3rd century Mianxian Museum	When the Shu ruler Liu Bei extended his domain to the area of Sichuan Province, he issued <i>Zhi Bai Wu Zhu</i> coins with the official value of one hundred <i>Wu Zhu</i> in order to overcome financial difficulties.
126	<i>Da Quan Dang Qian</i> Coins (1) Excavated at the Tomb of Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2005 (2) Excavated at Taowu, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 1982 (3) Excavated at Tomb No. 4, Daishan, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2009 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	In the state of Wu, Sun Quan also issued <i>Da Quan Dang Qian</i> coins forcibly equivalent to one thousand <i>Wu Zhu</i> , but they had a poor reputation and were eventually abolished.

Chapter 5: The Cao Cao Mausoleum and Other Grand Tombs from the Three Kingdoms Period		
🔊17 127 ☆	-1 Stone Tablet with Inscriptions -2 -3 Stone Tablets with Inscriptions Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	These are tablets inscribed with a list of burial objects. The vertically-long tablet read “The large and favorite <i>ji</i> halberd of the King Wu of Wei (Cao Cao) to strike down a tiger (-1).” As such, it played a decisive role in identifying the tomb as the Cao Cao Mausoleum. The inscriptions on the other tablets read: “A collar with a red pattern and a white undergarment fit together well (-2),” and “an 80cm tall folding screen (-3).”
128	Three-legged Kettle Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Only powerful people could be buried with several <i>ding</i> vessels. No one could bury twelve <i>ding</i> vessels, the largest number, at that time, but an emperor.
129	<i>Guan</i> Jar Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	This is a storage jar that most likely contained food or the like for the deceased, and may have been produced in southern China.
🔊18 130 ☆	<i>Guan</i> Jar Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	This jar is made of white porcelain fired at high temperatures. This jar is the oldest example of white porcelain in the moment, so its provenance will remain a mystery until we can discover some similar objects or other related materials.
131 132	Hairpin Ornamental Plate Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Many unique items were found buried in the mausoleum of Cao Cao, the founder of the state of Wei. No. 131 and 132 are good examples; though their purpose is unknown.
133	Mold Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	When the two prongs on top are held together, the shell-shaped part opens laterally. There is no bottom plate. Since no similar examples have yet been found, its purpose is unknown.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
134	Horn-shaped Pendant Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	This is a tool that has been found exclusively in imperial and royal tombs (cf. No.19). It was used to untie sashes by inserting the end into the knot for loosening.
135	Round Agate Plate Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	A very colorful agate piece like this is extremely rare.
136	Leg Supports Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	According to Chinese geological science, these objects are made of a material known as wormkalk. Artifacts made of the same stone material have also been excavated from the tomb of Cao Cao’s son Cao Zhi.
137	Attendant Figurine Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	This is a figurine buried so that it might serve its departed master in the afterlife. The finish is extremely crude, in contrast with the scale and structure of the mausoleum.
138	Pictorial Stone Carvings Excavated at the Cao Cao Mausoleum, Anyang City, Henan, 2008–2009 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	The burial chamber of the Cao Cao Mausoleum was constructed from bricks, but pictorial stone carvings were used in some parts. Although they were destroyed by grave robbers, some large fragments offer clues to the subjects.
🔊19 139 ☆	Gold Metal Belt Fitting with Animal Design Excavated at Shouchun Ancient Tomb, Shou County, Huainan City, Anhui, 2009 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Shou County Museum	An auspicious animal writhes across the body of this fitting, with gold particles and precious stone inlays used to enhance the adornment. Metal belt fittings like this were also coveted by Cao Pi, the emperor of Wei.
140 ☆	Stone Tablets with Inscriptions Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Xizhu Village, Luoyang City, Henan, 2015–2016 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Luoyang City Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute	These tablets are inscribed with the names of funerary goods; similar examples were excavated from the Cao Cao Mausoleum, including belt fittings called <i>xianbeitou</i> and a silk fabric called <i>jian</i> that is also mentioned in the "Book of Wei" in the <i>Records of the Three Kingdoms</i> .
141 ☆	<i>Xianbeitou</i> (Belt Buckle) with Dragon Design Western Jin dynasty, 3rd century Shanghai Museum	An auspicious animal writhes across the body of this belt fitting. Some scholars think the Western Jin emperor Sima Yan had this specially made to coincide with his ascension to the throne.
142	<i>Gui</i> Tablet and <i>Bi</i> Tablet Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	Both of these are traditional Chinese ritual implements, though these rituals fell into disuse from the Eastern Han period onwards. When Cao Cao became the Duke of Wei, he revived the ancient ceremonial system.
143 144	Round Plate Round Plate Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	No. 143 and 144 are polished into lens shapes, and seem to have been set inside plates.
145	Stone Sphere Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	This may also be a part of fitting. The stone is known as "Wormkalk" in Chinese geology, and examples from the Three Kingdoms period have only been found in the Cao Cao Mausoleum (No. 136) and the tomb of Cao Zhi.
🔊20 146	Cups of Handles Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	Cups with ears were used for wine or soup. Perhaps Cao Zhi is still composing poetry in the afterlife while drinking wine from these cups.
147	<i>Guan</i> Jars Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	The Chinese characters for medicine were imprinted on these jars before firing. The medicine was probably a longevity elixir imbued with a prayer that the deceased would continue to live peacefully in the next world.
148	Waterfowl, Chicken and Dog Excavated at the Tomb of Cao Zhi, Dong’e County, Liaocheng City, Shandong, 1951 Three Kingdoms period (Wei), 3rd century Cultural Relics Administration of Dong’e County	Wei animal figurines are simple compared to those of the Eastern Han dynasty, yet have a certain charm. The garden of Cao Zhi’s estate may have contained domestic animals such as these.
149	Tomb Doors Excavated at the Lanjia Courtyard Site, Pidu District, Chengdu City, Sichuan, 1977 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Sichuan Museum	These stone doors were installed in a large burial chamber. A guard lifting up a shield is carved into the left door, with a man holding a broom on the right. Both have a respectful posture, as if greeting a person of exalted rank at the entrance.

Audio No.(🔊), No., Designation, Title, Excavation year / Location or Artist, etc., Period and date of production, Ownership		Explanatory notes of a work
🔊21 150 ☆	Money Tree Excavated at Shixiang Village, Xinfeng Town, Guanghan City, Sichuan, 1983 Eastern Han dynasty, 2nd century Guanghan Cultural Relics Administration (Guanghan Museum)	Board-shaped branches and leaves unfurl in all directions. They are decorated with images of the ageless Queen Mother of the West and a Daoist immortal riding on a deer. The branches are also festooned with about 400 bronze coins. The objects probably had some kind of religious significance in Shu regions.
151	Money Tree Stand Excavated at Tomb No. 2, Linkou Cemetery, Fengdu County, Chongqing City, 2012 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 3rd century Chongqing Cultural Heritage Research Institute	This is a stand for a bronze money tree like No.150, though only the stand was found in the tomb. The plinth resembles an imaginary creature known as a <i>bixie</i> .
152 ☆	Coffin Ornament with Celestial Design Excavated at Xiaogouzi, Jiangdongzui, Wushan County, Chongqing City, 2005 Eastern Han dynasty–Three Kingdoms period (Shu), 2nd–3rd century Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum	This disk that adorned a wooden coffin is engraved with an image of a pair of covered gateposts, such as those found in a palace. The inscription between the gateposts reads “Celestial Gate,” indicating that this is the entrance to a heavenly realm where the immortals dwell.
153	Circular Tile with Human Face Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2006 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	This is a circular eaves tile with a human face. Jianye (present-day Nanjing) became the Wu capital after Sun Quan became the Wu emperor. It subsequently became the center of a new cultural movement.
🔊22 154	Tiger-shaped Coffin Stand Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2006 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	This is a stone coffin stand. In ancient times, a crouching tiger symbolized the pacification of a region through military successes.
155	Ring Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2006 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	This ring is carved with a design of two dragons facing one another. The item in their mouths may be a hair ornament symbolizing the Queen Mother of the West, a goddess thought to possess the elixir of eternal life.
156	Writing Brush and Writing Knife Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2006 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	During the Three Kingdoms period, bamboo and wood tablets were also used as writing materials in addition to paper. This <i>shudao</i> knife for scraping writing errors off the surface of bamboo or wood tablets and writing brush would have been essential items for an intellectual. The use of celadon-glazed stoneware makes them distinctively Wu relics.
157 ☆	Oxcart Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Shangfang, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 2006 Three Kingdoms period (Wu), 3rd century Nanjing Museum Administration	In ancient China, nobles traveled around in carriages. Excavated materials suggests ox-drawn carriages were also used from the end of the 2nd century, with this usage increasing in the state of Wu during the Three Kingdoms period.
Epilogue: The End of the Three Kingdoms Period and the Rise of a New Power		
🔊23 158	Brick with Inscription Reading “Jin Ping Wu Tianxia Daping” Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Suoshu Brick Factory Site, Jiangning District, Nanjing City, Jiangsu, 1985 Western Jin dynasty, dated 280 Nanjing Museum Administration	The inscription reads: “This tomb’s occupant is named Zhu. He hailed from Jiangcheng and he lived in Shangmiao. In 280, the Jin dynasty subdued the state of Wu, with peace and tranquility then reigning.”
159	Crown Decoration with Cicada Design Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Inkstone Pool at Former Residence of Wang Xizhi, Linyi City, Shandong, 2003 Western Jin dynasty, 3rd century Linyi Museum	This gold crown ornament with a cicada design was worn by rulers or chief vassals. This was excavated from a large brick-roomed tomb located in an area associated with the renowned calligrapher Wang Xizhi. The tomb’s occupant is thought to be a high-ranking figure.
160	<i>Guan</i> Jars Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Inkstone Pool at Former Residence of Wang Xizhi, Linyi City, Shandong, 2003 Western Jin dynasty, 3rd century Linyi Museum	These small jars in deep brown glaze were excavated from a large tomb that was the final resting place of three infants. They are sure to have contained treasures befitting children of the Western Jin dynasty elite.
161	Jar Excavated at Tomb No. 1, Inkstone Pool at Former Residence of Wang Xizhi, Linyi City, Shandong, 2003 Western Jin dynasty, 3rd century Linyi Museum	This jar was part of a set of about thirty pieces of fine celadon-glazed stoneware from the same tomb. In addition to confirming booming celadon production in the region just south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River at the time, they also demonstrate the high status of the deceased and the local character of Linyi, an area of strategic importance.
162	Lion-shaped Water Pot Excavated at Mining Machinery Plant Site, Luoyang City, Henan, 1972 Western Jin dynasty, 3rd–4th century Luoyang Museum	This lion-shaped celadon vessel stands out among similar objects for its beautiful form. It was excavated from the Western Jin capital of Luoyang, which enjoyed a brief period of prosperity after such a long war-torn era.
🔊33	Naval Warfare and Arrows in the <i>Romance of the Three Kingdoms</i>	
🔊16	The Cao Cao Mausoleum	



No. 151 Money Tree Stand