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## **Post-fieldwork processing**

Affected by plum rains in Hangzhou, our excavation is rescheduled and postponed to July 11. Before that, we will work indoor to process archaeological materials of Maqiao culture unearthed last year.

### **1. Washing, marking and classification (July 3 -July 4)**

#### **Day 1: July 3**

**14:00**

All team members gather at our workshop in Hangzhou on time.

**15:00-22:00**

We clean our room before the work and read archaeological report together at night.

We also dinner with Mr. Lin, a field director. Mr. Lin briefly introduces his recent field work and provide us with some background information of Maqiao culture. Located in the Minghang District in Shanghai, Maqiao site was discovered in 1959. Named after the site, Maqiao culture can be dated back to neolithic period (~3700 years ago). A large number of artifacts (stone tools, pottery, porcelain wares and etc) were unearthed.

Our project focuses on Zhangshan, another site of Maqiao culture. The site is situated near Zhangshan Mountain and close to Dongtiaoxi Brook and Qiantangjiang River.

#### **Day 2: July 4**

The excavation team has helped to put sherds and stones in red plastic bags. Each package contains unearthed material of the same layer.



## 8:00-17:00

Firstly, we take all artifacts out of boxes, check against label list to make sure there is no artifacts lost and each label is correct.

For potsherds that are not washed on site, they will be washed carefully after taking samples of soil on it.

Secondly, we re-label some artifacts when necessary. New labels are written on the bags and on the paper (paper tags are kept within small zip-lock plastic bags and put into big bags together with unearthed materials) to ensure they can be well preserved during storage.

New labels should be assigned to:

1. Packages of the same labels.
2. Representative sherds/stones. As representative sherds/stones will be used as samples (such as stone tools and complete objects), they need to be re-labeled.

At last, we group the artifacts into (1) pottery sherds group, (2) stone group and (3) sample group (used as samples), and then store them according to unit. The baskets on the table collect samples while boxes on the floor are for pottery or stone pieces.

Finally, we update the label list on the computer.

## Before sleep

Read archaeological report of Maqiao culture and Qianshanyang culture and study the terminology (terms on patterns and types especially) used in the report.



## 1. Type-series and quantification (July 5 -July 9)

### Day 3: July 5

1. All pottery and stone objects are displayed on the table and we roughly group them into “Tempered with sand” category and “Clay” category.



2. Further classification on fabric, shade, and shape. We set color and decoration standard for all artifacts.

We count the number of sherds of each type defined in the type-series and weigh them at the same time. The quantitative information is recorded on the paper sheets.

For example, there are X pottery sherds in the group Y, and they weigh Z g.

Representative samples are selected, labeled with ink on the surface, recorded on the sample records and put together in the labeled tray.

Samples with wrong labels (wrong context number) are re-labeled.

#### **Day 4: July 6**

**11:00**

Visit excavation site and our home base there.

**12:00-15:00**

Visit Lugongqiao site, another archaeological site in Xiaoshan. This site covers more than 1000 square meters and might be the center of the settlement dated back to Liangzhu period.

The field director teaches us how to use trowel to scrape the surface and identify the texture of the soil. The bottom of a layer or edge of a cut is usually identified when there is a change in color and (or) texture.

A field worker from Fengxiang (Shanxi province) made us a saozhi noodle during lunch.



**19:00- 21:00**

Work on the sherd classification and check whether it is possible to join scattered pottery sherds into a complete one.

### **Day 5: July 7**

We spend the whole day processing pottery sherds and updating classification standard based on new sherd samples.

Except for applying special coating material on the surface, low firing temperature can also lead to a core of different color. We distinguish the two by observing whether the pattern is on the coating surface or on the sherd itself.

**19:00-21:00**

Seminar on field archaeology host by Dr. Li Wei.

Our workshop goes out of electricity after the seminar. Luckily, we manage to find a hotel nearby.

### **Day 6: July 8**

Finalize color and decoration standard for all artifacts and reclassify sherd processed



previously according to new standard.

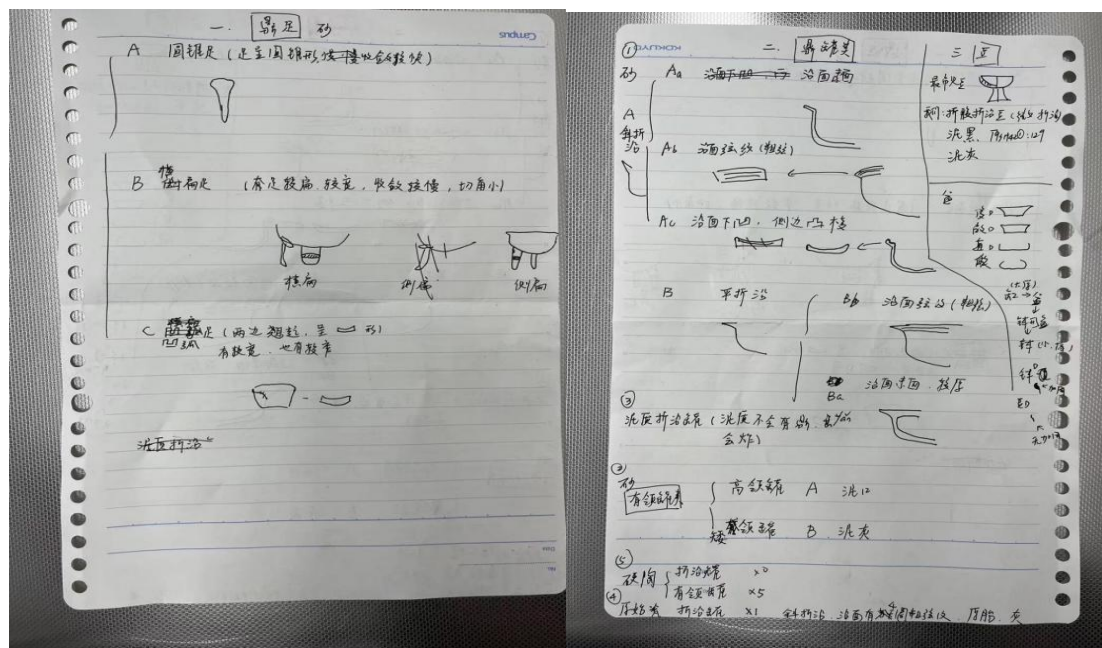
## Day 7: July 9

6:00-7:00

Get up early in the morning and start the day taking aerial image using drone.

7:30-15:00

Go back to the workshop. Apply archaeological typology method to classify sherds that are indicative in terms of ware type.



Note:

- (1) Compared to other potteries, the production of black pottery is the most demanding because it requires strict reducing atmosphere. Also, the firing core of sherds is more likely to be black due to the reducing atmosphere.
- (2) Wares with rims of different angles falls in different categories.
- (3) The rim of a Bo is reinforced and thickened while the rim of a Dou is not.

## Day 8-10: July 10-12

Three days off. We visit the West Lake in Hangzhou and museums nearby.