

Declaration: The publication of this journal gets the permission from the director

Post-fieldwork processing

Due to the plum rains in Hangzhou, our excavation is rescheduled and postponed to July 11. In the meantime, we will be working indoors 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 have dinner with Mr. Lin, a field director. Mr. Lin briefs us on his recent field work and shares 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 the neolithic period (~3700 years ago). Numerous 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 and check them against the label list to ensure that no artifacts have been lost and that each label is correct.

For potsherds that are not washed on site, they will be washed carefully after taking samples of the soil adhering to them.

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 placed in big bags along with the unearthed materials) to ensure their preservation during storage.

New labels should be assigned to:

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

At last, we categorize the artifacts into three groups: (1) pottery sherds, (2) stones and (3) samples, and then store them according to the 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 and arranged on the table. We roughly group them into “Sand-tempered” category and “Clay” category.



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

We count the number of sherds of each specified type within 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 grouped within Y, and they weigh Z g.

Representative samples are selected, labeled with ink on the surface, recorded on the sample sheets and arranged in the labeled tray.

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

Day 4: July 6

11:00

Visit excavation site and our home base at Shenjiali site.

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 a settlement dating back to Liangzhu period.

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

During lunch, a field worker from Fengxiang (Shanxi province) prepared us a delectable saozhi noodle.



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 the classification criteria based on new sherd samples.

Except for applying special coating material on the surface, a 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. Fortunately, we manage to find a hotel nearby.

Day 6: July 8

Finalize the color and decoration standards for all artifacts and reclassify sherds processed previously according to new standard.

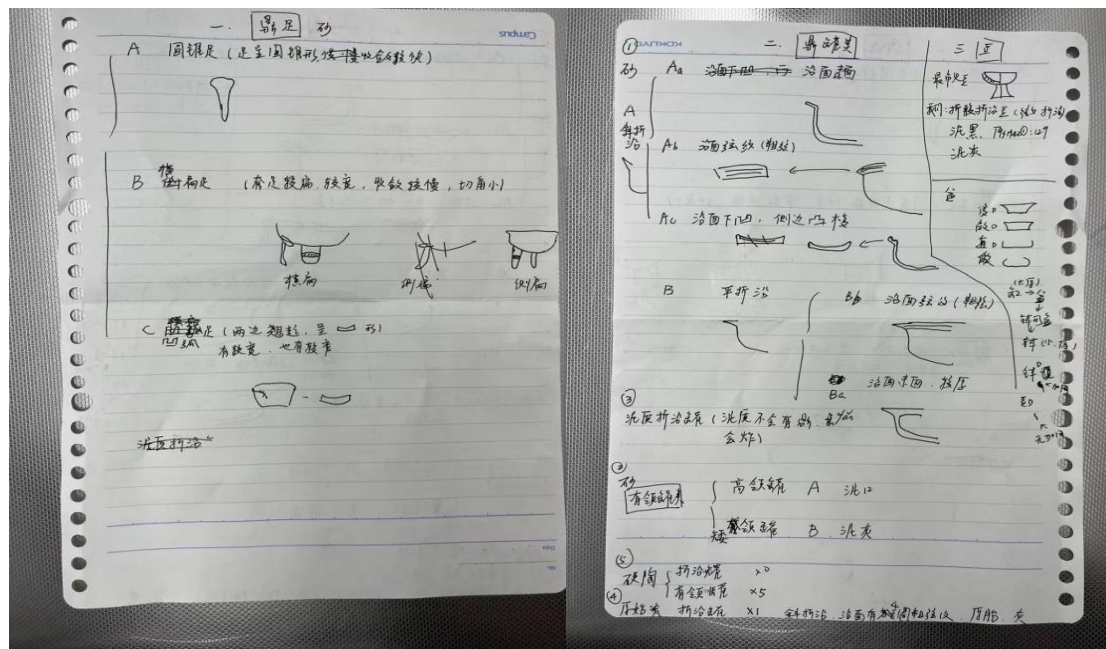
Day 7: July 9

6:00-7:00

Get up early in the morning and start the day by taking aerial image using a 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 pottery types, 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) Different categories are assigned to wares with rims of varying angles.
- (3) The rim of a *Bo* is reinforced and thickened whereas the rim of a *Dou* is not.

Day 8-10: July 10-12

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