

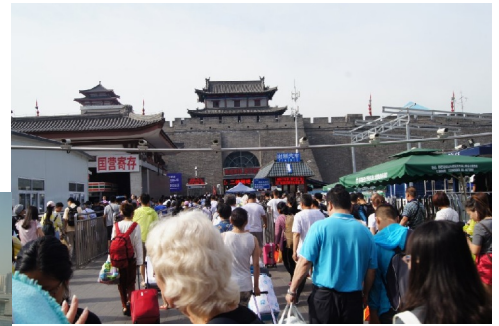
## Xi'an

Next we traveled from Beijing to Xi'an by overnight train. We arrived Sunday morning, 25 June. Xi'an was once the capital of China. It was also a major city on the Silk Road and is likely to be so on the new Silk Road.



Our hotel

View from hotel



The old city wall is near the train station



Big Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an

The temple complex around the tall Big Wild Goose Pagoda is dedicated to the memory of Xuanzang who traveled extensively around Asia, wrote about the visited countries, and especially translated more than a thousand Buddhist texts from Sanskrit into Chinese, and the Chinese classics known as Laozi into Sanskrit. Xuanzang died in 664 A.D., having made a huge contribution to the introduction of Mahayana Buddhism into China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia.



In the late afternoon we visited the Xi'an Great Mosque. Its architecture blends traditional Chinese and Islamic styles, making it different from other mosques that I have visited. Its construction was started in 742 A.D., with many additions and restorations over the centuries.



Celebrating the end of Ramadan.

Our team passing through the Minaret.

Another gate on the central pathway.



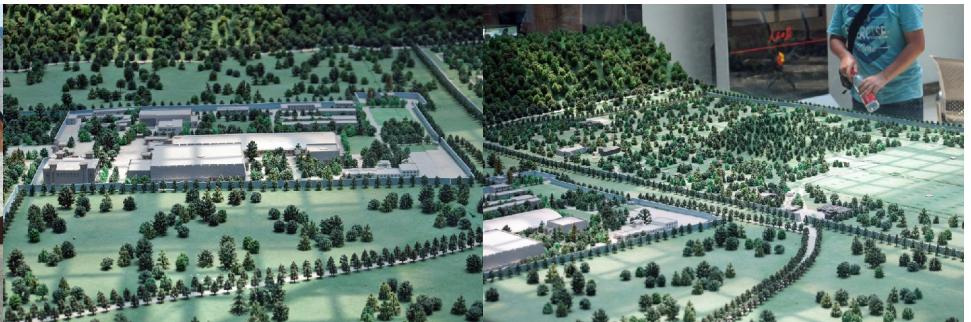
Much detail in the Prayer Hall wall artwork carvings.



The "Balcony" in front of the Prayer Hall.



Entrance sign to Terracotta sites



Model of main excavation buildings

Continued model shows pyramid tomb.

The site of the Emperor Qin Shihuang Mausoleum, terracotta warriors and horses, and tomb pyramid is immense, spanning 2.26 square kilometers, with numerous excavation pits in the area. The model shown above illustrates only the main attractions. It is located in the Lintong district to the northeast of Xi'an.



Approaching the main building, Pit 1.

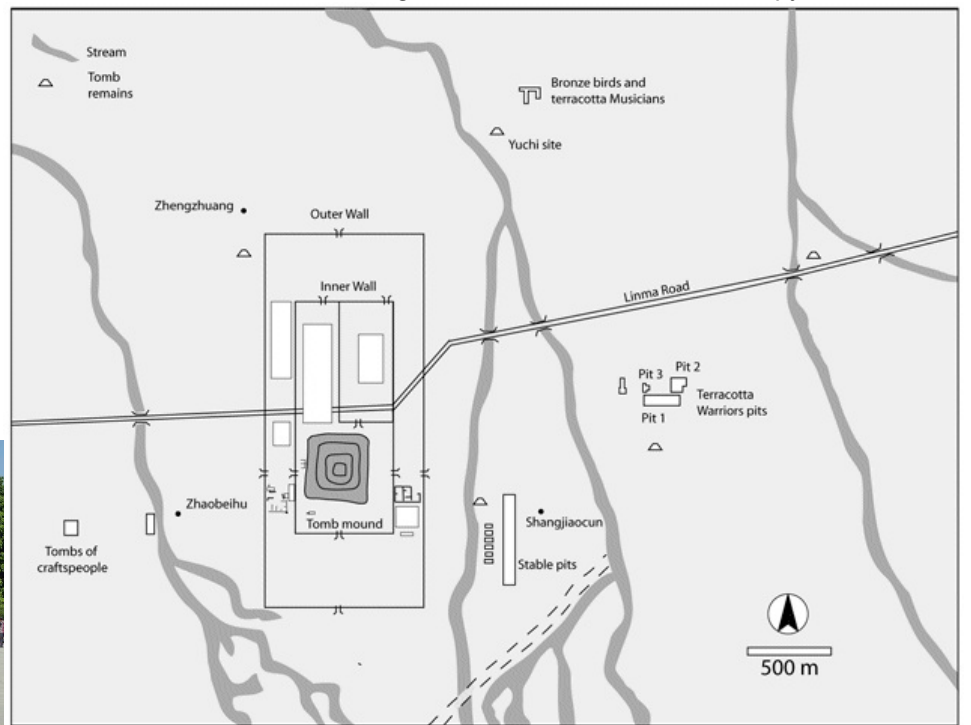
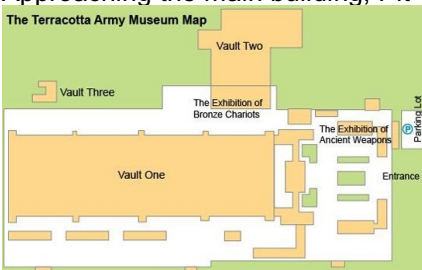


Fig. 1: Site plan of the First Emperor's Mausoleum, showing the location of the Emperor's Tomb towards the centre, the Terracotta Army to the east, and other elements of the complex.



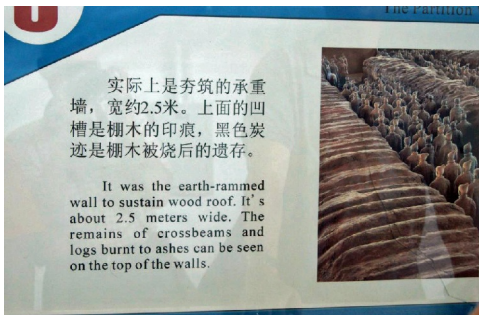
In the layout to the left, the orange areas are buildings of the main Terracotta Warriors pits. Vault One is Pit 1, Vault Two is Pit 2, Vault Three is Pit 3, and all are right of center in the gray map above. Note the 500 m scale on the map, indicating that the region of interest spans many kilometers.

Inside the entrance to the huge Pit 1 building is a Preface sign which reads [with an opening year 1979 missing]: "Emperor Qin's Terra-cotta pits are the large attendant pits, located 1.5 kilometers east of Emperor QinShihuang's mausoleum, symbolizing the main defending force that guarded the capitol before the emperor died. The pits were never mentioned in the historical records until Pit 1 was discovered in March, 1974 by local farmers while drilling a well. Then archaeologists began the explorations and excavations. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Emperor Qin's Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum was opened to the public. "Pit 1, the largest pit, is a subterranean earth-and-wood structure. It measures 230 meters long from east to west, 62 meters wide from north to south. It's assumed that more than 6000 pottery warriors and horses will be unearthed from this pit. All the statues are big in life-size and exquisitely made, representing high technology in Chinese sculptural history. They are reputed as the "Eighth Wonder of the World". The excavation of the terra-cotta warriors and horses provides extremely valuable data for the research of Chinese ancient politics, military affairs, science and arts."



The discovery well is in the southeast corner of this large building, beyond the lower left of this large view.

Though the foreground warriors are actual life-sized, the size of the building is shown by the people at the sides and rear.



The columns of warriors were covered with wooden timbers, then fiber mats, followed by earth. When the wood rotted or burned, some of the warriors were somewhat crushed under a sagging ceiling.

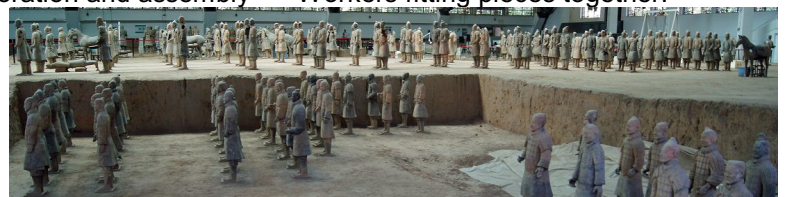


All faces are life-like and unique.



Continuing restoration and assembly      Workers fitting pieces together.

Restored:





Pit 3 is small with much destroyed. It may have been a command center for Pits 1 and 2, according to a sign.

The sagging roofs of Pit 2 crushed much pottery.

Broken pieces in Pit 2



4 figures in a remote pit with 9 horses.



Bones of the 9 horses, found year 2000



Exterior of huge Pit 1 building with chariot design in windows.

The four-sided pyramid tomb may have decreased in height over the centuries. It has not been excavated. Literature from Emperor Qin's time indicates that its passages are defended by loaded crossbows and trip wires to prevent theft. There are also supposed to be streams of mercury and celestial ceilings. It would seem that modern technology of ground-penetrating radar could give some indications of the internal structures. Also it should be easy to drill a tiny shaft to insert a tiny video camera for a look inside.



The hill and top is the pyramid tomb.

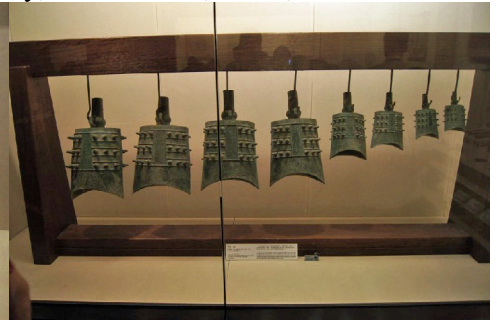
We spent Tuesday morning in Shaanxi Historical Museum, viewing its pottery, bronzeware, coins, and others.



Rubbing of ancient characters.



Bronze spear tips and kettle.



Bronze bells.



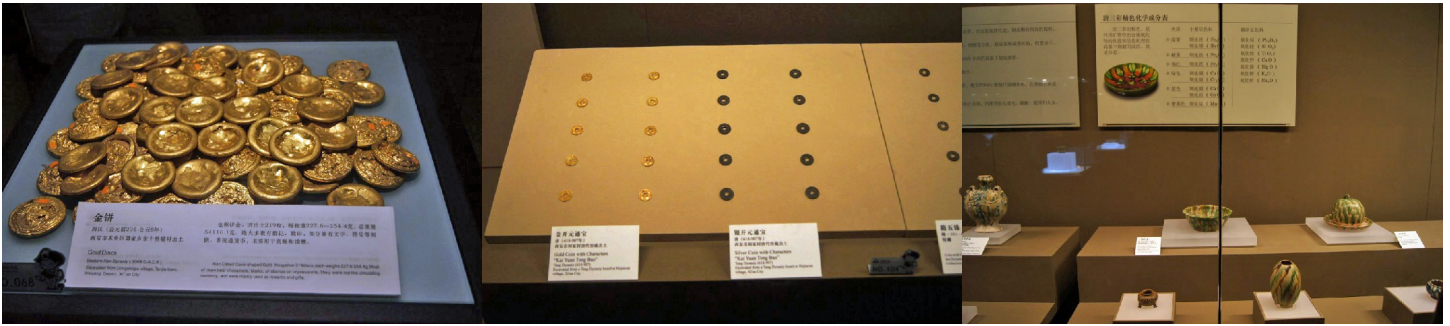
Millstones



Loom



These are molds for bronze coins.



A pile of gold discs, 2 to 3 cm diameter. Gold, silver, bronze coins, square hole. Pottery with colors.



Tuesday afternoon we went to the Xi'an Beilin Museum. It had its own "stone forest" of ancient inscriptions. The Nestorian Stele was our target for viewing.

We bypassed most of the buildings.

### Xi'an Forest of Stone Steles

Xi'an Beilin (Forest of Stone Steles) was initially founded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Yuanyou Period, Northern Song Dynasty (1087), from which it has been more than 900 years, housing more than 4000 stone steles and epitaphs from the Han Dynasty to Modern Times (top amount in steles and epitaphs collection in China). Standing in the Museum are great numbers of stone steles, and thus it is named as Forest of Stone Steles.

In the Museum there are stone steles of every Dynasty, with all kinds of calligraphies in extremely great value, and the contents cover ancient classics and bibliographies of profound historical culture connotation. Therefore, the Museum is called as "Treasure House of Calligraphy Arts, Historical and Cultural Palace", and was announced as one of China's first batch of Major Historical and Cultural Site Protected at the National Level in 1961.

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition Room

Exhibited in this room are mainly famous steles in Tang Dynasty (618—907), among which the Nestorian Stele is valuable for study on Chinese and foreign cultural exchanges in Tang Dynasty; works like Stele of Huangfu Dan in calligraphy by Ouyang Xun, Stele of Master Dao Yin in calligraphy by Ouyang Tong, Stele of Preface of Consecrated Buddhism for the Buddhist Monk Xuanzang in Tongzhou in calligraphy by Chu Suiliang, Stele of Preface of Consecrated Buddhism for the Buddhist Monk Xuanzang in Wang Xizhi's Calligraphy collected by Monk Huairen, Stele of Abundant Treasure Pagoda and Stele of Yan's Family Temple in calligraphy by Yan Zhenqing, Stele of Xuanmi Pagoda in calligraphy by Liu Gongquan, etc. are excellent models for calligraphy learning. Besides, many steles sides are finely carved ornamentations with magnificent structure, which also provide valuable data for ancient pattern decorative art.

### The Nestorian Stele

2<sup>nd</sup> year of Jianzhong Period, Tang Dynasty (781)  
 Composed by Monk Jingjing  
 Calligraphy by Lv Xiuyan

The Stele was entitled "Stele to the Propagation in China of the Luminous Religion of Daqin". The Nestorian branch of Christianity arrived in China in 635 (the 9<sup>th</sup> year of Zhenguan Reign, Tang Dynasty.) This stele records the dissemination of the doctrine and ceremonies of Nestorianism during the 150 years afterward and also the missionaries' names written in Syrian language. This stele provides the valuable material for studying the cultural exchange between China and foreign country. It originally erected in Daqin Temple of Chang'an in the Tang Dynasty and later unearthed from the west of Xi'an City in the Tianqi Reign of Ming Dynasty (1625). It was moved to Xi'an Forest of Steles in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of Guangxu Reign of Qing Dynasty (1907).



Nestorian Stele



Stele with birds



Making rubbing of a stele.

The traditional Chinese stamp has Kathy's name, including Kong, a descendent of Kong Zi (Confucius).



Carving a personal stamp for Kathy.