

Third National Cultural Relics Survey in China Taking Tongling (铜陵) as an example

WANG DONGDONG

Master's Course Student, School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University, China

National Cultural Relics Survey in China is a significant and important thing. China has a long history and cultural resources are substantial. Thus, it is necessary to survey the number of cultural heritage and the state of preservation of them. It is also important to protect, develop, and utilize cultural resources in the further. So far, China had made three surveys of cultural relics.

1. An introduction of the National Cultural Relics Survey in China

The first national cultural relics survey began in 1956. At that time, survey was only on a small scale, and nonstandard. We can't know much detail about it.

The second national cultural relics survey was from 1981 to 1985. The scale of this time is much bigger than the last one, and got a lot of achievement. But limited by finance and technology, this survey is not comprehensive. What's more, this survey was carried out 20 years ago, some information is not collected at that time and some technology is not high



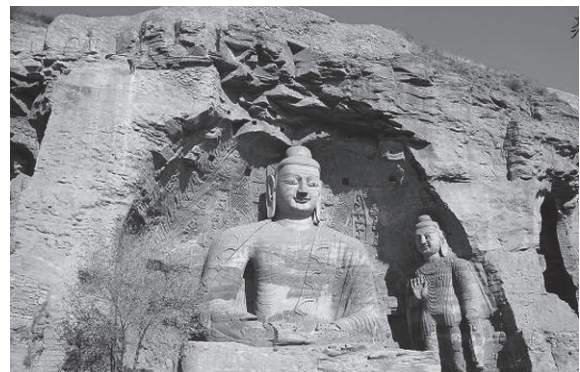
Ruin (Neolithic, house and Courtyard)



Tomb (Shang and Zhou daynasties, cemetery)



Architecture (Ming and Qing dynasty, old village)



Temple (Northern Wei dynasty yungang grottoes)

Figure 1

enough to adapt to the study and protection currently.

The third national cultural relics survey began in 2007, and finished in December 2011, totally five years. Compared with the first and second ones, this survey was on a large scale and used a lot of modern technology, such as camera, GPS, GIS and so on. This survey covered many aspects, for example, this survey of immovable cultural relics includes ancient ruins, tombs, architectures, temples and rock carvings (Fig.1), important historical sites and representative architecture. The results of the third survey must be useful.

2. The cultural relics survey in tongling (铜陵)

Tongling (铜陵) is an important city in anhui (安徽) province. Before making this survey, we had to know the topography of this area clearly. Tongling (铜陵) is on the southeast of the Yangtze River and on the northwest of the king mountain (Fig.2). Besides, there are three main tributaries and some small hills in this area. During this survey of cultural relics, investigators have to walk along the rivers

or the valleys, and try their best to find more ruins at each range. And then they should make a detail record and collect all the relics. Through the observation of the records and relics, we can get some useful information, which is very important for us to do more research. later.

3. The excavation at shigudun (师姑墩) site, tongling (铜陵) county

Shigudun (师姑墩) site (Fig.3) is located at Zhongming (钟鸣) town, tongling (铜陵) county, about 10 kilometers south to the Yangtze River. On the southeast of this site, there is a large copper mine area. In history, we have discovered at least 5 copper smelting sites in the large copper mine area. What's more, tongling (铜陵) is one of the three huge copper mines at the middle and downstream of the Yangtze River¹.

This site is a typical mound site, oval shaped, 1-3 meter in height. It covers an area of about 7,500 square meters. Due to a railway construction crossing the southern site, from



Figure 2 Map of Tongling (铜陵)

¹The other two are tonglvshan (铜绿山) in hubei (湖北) province and tongling (铜岭) in jiangxi (江西) province.

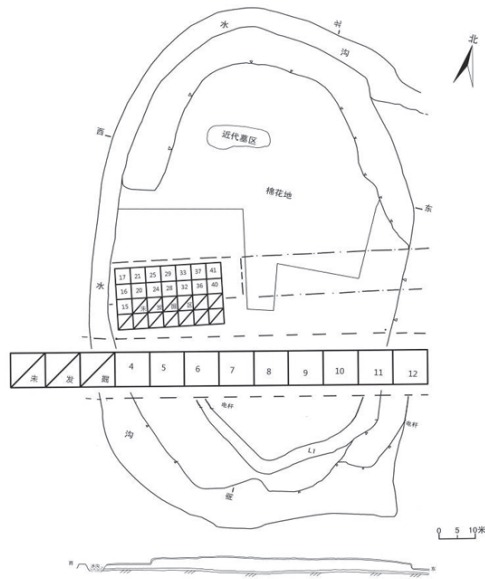


Figure 3 Map of shigudun site (师姑墩)

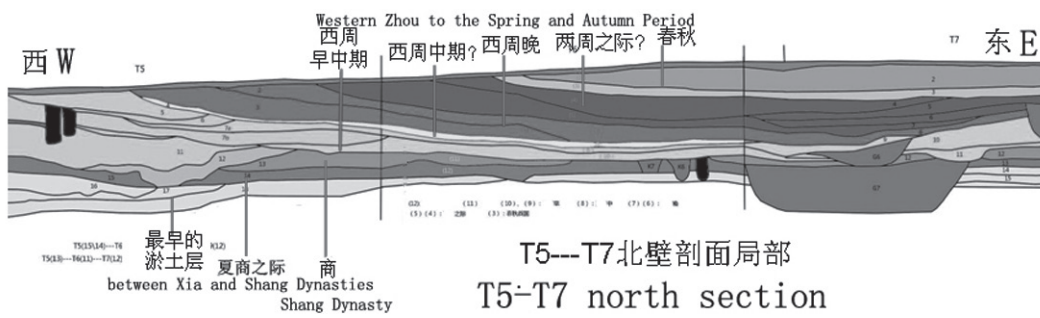
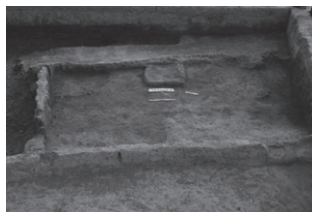


Figure 4



House (F1)



House (F2)



Trench (G1)

Figure 5

March to August 2010, the Anhui Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Institute conducted an excavation of 1,300 square meters.

The continuous stratum of culture deposit is from Xia and

Shang dynasties to the Spring and Autumn Period, and is one of ruins with complete chronosequence (Fig.4). Because of this, this site is very important. It can be divided into three major periods: the earliest lies between Xia and Shang Dy-

nasties (2100BC-1500BC) ; then Shang Dynasty (1500BC-1100BC) ; the latest is from the Western Zhou to the Spring and Autumn Period (1100BC-500BC) .

This excavation disclosed ten pits, seven trenches, one well, two house sites and countless pillar holes, all dating Shang-Zhou period (Fig.5). There are more than 250 relics, such as pottery, stone artifact and bronze. The most significant findings are copper slag, furnace wall debris and molds, which are connected with copper smelting.

Relics from the early period between Xia and Shang dynasties are basically potteries. Relics from shang dynasty consists of potteries, a small amount of stone implements, copper slag, such as the pottery vessel type-Li with thick rope-pattern (粗绳纹鬲), the Jiafu Dou (假腹豆) . Relics from Western Zhou to the Spring and Autumn Pe-

riod, the number of potteries increase fast, such as the flat-crotch Li (瘳裆鬲), cylindrical footed Li (素面柱足鬲), the plate with round foot (圈足盘) and vessel-He with a curved handle (曲柄盃), and the number of stone implements increases as well, such as axes, adze, arrowhead, spear, etc (Fig.6).

4. Conclusion

Before the excavation of Shigudun (师姑墩), the bronze smelting sites of Shang and Zhou are mainly in the core area or strategic point of the period. In most cases, they are of-ficial industry.

Shigudun (师姑墩) is a small settlement with an industrial history over hundreds of years. We found another three

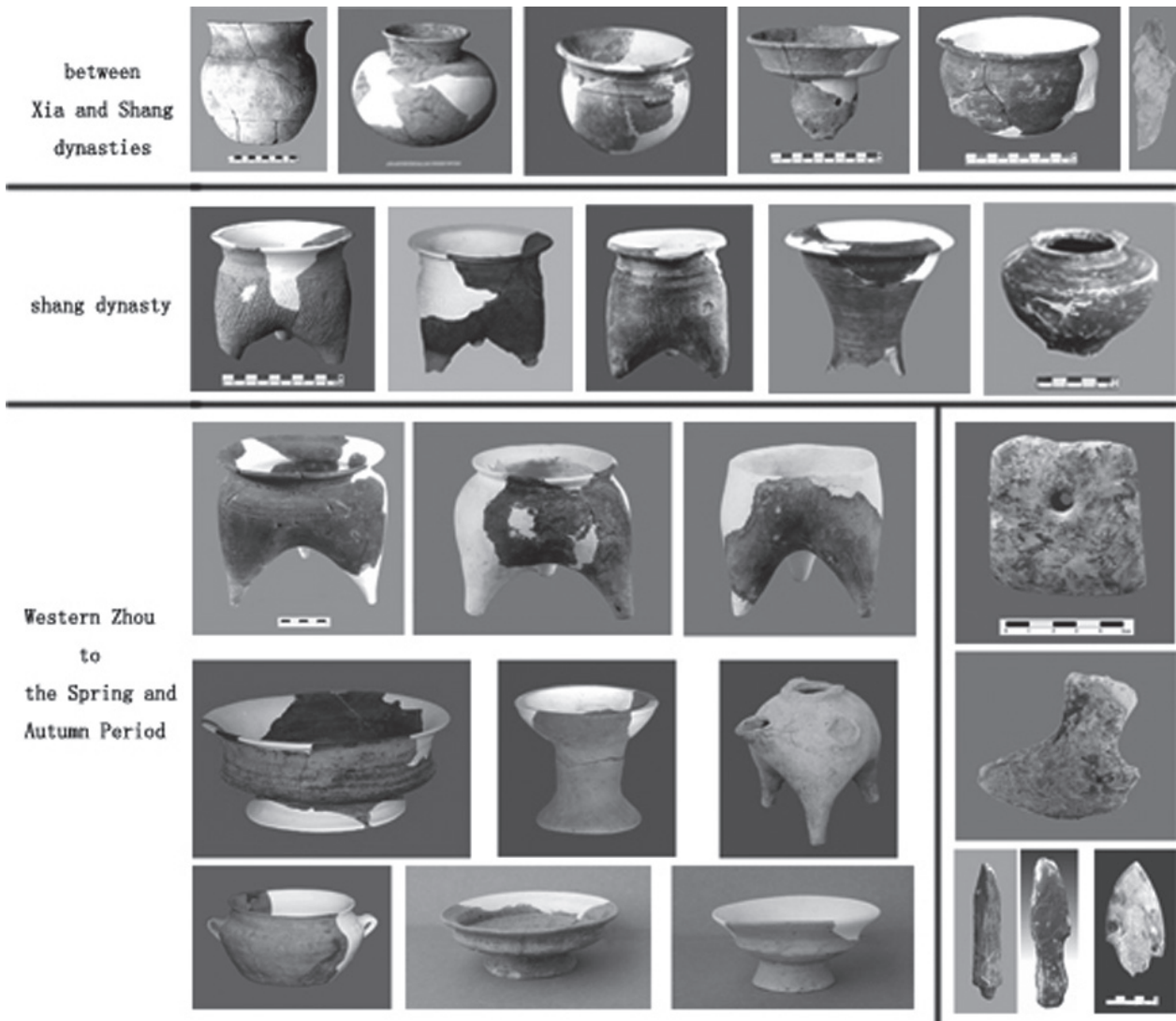


Figure 6

sites of similar size in the basin. The distant among them is no more than 700 meters. They are all industrialized, which implies that the settlements as a whole are related to the bronze industry.

Now we are able to examine the social infrastructure of a remote resource rather than the elites in central areas. Also, we would be able to define the relationship between the early period and their southeast bronze resource with not only a chronicle, but also a social context of better accuracy and transparency.

Shigudun (师姑墩) is only a small excavation, the direct reason of excavating this site is railway construction. But the site was discovered in the third national Cultural Relics Survey. Therefore, through excavating one site enable us to understand deepen, and through relics survey enable us to understand widen, they are complementary.

The information of shigudun (师姑墩) is supported by Wu Weihong (吴卫红), from the Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology in Anhui Provincial.