

GIOVANNI VERARDI and LIU JINGLONG (eds.)

Report on the 1997 Excavations at Weiwan, Longmen (China)

INTRODUCTION

Following a few preliminary contacts between the Research Institute of the Longmen Grottoes (Longmen Shiku Yanjiusuo 龍門石窟研究所), the Office for Cultural Relics of Luoyang City (Luoyangshi Wenwuju 洛陽市文物局), Istituto Universitario Orientale (IUO), Naples, and Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, in October 1994 a delegation from IUO visited Luoyang and Longmen, including the Weiwan 魏灣 area at its south-eastern limit, where consistent remains of a stūpa and other features presumably belonging to a Buddhist monastery were visible. The meetings to which the Chinese hosts and the Italian delegation took part were both extremely friendly and fruitful, and a half year later, in March 1997, a Chinese delegation visited Naples and Rome, where an agreement was signed between the above-mentioned institutions, joined also by Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome.

The principal point of the agreement was the excavation of the Weiwan site, which in fact was started in October 1997. The purpose of the first excavation campaign was to obtain as many information as possible on the nature of the archaeological deposit and the related materials. Especially from the Italian side the need to familiarise with the site was strongly felt, and it was decided to dig a trial-trench in the eastern part of the site and record the long sections visible along the modern road crossing the site.

The excavations were carried out in close collaboration by the Research Institute of Longmen Grottoes, Work Unit for Cultural Relics of Luoyang City (Luoyang Shi Wenwu Gongzuodui 洛陽市文物工作隊) and the Italian team. Fieldwork co-directors were Liu Jinglong 劉景龍 and Giovanni Verardi; Stefano Coccia, Anna Giulia Fabiani and junior archaeologists Erika Forte and Marco Guglielminotti worked together with the Work Unit for Cultural Relics of Luoyang, and Enrica Cerchi with Liao Zhizhong 廖志中. The

friendly relations between the Chinese authorities and the Italian archaeologists allowed a very fruitful work, of which this preliminary report is the outcome.

(Giovanni Verardi and Liu Jinglong)

1. THE SITE AND THE EXCAVATION

The first campaign to investigate the site of Weiwan (fig. 1; pl. Ia), aimed to assess the deposits and archaeological potential of the site, traditionally identified as the Fengxian monastery (Da Fengxiansi 大奉先寺). The investigations conducted in the autumn 1997 for the first time permitted a careful

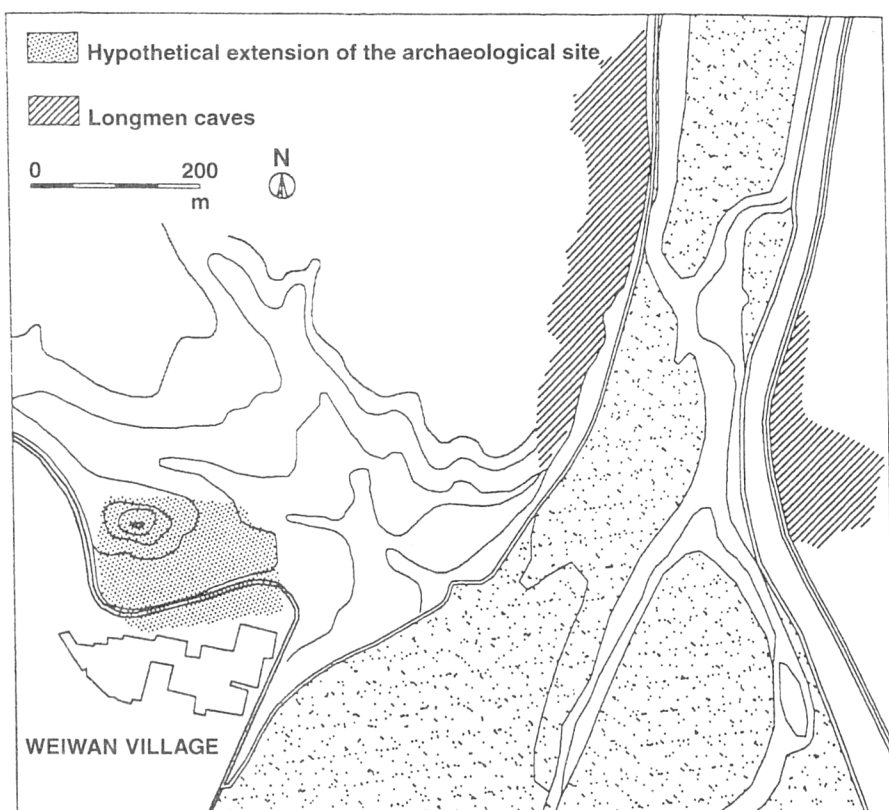


Fig. 1 – Weiwan village and excavation site (bottom left); Longmen caves to the right.
(Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

stratigraphic observation and revealed a rich archaeological sequence that extends from the pre-Tang period (?) until the Song dynasty and later. Two stratigraphic trial-trenches were complemented by analysis of the surface distribution of the archaeological traces and the documentation of the occasional sections. Our goal was to collect sufficient information to plan more extended excavation interventions.

The main result of the first campaign is certainly the identification – on a site abounding in signs of ancient remains – of a vast monastery on terraces sloping downhill from west to east. At the end of the dynasty it suffered a serious breakdown signalled by the remains, only partly removed, of the collapse of its buildings. The destruction of the complex did not, however, involve total abandonment of the site, which shows, rather, a continuity of occupation throughout the Song period and later. This continuity is responsible for the accumulation of a very sizeable stratigraphic deposit that at the western extremity of the site, despite erosion and breaking up for farming, is preserved to a depth of more than three metres.

The morphology of the site appears today profoundly altered by the terraces made for agricultural purpose (pl. *Ib*) and the construction of the Luoyang-Yichuan road (Luoyi gonglu 洛伊公路), the highway that crosses the small plateau from east to west (pl. *IIa*). These interventions have caused very serious damage to the archaeological deposit, also partly compromising the possibilities of exploitation of the complex. The excavation of a few caves in the more compact layers of the loess (pl. *IIb*), finally, has damaged the pavement levels from below, revealing, however, terracotta pipes, probably for drainage. It is hoped that these features can be documented in future campaigns.

The Site

The small plateau occupied in the Tang and Song periods by the Fengxiansi (fig. 2) can be hypothetically reconstructed on the basis of the distribution of the surface archaeology and by the analysis of the occasional sections. The site is delimited on the north by a deep ditch which, despite significant modifications of its profile, due to landslide and erosion of the loess, certainly provided the complex with a natural boundary; to the east the archaeological traces stop abruptly at the wide earthworks near the curve of the road; to mark the interruption of the site to the south is the village of Weiwan, located lower than the plateau, while to the west the surface features stop near the other curve of the Luoyi gonglu.

At the north-east corner, the plateau is dominated by a mound identifiable as the stūpa of the monastery (pls. *IIIa,b*). It is a conical elevation about 20 m in diameter, partially cut out from the layer of loess and partially constructed with the accumulation of horizontal layers of tamped crude earth (pl. *IVa*). The

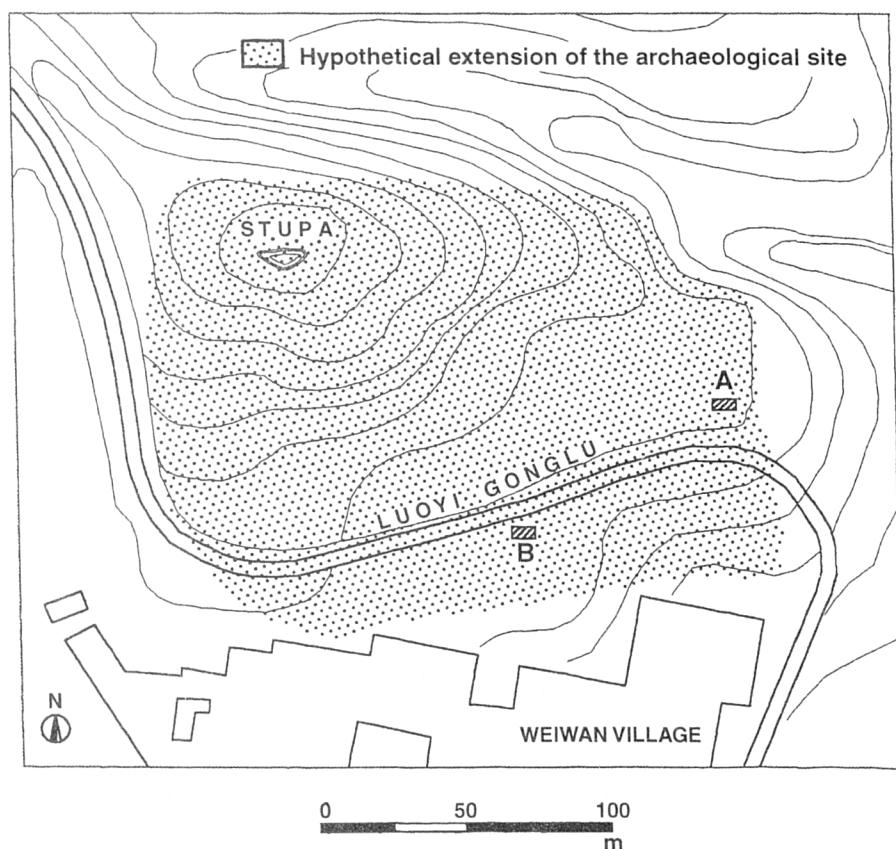


Fig. 2 – Weiwan. The excavation site. (Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

external surface of the structure exposed to erosion shows on the front horizontal layers about 8-10 cm thick, corresponding to the successive additions of silty soil. Absent, however, are the vertical traces characteristic of the joins of unbaked bricks. The exploration of the stūpa constitutes one of the main objectives of the investigation; from a trial-trench in the crude-earth structure, it will be possible to obtain important data on the construction system and on the presence of a relic-chamber and of the objects contained in it.

The small plateau occupied by the monastery complex slopes down south-eastwards towards the river – an area in which today, to aid the agricultural exploitation, have been created terraces that permit the cultivation of grains on horizontal surfaces. Such interventions have, in some areas near the stūpa and south of the site, caused the complete removal of the archaeological

deposit, which in the eastern sector appears better preserved.

The monastery complex, as it was possible to observe on the basis of an examination of the occasional sections and in Trench A, was similarly articulated in terraces. The heights of the walking surfaces of the monastery visible in the northern section of the road (oriented east-west; figs. 3, 4), slope gradually eastwards while, in Trench A, wall 58 placed in proximity of the two foundation blocks 54 and 55 (figs. 5, 6) constituted a terracing, certainly belonging to the first construction phase.

Trial-trench B, in the south-western area of the site (not completed) proved that erosion and farming have almost completely removed the Tang deposit, revealing, however, the complexity of the archaeological evidence of an apparently earlier period.

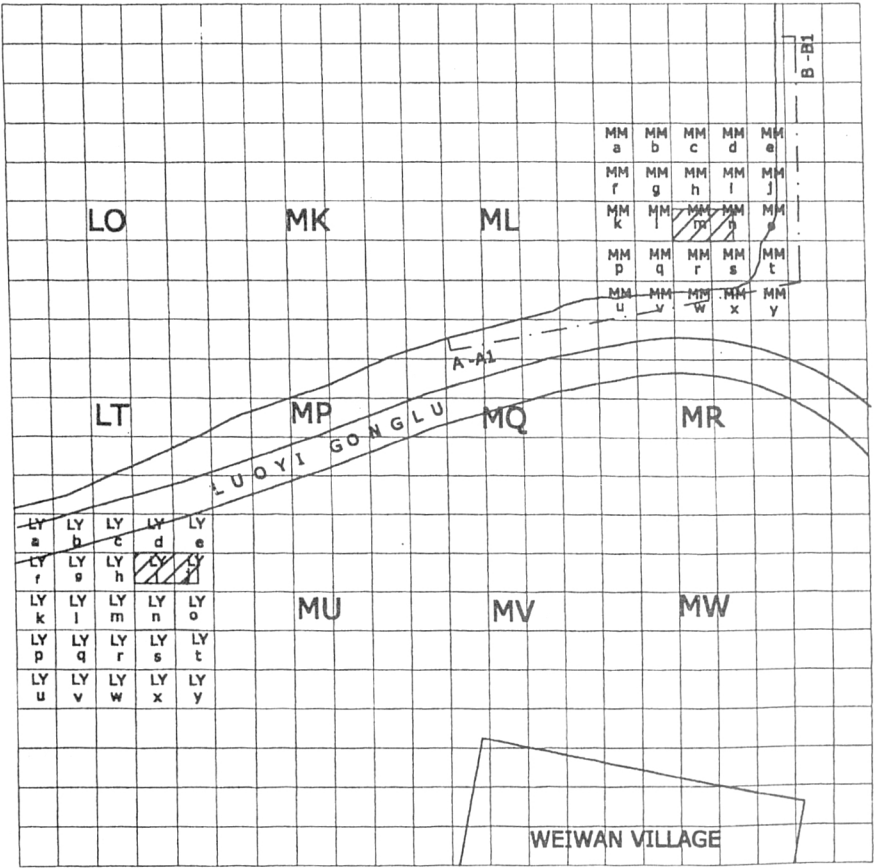


Fig. 3 – Weiwan. Excavation grid. (Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

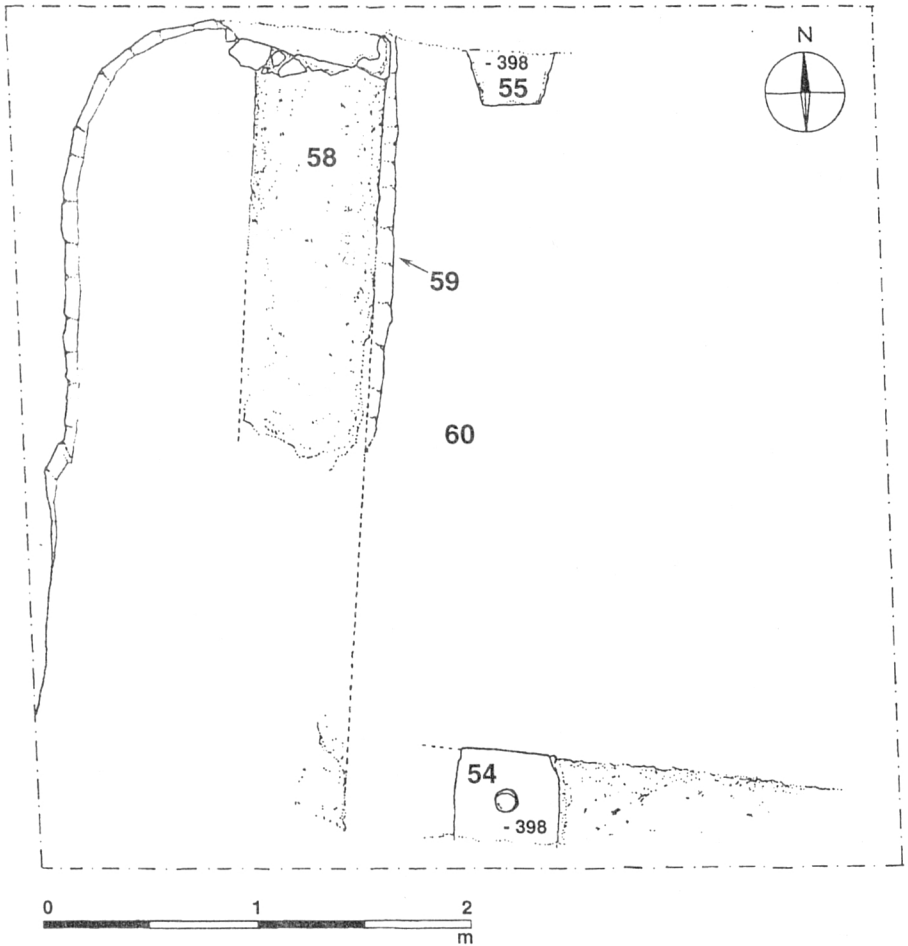


Fig. 5 – Weiwan. The lowermost levels of Trench A with foundation stones 54 and 55.
(Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

Trial-Trench A

A 5×5 m grid (fig. 3) was laid out, oriented to the north with the central M system.¹ The base of a modern tomb (the one dedicated from Zhao Dejing 趙得景 to the memory of Zhao Gong 趙公 and of his wife) was chosen as the

¹ The adopted grid is that developing from a square of 5×5 m indicated with the letter m, which is at the centre of a 25×25 m square indicated with a capital M, in its turn at the centre of a larger square with a side of 125 m (M again). The squares around the central ones are indicated with the other letters of the English alphabet, except w.

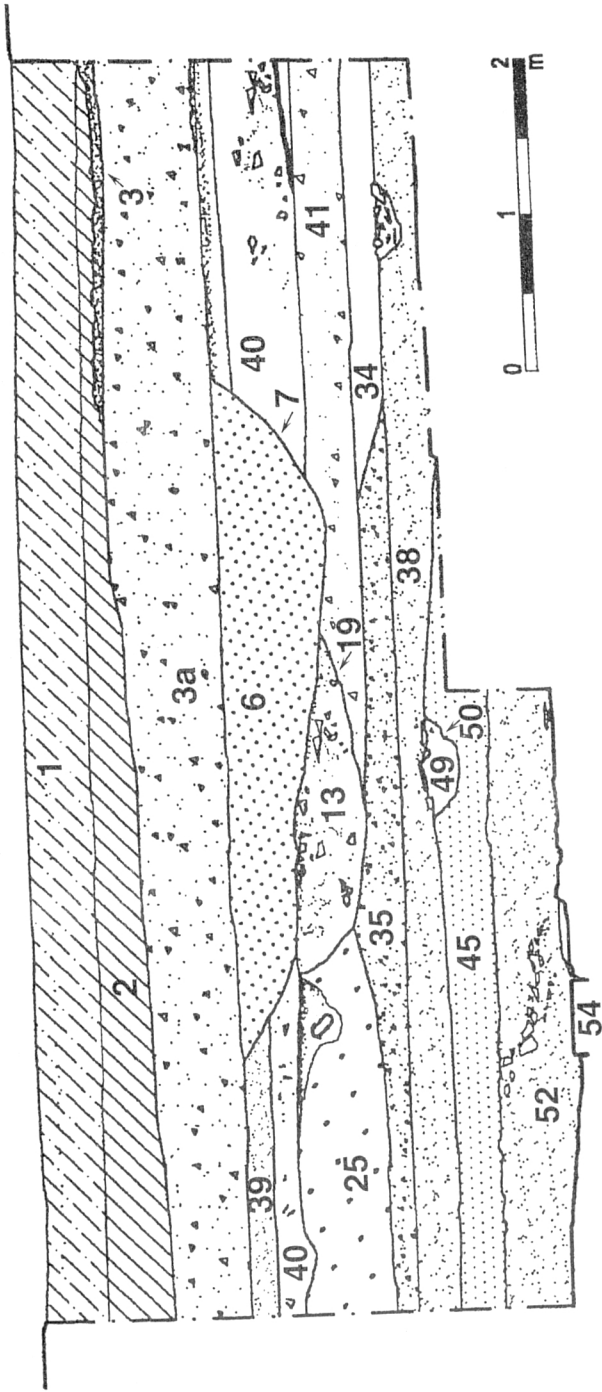


Fig. 6 – Weiwan. Trench A, south section.
(Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

relative 0 base-line to which the heights refer.

Trench A excavated in squares MMm/n measures 4×8 m, smaller than the 5×5 m grid for safety reasons related to the presence of the caves beneath. After the removal of the surface layers (SU 1, 2, 3), which were characterised by a significant quantity of pottery and building rubble, accumulations were identified relative to the post Song period (SU 32 = 24, 26); these layers obliterated a small oven (SU 9), of circular plan with an internal diameter of 90 cm, connected to a flue north of the baking chamber (fig. 7; pls. IVb, Va).

The structure, preserved to the top of the flue, was – at least partly – constructed in the soil; as construction materials were used unbaked bricks (preserved measures ca. 6×17 cm) and reused bricks, one of which has a simple geometric decoration of Song tradition. Other reused brick elements have one curvilinear side, which fit the curvature of the combustion chamber. A layer of fired clay covered the inside of the oven and the flue (SU 30). The modest size and the absence on the walls of traces of vitrification suggest that it was not an industrial kiln but perhaps an oven for cooking.

Below the kiln and Song accumulations containing interesting pottery contexts (see in particular SU 25 and 10; cf. below), were explored the layers of abandonment, datable to the late Tang (SU 48, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57), which obliterated the frequentation interfaces (SU 64) and the scarce remains of structures attributable, in all likelihood, to the original monastery complex. Remains of walls built of pieces of limestone bound with earth, with foundations of tamped earth (SU 58, 63), have been identified; in the stretch explored are preserved in place two foundation stones relative to the wooden pillars of the pavilions (SU 54, 55; pl. Vb).

Of particular interest for the architectural analysis of the complex are the acroterial decorations and the antefixes from the roofs of the monastery (see below).

Although the stratigraphy reveals a continuity of use of the site beyond the end of the Song dynasty and attests complex activities associated with the manufacture of pottery,² after the abandonment of the late Tang phase the reconstruction of the complex is not attested, at least in the area investigated. However, the presence of bricks and coroplastic elements attributable to the later medieval period should be noted. The presence of such elements in the accumulations subsequent to the abandonment of the complex implies building activity in the immediate surroundings, perhaps in other parts of the monastery that remained in use.

² What seems clear from the archaeological evidence is that under the Song (but also later and until a very recent period) the eastern zone of the level ground was occupied by small kilns, in some cases visible in the occasional sections on the road, in which can be seen vitrified slag (below; see figs. 4, 8).

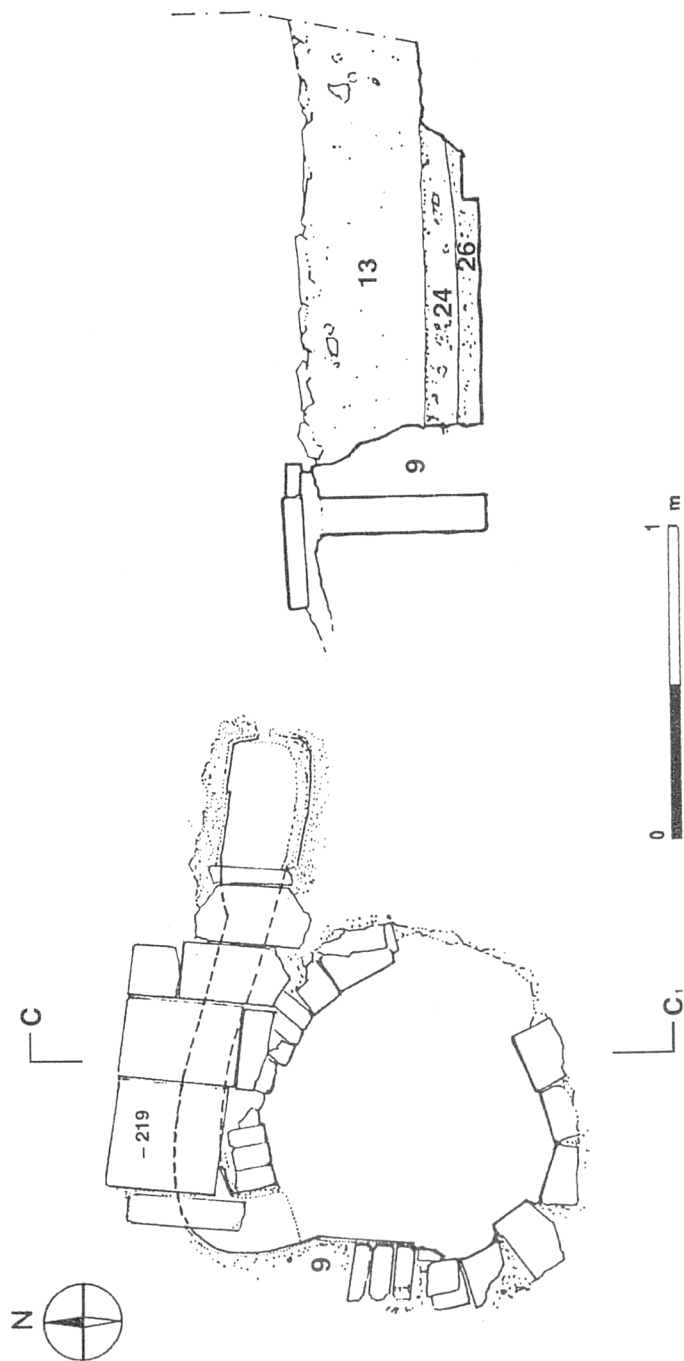


Fig. 7 – Weiwan. Trench A, plan and section of oven or kiln 9. (Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

Units of Stratigraphy (See matrix, fig. 9)

- SU 1 (MMm/n) Ploughed surface layer, reddish beige silty soil. Modern and contemporary material found. Covers 2.
- SU 2 (MMm/n) Layer of modern accumulation. Mixed silty soil distinguished from SU 1 by the more greyish brown colour. Covered by 2, covers 3a.
- SU 3 (MMm) Layer of accumulation of tiles laid flat, in the SE corner of the square.
- SU 3a (MMm/n) Layer of filling of pit 8 in the southern zone of the trial-trench. Covered by 3, covers 6.
- SU 4 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation in the northern zone of the trench, compact silty soil, similar in composition to layer 1. Covered by 2.
- SU 5 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation in the northern area of the trench, mixed soil, prevalently silty, with lumps of lime. Some alignments of bricks and flat roof tiles have been observed.
- SU 6 (MMm/n) Layer of filling characterised by silty soil mixed with ash; fills a hole in the southern zone of the trial-trench. Covered by 3, fills 7.
- SU 7 (MMm/n) Interface of cut approximately quadrangular in plan, identified in the south area of the trench. Cuts 13; filled by 6.
- SU 8 (MMm/n) Interface of cut on layers 4 and 5. Filled by 3, 3a.
- SU 9 (MMm/n) Small kiln or oven built with unbaked bricks and reused material.
- SU 10 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation composed of silty soil in the northern area of the trial-trench. Contains pottery, bricks. The matrix of the soil is not compact but contains voids. Cut by 7.
- SU 11 (MMm) Layer of filling of hole 12.
- SU 12 (MMm) Interface of cut of the hole which cuts 10 in the north-eastern area of the trench.
- SU 13 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation south of the small wall 9; fills 19.
- SU 14 (MMm) Layer of filling composed of ash, lime and pottery; contains a large block of stone. Fills hole 15.
- SU 15 (MMm) Post-hole? Filled by 14, cuts hole 11.
- SU 16 (MMm) Layer of filling of an approximately circular hole identified in the western area of the trench.
- SU 17 (MMm) Filling of post-hole 18.
- SU 18 (MMm) Post-hole covered by 11 and cut by 12. Cuts 10.
- SU 19 (MMm/n) Hole in the southern zone of trench, filled by layer of tiles 13.
- SU 20 (MMm) Hole in SU 10, filled by 16.
- SU 21 (MMm) Filling composed of pottery and bricks in a greyish brown mixed friable soil with charcoal. Fills hole 22. Covered by 5.
- SU 22 (MMm) Interface of cut in the northern area of trench. Filled by 21.
- SU 23 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation distinct from 10 because of the greater compactness, colour beige. Fills hole 42. Covered by 27.
- SU 24 (MMm/n) Layer of filling arranged inside the oven 9. Covered by 13, covers 26.
- SU 25 (MMn) Filling of hole in the south-eastern corner of the trench, characterised by charcoal and lime nuclei. Fills 33.
- SU 26 (MMm/n) Filling of the oven or kiln, covered by 24. Covers 31.
- SU 27 (MMm/n) Layer of accumulation, distinct from 10, above it, because it contains fewer inclusions. Covers 23.
- SU 28 (MMn) Interface for the foundation of stone block 54. Cuts 65.
- SU 29 (MMn) Interface for the foundation of stone block 55. Cuts 65.

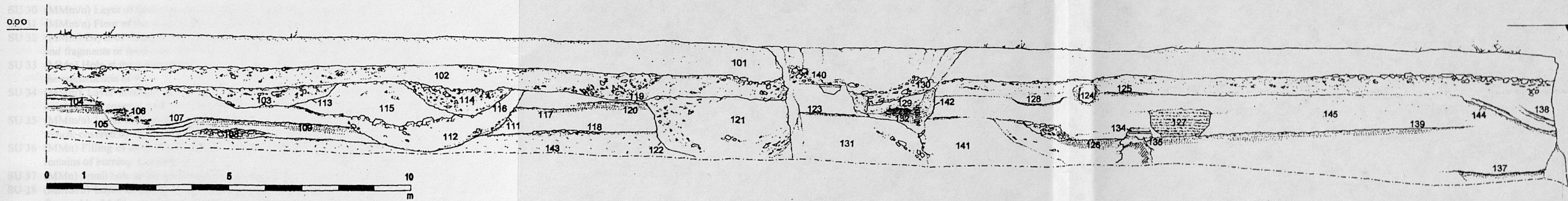


Fig. 4 – Weiwan. Section A-A₁. (Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

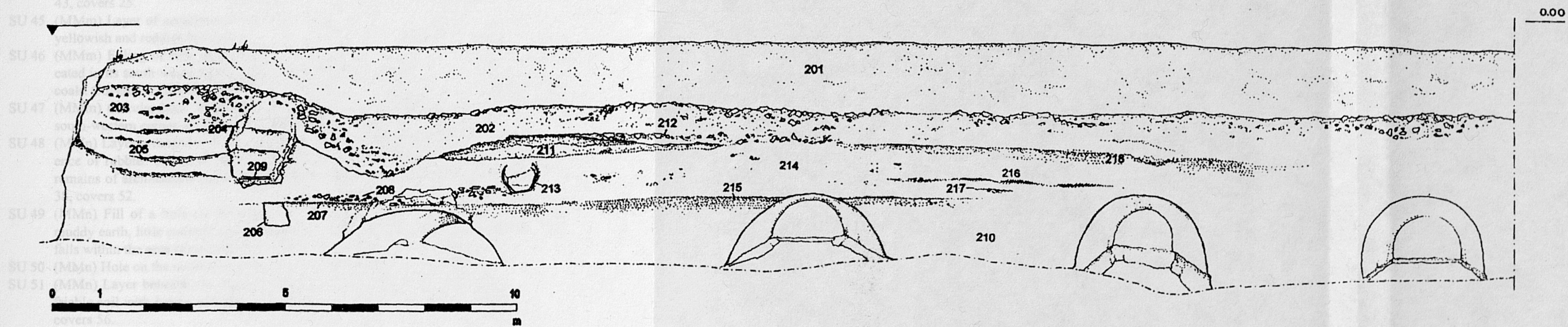


Fig. 8 – Weiwan. Section B-B₁. (Drawing A.G. Fabiani).

- SU 30 (MMm/n) Layer of fired clay coating the inner surface of oven 9 and flue.
- SU 31 (MMm/n) Floor of the oven or kiln, covered by 26, covers 34.
- SU 32 (MMm) Layer of filling of the lower part of the flue of the oven or kiln; ash, bricks and fragments of fired clay. Similar to layers 24-26 in the oven/kiln.
- SU 33 (MMn) Hole at the south-western corner of the trench; filled by 25, cuts 27; cut by the construction of 9.
- SU 34 (MMm) Layer arranged at the south-western corner of the trench, at the same height as 23; covered by 41, covers 35.
- SU 35 (MMm/n) Layer arranged horizontally in the south and south-eastern zone of the trench; covered by 34, covers 38.
- SU 36 (MMn) Filling of ditch 37. In the western zone of the trench. Contains pottery and remains of burning. Covered by 35.
- SU 37 (MMn) Small hole in the south-western zone of the square. Cuts 34a (= 38).
- SU 38 (MMm/n) Layer of filling arranged horizontally, compact, silty of reddish colour. Covered by 34-35, covers 52 and 48.
- SU 39 (MMm) Layer of accumulation, arranged horizontally; matrix silty, slightly clayey with some lumps of lime. This is a stretch of the horizontal stratigraphy reserved between holes 8 and 42, identified in section. Covered by 3a, covers 40.
- SU 40 (MMm) Horizontal stretch of a layer of accumulation, arranged horizontally. Silty soil with little material.
- SU 41 (MMm) Layer of accumulation, horizontal, cut by 8 and 42, covers 41, covered by 40.
- SU 42 (MMm) Cut identified in section, on a stretch of stratification. Cuts 39, 40, 41. Covered by 3a. Filled by 23, 10, 5.
- SU 43 (MMn) Layer of accumulation arranged in the south-eastern zone of the trial-trench identified in section. Covered by 4, covers 44.
- SU 44 (MMn) Layer of accumulation in the south-eastern zone of the trench. Covered by 43, covers 25.
- SU 45 (MMm) Layer of accumulation in the western zone of the trench characterised by yellowish and reddish blotches.
- SU 46 (MMm) Filling of hole only partly visible in the southern part of the trench. Located in its south-western part. Silty soil mixed with ash and very fragmented charcoals. Covered by 34, fills 47.
- SU 47 (MMm) Circular hole, contained only partially in the trench. In proximity of the south-western corner of the trial-trench. Filled by 46, covered by 34. Cuts 45.
- SU 48 (MMn) Layer arranged in the eastern zone of the trench, characterised by the presence of rubble. The layer contains abundant fragments of bricks, pots, ceramics, remains of architectural decoration, an inscription fragment (WW-91). Covered by 38, covers 52.
- SU 49 (MMn) Fill of a hole on the south-west boundary of the square. Contains little muddy earth, little pottery, a large squared-off mass. The hole with its filling barely falls within the area of excavation. Covered by 35, fills 50.
- SU 50 (MMn) Hole on the south-west boundary of the square. Cuts 38, filled by 49.
- SU 51 (MMn) Layer beneath 48, distinct from 48 by the smaller presence of tiles, silty friable soil with lumps of lime, in the eastern zone of the square. Covered by 48, covers 56.
- SU 52 (MMn) Layer of fill under 48 and 38 in the west zone of the trial-trench, distinct from SU 48 because contains fewer tiles, characterised by friable light-brown soil. The separation between 38 and 52 is marked by a thin layer of charcoal and ash. Covered by 48-38, covers 53. Fills 61.

- SU 53 (MMn) Layer of fill, characterised by tiles, large rounded stones, lumps of charcoal and ash; arranged in the south-west corner of the square. Fills hole 61. Covered by 52.
- SU 54 (MMn) Block of stone with horizontal upper surface and square plan with a central hole. At the same height as 55 and walking interface 64. Covered by 56, fills interface 28.
- SU 55 (MMn) Stone block with horizontal upper surface, approximately square in plan. At the same height as 54 and walking interface 64. Covered by 56, fills interface 29.
- SU 56 (MMn) Layer of accumulation composed of compact silt arranged to cover 65 with surface 64. Excavated partially because of sinkage of the beaten level. Covered by 51, covers interface 64.
- SU 57 (MMn) Layer of filling placed to cover and fill the interface of cut 62. Characterised by reddish soil mixed with tiles and pottery. Cut by 61, fills 62.
- SU 58 (MMn) Structure oriented north-south. Composed of a foundation of compacted earth in foundation pit 59. At the northern extremity of the trench, blocks of stone approximately squared. Cut by 61 and 62. Fills 59.
- SU 59 (MMn) Rectangular foundation pit very disturbed by later interventions. Relative to a wall oriented north-south. Filled by 58 and 63, cuts 60.
- SU 60 (MMn) Layer of accumulation in the north-west zone, precedent to the construction of the monastery. Cut by 59, covers natural soil.
- SU 61 (MMn) Interface of cut in the south-west zone of the trench. Filled by 53, cuts 57.
- SU 62 (MMn) Interface of cut at the height of wall 58. Filled by 57, cut by 61, cuts 58 and 60.
- SU 63 (MMn) Wall remain identified in the south zone of the square, near the foundation block. Characterised by reddish clay (perhaps unbaked bricks). Distinct from 58 because physically separated. Fills 59, cut by 61.
- SU 64 (MMn) Walking interface; covered by 56 covers 65.
- SU 65 (MMn) Compact silty soil, probably of natural origin. Not excavated. Covered by 64, cut by the placement of foundation blocks 54 and 55.

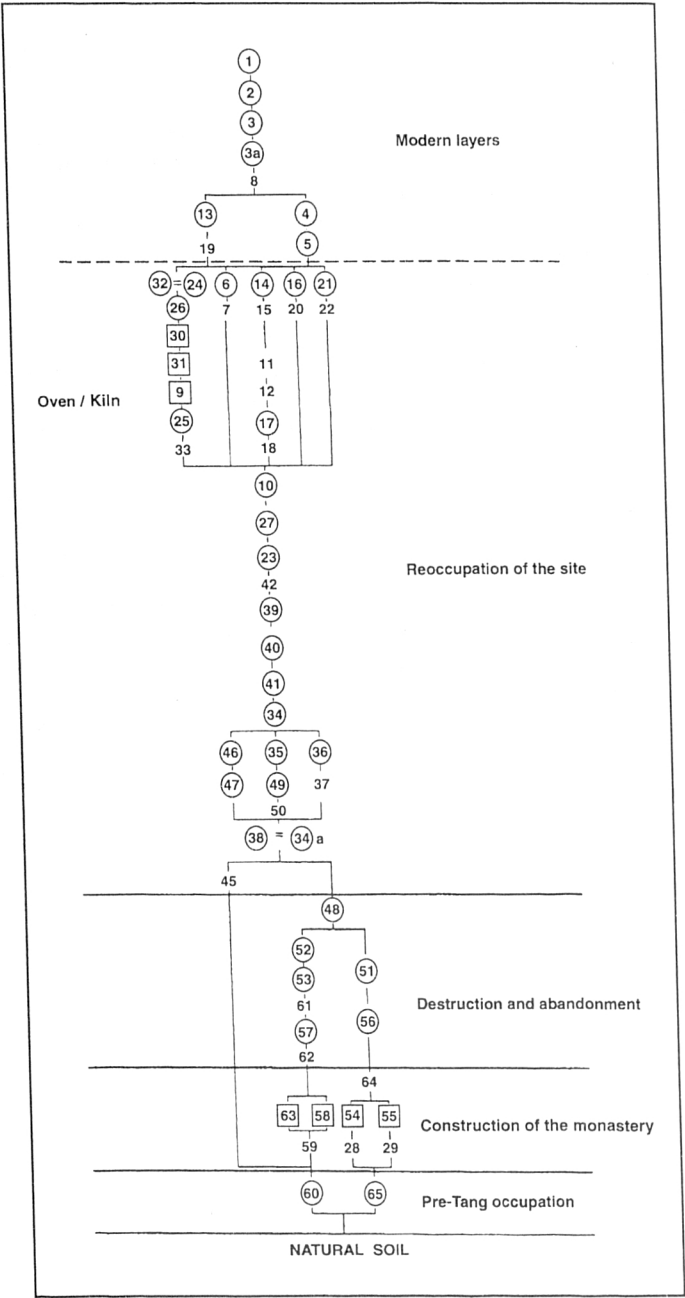


Fig. 9 – Weiwan. Trench A, excavation matrix. (S. Coccia).

Trial-Trench B

Here follow a few remarks on the small trench (2×5 m) opened in Squares LYi/j and its excavation, which, as mentioned above, was not completed. Trench B is a short distance from Trench A (figs. 2, 3), but at a lower height (approximately 2 m) with respect to the walking level of the latter, because of the earthworks made in the 1950s to build the highway. This has obviously caused the obliteration of numerous layers. In the surface reconnaissance made before the actual beginning of the excavation many stamp-decorated pottery and brick fragments of the Song period were observed, and the excavation has subsequently effectively confirmed the existence of Song levels immediately beneath the modern ploughed soil.

Along the north side of the trial-trench has been detected the presence of a structure (?) in crude tamped earth constructed with the *hangtu* 夯土 system, preserved to a height of ca. 30 cm (SU 1016). Only a small part of it falls within the excavated area, but from the north section it is evident that it was obliterated in modern times.

The pottery that has come to light is in large part attributable to the Tang and Song periods, with few fragments apparently relative to earlier periods (Han and eastern Zhou?). The non-ceramic material is proportionally lower in quantity (24 objects catalogued) and of the same type as that found in Trial-trench A: nails, bronze objects, tile-ends and fragments of tiles and bricks. Also here we note the presence of bronze coins (3, of which one fragmentary), with legible obverse inscription (WW-122: *Dading tongbao* 大定通寶; WW-123: *wuzhu* 五珠).

Units of Stratigraphy (See Matrix, fig. 10)

- SU 1001 (LYi/j) Surface layer, ploughed. Covers 1002.
- SU 1002 (LYi/j) Horizontal layer of accumulation, covers structure 1016, 1004 and 1003.
- SU 1003 (LYi/j) Accumulation of contemporary debris, in a small depression in SU 1002. Covered by 1001, covers 1002.
- SU 1004 (LYi) Layer of accumulation with silty soil and tile fragments. Covered by 1016, covers 1005.
- SU 1005 (LYi) Structure formed by some bricks laid flat and others fragments placed to form a frame. The materials recovered on the level of frequentation of the structure have been attributed to this unit of stratigraphy. Covered by 1004, covers 1015.
- SU 1006 (LYi) Layer of accumulation composed of sandy lime arranged all over the surface of the trial-trench. Little pottery recovered. Covered by 1016, cut by 1013. Covers 1009.
- SU 1007 (LYi) Filling of hole. Fills 1008, covers 1010. Covered by 1006.
- SU 1008 (LYi) Interface of cut relative to a storage pit filled by 1007 and 1010.
- SU 1009 (LYi) Layer of accumulation arranged all over the trial-trench above sterile earth, with very little pottery. Covered by 1006, covers natural soil.
- SU 1010 (LYi) Layer of filling of the ditch 1008, particularly rich in charcoal and ash.

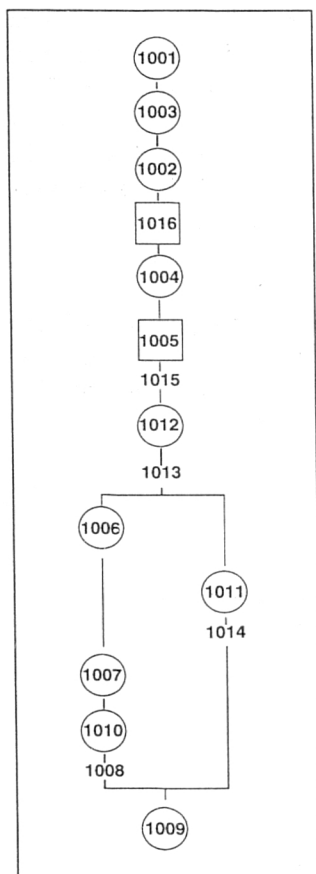


Fig. 10 – Weiwan. Trench B, matrix (S. Coccia).

- Covered by 1007, fills 1008.
- SU 1011 (LYi) Layer of fill of a large storage pit (SU 1014) characterised by silty grey-green soil. The layer has been divided into different artificial cuts from A to D. Contains pottery, bricks and tiles, bones and charcoal. Cut by 1013, fills 1014.
- SU 1012 (LYi) Layer of filling of a ditch (SU 1013) characterised by silty greyish-brown soil. Cut by 1015, fills 1013.
- SU 1013 (LYi) Interface of cut of a pit. Filled by 1012, cuts 1011 and 1009.
- SU 1014 (LYi) Interface of cut of a storage pit. Filled by 1011, cuts 1009.
- SU 1015 (LYi) Interface layer covered by structure 1005, cuts 1012.
- SU 1016 (LYi/j) Structure of tamped earth, visible only on section N. Covered by 1002, covers 1004 and 1006.

Occasional Sections A-A₁ and B-B₁ (figs. 4, 8)

As already mentioned, it was possible to obtain important elements of the site stratigraphy from the analysis of broad occasional sections related to the construction of the road (Section A-A₁) and to farming (Section B-B₁). The careful cleaning of vegetation and soil that had slid down from the cultivated fields above allowed the drawing of stratigraphies relative to the construction, use and abandonment phases of the monastic complex.

The first section (A-A₁), created by the construction of the paved road, crosses the site from east to west. The archaeological traces become gradually more consistent from west towards east, where the stratigraphy is even thicker. The earliest levels recognisable are SU 108 and 118, probably pre-existing the Tang monastery complex, while the greater part of the layers relate to the construction of the monastery and to the phases of its abandonment. In particular horizontal surfaces can be recognised sloping down from east to west, relative to the level of frequentation of the monastery complex articulated in terraces. Frequent large holes disturb the stratigraphy.

Blocks 140, in Section A-A₁, and 206, in Section B-B₁, are foundation features of vertical wooden elements of the structures of the monastery, similar to those identified in Trial-trench A (SU 54, 55). The interfaces of frequentation consist of the surface of tamped lime without inclusions, some-

times covered by thin layers of mortar (SU 104, 109, 119, 126, 207, 215); in one case we observe the small remain of a pavement consisting of bricks datable to the Tang period (SU 134), while in Section B-B₁, at the height of the keystone of a cave excavated in the loess in modern times can be seen the remains of a brick pavement (SU 219) and remains of large brick channels, probably for drainage. Of particular interest, still in Section B-B₁, is the presence of a sectioned jar (213), certainly used to contain foodstuffs.

Structure 127, in Section A-A₁ (fig. 4), probably a foundation, consists of alternate layers of chips of brick, limestone and tamped earth.

In the eastern part of Section A-A₁ and in the southern part of B-B₁ are concentrated traces of craftwork subsequent to the abandonment of the complex, specifically remains of kilns (SU 124, 129, 138?), layers with vitrified slag, of ash and of charcoal (SU 125, 132, 204, 205, 211).

Section A-A₁, Units of Stratigraphy

- SU 101 Topsoil.
- SU 102 Recent accumulations.
- SU 103 Filling of ditch 113, consisting of building material mixed with muddy soil.
- SU 104 Mortar pavement level. Covers a surface of tamped earth (height -2.15 m).
- SU 105 Silty soil with little pottery.
- SU 106 Structure of bricks bound with little mortar.
- SU 107 Traces of hearth.
- SU 108 Pebble floor level.
- SU 109 Surface of tamped earth.
- SU 110 Layer of ash.
- SU 111 Cut of ditch.
- SU 112 Fill of the ditch 111, consisting of rubble.
- SU 113 Cut of ditch filled by 103.
- SU 114 Fill of ditch 116, consisting of rubble.
- SU 115 Silty soil mixed with building material and pottery.
- SU 116 Cut of ditch filled by 114.
- SU 117 Levels of accretion characterised by tamped silty soil with fragments of plaster and pottery laid flat.
- SU 118 Pebble pavement (=108).
- SU 119 Mortar pavement level. Covers a surface of tamped earth (height -2.15 m). Same as 104.
- SU 120 Tamped silty soil with very little building material.
- SU 121 Fill of ditch 122, consisting of rubble.
- SU 122 Cut of ditch filled by 121.
- SU 123 Mortar level with brick chips (height -2.50 m).
- SU 124 Remains of kiln.
- SU 125 Layer of ash.
- SU 126 Surface of tamped silty soil.
- SU 127 Masonry structure, probably of foundation, characterised by alternation of layers of chips of bricks and limestone and beaten earth.
- SU 128 Thin layer of burning.

- SU 129 Remains of kiln.
- SU 130 Layer of abandonment of the kiln 129.
- SU 131 Silty soil almost sterile, very compact.
- SU 132 Layers of burning relating to kiln 129.
- SU 133 Interface of frequentation above the bricked surface 134.
- SU 134 Pavement level consisting of bricks.
- SU 135 Layer of silty tamped soil: preparation of pavement level 134.
- SU 136 Layer of abandonment consisting of rubble.
- SU 137 Layer of burning with much charcoal.
- SU 138 Traces of kiln with ceramic slag.
- SU 139 Surface of silty tamped soil.
- SU 140 Worked limestone block.
- SU 141 Silty tamped soil with very little building material.
- SU 142 Cut made in SU 141 and 131 to make the kiln 129.
- SU 143 Silty soil, almost sterile, very compact.
- SU 144 Cut for building kiln 138.
- SU 145 Abandonment layer of silty soil with few potsherds and building materials.

Section B-B₁, Units of Stratigraphy

- SU 201 Topsoil.
- SU 202 Layer of recent accumulation consisting of silty soil with abundant building material and potsherds.
- SU 203 Layer of accumulation consisting of silty soil mixed with rubble.
- SU 204 Traces of prolonged fire.
- SU 205 Layer of burning with vitrified slag and bricks.
- SU 206 Block of worked limestone.
- SU 207 Surface of tamped soil.
- SU 208 Layer of muddy soil mixed with rubble.
- SU 209 Level of bricks probably related to kiln.
- SU 210 Silty soil very compact (loess) with scant building material.
- SU 211 Layer of charcoal and ash.
- SU 212 Layer of levelling consisting mostly of building material and pottery.
- SU 213 Container for foodstuffs.
- SU 214 Layer of abandonment with building materials with a silty matrix.
- SU 215 Surface of tamped silty soil, relative to the preparation of the brick floor of the Tang period (height -4.00 m).
- SU 216 Thin layer of charcoal and ash relative to the layers of obliteration of floor 215.
- SU 217 Thin layer of charcoal and ash relative to the layers of obliteration of floor 215.
- SU 218 Silty tamped soil with very little building material.
- SU 219 Pavement in rectangular bricks of the Tang period, visible inside cave B.

(Stefano Coccia, Anna Giulia Fabiani,
Work Unit for Cultural Relics of Luoyang)

2. THE FINDS FROM TRIAL-TRENCH A

The Pottery

The Weiwan site is very rich in ceramic materials, as is apparent even at a first glance from the surface.

The nature and size of the trial-trenches, and the preliminary nature of this report, do not allow us to examine all the questions relating to the pottery on the basis of a rigorous typology. With regard to pottery shapes, a strong conservatism has been noted, especially in the tablewares, where the same shapes seem to have been produced almost unchanged through time. We have preferred to proceed by means of a statistical estimation of all the potsherds found in the excavation, in order to check the site sequence and the absolute chronology of its various phases on the basis of an independent evidence.

a. Method of Operations

The 1997 excavation campaign was brief, and we opted for an opportunistic strategy, particularly as regards the treatment of the finds. It was not possible to make drawings of all the potsherds collected (several thousand), but a selection was made on the basis of their condition and of the number of pieces attributable to the same class and type. The potsherds that could not be drawn were washed and numbered, and their quantity was estimated.

Roof-tiles, except for decorated ends, were included among the potsherds, but were weighed separately and systematically in order to better identify the layers with roof collapses and/or destruction. Some 3000 kg of tiles were found, and these were divided by thickness into thin and thick ones (ca. 1951 and 900 kg respectively). The units of stratigraphy where the largest number of tiles was found were SU 10, in which thin tiles are by far prevalent, and SU 48, in which the number of thick tiles is greater. Statistics support and integrate what has already been evidenced in the Matrix (fig. 9), that is, the fact that layer 48 represents the collapse and the abandonment of the Tang structures, and layer 10 those of the later Song buildings. The pottery classes, identified on the basis of texture and glaze, are the following:

- Achromic pottery
- Glazed pottery
- Stoneware
- Celadon
- Porcelain

Practically all the pottery classes known from the Tang and Song periods were found in the excavation; they can be found subdivided according to their respective percentages in the tables and graphs given below. Through them the reader can immediately visualise the presence of each class in the various

units of stratigraphy. Further subdivisions have been made according to the colour and type of the glaze, so that, for example, the tricolour glazed pottery of the Tang period has been simply called tricolour pottery, following the Chinese tradition.

Quantification was done systematically for all the units of stratigraphy that yielded materials, but only a few tables, selected from among the most significant, which show the amount of potsherds collected in the layers and grouped according to classes, are published here. The units of stratigraphy examined here are, in particular, nos. 10, 25 and 48, whose potsherds have also been described in the detail in the section devoted to the distribution of pottery in the stratigraphic context. These units have been selected on the basis of the quantity of materials they contained and for their importance in the stratigraphic sequence.

The following tables are divided into seven columns showing the pottery class, shape, number of potsherds that have, or have not, been drawn and the glaze colour. The totals, subdivided according to pottery classes, are given at the bottom.

Because of their condition, only a very small part of the potsherds found in the above-mentioned layers could be drawn. For instance, in the case of SU 25 (earlier than oven 9), it was possible to draw only 3% of the fragments.

In SU 10 fine pottery clearly prevails, especially green celadon and light-blue celadon. It must be noticed that no fragments of light-blue glazed pottery were found in the layers below. SU 10 has also yielded fragments of terracotta slag. SU 25 shows the same characteristics, but with a large amount of green celadon. Both layers contain residual fragments of earlier productions, as for instance Tang tricolour pottery. In SU 48 there is the same quantity of fine and achromic ware, and celadon is no longer found. It disappears from SU 35 and is replaced by stoneware, which is often of excellent quality. The tables facilitate the attribution of an absolute chronology to the phases we distinguished in the excavation. Below we also give the histograms relative to the units of stratigraphy above (figs. 11-13).

Table 1 – Trench A, Square Mmm-n. Pottery classes and shapes from SU 10

<i>Pottery class</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Nos. pieces drawn</i>	<i>Nos. pieces not drawn</i>	<i>Total no. pieces</i>	<i>Glaze</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Porcelain	bowl	1	0	1	white	floral decoration inside bowl
Blue glazed	bowl	1	21	22	blue	firing defects
Celadon	bowl	2	32	34	green	some decorated
Stoneware	bowl	2	24	26	white	
Stoneware	bowl	0	15	15	black	
Stoneware	plates	2	0	2	dark green, white	firing defects
Stoneware	lids	1	0	1	white	cup lid
Stoneware	jars	2	1	3	black	appliquéd
Terracotta	bottles	1	0	1	black	handled
Terracotta	small bowl	1	0	1	white slip	
Terracotta	pitchers	0	3	3	black	
Terracotta	bowl	1	0	1	rim glazed, wall slipped, characters in ink	
Achromic terracotta	plate/tray	1	0	1	smoothed with stick	grey fabric
Achromic terracotta	jars	1	0	1		grey fabric
Achromic terracotta	basins	0	12	12		smoothed with stick
Achromic terracotta	tripods	0	15	15		
Glazed	Bowl	0	1	1	blue	slag
Stoneware	bowl	0	2	2	black, 'rabbit's hair'	slag
Total Porcelain	1			1		
Total Celadon				34		
Total Glazed and Stoneware				70		
Total Terracotta				6		
Total Achromic				14		

Table 2 – Trench A, Square Mmn. Pottery classes and shapes from SU 25

<i>Pottery class</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Nos. pieces drawn</i>	<i>No. Pieces not drawn</i>	<i>Total no. pieces</i>	<i>Glaze</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Porcelain	bowl	1	0	1	light grey	
Porcelain	cup	1	0	1	white shaded purple	tea
Celadon	bowl	3	35	38	green	
Glazed	bowl	0	2	2	black, 'rabbit's hair'	
Blue glazed	bowl	0	2	2	light blue	
Tricolour		0	1	1		heavy use
Stoneware	bowl	1	5	6	white	
Stoneware	bowl	2	0	2	green	
Stoneware	bottles	2	0	2	1 black, 1 dark green	
Terracotta	bowl	0	1	1	white slip	band of red ink
Achromic terracotta	basin	0	11	11		smoothed with stick
Achromic terracotta	cooking pot	1	1	2		two-handled
Achromic terracotta	tripod	0	1	1		Zhou (?)
Total Porcelain				2		
Total Celadon				38		
Total Glazed and Stoneware				14		
Total Tricoloured				1		
Total Terracotta				1		
Total achromic				14		

Table 3 – Trench A, Square Mmn. Pottery classes and shapes from SU 48

<i>Pottery class</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>No. Pieces drawn</i>	<i>No. pieces not drawn</i>	<i>Total no. pieces</i>	<i>Glaze</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Stoneware	small bowl	1	3	4	ice white	
Stoneware	bowl	3	4	7	green; green-brown	
Stoneware	saucer	1	0	1	brown	
Stoneware	small bowl	1	1	2	black, outside only	
Stoneware	teapot	1	0	1	traces	
Porcelain	bowl	0	8	8	5 white, 3 ivory	
Terracotta	bowl	0	6	6	yellow; yellow-green	pink fabric
Terracotta	two-handled jug	1	0	1	traces	grey fabric
Achromic terracotta	bowl	1	2	3		
Achromic terracotta	basin	1	15	16		grey fabric; 1 pink fabric
Achromic terracotta	jar	2	4	6		2 decorated
Achromic terracotta	pitcher	1	1	2		grey fabric
Total Porcelain				8		
Total Stoneware				15		
Total Terracotta				7		
Total Achromic				27		

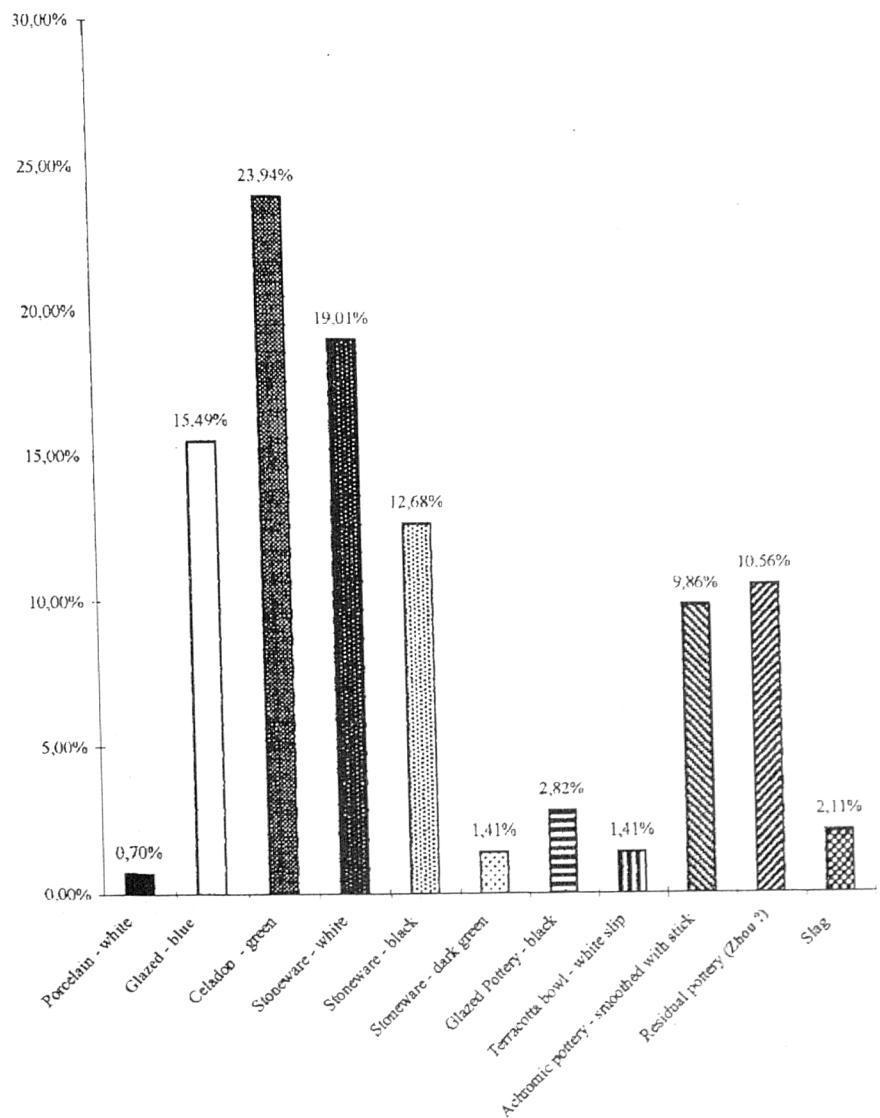


Fig. 11 – Weiwan. Trench A, SU 10, percentage of pottery classes.

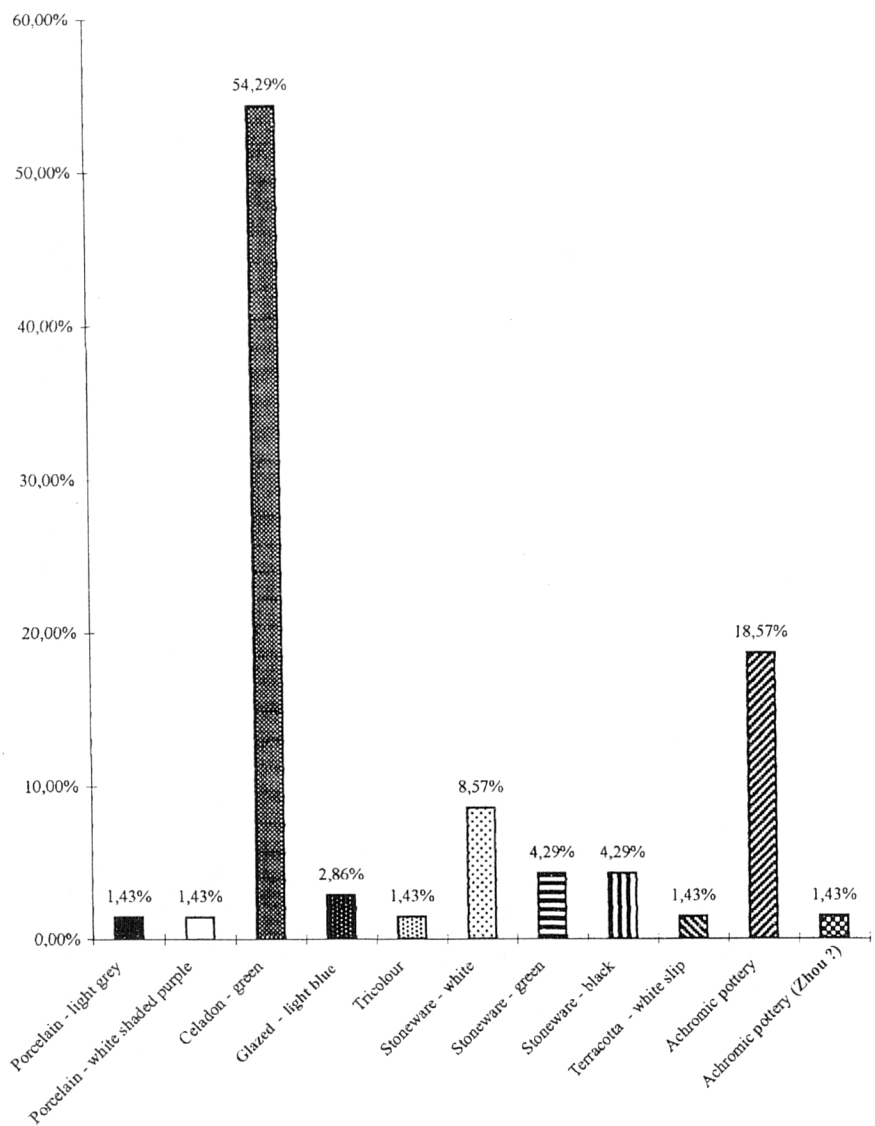


Fig. 12 – Weiwan. Trench A, SU 25, percentage of pottery classes.

b. Distribution of Pottery in the Stratigraphic Context

In this report we present a selection of the potsherds found in the most important layers. Starting from the earlier phases, we first encounter SU 60, immediately above the natural substratum, which has yielded only a fragment

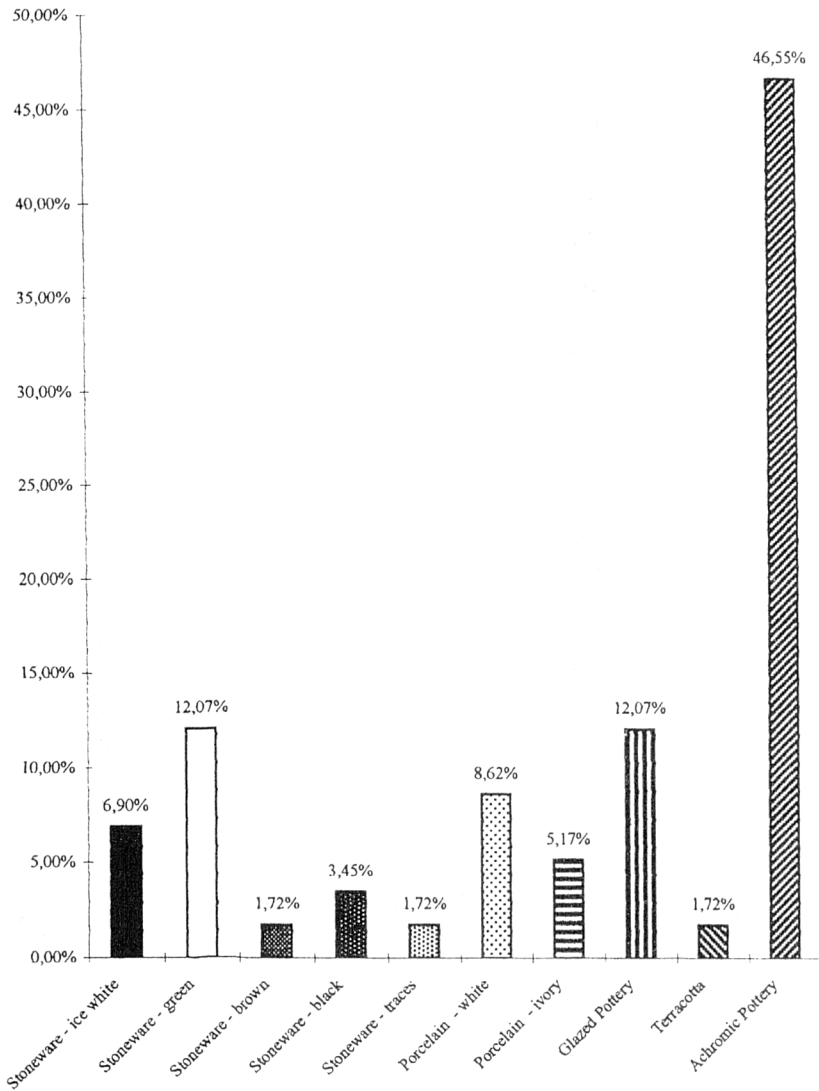


Fig. 13 – Weiwan. Trench A, SU 48, percentage of pottery classes.

of a two-handled jug (fig. 14.1) of achromic dark terracotta attributable to the North Dynasties (?).

In SU 59, that is, the foundation trench of structural features 58 and 63, unfortunately no sherd has been found.

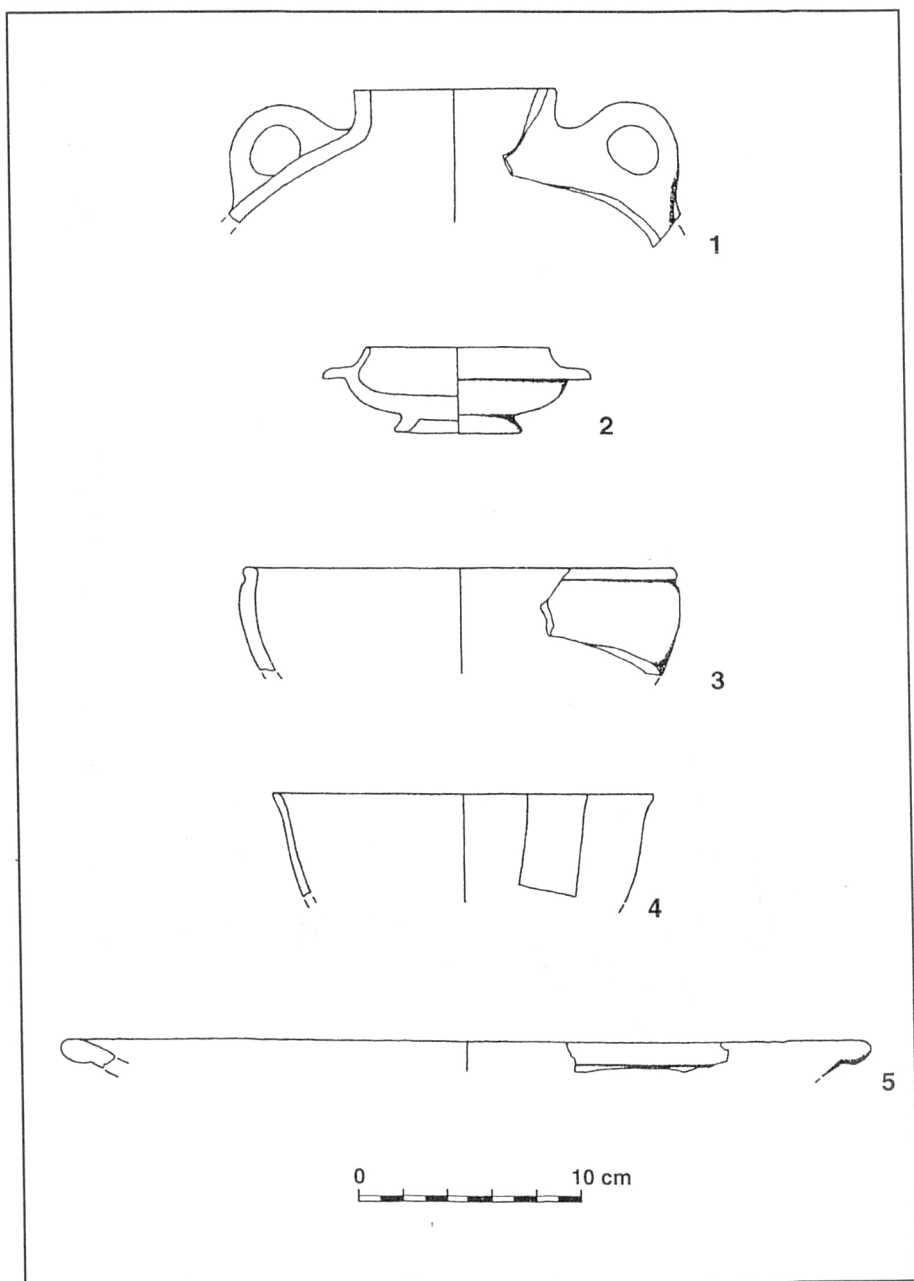


Fig. 14 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A: 1 (SU 60); 2-4 (SU 57); 5 (SU 56).
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

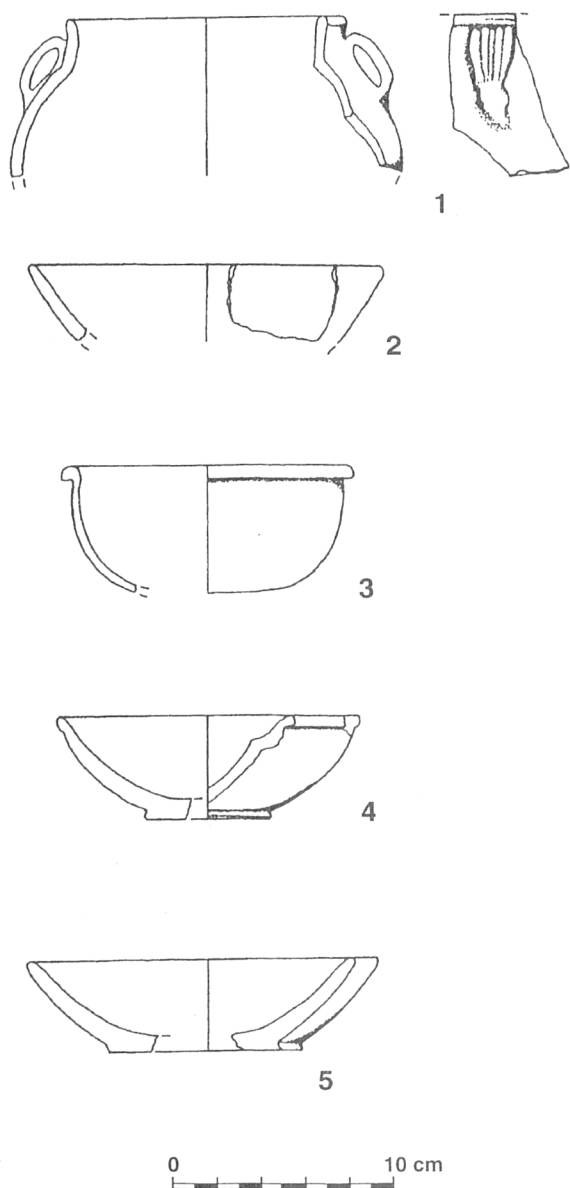


Fig. 15 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A:
1-4 (SU 53); 5 (SU 52).
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

A good amount of material comes from SU 57, i.e. the filling of robber trench (?) 62. We note:

- 1 whole lamp with an outer light-green glaze (fig. 14.2);
- 1 large hemispheric, light-brown cup of stoneware with a thin, dull ochre glaze (fig. 14.3);
- 1 stoneware cup with a light, dull green glaze (fig. 14.4).

SU 56 has yielded only one sherd, the rim of a large dish of grey terracotta smoothed with a stick (fig. 14.5).

SU 52 and 53, which are the fillings of pit 61, also belong to the phase of destruction and spoliation of the Tang monastery.

Among the sherds drawn, we note from SU 53:

- 1 large two-handled jug, ovoid body and strap handles with ribbing (fig. 15.1);
- 1 low conical cup (fig. 15.2) in terracotta with white-ivory glaze;
- 1 small hemispherical cup with the same exterior glaze and pinkish slip on the inner surface (fig. 15.3);
- 1 small hemispherical terracotta cup with interior ochre glaze inside (fig. 15.4).

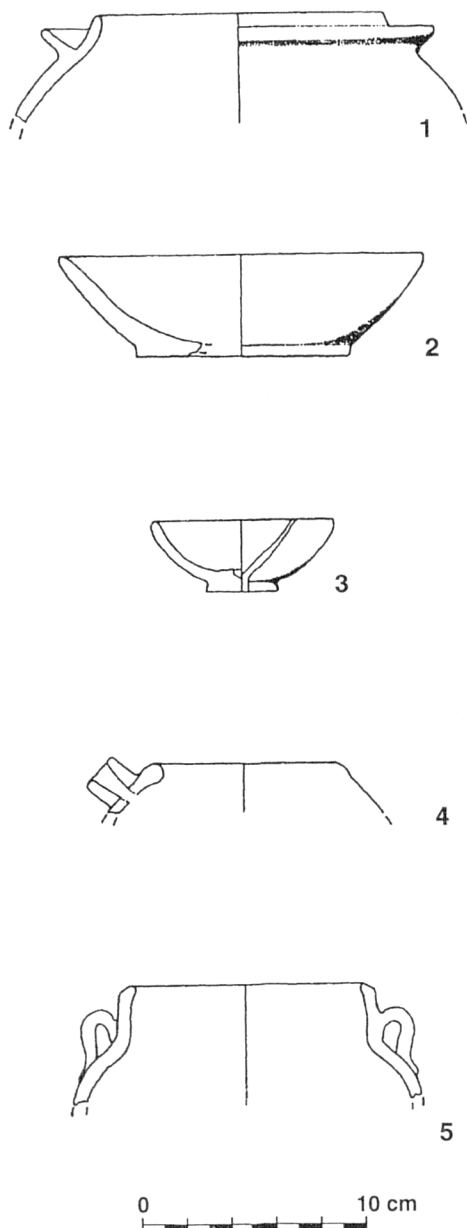


Fig. 16 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A, SU 48.
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

From SU 52 comes a low conical cup of white porcelain (fig. 15.5).

Also numerous are the wall fragments of vessels: basins in achromic terracotta, grey fabric and smoothed with a stick, fragments of small bowls with white-ivory glaze and especially two terracotta sherds with shiny brown glaze, speckled in blue, datable to the Tang period.

So much material was recovered in SU 48 as to oblige a strict selection of the pieces to draw; for the quantitative data, see table 3. Among the pieces that were drawn, we mention:

- 1 jar, brown-glazed with blue speckling, ovoid body and very pronounced ribs beneath the rim (fig. 16.1);
- 1 low truncated-conical cup with ice-white glaze in good state of preservation (fig. 16.2);
- 1 small hemispherical cup, in stoneware with black glaze on exterior and white slip on interior inside of the bowl, foot achromic (fig. 16.3);
- 1 teapot (ewer?) rim in stoneware with traces of glazing on the outside, spout attached immediately below the rim (fig. 16.4);
- 1 rim of two-handled jug in terracotta with traces of external glazing, ovoid body and rim slightly turned in (fig. 16.5).

Inside 48 was also found a fragment of inscribed stone (WW-91; cf. below).

The levels of accumulation

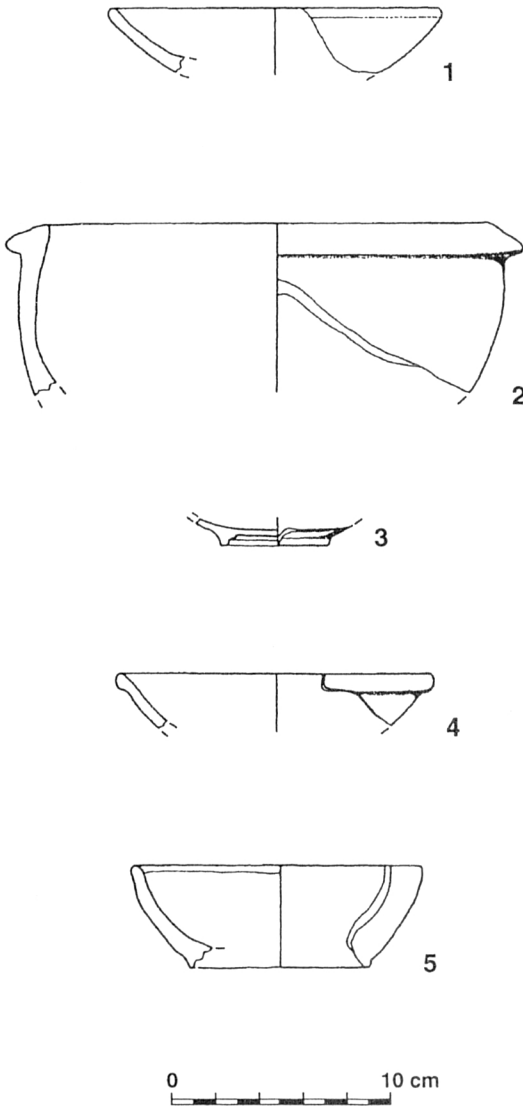


Fig. 17 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A, SU 38.
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

post-dating the abandonment of the monastery (SU 38 = 34a) contained plentiful materials (see table above), of particular interest:

– 2 porcelain fragments: a low truncated conical cup with ice-white glazed craquelure surface (fig. 17.1) and a large hemispherical cup with almond-shaped rim (fig. 17.2), pearl-grey glaze, interrupted on the outside to leave space for an opaque orange slip;

– numerous fragments in stoneware: a low ring foot (fig. 17.3), light-green glaze, with defects from misfiring; a rim of a small bowl (fig. 17.4), grey-iron fabric and white glaze, of excellent quality; another carinated cup of terracotta (fig. 17.5), with shiny thin brown glazing only inside the body.

One of the units of stratigraphy with the greatest wealth of materials, belonging to a much (?) more recent phase than those examined so far, is SU 10. The fine ware was particularly abundant, as can be seen also from the table above; among the pieces drawn, we mention:

– 1 rim fragment of small cup in white porcelain, very thin,

with floral decoration inside (fig. 18.1);

- 1 low hemispherical cup in blue glazed pottery, with green shading on the rim, low ring foot (fig. 18.2);

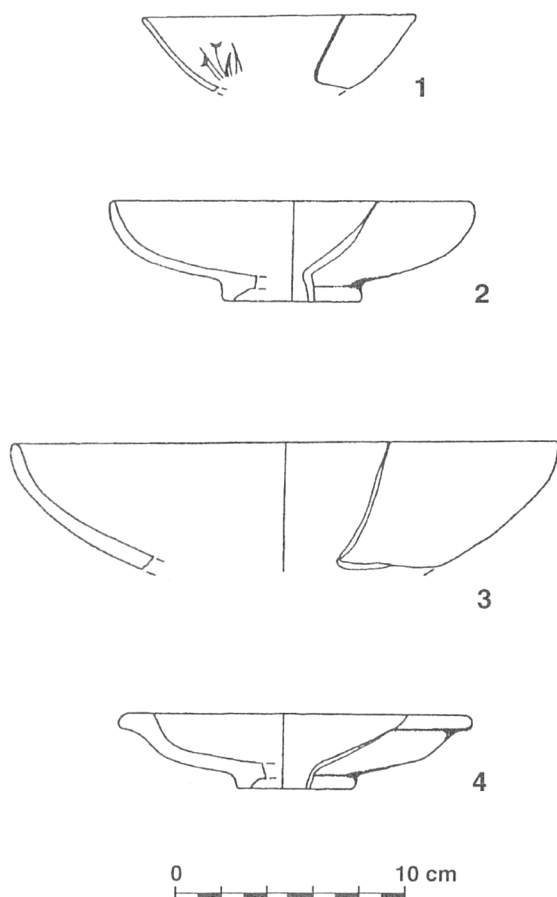


Fig. 18 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A, SU 10.
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

– 1 large, dark-blue, glazed hemispherical cup, with green shading on the rim; surface bubbles owing to problems during firing (fig. 18.3);

– 1 carinated plate in stoneware, grey fabric and dark-green glaze, again with many surface bubbles (fig. 18.4);

– 1 terracotta sauceboat, orange fabric, with surface slipped in white and achromic foot (fig. 19.1);

– two-handled stoneware small jug, light brown fabric, with thin, shiny purplish brown glaze (copper oxide; fig. 19.2).

For the green celadon, see the typological analysis.

SU 25, the level above which was built the oven 9, represents the last 'sample' layer examined here, both for stratigraphical reasons and for the mass of materials yielded; rather scarce, however, were the fragments suit-

able for drawing:

- 1 hemispherical cup in celadon green, complete, outer surface moulded (fig. 20.3);
- 1 rim fragment of cup in green celadon with brown shading on the rim (fig. 19.3);
- 1 rim of large stoneware cup with white-ivory glaze, craquelure surface, with turned-in spout on the rim (fig. 19.4).

For their particular abundance of materials, we single out SU 5 and 6: the first has a clear prevalence of celadon, the second of the achromic terracotta.

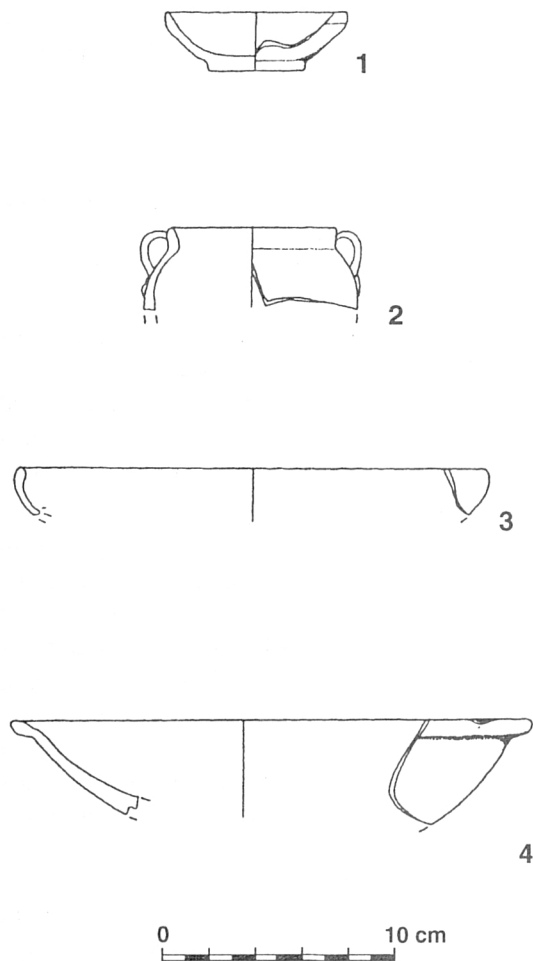


Fig. 19 – Weiwan. Pottery from Trench A,
1-2 (SU 10); 3-4 (SU 25).
Drawing E. Cerchi

c. Typological Analysis

As we have seen, the pottery in Squares MMm/n of Trial-trench A is generally very abundant, but it is not possible, for obvious reasons, to reach reliable conclusions as regards typology, on the basis of it alone. In particular, the materials found in the earliest layers (those relating to the Buddhist edifices) could only be examined from a statistical and chronological point of view. However, a tentative typology of the thin pottery documented in the upper layers is presented here. The sample is, in any case, very small, and the shapes' variability is minimal.

The first class, or rather sub-class, is that of the *green celadon*, which, as we have seen above, comes from the layers relating to the Song period. The colour of the sherds' glaze ranges from light-olive green to pearly-grey. Defects from misfiring can be often observed, as for instance pimples and traces of sand on the surface and oxide min-

erals especially on the inner surface of the cup and on the foot outside.

The types have been indicated by numbers and sub-types with letters, which follow the abbreviation CG (Celadon Green) indicating the sub-class.

Type CG1

From the upper layers (SU 4 and 5) come some fragments of plates on ring foot, carinated (CG1a; fig. 21.1) and not (CG1b on a tall foot; CG1c on a

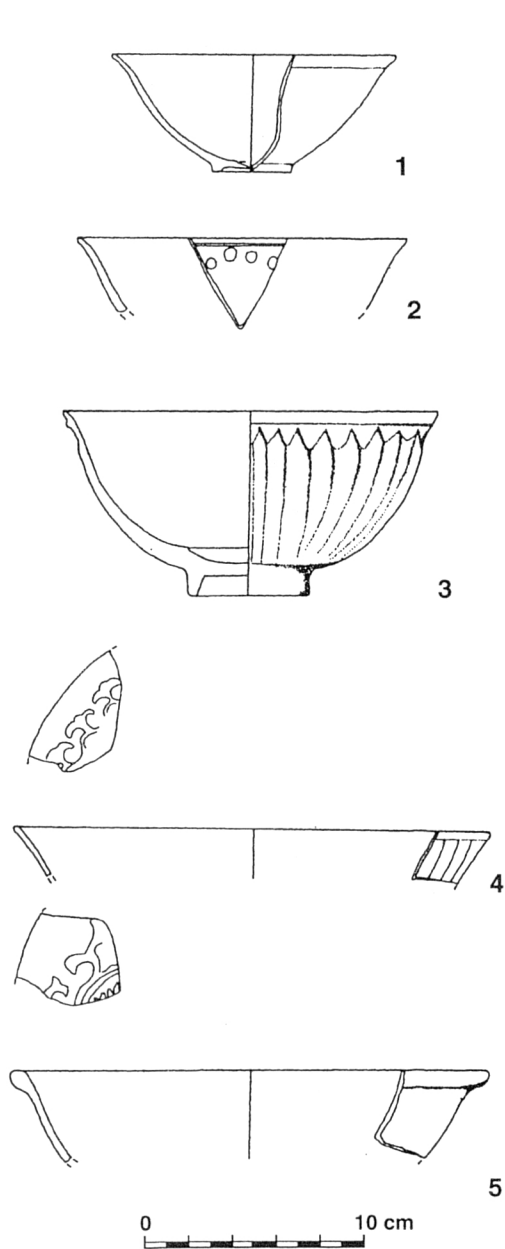


Fig. 20 – Weiwan. Celadon bowls from Trench A, 1 and 5 (SU 10); 2 (SU 34); 3 (SU 25); 4 (SU 2). (Drawing E. Cerchi).

low foot: see fig. 21.2-3), often, however, with smooth base. Cups are prevalent, truncated conical for tea, hemispherical for rice.

Type CG2

This is the cup with hemispherical profile (fig. 20.2-5), typical of this production, with diameters varying between 15 and 25 cm. The decorated variant has in general floral motifs on the internal surface and grooves on the outer. The foot is always a ring, of variable height and thickness.

CG2a: The oldest shapes seem to have indistinct rim and the thickness of the wall is minimal (fig. 20.1, SU 10). The outer surface can be decorated (fig. 20.2, SU 34), often with grooves (fig. 20.3, SU 25). The decoration interior of the body usually consists of stylised lotus blossoms (fig. 20.4, SU 2).

CG2b: The more recent productions show an increase in the thickness of the wall and a greater distinction of the rim. The decorative motifs continue, apparently with less refinement (fig. 20.5, SU 10).

Type CG3

To this type belong the cups of truncated conical profile, with diameters around 8-10 cm and low ring foot.

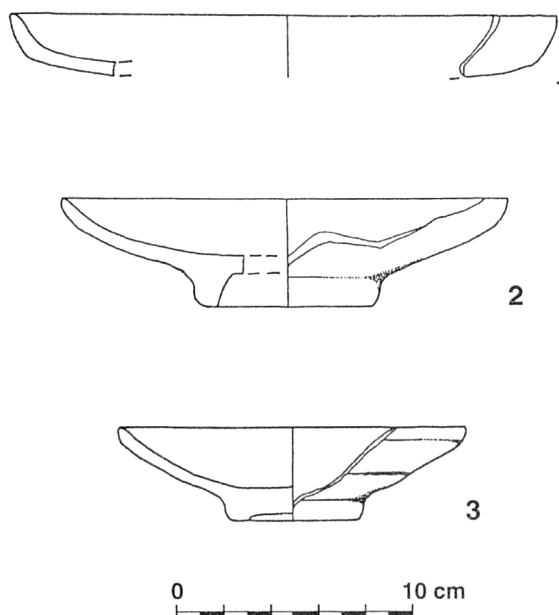


Fig. 21 – Weiwan. Celadon from Trench A, SU 4, 5.
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

CG3a: subtype with curvilinear profile and out-turned rim. The fragment found shows floral decoration with chrysanthemum petals on the internal surface (fig. 22.1, SU 27). It seems to keep the same formal characteristics over time with gradual thickening of the walls (fig. 22.2, SU 3a).

CG3b: the profile is more markedly truncated conical, with straight wall and barely distinct rim.

This piece has walls of medium thickness (fig. 22.3, SU 20); at present there is insufficient evidence to attribute chronological value to this feature.

The second sub-class for which we tried to establish a typology is that of the *black glazed stoneware*, which is not only very common, but includes a large number of shapes. Both open and closed forms were found – cups, dishes, jars (with and without handles), bottles and pitchers. The majority of the material comes from the late layers; in fact the earlier layers – from SU 34 to 48 – have yielded only partially glazed stonewares with large achromic areas, which are not examined here. Open forms all have iridescent reflections on the surface, obtained by means of cupric oxide, commonly known as ‘rabbit’s hair’. They have been included in this sub-class for reasons of quantity.

To indicate types and sub-types, the same system as above has been followed. BG indicates the sub-class Black Stoneware.

Type BG1 – Deep cup with slight carination, the rim is indistinct, with a light grooving inside (fig. 23.1, SU 3a).

Type BG2 – Broad hemispherical cup (diam. 16 cm), indistinct rim and walls of medium thickness (fig. 23.2, SU 6).

The closed shapes, which show numerous variants, are decidedly more common:

Type BG3 – Globular jar with straight and indistinct rim, reduced dimensions. In some cases the internal surface is glazed only at the rim (fig. 23.3, SU 10). There exists the variant GB3a with slightly out-turned rim, from SU 13 (fig. 23.4).

Type BG4 – Small ovoid jar, straight and slightly out-turned rim, reduced dimensions (fig. 23.5, SU 5). GB4a has rim more out-turned and rounded lip; see example from SU 16 with interior glaze only on the rim (fig. 23.6).

Type BG5 – Globular jug, probably multi-handled, rim moulded and turned in, small L-shaped handles attached at the top of the belly, accentuating its curvature (fig. 24.1, SU 13).

Type BG6 – Ovoid two-handled small jug, rim indistinct and out-turned, ‘ear’ handles attached at the rim (fig. 19.2, SU 10).

Type BG7 – Ovoid two-handled small jug, straight rim and out-turned lip, shoulder very accentuated; gaps in the handles of the example found, SU 13 (fig. 24.2).

Type BG 8 – Two-handled ovoid jug, rim out-turned, ‘ear’ handles attached a little under the rim (fig. 24.3, SU 10).

Type BG9 – Bottle, probably multi-handled ovoid body, short neck, rim with inset for a lid. Bifurcated ‘ear’ handles (fig. 24.4, SU 10).

In view of all the limitations that have already been discussed, the analysis of the ceramic material of Weiwan has helped to understand the stratigraphic sequence, as in the case of the light-blue glazed pottery, which, as mentioned, is not found below SU 10. This layer certainly represents an important chronological (if not cultural) break. Likewise, below layer 35 no kind of celadon whatever is found, which shows as well an important break in the material culture. Similar indications may come in future from the study of the stonewares, whose black or white glaze probably has a chronological meaning. Unfortunately, only few and poorly preserved fragments from the Tang layers were found, as for instance the tricolour pottery we have already mentioned and the black-glazed stoneware with light-blue variegations, practically nothing can be said at present on the site’s earliest pottery.

In post-Tang levels the ceramics are often defective, with inferior glaze, abrasions due to the superimposition of pots inside the kiln, and quartzose scalings, especially on the bases. This, along with the find of a kiln spacer from SU 6 (WW-74), indicates the existence of pottery kilns in the vicinity or perhaps within the site itself. At present we cannot establish whether the pieces with small firing defects were sold as second-quality goods and were consequently not waste but wares of common use.

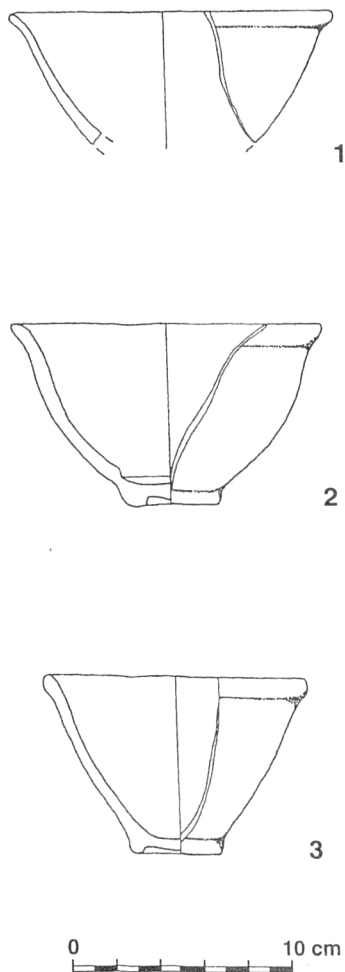


Fig. 22 – Weiwan. Celadon from Trench A,
1 (SU 27); 2 (SU 3a); 3 (SU 20).
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

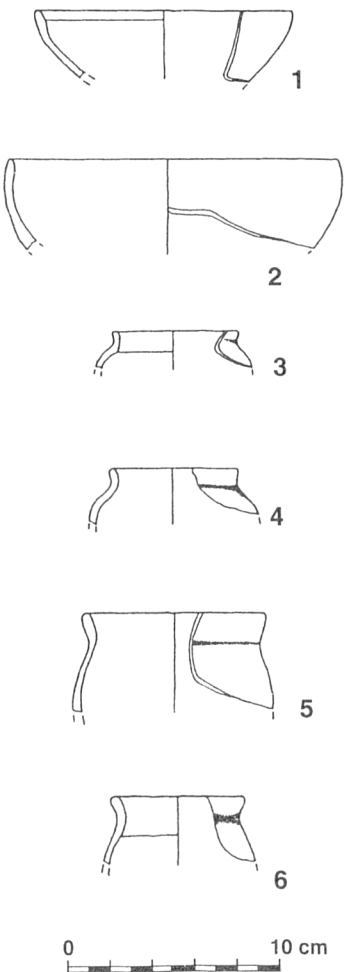


Fig. 23 – Weiwan. Black glazed pottery from
Trench A, 1 (SU 3a); 2 (SU 6); 3 and 5 (SU 5);
4 (SU 13); 6 (SU 16). (Drawing E. Cerchi).

Only cursory mention has been made of the possible presence of table-
wares and their composition, but we hope to be able to say more on the social
use of pottery types on a future occasion. The conservatism of forms, of-

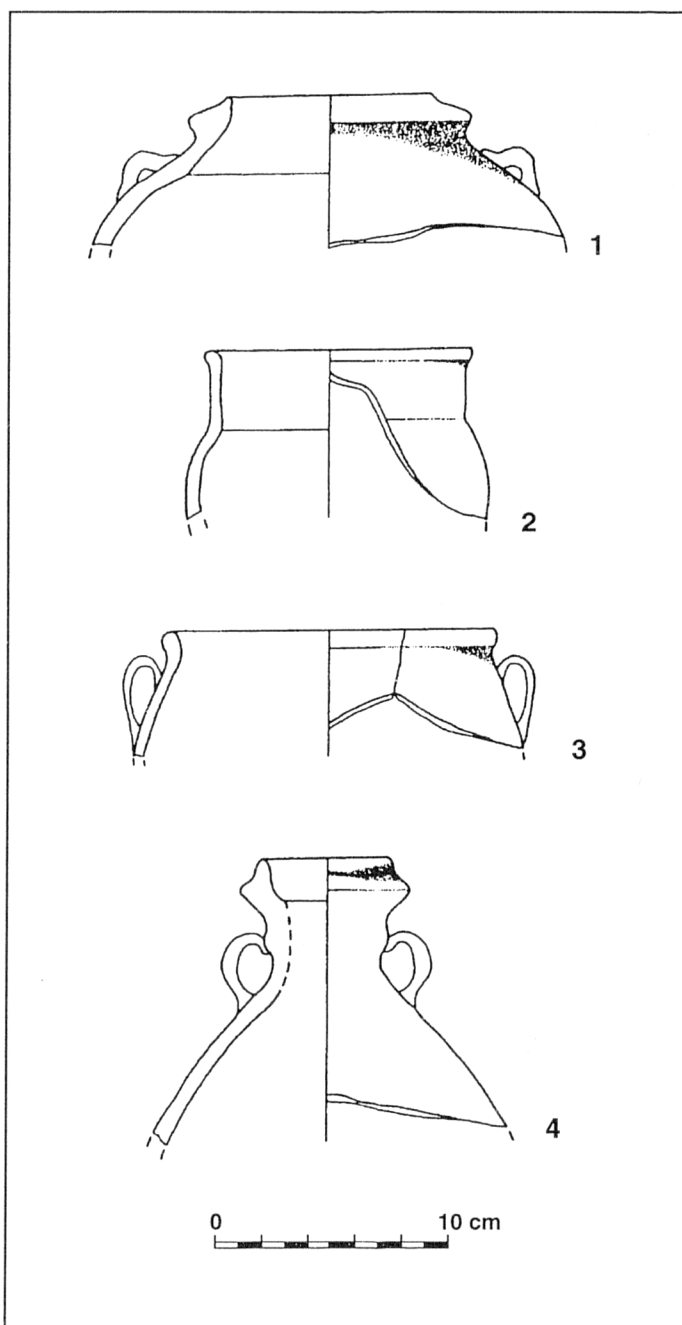


Fig. 24 – Weiwān. Black glazed pottery from Trench A,
1, 3-4 (SU 10); 2 (SU 13).
(Drawing E. Cerchi).

ten repeated almost unchanged within different pottery classes over a very long time, even up to the present day, may depend on the conservation over time of the same food habits.

(Enrica Cerchi and Liao Zhizhong)

Other Finds

In Trial-trench A, besides potsherds, several objects of stone, terracotta, bronze and iron – most of which fragmentary – were found during the 1997 campaign. Of 187 objects inventoried, 146 have a strictly controlled stratigraphic provenance, the others being sporadic.

Architectural features both in stone and terracotta (bricks and tiles moulded with geometric and floral patterns, tile-ends and others), were found in great number. Their extremely fragmentary conditions often do not allow to identify their original form, especially in the case of terracotta finials representing composite animals.

The tile-ends, which have been inventoried in this section for convenience, are in the shape of circular plaques with mould-made decoration. In a few instances it has been possible to recognise that the same mould was used (WW-145 and WW-104). A recurrent motif is a central flower, generally a lotus flower with eight or ten petals (WW-88; WW-125 has sixteen petals, however), very common during the Sui and Tang periods, but animal muzzles and dragons are found as well (WW-60, 75, 101, 104, 145). A few fragments of a pillow of glazed pottery (WW-53), a small votive plaque of terracotta (WW-58) and a trilobed kiln spacer (WW-74) are also worth mentioning (pls. XIIc; XIIIb,c).

Among the stone objects the fragment of an inscription (WW-91) is noteworthy.

Metal finds include iron objects, mostly nails and cramps of various sizes (WW-37, 38, 132), but also a few fragments of axes and a fragment of a vessel (WW-34 and 116 respectively). Bronze objects include pincers (WW-22), buckles (WW-134) and small decorative bosses (WW-32, 95). Of particular interest are the coins, which bear a legend on the obverse. One (WW-33) goes back to the Kaiyuan 開元 era (AD 713–41), and another (WW-20) to the Chunhua 淳化 era (AD 990–95).

Here follows a small selection of these finds, not including the coins, for which further research is needed.

a. Stone Objects (pls. VIa,b; VIIa,b)

WW-62 – Fragment of architectural decoration worked on two faces with an incised decoration in the form of a corolla (?).

Stone; $20 \times 8 \times 8.4$ cm.

Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

WW-63 – Fragment of architectural decoration worked on both faces, like WW-62.

Stone; $12 \times 12.3 \times 9$ cm.

Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

WW-77 – A flower-shaped architectural fragment (base of a column?) preserving three petals.

Stone; $18.8 \times 18 \times 5.2$ cm.

In two pieces.

Found in Square MMm, SU 13.

WW-91 – Fragment of the upper left corner of an inscribed stele (?). Some characters of the last three lines are legible: 昭 (?) ... / 石滅灰 (?) ... / 文林 ... Gridlines can be made out (squares, 2.8 cm on a side).

Stone; $8.4 \times 9.5 \times 10.6$ cm.

Found in Square MMn, SU 48.

b. Terracotta Objects

b.1. Architectural Features (pls. VIIIa,b; IXa,b)

WW-47 – Fragment of architectural feature, mould-decorated in relief depicting a protome of an animal (lion?) with bare teeth and protruding eyeballs.

Terracotta; $9.4 \times 8.7 \times 1.6$ cm.

Found in Square MMn/n, SU 5.

WW-52 – Fragment of architectural decoration depicting a dragon (?). The right eye socket is preserved, with very protruding eyeball and prominent arched eyebrow.

Terracotta; $14 \times 12.5 \times 8$ cm.

Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

WW-69 – Fragment of architectural decoration in the form of a flat, open curl. Two grooves run parallel to the edges.

Terracotta; $10.5 \times 4.2 \times 2$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-93 – Fragment of architectural decoration, smoothed, with one flat face and one worked with large, curved parallel grooves. Perhaps a ‘tail’ (*wei* 尾), an acroterion placed on the ridgepole of the roof.

Terracotta; $33 \times 16.1 \times 2.8$ cm.
In two pieces.
Found in Square MMn, SU 48.

b.2. Tile-ends (pls. IXc; Xa-c; XIa-c; XIIa,b)

- WW-48 – Fragment of tile-end, mould-decorated with a protome of an animal (lion?) within a roundel and with geometrical patterns. Probably from the same mould as WW-3.

Terracotta; $8 \times 8.5 \times 1.5$ cm.
Found in square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-59 – Fragment of circular tile-end, mould-decorated with central floral motif lotus (?).

Terracotta; $8.4 \times 6.4 \times 1.5$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-60 – Fragment of a mould-decorated tile-end, depicting a protome of an animal (lion?) within a circular lobed frame.

Terracotta; $9 \times 10 \times 1.9$ cm.
In two pieces (WW-60, and WW-75).
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-82 – Fragment of circular tile-end, mould-decorated with a lotus blossom.

Terracotta; $11 \times 8.4 \times 1.7$ cm.
Found in Square MMn, SU 25.

- WW-88 – Fragment of circular tile-end, with exterior border smoothed, and central medallion mould-decorated in relief with a lotus blossom.

Terracotta; $16.5 \times 7.6 \times 1.6$ cm.
Found in Square MMn, SU 48.

- WW-98 – Fragment of circular tile-end, mould-decorated with a lotus blossom inscribed within a circle of beads.

Terracotta; $7.6 \times 5.7 \times 1.8$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 52.

- WW-101 – Fragment of circular tile-end, mould-decorated. The decoration, in relief, probably depicting animal motifs, is at the centre and is framed by a broad undecorated circular band.

Terracotta; max. 9 cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 10.

- WW-103 – Fragment of a tile, mould-decorated in relief, depicting a protome of an animal (lion?) the same as WW-1 and WW-2.

Terracotta; $12.4 \times 7.6 \times 2$ cm.
In two pieces (WW-103a and WW-103b).
Found in squares MMm/n, SU 10.

- WW-104 – Fragment of circular tile-end, mould-decorated. The decoration consists of an animal (?) motif and is at the centre, surrounded by a smooth circular band.

Terracotta; $9.5 \times 8 \times 2$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 10.

b.3. Other Terracotta and Ceramic Objects (pls. XIIc; XIIIa-c)

- WW-53 – Fragment (lower right corner) of head-rest, of hollow rectangular form, with calligraphic characters: 風送客 (perhaps of a verse of poetry), inside a double frame rendered with incised lines, the outer line green, the inner one yellow-ochre.

Glazed earthenware with incised decoration under the glaze; $5.4 \times 8.8 \times 0.6$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-55 – Ornamental fragment in form of leaf or petal, probably mould-made; obverse decorated with tendril motifs in relief. Traces of fingerprints on the reverse.

Terracotta; $4.3 \times 3.8 \times 0.2$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-58 – Fragment of small mould-made plaque, of which remains the lower part of a figure standing on a pedestal (a bodhisattva?), hands joined, wearing a garment whose wide sleeves are decorated with rosettes.

Red terracotta; $3.9 \times 4 \times 1.5$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-74 – Trilobate kiln spacer.

Ceramic with ochre-coloured glaze (only on one point); $4.7 \times 4.7 \times 0.5$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 6.

b.4. Decorated Bricks (pls. XIVa-d)

- WW-43 – Fragment of brick decorated with moulded.

Terracotta; $5 \times 12 \times 6.2$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-44 – Fragment (corner) of brick, mould-decorated in relief. Only the outer frame is preserved, a row of beads within a fillet enclosing a spiral motif at the corner.

Terracotta; $13 \times 11.3 \times 6$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-50 – Fragment of tile with one side decorated with a checkerboard (squares 3.8 cm on a side), with meander design.

Terracotta; $10.2 \times 7.1 \times 2.5$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-154 – Fragment of mould-decorated brick with geometric motifs in relief (crosses within rectangles).

Terracotta; $30.4 \times 18 \times 6.5$ cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 9.

b.5. Metal Objects (pls. XVa-d; XVIa-d)

- WW-22 – Tweezers.

Bronze; 7 cm; th. of arm 0.19 cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 4.

- WW-32 – Fragment of hemispherical object. The convex side bears traces of relief decoration.

Bronze; 3.6×0.4 cm; diam. 6 cm.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-34 – Fragment of utensil, perhaps for cutting, with internal groove.

Iron; 11×4.5 cm.
Corroded by rust in the centre.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-37 – Square, flat-pointed nail.

Iron; 8.7 cm.
Rusted.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-38 – Flat-pointed nail.

Iron; 12 cm.
Rusted.
Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

- WW-67 – Fragment of unidentifiable object (utensil?) of elongated, curved

shape, triangular in section.

Iron; $16 \times 2.3 \times 2.3$ cm.

Rusted.

Found in Square MMm/n, SU 5.

WW-116 – Fragment of low, flat metallic vessel, slightly out-turned rim.

Iron; $18.5 \times 10 \times 2.5$ cm.

In two pieces (WW-116a, 116b). Rusted.

Found in Square MMm/n, SU 10.

WW-134 – Fragment of quadrangular flat buckle (?), with vertical rectangular hole.

Bronze; $2.6 \times 2.2 \times 0.15$ cm; hole 1.6 cm.

Oxidised and encrusted.

Found in Square MMn, SU 58.

3. FINDS FROM TRIAL-TRENCH B (pls. XVIIa-d)

Here we publish a few objects from Trial-Trench B, similar in all respects to those found in Trench A. It is interesting to notice that tile-end WW-145 was made in the same mould as WW-104 from Trench A.

WW-125 – Circular tile-end, with mould-made stylised floral decoration with elongated petals radiating out from a central button, surrounded by seven more buttons in relief.

Terracotta; h. 1.5 cm; diam. 10.5 cm.

In three fragments.

Found in Square LYi, SU 1002a.

WW-132 – Fragment of nail (?).

Iron; max. 7 cm.

Very encrusted and bent.

Found in Square LYi, SU 1010.

WW-133 – Element of a lock (?), composed of a hollow rectangular part and a broad flat heart-shaped extremity.

Bronze; $2.9 \times 0.8 \times 0.5$ cm.

Oxidised; traces of gilding on the point.

Found in Square LYi, SU 1012.

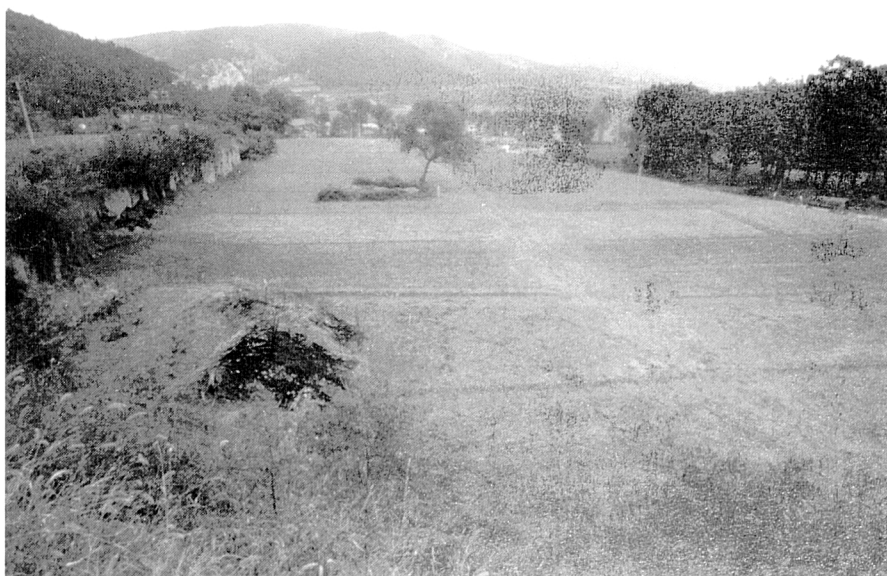
WW-145 – Fragment of circular tile-end, with decoration same as that of WW-99.

Terracotta; $15 \times 11.2 \times 1$ cm.

Found in Square LYi, SU 1003.



a) The site of Weiwan, south of the Longmen Caves. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-15(7).



b) Weiwan. General view from the stūpa before excavation.
Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-15(15).



a) Weiwan. The *Luoyi gonglu* crossing the site. Section A-A₁ to left.
Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-8(15A).



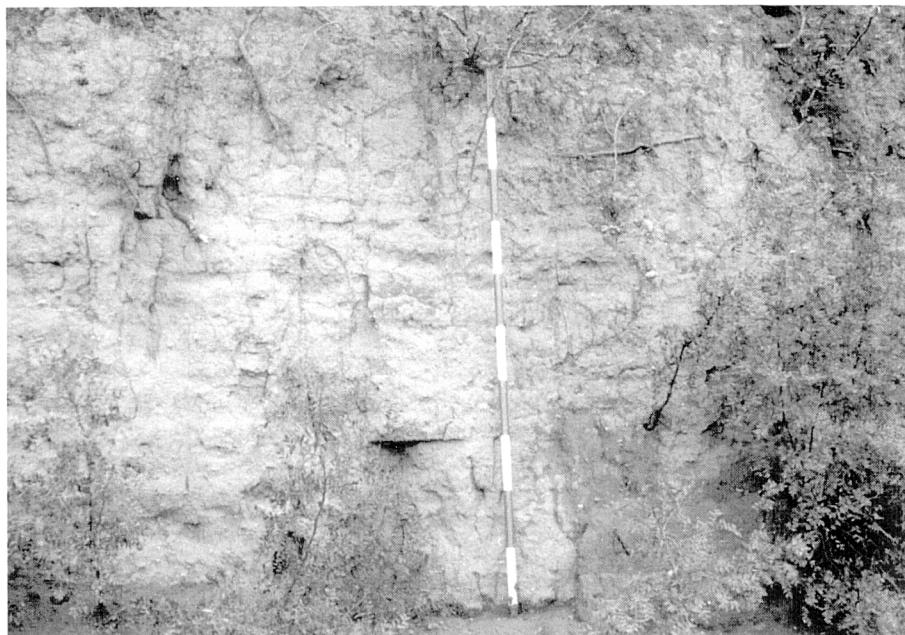
b) Weiwan. The caves along Section B-B₁. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-3(5A).



a) Weiwan. Stūpa mound from south. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-8(14A).



b) Weiwan. Stūpa first terrace from south. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-8(0A).



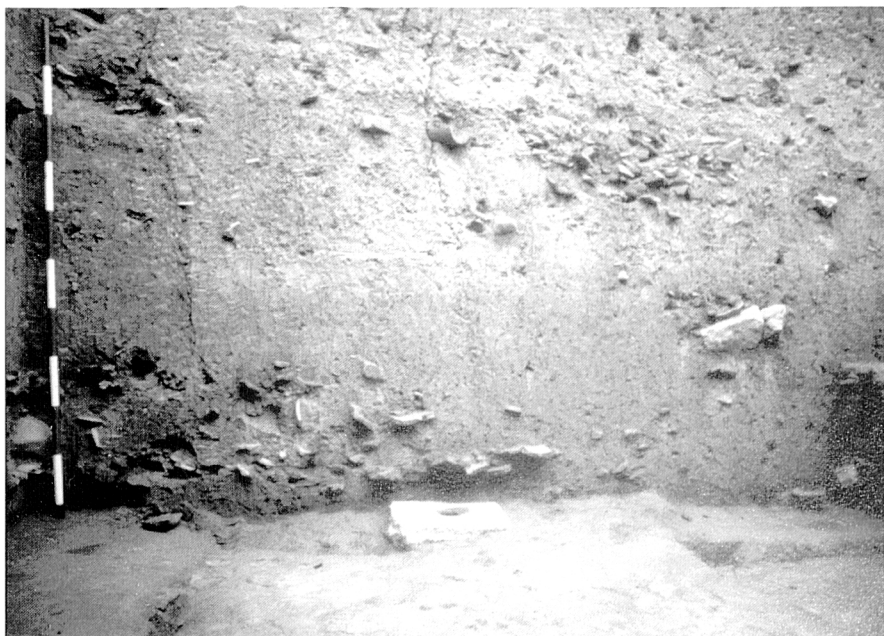
a) Weiwan. Stūpa layers of tamped earth. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-15(25).



b) Weiwan. Trench A, baking chamber and flue of kiln 9.
Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-7(10A).



a) Weiwan. Trench A, kiln 9: detail of baking chamber made with unbaked bricks.
Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-7(16A).

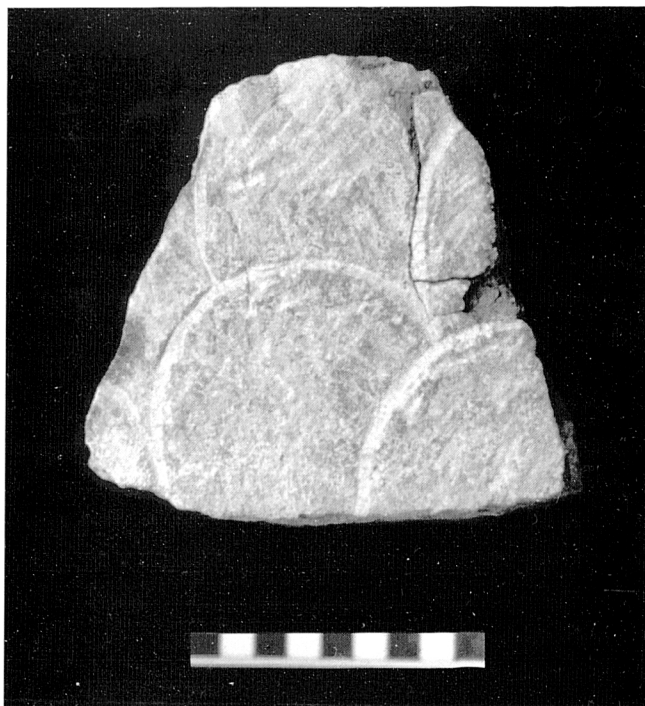


b) Weiwan. Trench A, foundation stone (SU 54) of Tang monastery.
Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-8(19A).

Trench A, Stone Objects

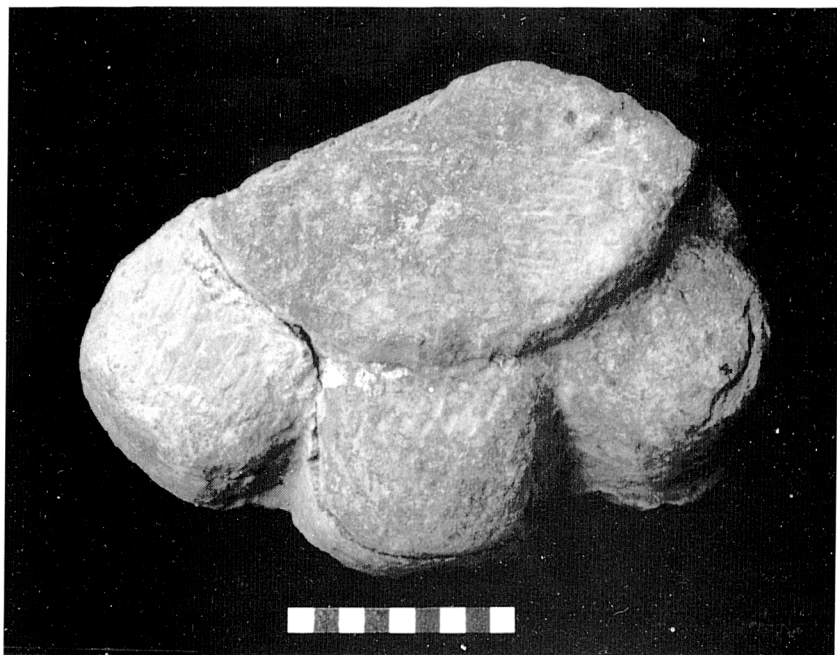


a) WW-62. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-5(36A).



b) WW-63. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-3(29).

Trench A, Stone Objects



a) WW-77. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-3(33).



b) WW-91. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-3(31).

Trench A, Terracotta Objects

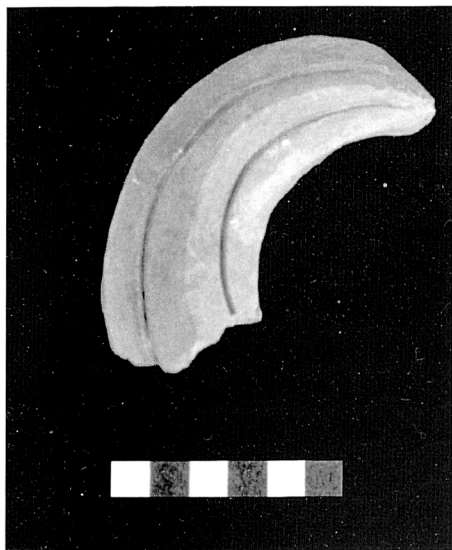


a) WW-47. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-5(15A).

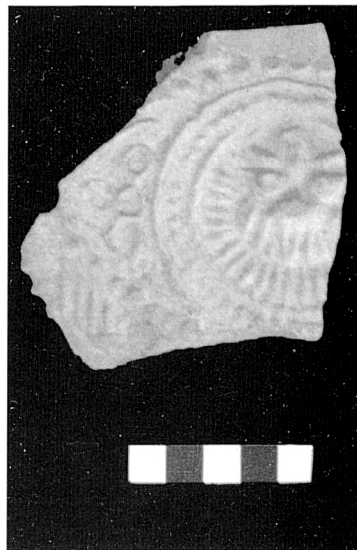


b) WW-52. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-6(12A).

Trench A, Terracotta Objects



a) WW-69. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-9(12).



c) WW-48. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO
Cn. CLW97-9(27).



b) WW-93. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-6(6A).

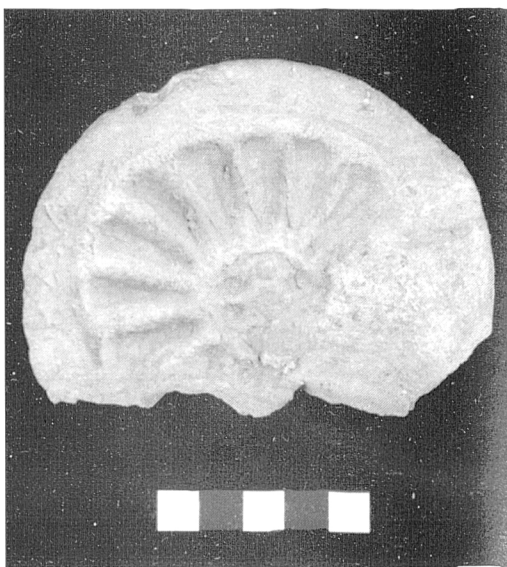
Trench A, Tile-ends



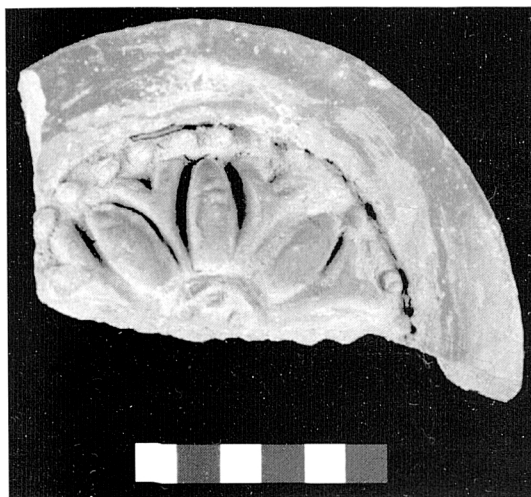
a) WW-59. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(6A).

b) WW-60. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(18A).

c) WW-82. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(5A).



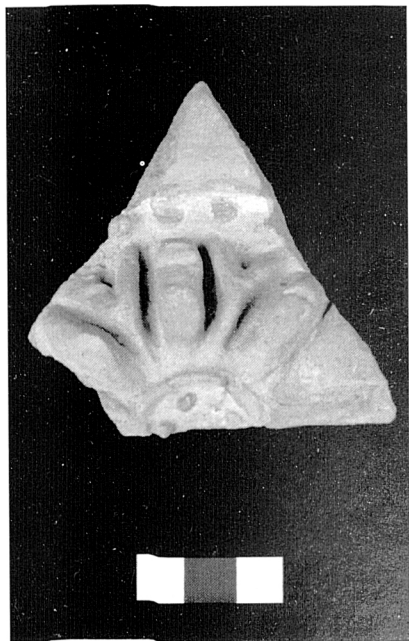
Trench A, Tile-ends



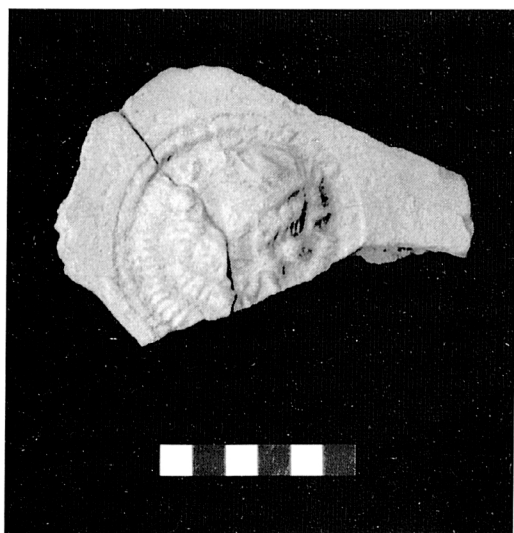
a) WW-88. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(4A).

b) WW-98. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(7A).

c) WW-101. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(27).



Trench A, Tile-ends



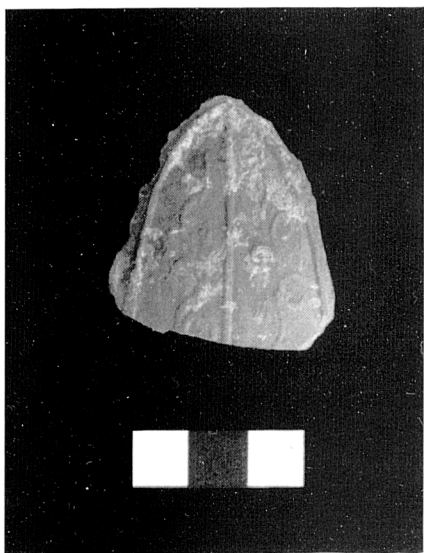
a) WW-103. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-9(18).

b) WW-104. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(25A).

c) WW-53. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-7(25).



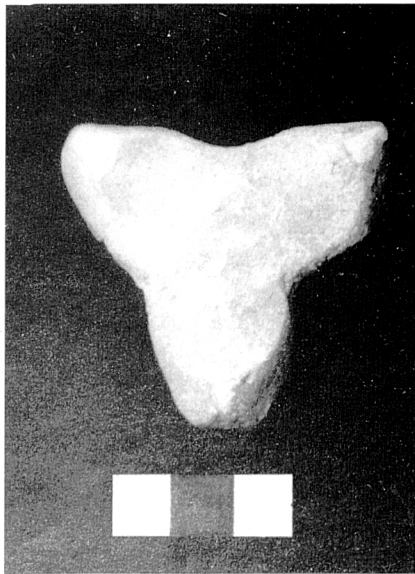
Trench A, Other Objects



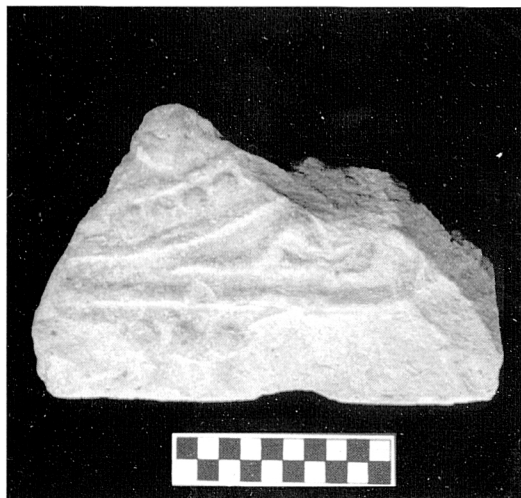
a) WW-55. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-7(30).

b) WW-58. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-7(22).

c) WW-74. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-7(26).



Trench A, Decorated Bricks



a) WW-43. Photo E. Cerchi,
IsIAO Cn. CLW99-8(4A).



b) WW-44. Photo E. Cerchi,
IsIAO Cn. CLW99-8(8A).

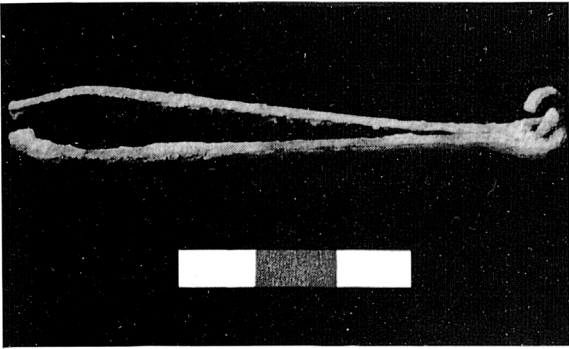


c) WW-50. Photo E. Cerchi,
IsIAO Cn. CLW99-9(8).

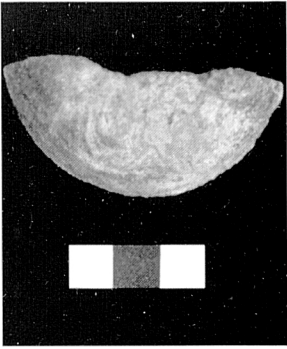


d) WW-154. Photo E. Cerchi,
IsIAO Cn. CLW99-8(15A).

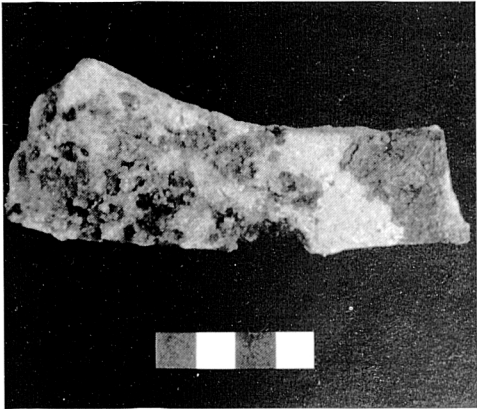
Trench A, Metal Objects



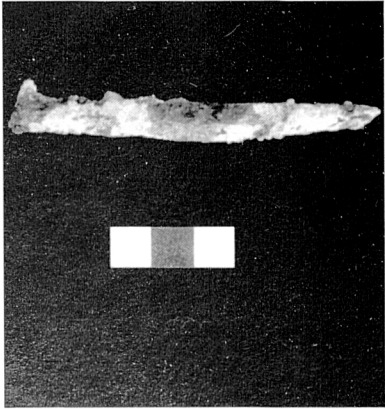
a) WW-22. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-4(14).



b) WW-32. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-10(21).

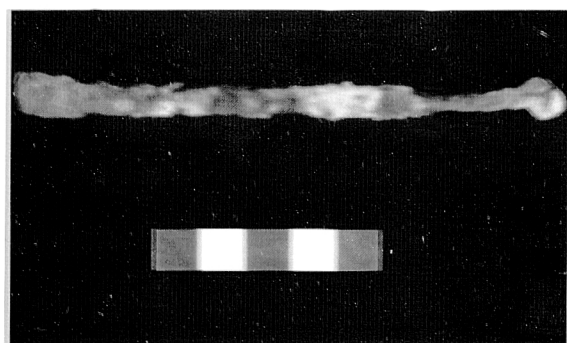


c) WW-34. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-10(27).

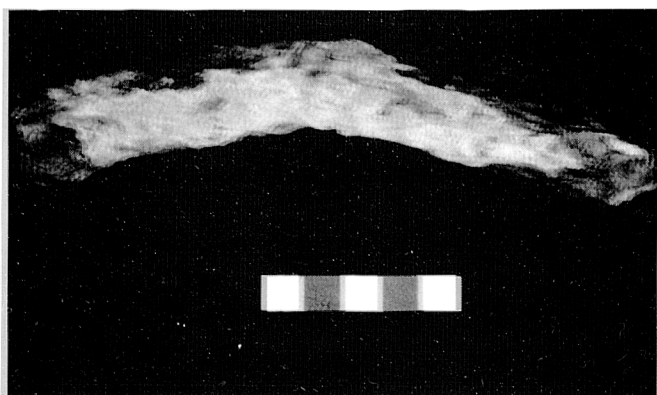


d) WW-37. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-11(8).

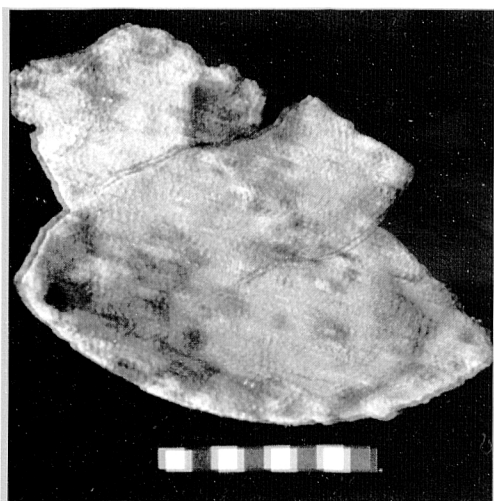
Trench A, Metal Objects



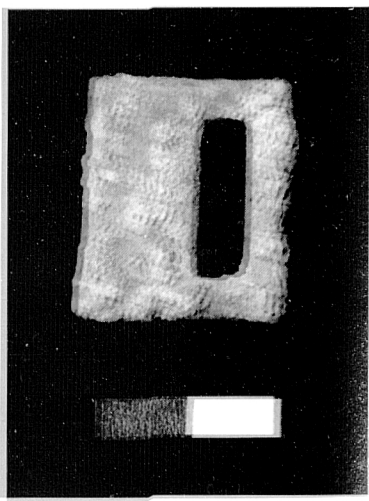
a) WW-38. Photo E. Cecchi, ISIAO Cn. (LW99-III(9)).



b) WW-67. Photo E. Cecchi, ISIAO Cn. (LW99-I(129)).

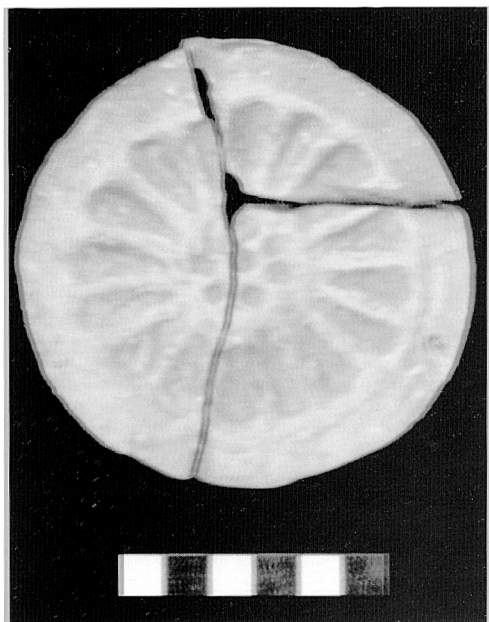


c) WW-116. Photo E. Cecchi, ISIAO Cn. (LW99-I(131)).



d) WW-134. Photo S. Cecchi, ISIAO Cn. (LW97-936).

Finds from Trench B



a) WW-125. Photo E. Cerchi, ISIAO Cn. CLW99-5 (12A).



b) WW-132. Photo E. Cerchi, ISIAO Cn. CLW99-11 (10).



c) WW-133. Photo E. Cerchi, ISIAO Cn. CLW99-10 (19).



d) WW-145. Photo E. Cerchi, ISIAO Cn. CLW99-5 (23A).

Sporadic Finds



a) WW-1. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(21A).

b) WW-2. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-5(20A).

c) WW-3. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO
Cn. CLW99-9(19).

Sporadic Finds



a) WW-99. Photo S. Coccia, IsIAO Cn. CLW97-2(7).



b) WW-144. Photo E. Cerchi, IsIAO Cn. CLW99-5(22A).

4. SPORADIC FINDS (pls. XVIIIa-c; XIXa-b)

Besides the finds from the excavated trenches, a small number of stray finds (bricks, tile-ends, fragments of sculptures and other architectural features) have also been inventoried. A selection of these objects is given below.

WW-1 – A mould-decorated tile-end, depicting a protome of an animal (a lion?) within a circle of beads, framed by a broad undecorated circular band.

Terracotta; diam. 14.5 cm; h. 1.6 cm.

Chipped in two points on the border.

WW-2 – Fragment of a tile-end, mould-decorated in relief with a motif similar to that of WW-1.

Terracotta; $10 \times 14.5 \times 1.5$ cm.

WW-3 – Fragment of a mould-decorated tile-end, almost triangular in shape. The central motif consists of a roundel depicting a protome of an animal (a lion?) within an almond-shaped frame surrounded by beads. The space left free, as well as the lower corner of the tile-end, are decorated with geometrical patterns (small circles and lines).

Terracotta; $15 \times 14.5 \times 1.5$ cm.

WW-99 – Fragment of a roof-tile with a mould-decorated circular end. The decoration consists of an animal motif (possibly a dragon) surrounded by a circular band. Probably from the same mould as WW-104 and WW-145.

Terracotta; diam. 15.5 cm; h. 1.4 cm.

Found in Squares LYi/j, surface.

WW-144 – Fragments of a tile-end, mould-decorated in relief. The decoration consists of a protome of an animal (a lion?) within a roundel. Wavy lines radiate from the roundel and cover the remaining space of the tile.

Terracotta; $16 \times 12.5 \times 2$ cm.

In two pieces.

(Erika Forte, Work Unit for Cultural Relics of Luoyang City)

APPENDIX

The Fengxiansi and the Other Buddhist Monasteries of Longmen

The town of Luoyang 洛陽, located on the northern bank of the Luo river 洛河, in the present-day province of Henan, was again³ selected as capital in 493 (Taihe 17) during the reign of emperor Xiaowen 孝文帝 of the Northern Wei (386-534). The transfer of the capital from Pingcheng 平城 (present-day Datong, in Shanxi) to Luoyang marked the beginning of a period of rapid and spectacular growth of Buddhism. The capital alone contained more than one thousand temples and monasteries (*Luoyang qielan ji* 5.349). It was in this period that the first caves in Longmen began to be constructed, on the southern periphery of the city. The complex, however, was continued and enlarged between 632 and 755.

The Longmen caves have become the object of detailed art historical, religious and archaeological studies.⁴ Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the monasteries with whose activities the caves were linked. Some of them take their name from monasteries in the area (for example, the caves called Jingshansi, Fengxiansi and Longhuasi), which seem to have exercised a sort of 'sovereignty' over their namesake caves (McNair 1996: 332).

The earliest mention of the existence of a monastery in the area of Longmen is found in the *Shi lao zhi* (Monograph on Buddhism and Taoism) of the *Wei shu* (WS 114.3049), in an account of attempts 'to acquire the appearance of god and become Immortal ... in a monastery of the mountains of Yique'⁵ on the part of the followers of emperor Wen 文帝, at the time when the latter was guest of the Jin 晉 court at Luoyang between 261 (Jingyuan 2) and 275 (Xianning 1).

In the principal source for the Luoyang monasteries of the Northern Wei, the *Luoyang qielan ji* 洛陽伽藍記 by Yang Xuanzhi 楊衒之, completed around 547, we find the temples and monasteries existing outside the walls listed at the end of the fifth *juan*. For the southern periphery, in the area called Yique, only the monasteries Shikusi 石窟寺 and Lingyansi 靈巖寺 are named,⁶ but these are merely the names used in the Wei period to designate respectively the Guyang 古陽洞 and Binyang 賓陽洞 Caves (under the Tang called

³ After Eastern Zhou (770-256 BC), Later Han (AD 25-220), Cao-Wei (220-265) and Western Jin (265-316).

⁴ Here we mention only Chavannes (1913-15), Mizuno and Nagahiro (1941) and the two volumes on Longmen, *Ryūmon sekkutsu* (Luoyang shi Longmen wenwu baoguansuo 1987-88).

⁵ As stressed by Yan Wenru (1993: 1-4), it began to be commonly called Longmen ('Gate of the Dragon') not before the reign of the emperor Gaozong (649-83). One of its ancient names was Yique ('watchtowers on the river Yi'), owing to the appearance of the rocky walls on both banks (cf. *Shui jing zhu*, 15.1350). The name Longmen was used for the first time to designate the area by the emperor Yang 楊帝 (r. 605-617) of the Sui (cf. *Yuanhe junxian tuzhi*, 5.130). The Luoyang of the Sui and Tang dynasties was built 18 *li* west of the walls of the Han and Wei city, and therefore the Duan gate (Duan men 端門) of the August City and the southern gate, Dingding men 定鼎門, of the walls of the Outer City opened southwards in the direction of the cliffs on the river Yi. The emperor Gaozong called Luoyang 'Eastern Capital' (Dongdu) in 657 (Xianqing 2); dating to 658 is the first inscription that 'officially' calls the place Longmen.

⁶ *Luoyang qielan ji*: 5.350. In reality the *Luoyang xian zhi* 洛陽縣志 (8, *juan* 22, pp.13-14) says that other monasteries were built in the area of Yique during the Wei dynasty: Qianyuansi 乾元寺, Guanghuasi 廣化寺, Chongxunsi 崇訓寺, Baoyingsi 寶應寺, Jiashansi 嘉善寺, Tianzhusi 天竺寺, Fengxiansi 奉先寺 and Xiangshansi 香山寺.

Yiquesi 伊闕寺, 'monastery of Yique'; cf. Wen Yucheng 1985a: 142-43; Li Yuqun 1983: 70).⁷

The existence of these monasteries is attested by various Tang sources. They are mentioned for the first time as a whole, no longer sporadically as isolated presences, in a work dated 832 (Dahe 6) of the noted poet Bai Juyi 白居易 (722-846), who uses the expression 'ten monasteries of Longmen'.⁸ Over the centuries they were so gravely damaged that by the end of the Yuan dynasty no trace of them had remained, until finally even their names disappeared from the sources. It was only in the eighteenth century, at the height of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), that they began to be spoken of again, and thus arose the thorny question of their identification.

Wen Yucheng (1988: 224) summarises the conclusions reached by various authors with regard to the number and names of these monasteries, beginning with the work *Henan fu zhi* 河南府志 of 1779. Seven of the monasteries named by Bai Juyi have been identified with certainty. One of these complexes turns out, in fact, to have been the Fengxian monastery, whose site has been identified by Chinese archaeologists in the environs of the present-day village of Weiwan. I will come back to this in the final section, after having briefly presented the data assembled on the others, following Wen Yucheng.

1. *Xiangshansi* 香山寺. This is the best-documented by the sources. Its foundation would date to the year 516 (Xiping 1).⁹ We know from the *Huayan jing zhuanji* 華嚴經傳記 (Records of the *Avatamsaka-sūtra* Tradition) that the monk Divakara, from central India, died in 688 (Chuangong 3, month XII) in the Eastern Weiguo monastery 東魏國寺 (of Luoyang) and was buried south of the Longmen mountains, on the left bank of the river Yi... Then, subsequent to the petition to the throne by the prince of Liang (Wu Sansi 武三思), a temple (*qielan* 伽藍, Sanskrit *saṅghārāma*) was founded and called Xiangshansi.¹⁰ This monastery is frequently mentioned in the works of the poet Bai Juyi, with many detailed descriptions of its structure (cf., for example, QTS 452.5117; 454.5138 and 5142; 456.5169 and 5170 458. 5207; 459.5215 and also 676.1ab, 11b, 15a). The poet was buried near it (JTS 166.4358).¹¹ The abandonment of the monastery dates approximately to the years between the end of the Tang and the period of the Five Dynasties (907-60). It underwent restoration during the Northern Song (960-1127), and we know from an inscription of 1296 (Yuanzhen 2; cf. Wen Yucheng 1988: 226) that it was still in

⁷ Li Yukun points out not only how at Longmen the names of the caves changed over the various dynasties but also how in certain cases they derived from monasteries of the area famous in one period or the other.

⁸ This is a piece known as *Xiu Xiangshansi ji* 修香山寺記 (QTW 676.15a).

⁹ In this connection, Wen Yucheng (1988: 225) cites the chronology of Bai Juyi, the *Bai Wen-gong nianpu* 白文公年譜, compiled during the Song by Chen Zhensun 陳振孫 (in *Bai Xiang-shan shi Changqing ji* I, 18).

¹⁰ HYJZJ 1, 155a3-5 (in T 51, no. 2073). This source has been translated with commentary by Forte (1974: 145), who, on the basis of the title 'Prince of Liang', deduces that the Xiangshan monastery of Tang period was founded between 690 and 705 (n. 91). In the stūpa inscription of the monk Yuance 圓測 (613-96), disciple of Xuanzang, we read that he 'was cremated in the northern valley of the Xiangshan monastery of Longmen', where later was erected a 'white pagoda' (JSCB 146.35a). Further, a visit to the monastery of empress Wu in the tenth month of the year 705 is mentioned (Shenlong 1; JTS 7.141).

¹¹ We recall also that in the year 832 (Dahe 3) the poet donated to the monastery, for reconstruction works, the goods given him by the family of his poet friend Yuan Zhen 元稹.

existence at the beginning of the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368). By the end of that period, the name of Xiangshansi ceases to appear in the sources, until, under the Qing (1644-1911), it was reconstructed in 1707 (Kangxi 46) on the ruins of the Qianyuan monastery 乾元寺 built under the Tang.

The site corresponding to the Tang Xiangshansi has been located at the southern extremity of Longmen eastern mountain, east of the Leigutai 擂鼓台, in the area between the 'nursing home' of the ball-bearings factory of Luoyang (?) and the slopes of the mountain north of it. A trial trench in 1965 yielded the remains of foundations of a building, presumably of Tang date,¹² and an attempt was made at an approximate reconstruction (based essentially on the facts gleaned from the written sources) of the position of the 'octagonal stūpa' 八角浮圖 of Divākara, of the so-called 'seven niches with stone statues' 石像七龕¹³ and of the tomb of Bai Juyi.

2. *Baoyingsi* 寶應寺. In the biography of the monk Shenhui 神會 (SGSZ, 8.180), who lived between 668 and 760, we read that in 760 (Shangyuan 1) his tomb was transferred to the Baoying monastery of Longmen.¹⁴ We do not know its foundation date, but we do know that a number of Chan masters of the southern School were buried there. In the stūpa inscription of Shenzhao 神照 (776-838), composed by Bai Juyi (QTW 678.22a/b), it is located in the north-western part of Yique.¹⁵ Subsequently, its name was linked with the activities of the *sramana* Zhixuan 知玄 (811-883; cf. SGSZ 6.129-133), continuing to exist throughout the Northern Song (960-1127) and up to the middle period of the Jin dynasty (1115-1234). Already at the end of the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368), however, this monastery disappears from the sources.

Remains belonging to the Baoyingsi were found in December 1983 on the northern slopes (west side) of Longmen western mountain, exactly where the present-day Granary of the Cereals Office of Luoyang is located (Luoyang shi wenwu gongzuo dui 1992: 64-67): they belonged to a subterranean stone chamber of Shenhui's stūpa, as attested by the inscription found inside (cf. Luoyang shi wenwu gongzuo dui 1991: 576). This discovery has been of fundamental importance, not only for the identification of the site but also for the study of the Chan School.

3. *Qianyuan* 乾元寺. The name of the 'Qianyuan monastery of the Longmen mountains' appears in the funerary inscription of a master of the Chan school, Yiwan 義琬 (673-731), from which we learn that in 759 (Qianyuan 2) Guo Ziyi 郭子儀 wrote the tablet with its name (JSCB 95.8a/b). The monastery is also cited by Bai Juyi (QTS 457.5188). It survived under the Song and the Jin. The *Qianyuan* 乾元寺記 of Sun Yingkui 孫應奎 informs us that the Qianyuan was on the eastern peak of Yique and that in 1560

¹² It is a section of the so-called 'Eastern enclosed building (or annexed temple)' (*xi yuan* 西院), of uncertain function, north-west of which, on a hill, was the burial area. For the excavation report, see Luoyang shi Longmen wenwu baoguansuo (1986: 40-43).

¹³ See HYJZJ 1, 155a5-9 (T 51, no. 2073). The presumed location of the 'seven niches with stone statues' (I choose this translation instead of the 'sevenfold shrine of the stone statue' proposed by Forte 1974: 145) would then correspond to the place described by Bai Juyi for the so-called 'eastern Buddha(s) niche(s)' 東佛龕 (QTW 676.15a).

¹⁴ On the contrary, the inscription found inside the tomb of Shenhui has the date of 765 (Yongtai 1). Cf. Zhang Naizhu and Ye Wansong (1991: 63).

¹⁵ The name of this monastery also appears in the inscription of the 'stūpa of Prabhūtaratna' of the monk Yuanjing 圓敬 (729-92), *stāvira* of the Baoying monastery (WYYH, 785.8a/b).

it was transferred to the southern extremity of the eastern mountain, still further east, near the present-day village of Caodian 草店村 (Wen Yucheng 1988: 236, n. 39). The Tang monastery is to be placed in the area of the present-day Xiangshansi. The belvedere described by Bai Juyi was situated probably still higher, near the so-called Wuliang miao 無梁廟 of today.

4. *Tianzhusi* 天竺寺. The Tantric master Manicintana (Baosiwei 寶思惟: ?-721), from Kashmir, arrived at Luoyang in 693 (Changshou 2), and after 711 retired to live on the Xiangshan of Longmen. 'He then requested that a monastery be built on the Longmen mountains. It was built in foreign style and was given the name of Tianzhu[si] (Monastery of India) ...' At his death, in 721 (Kaiyuan 9), 'a *stūpa* was erected to commemorate him' (Forte 1984: 305; 313-15). The famous stele dedicated to Manicintana (WYXH 856.1a-3b), written by Su Ting 蘇頌, offers us a description of the circumstances that led to the choice of the Perfumed Mountain (Xiangshan) as ideal site of its construction. From this source we know that the name Tianzhu was officially bestowed on 8 May 711 (Jingyun 2.IV.16). It was on the north side of the eastern mountain, near two springs. On 23 February 722 the monastery was destroyed by a flood of the river Yi (JTS 37.1357, cf. also below p. 0). After the An Lushan rebellion, the emperor Daizong (762-779) had it rebuilt on the western mountain of Longmen and the new monastery was called Xi Tianzhusi 西天竺寺 (Western Tianzhu Monastery).¹⁶ Its existence is attested from the end of the eighth century¹⁷ through the first decades of the ninth,¹⁸ before it suffered the destructions of Wuzong's anti-Buddhist persecution (840-846).¹⁹ We have news of it again at the beginning of the Yuan era, but by the end of this dynasty its name has completely disappeared from the sources.

The vestiges of the ancient Tianzhusi have not yet been traced, while the site of the western monastery has been located on a hill north of the western mountain, at the present-day village of Sigou 寺溝村. It lies 2 km north-west of Yique, but except for a stele and a *chuang* pillar (cf. n. 15 and 16) nothing has been found.

¹⁶ The inscription on another stele, composed by Wei Yi 魏宜 in 1084 (Yuanfeng 7) to record the reconstruction of the Tianzhu monastery at Longmen, which came to light in the village of Sigou 寺溝村, informs us that Daizong, in the first year of his reign (762: Baoying 1), had it rebuilt, and that the monastery prospered also during the Zhenyuan reign period (785-805) of emperor Dezong. This stele is now in the Longmen Research Institute. According to Wen Yucheng (1985b), the western Tianzhusi would be the first Manichaean temple in China, and the content of the stele by Wei Yi, written 322 years after its foundation, have to do with this religion. *Contra*, Lin Wushu (1986).

¹⁷ The monk Zhenjian 貞堅 (728-784) of the monastery Hongsheng 弘聖寺 of Dongdu was buried in the area south of the Tianzhu monastery, where a *chuang* 幢 stone pillar was erected: thus it appears from the inscription of the pillar itself, discovered in the nearby village of Sigou and now in the Longmen Research Institute (*Tang wen xu shi*, 4.10b-11a).

¹⁸ See Bai Juyi (QTS 453.5130; 454.5147). This monastery is further recalled in an episode reported in the TPGJ (388.3092), relative to the year 827 (Dahe 1).

¹⁹ In an inscription of the year 850 (Dazhong 4), composed by the monk Yichuan 義川寺, we read that 'a *chuang* pillar and a *stūpa* were erected on the remains of ancient burials to the north-east of the abandoned Tianzhu monastery'. There is also a description of the topography of the place, corresponding to the present-day village of Sigou 寺溝村, in the district of Longmen. Wen Yucheng (1988: 237) does not specify its present location, but it can be presumed that the inscription is in the Longmen Research Institute.

5. *Putisi* 菩提寺. The funerary inscription of Lady Pei 裴氏 (667-725),²⁰ ‘... buried in 726 (Kaiyuan 14) on the top of the hill behind the Puti monastery of the Longmen mountains ...’ (*Tang wen shiyi* 19.11b), uniquely provides us with a *terminus ante quem* regarding its foundation date, which does not appear otherwise attested with certainty.²¹ It emerges clearly from the poems of Bai Juyi (QTS 453.5124; 454.5148) that the Putisi was situated south of the western mountain of Longmen, exactly opposite the Xiangshansi, across the river. The monastery continued to be active under the Song and is attested until the middle of the fifteenth century. It has been located near the village of Guozhai 郭寨村, 3 km south-west of Longmen (Wen Yucheng 1988: 238).²²
6. *Yuquansi* 玉泉寺. Many poems of Bai Juyi, who describes its atmosphere and surrounding landscape, are named after it (cf., for example, QTS 451.5093; 454.5146; 462.5268). In the *Zhongxiu Luoyang xian zhi* (7, *juan* 11, p. 29b) we read that it was founded during the reign of Emperor Daizong (762-779) of the Tang. It continued to be active under the Song. Between the end of the Ming dynasty and the beginning of the Qing it was transformed into a Taoist temple.

According to Wen, who bases his account on the facts provided by Bai Juyi, it should be located in the district of Yanshi 偃師縣, at the village of Licun 李村, on the northern slopes of the hill called Zushimiao Shan 祖師廟山, about 15 km south-east of Longmen (Wen Yucheng 1988: 242).

7. *Jingshansi* 敬善寺. It has often been confused with the cave of the same name in the northern part of the western mountain. The descriptions of the Jingshansi that we read in the poetry of Li Deyu 李德裕 and of Liu Cang 劉滄 (cf. QTS 475.5400; 586.6790) have nothing to do with the cave, but allude explicitly to the monastery. This was situated in the eastern mountain of Longmen,²³ at its feet to be exact, towards north (on the eastern side). In April 1981 came to light the tomb that An Jinzang 安金藏 had built (JTS 187A.4885-86; XTS 191.5506-7) for his father An Pu 安菩 (601-664), a devout Buddhist, and his mother, Lady He 何氏 (622-704;), together with a funerary inscription and numerous Tang finds. The inscription tells us that An Pu and his wife were buried together in the area of the monastery and that their tomb was ‘south of the walls of Luoyang, east of the Jingshan monastery, at the foot of a hill that lay 2 *li* from the Yi river’.²⁴ Wen observes that the monastery should be therefore in the vicinity of the Longmen mine.

²⁰ Lady Pei was a *upāsikā* (lay Buddhist), and hers is a typical example of those devotees belonging to the middle-high classes who chose to be buried at Longmen.

²¹ This monastery beginning in the Qing period changed its name to Huangjuesi 皇覺寺. In the *Guji zhi* (‘Monograph on historical places’) of the *Zhongxiu Luoyang xian zhi* (7, *juan* 11, p. 29a) we read that the Huangjue monastery was located south-west of Yique and that it was built in the Kaiyuan period (713-741) of the Tang dynasty. The great temple hall which survives today dates to the Qing period.

²² Among the finds come to light there, we should mention an octagonal *jingchuang* 經幢 bearing an inscription in which it is possible to read the date of 782 (Jianzhong 3).

²³ The ‘Jingshan monastery of the Perfumed Mountain’ (Xiangshan, which is the eastern mountain) is cited in an episode recounted by the TPGJ (388.3092).

²⁴ For the inscription, see Zhao Zhenhua and Zhu Liang (1982). For the excavation of the tomb, cf. Luoyang shi wenwu gongzuo dui (1982: 21-26).

8. *Guanghuasi*. 廣化寺. It was founded in 758 as an expansion of the pagoda of Śubhākarasimha's (Shanwuwei 善無畏: 636-735) funerary pagoda.²⁵ This monastery was particularly active from the period of the Five Dynasties until the Northern Song (*Cefu yuangui* 145.8a),²⁶ and its remains were found in October 1965 on a small hill north-west of Longmenzhen 龍門鎮. Among the numerous finds are various stelae of the Song, Jin, Ming and Qing periods that attest the phases of its life (and its reconstructions).
9. *Shengshansi* 勝善寺. In the work *Longmen Shengshansi yaoliao ji* 龍門勝善寺藥寮記 of Fan Zuyu 范祖禹 (1041-1098), a Song historian (*Fan taishi ji*: 36.1a-3a), we read that '... in the western mountain of Longmen there was a temple with a stūpa, called Shengshan[si], built during the Kaiyuan period (713-741) of the Tang and destroyed during the Five Dynasties'. There follows a careful description of the place, in which are mentioned 'statue(s) in stone' and 'three niches'.²⁷ The remains of the Shengshan monastery should indeed lie near the present-day Longmen Research Institute.
10. *Fengxiansi* 奉先寺. The most spectacular sculptural complex of the 2345 caves and votive niches of Longmen is undoubtedly represented by the monumental cave called Fengxiansi which is in the centre of the southern section of the complex, on the western side of the valley of the Yi. Various opinions have been expressed regarding the date and reasons for its construction (McNair 1996: 325-92), while little is known of the homonymous monastery (to which the cave belonged), until recently confused with the cave itself (Li Yukun 1980: 25-26). The description of the place where the Fengxiansi was located, by the poet Du Fu 杜甫 in a poem of 736 (Kaiyuan 24), sheds further light on the question of the existence of the monastery (QTS 216.2253). The date of its foundation was the first year of the Tiaolu period (679) of emperor Gaozong. What we know of its origins is based on the brief inscription on stone (presumably of 723) on the north side of the pedestal of the great statue of Rocana (Lushena 盧舍那).²⁸ It tells us that on 25 September 679 (Tiaolu 1.8.15) its construction was decided by an edict three and a half years after the completion of the nine statues of the cave. The monastery stood south of the great statue and the number of monks assigned to it was fourteen, increased by another sixteen some months later, the same day on which the emperor Gaozong (649-683) wrote the tablet with its name (20 February 680). In 723 (Kaiyuan 10) an edict ordering

²⁵ In the *Xuanzong chao fanjing sanzang Shanwuwei zeng Honglu qing xingzhuang* 玄宗朝翻經三藏善無畏贈鴻臚卿行狀 (Account of Conduct of Śubhākarasimha, a Tripiṭaka Translator of Scriptures during the Reign of Xuanzong, who was Bestowed the Title of President of the Court for Diplomatic Relations), we read that Śubhākarasimha '... who died in 735 (Kaiyuan 23), was buried in the western mountain of Longmen' (T 50, no. 2055, p. 290). In one of the inscriptions included in this work we also read that in 758 (Qianyuan 1) Guo Ziyi transformed his pagoda into the 'Guanghua monastery' (ibid.: 291).

²⁶ There were buried also the monks Kezhi 可止 (860-934) – in the SE corner of the area of the monastery – and Daopi 道丕 (889-955). Cf. SGSZ 7.150.

²⁷ These are also mentions in the *Yongle dadian*, j. 13823, where we read that the Shengshansi was founded in the 27 year of the Kaiyuan period (739). According to Wen Yucheng (1988: 244) the 'three niches' correspond to the three Binyang caves.

²⁸ The text of the inscription is reproduced in many works, including that of Chavannes (1915: pl. DLXII, 1576; Mizuno and Nagahiro 1941: 324, no. 806). A rubbing is reproduced in *Wenwu* 4, 1961, p. 5. The inscription is no longer visible though it may still be *in situ*. On the question see Forte (1994: 75-76).

the fusion of the Fengxian monastery with the Longhua monastery 龍華寺 was emanated.²⁹ No event between the years 680 and 723 is mentioned in the inscription, not even the natural disaster of 23 February 722 (Kaiyuan 10), when the river Yi broke its embankments and destroyed the Tianzhu and Fengxian monasteries.³⁰ Many 'eminent monks' were buried in the area of the monastery, such as the Northern Chan master Yifu 義福 (658-736) 'on the little hill to the north'³¹ and, next to him, a female disciple, the *upāsikā* known by the name of Wucengyou 未曾有 ('unheard of', from the Sanskrit *adbhuta*), 717-738 (*Baqiong shi jinshi buzheng* 56.14a). On the hill to the west there was the stūpa of the Tantric master Vajrabodhi (Jingangzhi 金剛智, 669-741), built some years after his death, in 743 (Tianbao 2). Later, various of his disciples were buried in the vicinity, including Ruxin 如信 (750-824) and Zhiru 智如 (749-834), west of the master's stūpa: in both places *chuang* pillars were also erected (QTW 676.16a e 8a).

The monastic institution continued to be important even later, under the Northern Song³² and until the end of the thirteenth century. Since the end of the Yuan dynasty its name disappears from historical and epigraphic sources. Chinese archaeologists have identified the location corresponding to the Fengxian monastery as a site rich in archaeological evidence in an area at the southern end of Longmen western mountain (west side), on a small plateau north of the present-day village of Weiwan 魏灣.³³ In the spring of 1981, during construction of the highway north-west of the site, it was discovered a rectangular stone door bearing a type of sculptural decoration ascribable to the high Tang period. To right and left of the lower part of the frame are inscribed the names of two monks: 'the disciple Daoyan 門人僧道嚴' and 'the disciple Guangde 門人光德'.³⁴ Wen maintains that this is the door of Yifu's tomb.³⁵ From the highest point, at the western extremity of the

²⁹ This last was probably located on a nearby terrace on higher ground, and thus saved from the flood (Forte 1996: 380). Its name, accompanied by a date (Tianbao 3: 552) appears in the inscription on the base of an image on the southern wall of the Yaofang 藥方 cave at Longmen. However, to judge from the statement of the *Luoyang qielan ji* (2.75; 3.158), within the walls of the city existed two temples called Longhuasi: but we have no way to establish whether the one alluded to in the inscription of the Yaofang cave is or is not the monastery of Longmen. Following the fusion with the Fengxiansi, its name disappears from the sources.

³⁰ For a detailed treatment of the monastery, in particular for its earliest history, the reasons for building it, and the group of sculptures of the homonymous cave, see Forte (1996), according to whom not only the decision of the beginning of 723 concerning the monastery, but also the inscription should be considered closely connected with this disaster (p. 368).

³¹ See the inscription of the stele dedicated to him, written by Yan Tingzhi 嚴挺之, in JSCB 81.28a. From the stele composed by Du Yu 杜昱 (*Baqiong shi jinshi buzheng* 55.28b), rather, it results that Yifu's funerary monument was in the plain west of the Fengxiansi. Probably he was buried in the area NW of the monastery.

³² As attested, among others, by Sima Guang (1019-1086) and Zhang Lei (1054-1114). Cf. *Shao shi wenjian lu*, respectively 11.117 and 1.5.

³³ Wen Yucheng (1986: 27-29; 1988: 231-33). As Forte observes (1996: 366), if these are truly its remains, they should be considered in relation to the location of the monastery from 723.

³⁴ Both names are given in the SGSZ. Wen Yucheng (1988: 233) maintains that the 'disciple Guangde' is none other than the monk Jinji 晉寂 (651-739), he too, like Yifu, disciple of Shenxiu 神秀.

³⁵ An ode of Liu Changqing 劉長卿 (709-780?) takes its title from the tomb of Yifu, also known as Fugong ta 福公塔 (QTS 148.1524).

northern half of the site, it is possible to see the presumed remains of the so-called Huayan pavilion 華嚴閣,³⁶ still in existence under the Song.

To judge from the distribution map of the 'ten monasteries' it seems clear that the meaning of 'Longmen' in the expression used by Bai Juyi should be understood in the broadest sense, corresponding to the district (*xiang* 鄉) of the Tang era, and not in the more limited sense of 'mountains of Longmen' (Yique). In reality under the Tang there were very probably many more than ten monasteries in that area. Zhang Naizhu, for example, names eighteen (Zhang Naizhu 1991: 251), even if of those additional eight only one -the Hufa monastery 護法寺- would seem confirmed by sufficiently reliable evidence (*ibid.*: 249-50; 251-52). As the sources attest (in some cases confirmed by the recent archaeological discoveries), not only a great many important religious figures but also a certain number of lay Buddhists were buried in the vicinity of the monasteries of Longmen, which had become a sort of 'sacred area' of Chinese Buddhism beginning from the late Wei/early Tang period, with the expansion of the large-scale statuary of the caves.

(Aurora Testa)

³⁶ Sima Guang (1019-86) talks about this. Cf. *Shao shi wenjian lu* 11.117.

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