



Presents

**Early China Seminar Lecture Series**

# The First Emperor's Mausoleum: New Discoveries and New Interpretations

Presentation in Chinese with English Notes



## ABSTRACT

The First Emperor of Qin was the first to claim the title of an emperor in Chinese history and the first ruler of the Qin Empire. In addition to his achievements recorded in the transmitted texts, the First Emperor's Mausoleum is also part of his legacy. The First Emperor's Mausoleum is the largest ancient mausoleum in China as well as in the world, which covers an area of 45.69 square kilometers, comprised of a complicated inner structure and rich burial contents. This presentation will discuss the five burial pits excavated to date, and introduce the new discoveries based on the systematic archeological survey in the region since 2009. The new discoveries not only correct the misunderstanding of the mausoleum's orientation to the east, but also shed much new light on the overall spatial structure of the complex, such as its road system and palatial and burial pits arrangements. Based on these new discoveries, this presentation will also discuss the design behind the construction of the Mausoleum, and how the design was influenced by and reflected the ideologies, beliefs, funerary customs, and technologies in ancient China.

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Cao Wei received his B.A. in History from Northwest University and M.A. in Archeology from Beijing University in China. He was the Deputy Director of Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archeology, and Director of the Mausoleum Museum of the First Emperor of Qin.

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4:30–6:30 p.m.

**403 Kent Hall**

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