



TANG CENTER FOR EARLY CHINA

Presents

Tang Special Lecture

The Painted Pottery of the Miaodigou Culture and the Rise of Civilization in China: The Excavation at Yangguanzhai and Its Significance

Presentation in Chinese



ABSTRACT

The Guanzhong area of the Shaanxi Province in the We River Valley was an important birth place of ancient civilizations in China. Around 4000 BC, the Miaodigou culture expanded its influence from the Guanzhong area to the Ordos region in the north, the Gansu-Qinghai region in the west, the Yangtze River region in the south, and the sea costal region in the east. Painted pottery was the hallmark of the Miaodigou culture, and its unique flower-pattern pottery offered an important bond among the people who resided in this vast region. This symbolizes the first major cultural integration in Chinese history, and provided the foundation for the “China” before China. The talk introduces the recent archaeological excavation of the gigantic Miaodigou cultural site at Yangguanzhai in Gaoling near Xi’an, and discusses its significance for understanding the social development as well as expansion of the Miaodigou culture.

Wang Weilin, Deputy Director of the Shaanxi Museum of History

Formerly Director of the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology in Xi’an, Wang has supervised fieldwork at Dabaodang and Xinhua of Shenmu, Quanhucun of Huaxian, Yangguanzhai of Gaoling, and other important archaeological sites. He has won the National Social Science Grant of China for a number of projects, and was named “Chief Expert” for particularly the Yangguanzhai archaeological project.

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