



EARLY CHINA SEMINAR
LECTURE SERIES

The Material Culture of Personal Adornment in Ancient China

Sheri Lullo · Union College



Image source: Zhongguo Qiqi Quanji Bianji Weiyuanhui, ed., 1998. *Zhongguo qiqi quanji* 中國漆器全集, Vol. 3: Han 漢. Fuzhou: Fujian Meishu Chubanshe.

This presentation considers the increasingly wide range of toiletries, objects of adornment and personal items found in cosmetic boxes that were buried with middle and upper-ranking members of Warring States and Han society. Recent findings from Han princely tombs will be discussed along with more well-known finds. The talk centers on the forms, variety and functions of lacquered cosmetic boxes and their contents, with consideration of the potential for these boxes to collect, contain, compartmentalize, conceal and protect a selection of objects intimate to individualized bodies. Discussion shifts from the practical uses of toiletries to consideration of the versatility of material culture with regard to meaning and purpose, and finally, the symbolic function of these assemblages within the context of death and burial.

February 7, 2020, 4:30–6:30pm

Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive, Columbia University

*please check the announcement board in the first floor lobby for room information

Seminar Co-Chairs:

Jue Guo, Barnard College, Columbia University

Glenda Chao, Ursinus College

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