

TERRACOTTA ARMY

輝煌大秦

Legacy of the First
Emperor of China

04.20-08.12





Welcome to *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China* at Your Cincinnati Art Museum.

In 1974, farmers digging a well in the small village of Xi'an, in Northwest China, stumbled upon fragments of terracotta figures. At the time, they were not aware that they had just uncovered one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. The objects excavated include nearly 8,000 life-size warriors, chariots, and horses created to accompany their ruler into the afterlife.

Presented in three sections, *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China*, a partnership between the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, features major objects from the First Emperor's mausoleum complex in Xi'an and other Qin tombs. These objects have been brought together to tell the story of the First Emperor's rise to power, the history of the Qin state, and his ultimate quest for immortality.

Timeline of the First Emperor of Qin

DATE	EVENTS
259 BCE	Born Ying Zheng in Handan, Zhao state
251 BCE	AGE 9: Returned to Qin state
250 BCE	AGE 10: Appointed as Crown Prince of Qin State
246 BCE	AGE 13: Ascended the throne as King Ying Zheng of Qin; Ordered construction of his mausoleum at base of Mount Li
241 BCE	AGE 19: Qin state defended against attacks from Chu, Zhao, Wei, Han, and Yan states
238 BCE	AGE 22: Inaugurated at Yongcheng, the Qin capital
230 BCE	AGE 30: Began campaign against Chu, Zhao, Wei, Han, and Yan states; Defeated Han state
228 BCE	AGE 32: Defeated Zhao state
227 BCE	AGE 33: Survived attempted assassination by Jing Ke
225 BCE	AGE 35: Defeated Wei state
223 BCE	AGE 37: Defeated Chu state
222 BCE	AGE 38: Defeated Yan state
221 BCE	AGE 39: Defeated Qi state; Unified the country and proclaimed himself First Emperor or Qin Shihuang; Standardization of currency, measurement and script enacted
220 BCE	AGE 40: Set out on his first of five inspection tours; Began construction of a nationwide network of roads
214 BCE	AGE 46: Began five-year construction of the Great Wall
210 BCE	AGE 50: Died on his fifth tour and was entombed at his mausoleum, fifty miles from Xianyang



Kneeling Archer (detail), Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), earthenware, Excavated from Pit 2, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1977, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 002744

The First Emperor and Unification of China

At age thirteen, Ying Zheng (259–210 BC) became king of Qin, one of seven states during the late Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC). In a series of military campaigns, the Qin conquered the other six states—the Chu, Han, Qi, Wei, Yan and Zhao—ending the Warring States period (475–221 BC). When Ying Zheng proclaimed himself the First Emperor of the Qin, or Qin Shihuang, he established China's imperial system.

In forming the country's first centralized government, the First Emperor implemented a series of cultural, political and economic reforms. These included a national currency, a universal system of writing and a standard unit of weights and measures. The First Emperor also ordered the construction of a national network of roads and what would become the Great Wall of China.

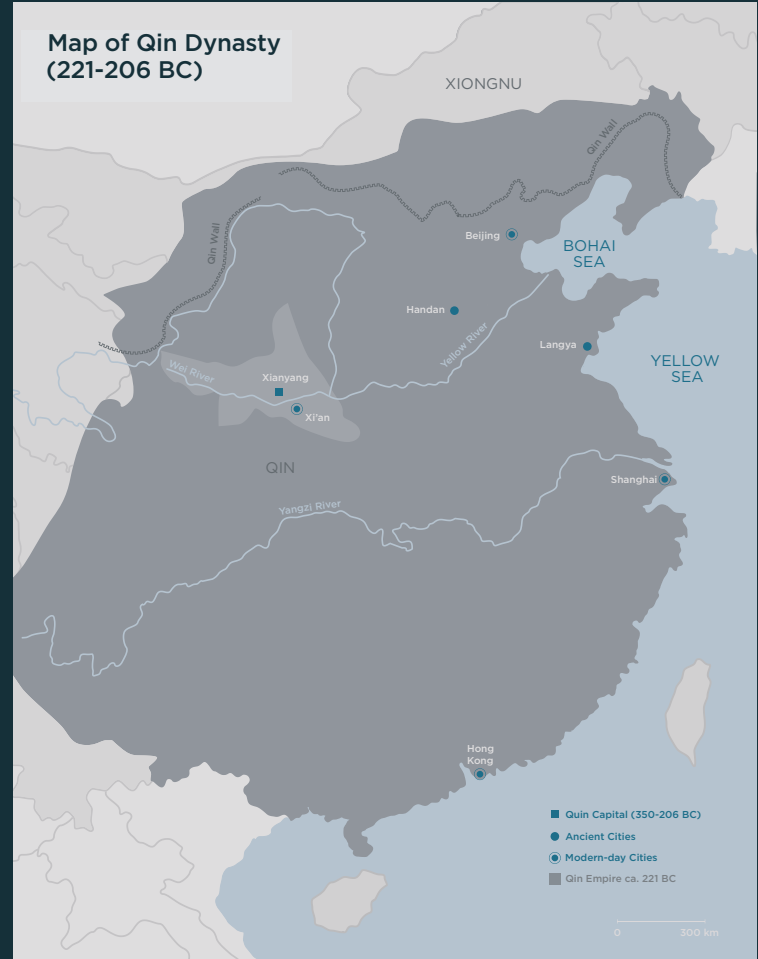


Battle Bell, Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), bronze, Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Complex, 1980, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 00879 // *Mythical Animal Mask*, Spring and Autumn Period (770–476 BCE), bronze, Excavated from Tomb 9, Bianjiazhuang, Longxian, 1986, Longxian County Museum, 86L1017 // *Weight Inscribed with Two Edicts*, 209 BCE, Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), bronze, Excavated from the Administrative Site, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1975, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 2787 // *Coins from Qin Inscribed with "Banliang"*, Warring States Period (475–221 BCE), Qin Dynasty (221–206 BCE), bronze, Excavated at Yuchi site, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1978, Gift of Chen Zunxiang, 1981, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 005529, Shaanxi History Museum, 81.149(2) // *Tiger*, Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BCE), gold, Excavated from Fengxiangxian, Baoji, 1979, Xi'an Museum, D3Gj70

Warring States Period ca. 260 BC



Map of Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC)





Birth of the Qin Empire

The Qin first settled on China's western frontier where they made a living in herding and breeding horses. In 771 BC, during the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC), the Qin achieved statehood. In the centuries that followed, the Qin state grew both politically and economically. By expanding eastward to fertile land with river access, they developed in farming and transportation. Increased trade and economic growth allowed for the Qin's ultimate success in ending the Warring States period (475–221

BC) and unifying Chinese empire under the rule of the First Emperor.

Archaeological treasures featured in this section give insight on the lives of Qin royalty, aristocrats, commoners, and neighboring nomads and present more than 500 years of Chinese history, from the 8th to 3rd centuries BC.



Mounted Warrior, Warring States Period (475-221 BCE), earthenware with pigment, Excavated from Tomb 2, Steel Factory, Xianyang, 1995, Xianyang Municipal Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, M28057:6 // *Necklace*, Spring and Autumn period (770-476 BCE), nephrite, agate, faience, Excavated from Tomb 9, Bianjiazhuang, Longxian, 1986, Longxian County Museum, 86LBM9:41 // *Roof-Tile End with Water Design*, Warring States period (475-221 BCE), earthenware, Excavated from Doufucun, Fengxiangxian, 2006, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, BE000585 // *Ritual Bell with a Looped Handle*, 7th century BCE, Spring and Autumn period (770-476 BCE), bronze, Excavated from Taigongmiaocun, Chencang, Baoji, 1978, Baoji Bronze Ware Museum, IAS.7 (02758)

Quest for Immortality

The First Emperor ordered the construction of his massive burial complex in 246 BC when he was enthroned at age 13. Construction took thirty-eight years. The mausoleum's function was to represent the First Emperor's court and the extension of his power into the afterlife. This site, measuring approximately 38 square miles (just under half the size of the city of Cincinnati), includes his tomb mound, a palace, an armory, an area for entertainment, stables, a garden pond, and three large pits containing nearly 8,000 life-size terracotta warriors.

Each terracotta figure found in the First Emperor's necropolis had a special location based on their position in the emperor's army and household.

Kneeling Archer (detail), Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), earthenware, Excavated from Pit 2, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1977, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 002744

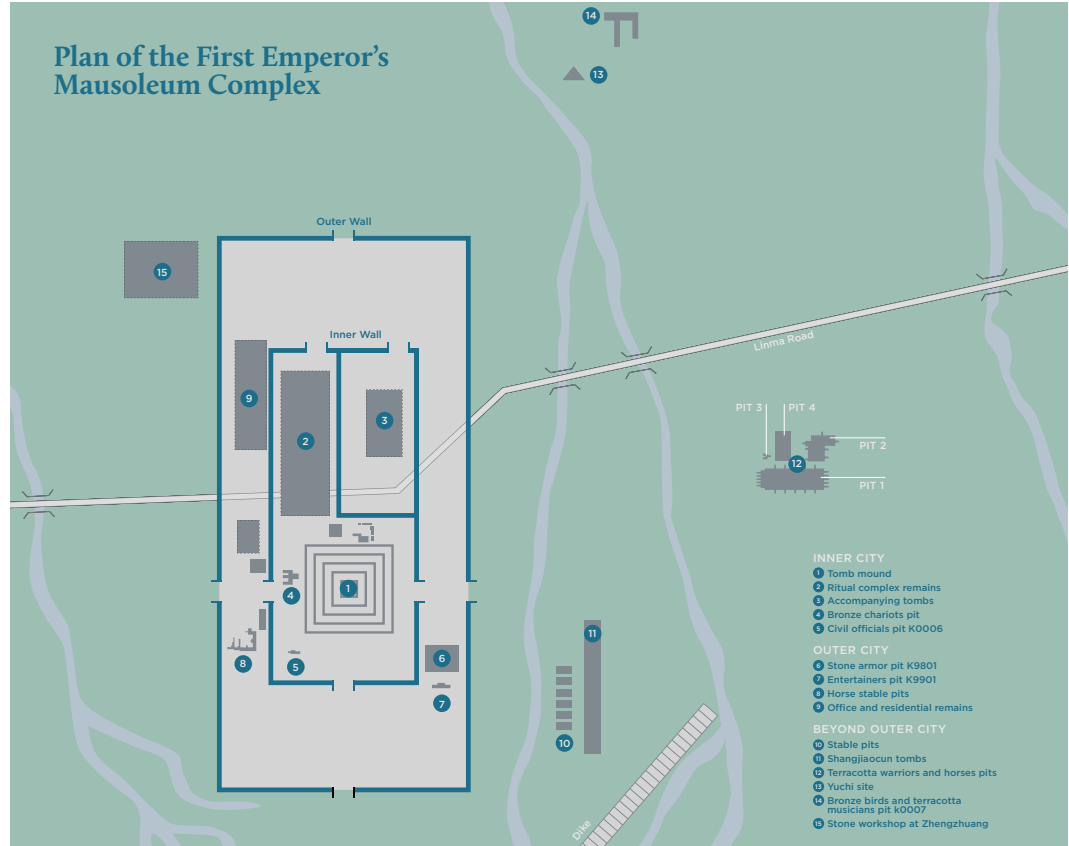
- **Pit 1** contains an estimated 6,000 figures, 200 horses and 50 war chariots. The figures include armored and unarmored infantry, high- and middle-ranking officers and armored charioteers. Scholars believe that Pit 1 may simulate a traditional Qin battle formation.
- **Pit 2** hosts nearly 1,000 figures, 450 horses and 89 war chariots in what may have been the army barracks. The figures in this pit are cavalrymen and their horses, standing and kneeling archers, charioteers, armored infantrymen and high-ranking officers.
- **Pit 3** was the First Emperor's army "command headquarters." This pit contains four horses, one centrally positioned war chariot and sixty-eight figures, mostly armored infantrymen and high-ranking officers.

Stable Attendant (detail), Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), earthenware, Excavated from Kneeling Figures Pit, Shangjiaocun, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1985, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 003170





Goose, Qin dynasty (221–206 BCE), bronze, Excavated from Pit K0007, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 2000, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, K0007T3:54 // Helmet, Qin dynasty (221–206 BC), limestone, copper wire, Excavated from Pit K9801, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1999, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, 007090 // Lance Head with Scabbard, Warring States period (475–221 BC), Bronze, Excavated from Huxian, 1974, Shaanxi History Museum, 08341fu



On view in this gallery are ten of the finest examples of the First Emperor's terracotta figures as well as limestone armor and weapons excavated from the First Emperor's mausoleum complex.

Making the Warriors

Each of the terracotta warriors in the First Emperor's army were unique and distinctive. Although they were built using mass produced molded parts involving thousands of craftsmen, close inspection of facial expressions, hair-styles and clothing show that no two warriors were the same. The warriors were built starting with a solid base and feet to allow for stability. This was followed by the adding of the legs and waist, and then the upper body, arms and hands. The two-part molded head was attached separately.

After being fired in the kiln, warriors were coated in a dark lacquer and painted in a variety of vibrant colors including purple, red, green, blue, brown, orange, yellow, white and black. Most of the excavated warriors have lost their color due to time and water damage.





Exhibition organized by the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, in partnership with Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau, Shaanxi Provincial History Museum, Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre, and Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum of the People's Republic of China.

This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

ORGANIZED WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF **THE HAROLD C. SCHOTT FOUNDATION.**

PRESENTED BY:



Fort Washington
Investment Advisors, Inc.
A member of Western & Southern Financial Group®



Western & Southern
Financial Group



ART WORKS.



National
Endowment
for the Arts



The Power
Of Ideas

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:

John and Dorothy Hermanies Fund // E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Christie's // Elizabeth Tu Hoffman Huddleston // Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation
Josephine Schell Russell Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee // Charles Scott Riley III Foundation
The Sutphin Family Foundation

In Memory of Frank and Margaret Linhardt

FRONT COVER

Chariot No. 1 with Horses (replica) (detail), Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), bronze, pigment, Excavated from Bronze Chariot Pit, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1980, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, MMYL007

PAGE 8-9

Armored General, Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), earthenware, Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1977, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 002523 // *Middle-Ranking Officer*, Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), earthenware, Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1976, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum // // *Standing Archer*, Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), earthenware, Excavated from Pit 2, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1997, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum

BACK COVER:

Armored Charioteer (detail), Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), Earthenware, Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum, 1980, Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, 002539

cincinnati  art museum

