

Shijiahe Ruins listed among Top 10 finds of 2016

By Zhong Qingru

The Shijiahe Ruins in Tianmen City, Hubei, has been selected as one of the top 10 new archaeological finds of China in 2016. It is the fourth consecutive year for historical sites in Hubei to stand among the annual Top 10 Archaeological Discoveries of China.

The Shijiahe site is the largest prehistoric settlement cluster with the longest duration and highest level of civilization that has ever been unearthed in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. Between 3,000 B.C. and 1,800 B.C., the Shijiahe site was an important social and cultural development center in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. The core area of the site is the Youziling Cultural Region, a city site spread over 200,000 square meters, which is the largest city site ever excavated in the middle reaches of the Yangtze

River.

Since 2014, archaeologists from both the Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology and the School of Archeology and Museology at Beijing University have been excavating the core area of the Shijiahe site, resulting in many new discoveries.

Two hundred and forty exquisite pieces of jade ware have been unearthed from the ruins and identified as being produced in the late phase of the Shijiahe cultural period. Some of the relics are carved in unique patterns, such as a deity-human head portrait, a jade *jue* (a type of wine pot) featuring two human heads with joint bodies, and jade jewelry with double eagles standing on a tiger pedestal, just to name a few. They represent the highest level of jade processing technology in the prehistoric period of China.



A deity-human head portrait



Unearthed jade jewelry featuring double eagles standing on a tiger pedestal

First Wuchang Fish specimen gets an ID number

A survey released recently by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage shows that there are 969,118 pieces of movable cultural relics in China. Among them are the gilded bronze statue of Manjushri, newly discovered in the Hubei 1911 Revolution Wuchang Uprising Memorial, and the specimen of a Wuchang Fish in Huazhong Agricultural University. Both were admitted as movable relics in the survey.

Movable cultural relics refer to artistic works, documents, manuscripts, literature, and other material items that are crucial to cultural and historical research.

The survey helped find a batch of relics in Wuhan. Among them are 4,372 foreign

books published in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were discovered in St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Shanghai Road, Jiang'an District.

The Wuchang Fish specimen, another relic identified, was collected in Liangzi Lake during the 1950s by a group of researchers led by Yi Bolu from the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. In their investigation, they found a new bream that had not been recorded in literature and Yi Bolu named it Tuantoufang (*Megalobrama amblycephala*), which is commonly known as Wuchang Fish (Wuchang Bream). Because of that, Yi is recognized as "the father of Wuchang Fish."



The Wuchang Fish specimen in Huazhong Agricultural University

MOS Graffiti Festival opens



MOS in 2015

The 2017 Meeting of Styles (MOS) Graffiti Festival kicked off today (April 21) at Lizhi Road, Wuchang and will continue to April 23. As the largest street art festival in the world, this year's festival will host more than 200 world-famous graffiti artists.

The MOS, originating in Germany, has launched more than 120 graffiti events in 17 countries since 2000. The theme for 2017 is "Live for Love." Traditional graffiti activities, graffiti workshops, creative markets, and DJ music performances will be provided during the festival.

The festival has also built a 1.2-meter-high graffiti wall to invite children to draw their own graffiti.

Li Qingping Exhibition in Zall Art Gallery

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The exhibition "Memory and History of Li Qingping" opened at Zall Art Gallery on April 9. The exhibition showcases works by Li Qingping, one of the most well-known abstract painters in China.

Born in Jingzhou, Hubei, Li began learning to paint at a very young age. In 1935, her work *Hometown* received high praise from Xu Beihong, a modern Chinese master of fine arts. In 1950, she was chosen by Premier Zhou Enlai to copy a giant size painting, *Empress Dowager Cixi Visits a Theater Stage*, in The Imperial Palace.

The exhibition offers people a rare opportunity to appreciate Li's works as most of them have been collected by art museums after her death. It will continue for one month.