Silent Music: Han-dynasty ritual mortuary objects

Humanities 230
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Musician and bells. Western Han dynasty, 206 BCE-9 CE. Painted earthenware; bells 5-6 1/2 inches in length. Portland Art Museum. (Mysterious Spirits, p. 108)
Musician and chimes. Western Han dynasty, 206 BCE-9 CE. Painted earthenware; Chimes 7 7/8 to 15 1/2 inches in length. Portland Art Museum. (Mysterious Spirits, p. 110)
Drummer.
Western Han dynasty, 206 BCE-9 CE.
Painted Earthen-ware; 15 1/4 x 13 1/2 x 8 inches.
Portland Art Museum.
(Mysterious Spirits, p. 111)
Orchestra on display at the Portland Art Museum
Suizhou, site of the tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng dating to 433 BCE (Zhou Dynasty)
Aerial view of the tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng at Leigudun, Suizhou, Hubei Province, just before opening in spring 1978. Hubei Provincial Museum (Music in the Age of Confucius, p. 14)
Excavators with bells in situ in the central chamber of the tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng. The chime stone rack can be seen at the far end of the compartment, parallel to the short arm of the bell stand. The largest drum, lying on its side, is partly visible at the bottom right edge of the photograph. (Music in the Age of Confucius, Fig. 1.3)
Set of 65 bells from the tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng (曾侯乙), Leigudun, Suizhou, Hubei Province. Ca. 433 BCE. Bronze. Long arm of the stand 265 cm. high, 748 cm long. Hubei Provincial Museum (Music in the Age of Confucius, p. 37)
32 chime stone (limestone replicas), gold-inlaid bronze rack, and mallet from the Marquis Yi of Zeng’s tomb. Height 109 cm., Width 215 cm. Hubei Provincial Museum (Music in the Age of Confucius, fig. 2.22)
Fig. 4.3
Thirteen-pipe panpipes
(xiao/paixiao).
From the central chamber of the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng, Leigudun, Suzhou, Hubei Province. Fifth century B.C. Lacquered bamboo. Lengths of pipes 32.80–5.20 cm, diameters of pipes.
Aerial view of the opened tomb revealing four chambers. The central chamber contained most of the musical instruments and ritual vessels. The Marquis’ coffin is visible lying on its side in the eastern chamber (here pictured to the right). Coffins for 13 female attendants are scattered throughout the western chamber. Hubei Provincial Museum (*Music in the Age of Confucius*, p. 15)
Set of 65 bells from the tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng (曾侯乙), Leigudun, Suizhou, Hubei Province. Ca. 433 BCE. Bronze. Long arm of the stand 265 cm. high, 748 cm long. Hubei Provincial Museum (Music in the Age of Confucius, p. 37)
Lacquer-covered mallets above, players of the second tier subset of bells.
Anonymous court artists. *The Yongzheng emperor Offering Sacrifices at the Altar of the God of Agriculture*. Detail. 1723-35. Handscroll, ink and color on silk; 61.8 x 467.8 cm. Palace Museum, Beijing.
Set of 16 sonorous stones (*bianqing*) with phoenix and cloud motif. Qianlong 29th year (1764). Nephrite with stand of gold-lacquered wood, height 350 cm.
Set of 16 bells (bianzhong) with dragon and cloud motif. Kangxi 52d year (1713). Gilt bronze with stand of gold-lacquered wood, height 350 cm.
Orchestra on display at the Portland Art Museum
Above: diagram of TAOTIE “mask,” motif on early bronze decor
Above: detail of bells in the Portland Art Museum
Right: detail of one of the bells at the Marquis Yi of Zeng’s tomb
Orchestra on display at the Portland Art Museum