

# Archaeology And The Mass Media Terracotta Army

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## Archaeology and Discovery of the Terracotta Army

Throughout antiquity, archaeologists have discovered and revealed many fossils, features and artefacts that have an important amount of antiquity and significance behind their discovery. One of the famous archaeology discoveries is the crafted hands, clay soldiers buried with the primary Chinese emperor around his tomb, and other items of his riches. The sovereign, Qin Shi Huang, suppressed the army to take his accomplishments and inheritance with him and defend himself in the afterlife. Therefore, in this essay, I will talk about how the soldiers were found, the time they were found, the place they were founded and their importance in archaeology.

## 1974 Excavation and Initial Findings

The Terracotta Army was extracted by a group of local farmers from China in March 1974 who unpredictably burrowed up a couple of the militaries along with a few lesser weapons while excavating a well. After unearthing the life-sized clay soldiers, the employees later informed the government officials. After the officials had been notified, the archaeologists were permitted to start digging the enormous site of the over 9000 soldiers. Every military member was exclusively handcrafted to appear different from any other soldier in the militia; every soldier had distinctive hair, positions, heights, and facial expressions that would help to resemble their ranks within the militia. The militaries seem grey; however, their sculptures' patterns indicate colours and boundless details put into each clay soldier during their building. Additionally, the archaeologists discovered clay horses, lesser artefacts and chariots (Quinn et al., 2017). The Chinese administration built a museum to allow the archaeologists to preserve this antiquity around the multiple wells of the soldiers. The Terracotta Army archaeologists agreed to create the Terracotta Army between 210 BC and 249 BC, which signifies 2200 years. The archaeologists used the thermoluminescence dating techniques to date the Terracotta Army. This technique is most favourable or suitable for ceramics as it helps in reckoning out the dismissal date of the ceramic piece being evaluated. The thermoluminescence works by comparing the dose of thermoluminescence energy and TL of the object. The firing of ceramics may lead to loss of the thermoluminescence energy, but it may reaccumulate after a certain period. Thus, the age of the ceramics would be determined by taking the accrued dose of the TL energy and reckoning out its accumulation rate yearly, thus helping to determine the age.

# Cultural Meaning of the Burial Complex

Through the burial of the Terracotta Army, the archaeologists got ideas about the culture around the period they were constructed and how they affected the Chinese's recent culture. The burial signified that at the time of Qin Shi Huangdi's supremacy, China was tolerant of war and aggressive techniques for them to be superior. Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi was willing to make any sacrifice that would be beneficial in building an empire. Most of the Chinese had perished during the brutal war to enlarge the empire and feared his just desserts in the afterlife. Thus, this clearly explains why terracotta militaries are positioned on the eastern side of his ossuary. Qin was from the West, and he conquered the kingdom in the East; the military would hinder people from seeking revenge and give a better understanding of the technology and costume during the construction. The numerous investigations of what was to be appreciated as part of archaeology are of significance as they allow a body of insight to build up toward comprehending the ornament, costumes, and the whole organization and human culture.

## Construction of Qin's Tomb and Imperial Symbolism

The labourers constructed the tombs of bronze, with their ground being the map of China and the rivers of mercury where Qin would live forever (Bevan et al., 2018). The constructors constructed the tomb till the death of the emperor in 209 BC. The automatic installation of the scale model triggered weapons in the mausoleum, intending to safeguard the resources and ward off tomb thieves. Most of the workingmen working on the ossuary when the Ruler died were suppressed alive with Qin to assist him in the afterlife. The combatants were created by the 700,000 working workers of Qin Shi Huangdi to make him for his hereafter journey.

## Media Representation and Cultural Perception

The evolution of new culture not only affected visual recognition but also affected people's perceptions subconsciously. The project of the Terracotta army replicates and signifies the antique development of the Qin dynasty. The wearing of terracotta warriors is a sign of the prosperity of a cohort of dynasties and a representation of the control of the out-of-date emperor. It helps people to memorize its great momentum (Afshari, 2019). Like other Qin Dynasty arts, the art of the Terracotta Army is a culmination of thousands of years of Chinese artistic experience dating back to the Neolithic period. Under the unified feudal autocracy, this experience was fully developed and improved, sublimated into the unprecedented group art of pottery sculpture, transforming the art of army sculptures into realistic and plastic art.

## Conclusion on Archaeological Significance

Generally, the Terracotta Army is a big historical and archaeological unearthing that gives a better comprehension of Chinese culture around the period of Huangdi's control. The militaries and weapons remain in pristine condition regardless of their age. The Terracotta Army still exists in its primary burial place, even though a museum was built near it. Most of the armies stay at the museum, and a few are sent off to be observed in various locations around the globe; thus, most people find this unique artefact attractive.

## References

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