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All the figures of the ladies in waiting are lifelike and the carvings give a vivid picture of the life of the imperial court during the flourishing period of the Tang Dynasty. They furnish data for studying Tang history, culture and art. One of the ladies in waiting is carrying a jade plate, some are playing with birds, some are admiring flowers, some are lost in thought, some seem enjoying leisure, some look dignified, beautiful and carefree. These carvings not only vividly portray different postures and facial expressions, but also depict the indivdual characters of the ladies in waiting, displaying the superb workmanship of traditional Chinese carving.

The Tang Dynasty is considered to be the golden age of classical Chinese painting and carving. The works of unknown painters and sculptors of that time were as good as the works of the master of painting Wu Daozi, a well-known Tang painter. Their works have a great influence on the development of ancient Chinese arts.



陳西古代美术巡礼 4 永泰公主石椁线刻画

shaanxi ancient fine arts series W

CARVINGS ON THE SARCOPHAGUS OF A TANG PRINCESS

> 陕西省博物馆 编 卢桂兰 撰文 罗忠民 摄影

compiler: shaanxi provincial museum writer: Lu Guilan photographer: Luo Zhongming

 永泰公主是唐代著名女皇帝武则 天的孙女,唐中宗李显的第七个女 儿,名李仙蕙。公元七〇一年死在洛 阳,七〇六年迁葬于乾州(今陕西乾 县),与她的丈夫武延基合葬在一 起,陪葬于乾陵的东南隅。

永泰公主墓全长87.5米,宽3.9 米,包括墓道、甬道、前墓室和后墓 室四个组成部分。其中除了发掘出丰 富的随葬器物、俑像及著名的永泰公 主壁画等以外,在后墓室中,放置着 一具雕饰极为精美的石椁,在石椁四 面石壁的内外,用凹线镌刻着分隔为 十五幅画面的仕女人物画。这些熔聚 措石刻作品,就是这本画册所要介绍 的。

出现在画面中的宫女们的形象, 个个都描画得神气活现, 栩栩如生, 犹如一幅幅身份各异的宫女的生动写 真, 概括地展现了我国盛唐时期宫廷 生活一隅的典型画面。为研究唐代历 史和艺术,提供了珍贵的资料。画中 的宫女们有的捧盒,有的抱壶,有的 逗戏乌雀, 有的赏玩花枝, 有的凝神 沉思,有的闲立对话,有的恬静端 庄,有的俏丽潇洒。这些线描石刻作 品,不仅生动而优美地刻画了她们不 同的姿态神情, 而且深刻而精炼地刻 画了各自的性格风采。传统的绘画线 描功夫加上雕刻的镌刻技艺, 珠联璧 合,相得益彰,如铁划银钩般的健 劲凝练,又象行云流水般的轻盈舒 畅。

唐代是我国传统绘画与雕塑艺术的黄金时代。与"画圣"吴道子同时代的那些无名画匠雕工们,在这些线描石刻作品里,显示了卓越的艺术才能和精湛的技巧。感谢他们在我国无比丰富的古代艺术宝库里,增添了这一值得我们引为骄傲的瑰宝。

Princess Yongtai, Li Xianhui, was the grand-danghter of Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.). She was the 7th daughter of the Tang Emperor Zhongzong (Li Xian). She died in Luoyang, Henan Province in 701 and was reburied near Qianzhou (now Qianxian County, Shaanxi Province) in 706, by the side of the tomb of her husband Wu Yanji.

The tomb is 87.5 metres by 3.9 metres, and has an entrance passage, an antechamber and a coffin chamber. The famous Princess Yongtai murals were discovered together with numerous porcelain figurines. An exquisitely-carved sarcophagus was found in the coffin chamber. The figures of 15 beautiful

ladies in waiting were carved inside and outside the sarcophagus, showing the superb art of carving at that time.

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