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## East Lake

The East Lake is located in the eastern suburb of Wuhan. It was announced one of China's key scenic spots and historical sites by the State Council in November of 1982. Its total area is 87 square kilometers, of which about 33 square kilometers are water surface. It's the biggest city lake of China which is six times as large as the west lake in Hangzhou.

The East Lake consists of a lot of small lakes such as Shuiguo Lake, Tuanwo Lake and Yanwo Lake. With a vast expanse of water, the East Lake is fringed by a zigzagging shore, so people regard it to have 99 bends and turns. The west, east and south banks of the East Lake are surrounded by over 30 undulating hills such as the Moshan Hill, the Luojia Hill and the Hongshan Hill, while the north bank is smooth terrain.

According to geologists and archaeologists, a long time ago, the Yangtze River overflowed its banks for many times, the mud and sand brought by floods silted unevenly on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, as time went on, the lower part formed today's East Lake. Now, we can see, the northern end of East lake connects with the Yangtze River through Qingshan Harbour. Originally its water level was regulated by the Yangtze River, but now a lock has been built. Although the water level rises in summer and falls in winter, the difference is not big. In flood season, the average depth is 2.46 meters, in dry season, the average depth is 2.11 meters. Generally speaking, the East lake is deeper among Wuhan's lakes. The deepest place reaches as much as six meters. So it is an ideal place for water sports such as swimming and boats race.

Like other scenic spots, the East Lake has gone through the gradual changes. In 1930, Zhou Cangbai a national capitalist, set up the Haihuang Agricultural Nursery here covering an area of 400-mu and built roads and some pavillions on the north-west shore of the lake. In 1935, Xia Douyin in charge of Hubei built a three stories pavillion on a small island on the west shore of the lake. He named it Zhongzheng Pavillion in order to curry favor with Jianjieshi who was also known as Jiangzhongzheng. Now we call this pavillion the Huguangge Pavillion. In 1949, Zhoucangbai donated his Haiguang Agriculture Nursery to the state without compensation. In 1950, the central government made a plan to develop East Lake and set up the management office of the East Lake under the jurisdiction of Wuhan Municipal Government.

The East Lake is composed of six tourist districts — Listening to the Waves, Moshan Hill, Luojia. Falling Wild Goose, White Horse and Flute Playing Districts.

The Listening to the Waves District is located on west shore of the East Lake. The vast shore is planted with pine trees, metasequoia trees and bamboos. When the wind comes, the sounds of pine trees and waves echo each other over a distance, so the district got its name. The district consists of a lot scenic spots and devices. They are Listening to the Waves Chamber, Moon Enjoyment Pavillion, Various Scenery Platform, Water Cloud Pavillion, Poem-chanting Pavillion, Quyuan Museum, Lakeside Painting House and Lake-Reflection Pavilion as well as the Nine-Girl Mound, Luxun's Square. A skating rink, a swimming pool, an open-air theater, restaurants, teahouses, snack counters and a photo studio, etc..

The Listening to the Wave Chamber is surrounded by green bamboos and pine trees. It's a good place for you to enjoy the sounds of pine trees and waves echoing each other.

The Moon enjoyment Pavillion is an ideal place for you to enjoy the moon. It got its name from the Chinese poem: "The nearer a pavillion lies to water, the earlier someone standing on the pavillion can enjoy the moon."

When you stand on the Various Scenery Platform, from south you can see the Luojia Hill; From north you can see the Huguangge Pavillion; From east you can see the six peaks of Moshan Hill. When you look down on the East Lake, you can see a lot of criss-crossing boats.

Water Cloud Pavilion is situated on the plain shore of East Lake, when you climb up to the second floor, you will find that the flowing cloud in the sky connects with the water of the East Lake. In addition, behind the pavillion is also water. So this kind of scenery will make you imagine that you seem in the hometown of water and cloud.

In front of the Poem-chanting Pavilion is the statue of Qu Yuan who was the great patriotic poet of ancient China. There is a short about the pavillion. Originally, Qu Yuan was born in Zigui County of Hubei Province during the Warring States Period of China. Because of his talent, he was offered a high rank by the King of the Chu State. He worked loyally for the Chu State and always concerned about common people's life. Because of his effort, the Chu State became more and more strong. Unfortunately, later the King of Chu State was deceived by traitor and sent him into exile. When he heard the news that the Chu State was defeated by the Qing State later, he felt very sad and drowned himself in the Miluo River of Hunan Province in order to call on Chu people's patriotism. After Qu Yuan was exiled, he ever passed Wuhan and wrote and recited some poems on the shore of East Lake. In order to commemorate Qu Yuan, Wuhan people built this pavillion. Qu Yuan made a great contribution to the culture of China even the world. In September of 1953, the world peace council held a meeting to commemorate the most famous four culture persons, among them one was Qu Yuan.

On the Luxun's Square stands the statue of Luxun. Luxun was the forerunner of China's new culture revolution as well as the great writer, thinker and revolutionist. He was born in 1881 and died in 1936.

The Nine-Girl Mound is actually the tomb of nine girls. In late Qing Dynasty, Wuchang was ever the revolutionary base of the Taiping Heavenly Troops, in order to defend Wuhan, nine girls fought with the troops of Qing Dynasty and finally sacrificed their lives here. Local people respected them and buried them in the same tomb. In order to avoid the depression of Qing Dynasty, local people called the tomb the Nine-Girl Mound.

Moshan District is situated on the southern shore of the lake. It links with the Listening to the Waves District and Luohong District by embankments. The six peaks of Moshan Hill are linked up by the 5.4 kilometers winding mountainous highway. Moshan District mainly consists of the Chu City, the Natural Swimming Pool, the Zhude's Poem Tablet Pavilion, Cherry Blossom Pavillion and Wuhan's Botanical Garden.

In the Zhude's Poem Tablet Pavilion there is a tablet on which a poem was written by Zhude. Zhude was ever the chief-commander of China's PLA Army. The poem has encouraged Wuhan people to develop East Lake. When you climb up to the pavilion, you will have a bird's eye view of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Complex and the sceneries of the triple-city Wuhan.

Around Cherry Blossom Pavilion by the lake side are growing 78 Japanese cherry trees. In 1979, Denyingchao, the wife of China's famous former premier Zhouenlai paid a visit to Japan. In order to express his miss to Zhouenlai, the premier Tianzhongjiaoyong of Japan presented the 78 cherry trees to Denyingchao. Denyingchao asked to plant these trees in a place where Premier Zhou ever worked and lived. East Lake was just the place. The figure 78 stands for two meanings. Firstly it symbols the age of Premier Zhou. Secondly it symbols the time when china and Japan signed the Peace and FriendShip Treaty in 1978.

Luohong District is located on Luojia and Hongshan Hills. The district mainly consists of the institutions of higher learning and research units such as Wuhan University, Hubei Aquatic

Biological Research Institute and Wuhan Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Hubei people government is also located in the district. So it is the center of culture and politics of Wuhan, even of Hubei Province.

Now the other three districts-Falling Wild Goose, White Horse and Flute Playing District are under construction.

The most famous plants in East Lake are plum blossom, lotus flower and metasequoia. Plum blossom and metasequoia have been respectively named the “city flower” and “city tree” of Wuhan City. Metasequoia is regarded as the “living fossil”, it is a kind of precious tree in the Quaternary Glacier Period and it has a history of 130 years. In 1941, our country’s botanists discovered metasequoia firstly in the west Hubei and this discovery caused a sensation throughout the world. At that time the young trees of metasequoia were sold by weight, its value can compare with gold. In order to commemorate this great discovery in Hubei, in addition, metasequoia has the characteristics of cold resistance, being tall and straight and strong adaptability and it can just symbolize the spirit of Wuhan people’s honesty, frankness and firmness, therefore it was designated as the city tree of Wuhan in 1983. Plum is one of the three plant friends who thrive in cold weather—the pine, the bamboo and the plum. The plum garden in the East Lake of Wuhan is one of the four biggest plum gardens, it has a variety of over 300. The plum research center is set up in this garden. The plum buds in the ice and blooms in the snow, and it sends the flavour of spring and brings hope and happiness to us. Because it is not afraid of ice and snow and blooms in the cold weather and express the dear unyielding spirit, this just can represent the fine character of the brave and diligent Wuhan people, so plum was chosen as the city flower of Wuhan. The lotus flowers total 170 kinds and its variety ranks the first in China and also takes the lead all over the world.

The hills, waters and trees of East Lake have attracted a lot of birds. The birds total over 30 kinds. They wildgeese, ducks, chickens, egrets, woodpeckers, magpies and the like.

East Lake’s fresh water fish is also very abundant, totaling about 50 kinds. They are Wuchang Fish, common carps, crucian carps, black carps, etc., among these, the Wuchang Fish is the most famous and precious one. The steamed Wuchang Fish is the most famous local dish of Wuhan.

## **Gueiyuan Temple**

### **—The Buddhism Center of Central China**

Gueiyuan Temple is a Buddhist temple of central China, located at the west end of Cuiwei Street of Hanyang Town of Wuhan. It was a famous relic of Wuhan.

Gueiyuan Temple was built between late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty, until now it is over 300 years old. According to legend, during late Ming dynasty there were two brothers in Zhachuan County of Zhejiang Province, one was called Baiguang and his Buddhism name was Deming, the other called Zhufeng and his Buddhism name was Dekun, they become monks in the same time. As children, they believed in Buddhism very much, so they often went to other places to broadcast Buddhism. One day, they came to Hanyang town of Wuhan and heard that the area of the present Gueiyuan Temple was a great battle field between Ming troops and Qing troops during the late Ming Dynasty, they were very sad, so they collected the corpses and bones of dead soldiers and buried them with the help of local people. Then they built a thatched house and recited Buddhism scriptures for dead soldiers in order to send the souls of the dead soldiers into heaven. They were very pious and diligent. In the meantime they came to Xingguo Temple at the

foot of Turtle Hill and spent three years to have made the entire worn-out Buddhism scriptures well here. Two rich merchants Sunyaoxian and Daitiancheng were moved by their good deeds and donated voluntarily a lot of money to build a temple for them in order to praise their behaviours and broadcast Buddhism widely, so Zhufeng and Baiguan named it Gueiyuan Temple, the main meaning of the name is “If you practice Buddhism and do a lot of good deeds, you will become a Buddha and get into heaven after you die.”

Gueiyuan Temple together with Baotong Temple, Lianxi Temple and Zhengjue Temple are regarded as the four big temples of Wuhan. During the time between late Ming dynasty and early Qing Dynasty, Buddhism is very popular in China, Gueiyuan Temple's incense was very prosperous and it became the Buddhism center of Hubei, Henan and Anhui provinces.

Contrasting with other temples, Gueiyuan Temple has its own three features quite different from other temples. The first feature is the color, Gueiyuan Temple's color is yellow, you see, in China's feudal dynasties, “yellow” was the symbol of noble and authority, it was royal family's special color, only emperor and his family could use this kind of color on their clothes, buildings, etc.. The second feature is the title. The title of Gueiyuan Temple is straight, not across. The third feature is the gate shape, the gate of Gueiyuan Temple shaped like Chinese character “eight”. Why do Gueiyuan Temple has its own special three features? According to legend, in Qing dynasty, the emperor Daoguang believed in Buddhism very much and he was moved by Zhufeng and Baiguang's good deeds, so he bestowed a jade carving stamp on Gueiyuan Temple and gave a lot of special rights to Gueiyuan temple. Therefore Gueiyuan Temple had the style of royal architecture quite different from other temples.

Gueiyuan Temple mainly consists of four building groups. They are individually in four courtyards. They are the front courtyard, the east courtyard, the middle courtyard and the west courtyard. The front courtyard was built in recent years, consisting of two buildings, one was called Yunjizhai and the other called Shantayuan. The other courtyards were built originally, just some buildings were renovated. The east courtyard consists of Cuiwei Pavilion, the Hall of Buddhism Recitation, Freeing Captive Animals Pool, Sutra Collection Pavilion and the Bronze Statue of Guanying. Under the Cuiwei Pavilion is an old well, the well has the same age of the temple. As legend goes, the well was quite different from other wells. Its water came from the East China Sea. If you put your ears near it, you could hear the waves sound of the East China Sea. The water of the well could supply about five hundred monks' daily life. The tea made of this kind of water could help visitors digest and treat stomach trouble, enteritis and skin illness. The wine made of this kind of water were very appeal to you. The Freeing Captive Animals Pool has no artificial fountain, but its water always remain clear at the same level all the year round. You see, Wuhan is very hot in summer and other pools' water easily become dry, so people think that's incredible, some people owe this to the good deeds of Zhufeng and Baiguang, the ancestors of Gueiyuan Temple.

In the Hall of Buddhism Recitation are the three saints of the western sky. The left one with a clear water bottle in her hands is the Bodhisatava Guanying, always helping people in needs, the right one with two servants beside him is Amitabha Buddha, domaining the western sky's happiness. The right one with lotus flower in his hands is the Bodhisatava Dashizhi. Under their seats are a few groups of wood carvings, exhibiting the legends and stories of Buddhism. Besides the altar are the other two devoted Bodhisatavas Wenshu and Puxian. There is an incense table in front of the altar, on the table there are four pictures, visitors are difficult to imagine their meanings. Now please look at these from right to left. The first picture tells us the following: when the great monk Xuanzhang of Tang Dynasty fetched the Buddhism scriptures from the west

and returned to country with his three disciples (Monkey Sun, Monk Sha and Pig Bajie), the second emperor Lishiming of Tang Dynasty went out of his palace to meet them; The second picture tells us the following: in the western sky, Sakamuni and his disciples were praying for gods; The third one tells us the following: Sakamuni was sitting on the lotus platform with the Bodhisatava Weituo and Qielan standing beside him. Weituo and Qielan were in charge of the western sky's law and Eighteen Arhats, Sakamuni was offering posts to Xuanzhang and his three disciples; The fourth one tells us the following: the monks were worshipping Sakamuni and other ten Buddhas. In fact, the four pictures are not the history records, just the exhibitions of some stories extracted from Chinese classical novel "Pilgrims to the west".

In the Hall of Sutra Collection Pavilion, there are three treasures. The first one is a piece of calligraphy, on a piece of paper which is no more than twenty centimeters wide and long, a famous calligrapher wrote two articles of Buddhism scriptures "Jingganing Sutra" and "Xinjing Sutra" totaling 5424 Chinese characters with writing brush, and all these characters formed a great Chinese character "Buddhism". The second one is the original texts of Buddhism scriptures "Huayanjing Sutra" and "Fahuajing Sutra" written with some volunteer's blood. The third one is the jade statue of Sakamuni carved with a great block pure white jade weighing 3 tons, it was presented to Wuhan by a high-level monk of Burma in 1935. It is preserved well till now.

This is the bronze statue of Guanying weighing 250 kilograms. It was presented to Gueiyuan Temple by Monk Mingguang, the Buddhist abbot of a temple of Taiwan. In order to improve the relationship between Taiwan and Inland, Monk Changming, the abbot of Gueiyuan Temple invited Monk Mingguang to pay a visit to Gueiyuan Temple, to meet Monk Changming's invitation, Monk Mingguang took the bronze statue of Guanying as a present and paid a visit to Gueiyuan Temple in 1990.

The middle courtyard consists of two buildings: the front building and the back building, the front building is called the Hall of Bodhisatava Weituo. In the hall there are three Bodhisatavas: the middle one is Weituo who is in charge of the law of the western sky, the left one is the Charity Buddha Mile, always smiling to people and making them happy. The right one is the Qielan, actually being the incarnation of the great just and brave general Guanyu of the Su Kingdom during the Three Kingdom's Period of China.

The back building is called the Grand Hall in which the statue of Sakamuni is standing. According to legend, originally Sakamuni was the prince of a state of ancient India, he was born in 565BC and died in 486BC. So he had lived for 80 years, he lived in the same time of Confucius who was the founder of Yu family and regarded as the saint of China. Confucius was younger only two years than Sakamuni. It's Sakamuni who created Buddhism. Beside Sakamuni are his two disciples. The left one was called Ananda who was the youngest one of the most famous ten disciples of Sakamuni's, the right one was called Mahakashyapa who was the eldest one of the most famous ten disciples of Sakamuni's. At first, Mahakashyapa was a disciple of Brahmanism another religion of ancient India. With the spreading of Buddhism, he thought Buddhism was more reasonable than Brahmanism, so he transferred to believe in Buddhism and become one disciple of Sakamuni's. It is said, when Sakamuni was alive, there was not copyright record of Buddhism scriptures, people spreaded Buddhism only depending on recitation. After Sakamuni died, in order to spread Buddhism more widely, Mahakashyapa and Ananda held a meeting of Buddhism scripture recitation, among all the disciples of Sakamuni, Ananda was the cleverest, he had a very good memory, he almost recited all the Buddhism scriptures that Sakamuni ever spreaded, so Mahakashyapa asked somebody to make a good record and made these into some books of Buddhism scriptures. This is why we can read Buddhism books today.

In front of the statue of Sakamuni, there is an incense table 3.6 meters long and 0.8 meters wide, the table is a very precious wood-carving of GueiYuan Temple. It was carved by craftsmen according to the famous Chinese classical novel "Pilgrimages to West" written by Wuchenen of Ming Dynasty. One picture shows us that five dragons are playing one precious pearl. The other shows us the following: when the great Monk Xuanzhang and his four disciples got the Buddhism scriptures from the western sky, the emperor Lishiming and his people were welcoming their returning warmly.

At the back of Sakamuni's statue is the wood carving of Guanying, the wood-carving remains well from the building of Gueiyuan Temple to now, it's about 300 years old, later just repainted. It stands at a slant of 30 degrees, so it is very rare all over the world at present. According to legend, in ancient times, there was an kind of big animal in the South China Sea, people called it "Aofish", when it turned over his body, the earthquake would happen and disasters would fall down to people, in order to save people and let people lead a comfortable life, Guanying defeated Aofish and stood on the head of Aofish and made it never turn over it's body. In the wood carving, behind Guanying were the twenty-four gods carrying out the Buddhism law. Beside Guanying stand her two disciples, the right one is named Pupil Shancai who finally became one of Guanying's disciples after learning diligently from fifty-three famous teachers. The left one is named Longnu, the daughter of a dragon prince. It is said, one day, the third prince of the dragon king took a travel in disguise of a carp fish, unfortunately, a fishman netted him and took him to market for selling. Hearing this news, Guanying immediately ordered her disciple Shancai to buy the fish back and put it into sea again. In order to thank Guanying for saving her father, the daughter of the third prince swore to follow Guanying and become her disciple.

The western courtyard consists of the Hall of Four Great Heaven Kings, the Hall of Dizhang and the Hall of Five Hundred Arhats. This is the Hall of Four Great Heaven Kings. According to legend, as Sakamuni was thinking in his royal garden before deciding to leave his home, suddenly the Four Great Heaven Kings appeared in front of him and each carried a hoof of his horse on shoulder to send him out of the capital city, so Sakamuni got a good chance to create Buddhism. Later people built their statues to comemorate them. This is Chiguo Heaven King, he could guard the territory of a country, with the music instrument Pipa in his hands, he was also in charge of heaven's music; This is Zhengzhang Heaven King, with a precious sword in his hands, he could make people become kind and kind; This is Guangmu Heaven King, with a dragon in his hands, he could see clearly all things happening on the earth; This is Duowen Heaven King, with an umbrella in his hands, he could protect the property of people. All of them were also in charge of the weather on earth together.

This is the Hall of Dizhang King, originally Dizhaung King was a korean, his name was Jingqiaoju, later he sailed to China. In Jiuhua mountain of Anhui Province he built his temple and finally became a Bodhisatava in charge of the eighteen stories hells. There is a legend according to Buddhism: "If someone does a lot of good deeds, he will get into heaven to enjoy happiness after he dies, if someone does bad things violating conscience, he will get into the eighteen stories hells to be punished. Beside Dizhang King stand a young boy and an old man. It's said, when Dizhang King came to Jiuhua Mountain, the old man ever support him and his son became Dizhang King's disciple, so the young boy was the son of the old man.

This is the Hall of Five Hundreds Arhats, in the hall, you can tell your fortune by counting Arhats by yourself, because each Arbat has his own appearance, posture, feature and prospect. Getting into the hall, ladies count from the right, and gentlemen count from the left. When you start to count, please take anyone as the No.1, then count according to proper order until your

actual age, the last one will stand for your fortune. You can imagine your fortune according to the appearance of the last Arhat. If the appearance is not good, don't worry about it, if you believe it, it exists, if you don't believe it, it doesn't exist.

This is Guanying with one thousand hands and one thousand eyes, as legend goes, Guanying's father was ill very badly, one night, a god sent a dream to her father, the god said: "one hand and one eye of your daughters can treat your illness, otherwise you will die." On the next day, her father told this to her other two elder sisters, they were not voluntarily to devote their hand and eye. Later Guanying knew this and devoted one hand and one eye to make her father recover. Her kindness was moved by Sakamuni, so Sakamuni presented her one thousand hands and one thousand eyes and made her magic limitless in order to save more people.

## **Hubei Provincial Museum**

Welcome to visit Hubei Provincial Museum! A lot of relics unearthed from the famous ancient tomb of Zenghouyi are exhibited here.

In the summer of 1978, Hubei provincial archaeologists unearthed a huge tomb more than 2400 years old in Suizhou City of Hubei Province about 165 kilometers away from Wuhan City. According to the inscribed characters of many relics, this tomb belonged to Marquis Yi of the Zeng State, one of a host of lesser states during the early Warring States Period of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty. More than 7000 relics were unearthed from this tomb. A number of these relics are rare treasures, the most notable is a complete set of musical instruments, a discovery unprecedented in the history of ancient Chinese music. These relics provide very important research material for the study of the Spring and Autumn (770-476 BC) and Warring States (475-221 BC) Periods of Chinese history.

The more than one thousand items exhibited here are but a representative sample of the goods found in the tomb. They bear witness to the thriving and prosperous history of China's science and culture.

The tomb pit was constructed in the red sand stone of the third Cretaceous period. It measures 21 meters long (east-west), 16.5 meters wide (south-north) and 11 meters deep, with the enclosed area totaling 220 square meters. The pit was subdivided into four huge wooden chambers measuring about 3.5 meters high. The space between the wooden walls and the walls and the walls of the pit was filled with charcoal. The tomb pit was covered with a lot of layers of different materials, from inside to outside they are timbers, thin bamboo matting, silk fabrics, split bamboo netting, charcoal, brown and grey clay, stone blocks and soil.

The four huge wooden chambers are the east chamber, the middle chamber, the west chamber and the north chamber.

In the east chamber, the main coffins of Marquis Yi, eight coffins of sacrificed attendants and one coffin of dog were displayed. The main coffin was made up of the outer coffin and the inner coffin. The outer coffin was made of bronze and wood and weighed more than seven tons when unearthed. This is the first time that this type of bronze framed wooden coffin has been discovered. The inner coffin was made of large planks of wood, instead of nails, carved mortise and tenon joints tightly secure the wood. The inside of the two coffins was painted with plain red lacquer. The surface of the two coffins was painted a lot of pictures including geometric and floral patterns, strange snakes and birds, and weapon-wielding figures.

In the middle chamber, musical instruments, bronze ritual vessels and utensils were displayed, the famous Bian bells were from this chamber. Eight types of musical instruments totaling 124 pieces were unearthed. The instruments include Bian bells, Bianqing stone Chimes,

drums, Se zihers, Qin zithers, Sheng wind pipes, Xiao vertical bamboo flutes and Di bamboo flutes. The variety and number of instruments as well as their refined methods of construction and excellent state of preservation has no parallel in the history of Chinese archaeology and musical studies.

The 32 Bianqing stone Chimes from this tomb are divided into an upper and lower row hanging from a bronze rack. Each row has two groups of stones arranged by graduated sizes within each group. The rack includes two strange long-necked creatures as side supports, on the tops of the two side supports rest two round shafts used as cross beams for hanging the stones. These two cross beams were ornamented with inlaid gold floral patterns, while both ends were adorned with sculpted dragons. When unearthed, most of the 32 limestone Chimes had been previously broken. The stones exhibited here are reproductions. However, the rack is very well preserved, telling us the arrangement and method of hanging stone chimes of that time. The original stones carried inscriptions concerned with musical temperament, the content of which is the same as the inscriptions on the bells.

This is the mallet for striking the stone chimes (original piece after having undergone dehydration conservation).

Bian bells total 65 bells, divided into three kinds, they are Bo bell, Niu bells and Yong bells. Bo bell gives no sound, just for record; Niu bells altogether 19 pieces; Yong bells altogether 45 pieces. The Bo bell carried a thirty-one characters inscription in seal script. Research has revealed that this inscription dates from the 56<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of king Hui of the State of Chu (this date corresponds to 433 BC). The inscriptions states that the Bo bell was presented by King Hui of the Chu State as gift to Marquis Yi of the neighboring state of Zeng. From this evidence we know that the tomb dates from about 2400 years ago (the early Warring States Period) that the tomb owner was Marquis Yi of the State of Zeng. All of the Bian bells were cast from bronze. When unearthed, these bells were hanging in three tiers from a bell rack made of wood and bronze. The largest bell is 153.4 cm tall and weighs 203.6 kg. The complete set of bells weighs more than 2,500 kg.

When excavated, six T-shaped painted wooden mallets and two painted wooden poles were found against the near side of the rack. It is believed that all of these implements were in the giving of a musical performance. All of the bells carry inscriptions related to musical temperament. Each bell can produce two tones, and through much research we have ascertained that the vibration frequency of this set of bells is very close to today's C-major 7-tone scale. The range of its voice is very broad altogether spanning five octaves. The complete tonal change can be modulated, and the timbre is exquisite. Although they had been buried for more than 2400 years, the musical performance of the bells is still very good. Not only can a musical composition of a single melody be performed, but it can also still produce multiple part concerted music using harmonies and polyphonic techniques. Today we can still use them to play a lot of pieces of music.

The bells exhibited here are all original, but the wooden crossbeams, the hanging hooks and the mallets are reproductions.

These are the earliest Paixiao and Di flutes yet discovered in China. The body of each Sheng was made from a dried and lacquered bottle-shaped gourd.

More than 140 bronze ritual vessels and utensils were also unearthed from the middle chamber. These vessels and utensils include Ding cauldrons, food vessels (Gui, Fu, and Dui types). Hu wine vessels, Fou jars, Guan fou wash basins, Zun wine vessels, Dou stemmed bowls, Li cooking tripods with hollow legs, Yan steamers, Pan trays, Yi ladle-shaped water vessels,

boxes, ladles, spoons, a frying stove, charcoal brazier, dust pans and Bingjian wine coolers as well as belt books, paring knives and other utensils.

The overwhelming majority of these bronze vessels and utensils carried the inscription “Made for Marquis Yi of Zeng for his eternal use”. In making these bronze articles, many different methods of manufacture were employed, including:

- (1) single-piece casting;
- (2) piece mold casting;
- (3) a combination of the above two methods;
- (4) soldering techniques;
- (5) the lost wax method.

These pieces represent the combination of all previous bronze casting skills, reflecting the great achievements of the Chinese metallurgists at that time.

These are the nine Ding cauldrons and eight Gui food vessels. Ding and Gui vessels were originally used as cooking utensils and food containers. Their functions later changed and they were considered among the most important ritual vessels. According to the provisions for rituals at that time, only emperors had the right to use the “nine Ding and eight Gui” vessels arrangement. Dukes and princes were only allowed to use the “seven ding and six gui” vessels arrangement. Although the owner of this tomb was marquis ranking well below the emperor, he still chose to use the “nine Ding and eight Gui” vessels arrangement. This phenomenon of overstepping one’s authority reflects a change in society at that time.

In the west chamber, 13 coffins of sacrificed attendants were displayed. So altogether 21 coffins of attendants were excavated from this tomb. When excavated, all of these coffins contained human skeletons. Analysis shows that all of these sacrificed attendants of this tomb were young female maids or performers ranging from 13 to 25 years old. It is evident that they were all innocent victims sacrificed on behalf of the tomb owner, proof that the ruling feudal lords of this period brutally oppressed the working people.

In the north chamber, weapons, inscribed bamboo slips, chariot and harness articles were displayed. The weapons unearthed from this tomb include Ge halberds, Ji halberds, Shu pikes, spears, bows, shields, battle armors and arrow heads, altogether more than 4,500 pieces. Although a few came from the east chamber, most came from the north chamber where they were placed in piles all over the room, thus resembling an ancient armory. More than 240 inscribed bamboo slips were found in the chamber. The inscriptions, written in black ink, are for the most part clear and readable. The total number of characters is about 6,600. The chariot and harness articles from this tomb include axle caps, chariot canopies, decorative ornaments, horse bits and other bridle equipments for the horses. Two of the axle caps are spear head-shaped, their form being quite exceptional. These caps were used to enhance the fighting capability of the war. This type of chariot article has rarely been seen in the past.

Some lacquered vessels and utensils, gold objects, metal spring-shaped objects and jade articles are also unearthed from this tomb. These lacquered wooden boxes named as Hu, used as clothing trunks. The names of the twenty-eight constellations were written in seal-script characters on this box. This is the earliest written record yet discovered in China containing a complete listing of the twenty-eight constellation system. As this tomb dates from the early Warring States Period, this astronomic image offers new evidence for Chinese origin of this twenty-eight constellation theory.

That’s all for my explanation about Hubei Provincial Museum, now let’s go to the concert hall to enjoy the music played with Bian bells and some other music.

## **The Former Site of Wuchang Uprising Hubei Military Government**

Ladies and gentlemen, now let's visit the old site of the Wuchang Uprising Military Government.

The Former Site of Wuchang Uprising Military Government is located at the southern end of Wuhan Yangtze Bridge in Wuchang Town. It consists of the Red Building and the Military Reviewing Square.

On October 10, 1911, the Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sunyatsen broke out in Wuhan City, the uprising troops had occupied the whole Wuhan in a short time, and built the Wuchang Uprising Military Government here, then they announced to do away with the reign of the last feudal Dynasty-Qing Dynasty.

This is the military Reviewing Square. In late Qing Dynasty, a lot of uprisings led by Dr. Sunyatsen broke out in China. In order to save its reign of China, the Qing Government began to learn from western countries and train new troops all over the country. Before this, the old Qing troops were very inferior, they just had some backward weapons such as knife, sword and spear. So the Qing Dynasty armed the new troops with advanced weapons such as gun and bomb to conquer the uprising troops. Originally the square was a place where Qing Dynasty trained its new troops in Hubei Province. Later the Wuchang uprising troops occupied it and used it as their own military reviewing square. Dr. Sunyatsen ever reviewed the uprising troops here.

This is the platform where Huangxin was offered to the chief commander of the Wuchang uprising troops by the governor Liyuanhong of the Wuchang Uprising Military Government.

This is the bronze statue of Dr. Sunyatsen.

This building is also called the Red Building. In order to imitate the western countries' parliaments, the Hubei Government of Qing Dynasty built this building as its parliament in 1909 by the end of Qing Dynasty. But in fact, this kind of structure was quite different with the parliaments of western countries, because it hadn't any authorities, just a shelter of autocratic monarchy of Qing Dynasty in Hubei Province. Later the Wuchang Uprising Troops occupied the building and used it as the site of the Wuchang Military Government. The title was written by Dr. Sunyatsen's wife Songqingling. It is "The Commemorating Hall of the Wuchang Uprising Hubei Military Government."

Now let's come into the building and I will give you a general introduction of the course of the 1911 revolution.

### **Part One: The General Society Situation of Hubei Before the Wuchang Uprising**

After China was defeated by Japan in 1895, Some strong imperialist countries began to fight for their spheres of influence in China.

The situation map described the spheres of influence occupied by imperialist countries in China. On the map different animals stand for different countries:

- 1> The big bear stands for the Russia which occupied a great piece of North China's territory
- 2> The vicious tiger stands for the United Kingdoms of British which almost controlled the whole river basin along the Yangtze River.
- 3> The frog with a big belly stands for France which began to invade Southwest China after it occupied Vietnam.
- 4> This kind of thing shaped like a pile of intestines stands Germany which occupied Shandong Province of China.
- 5> This dark line from Japan to Taiwan shows that Japan had occupied Taiwan.
- 6> The hungary owl stands for America which began to occupy Southeast China after it

occupied Filipines.

7> In addition, on the map, there are a few high official of Qing Dynasty who surrendered to imperialists and depressed Chinese people brutally.

It goes without saying, china was in the crisis of being divided by imperialists.

These are the leased territories which some imperialists forced Qing Dynasty to lease. From east to west, they individually belonged to Britain, Russia, France, Germany and Japan. This is the tablet of leased territory made by France in Wuhan. These imperialist countries established their own police station to protect foreigners' special rights and depress Hubei people brutally. In addition, the imperialist countries controlled the navigation channels of China's rivers and their warship and cargo ships could navigated freely on the Yangtze River.

In order to export their capital, the imperialist countries controlled the economy of Hubei by some means of building banks, factories, shops, etc. in Hubei Province. In the meantime, the imperialist countries established churches in China in order to lull Chinese people. This is the church built by Italy in Gucheng county of Hubei Province.

In 1901, Lihongzhang represented Qing Dynasty to have made an unequal treaty with eleven imperialist countries. The treaty was called "the Treaty 1901". The treaty made China become completely semi-colonial country. The treaty also brought a lot of new disasters to Chinese people. More and more factories went bankrupt, a great number of workers lost their jobs. Almost all peasants couldn't undertake various taxes of Qing Government. All of the crises and sharp classes contradictions made Hubei people aware further.

With the imperialist countries invading into China, some enlightened officials of Qing Dynasty wanted to learn from western countries and make China become strong, they began to create some advanced factories. Among them, Zhangzidong was the deputy, when he was offered the govenor of Hubei and Guangdong, he created a lot of advanced factories such as the Hanyang Iron Factory, the Hubei Arsenal, the Pingxiang Coal Mine and the like. All of these found objectively a substance base for the Wuchang Uprising.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Qing Government began to train new troops in order to save and strengthen its reign of China. Qing Government learned from western countries to train new troops, but all the soldiers joined in the new troops must have a certain education. So their thoughts were very active and advanced. It was easy for them to accept the revolutionary theory. Later most of them became the main force of the Wuchang Uprising.

In 1906, the new troops of Qing Dynasty in Hubei Province were divided into big branches, one was called the Eighth Brigade, the other was called the Twenty-first Brigade. This was Rueicheng- the governor of Huguang. This was the commander of the Eighth brigade Zhangbiao. This was the commander of the Twenty-first Brigade Liyuanhong.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a lot of Chinese began to study abroad particularly in Japan in order to learn advanced techniques to save China. Most of the students studying in Japan from Hubei Province were influenced by Dr. Sunyatsen's democratic revolutionary thought and joined the revolutionary party led by Dr. Sunyatsen. Later most of them became the pioneers of the 1911 Revolution.

## **Part Two: The Preparation of the Wuchang Uprising**

In 1900, Tangchaichang, the deputy of the bourgeois reformism sect, united with other parties and prepared to organize an uprising in August 9. They wanted to support Emperor Guangxi to come back to power through the uprising. At that time, Emperor Guangxi was put house arrest by Emperess Dowager Cixi. Some revolutionists such as Wuluzhen and Fucixiang also joined the uprising. Finally the uprising failed and some of them such as Tangcaichang and

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