Chinese Lacquer of 4th Century B.C. to 2nd Century A.D. in the British Museum

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Chen Chun
Hubei Provincial Museum
About the theme and way of exhibition

◊ The theme of the exhibition is the culture of Chinese lacquer of 4th Century B.C. to 2nd Century A.D.

  · The Warring States Period to Qin & Han Dynasty is the first period of splendid achievement in the history of Chinese lacquer development.
  
  · The main goal of the exhibition is to give the visitor a preliminary impression about the development of lacquer ware in this important period.

◊ Apart from the object display, pictures in the exhibition will give the visitor the better understanding to these objects.

  · All lacquers appeared in the pictures are the unearthed relics from the tombs which had been excavated in China.
  
  · Meanwhile, in the section of food vessel, the music of Chime Bell will be used to let the visitor have a feeling of the spectacle of ZhongMingDingShi (have a meal accompanying with music).
Design of exhibition

Food vessel

Preface
Burial article
Daily appliance
Weapon
With the warm and moist climate, the area of the southern China was suitable to raising lacquer trees and endowed with the conditions for lacquer ware production from the ancient time to the present.

The form of the character shows there are some lacquer liquid exuded from the trunk of tree.

The word of lacquer 漆 written by the Chu character (L) and the Han character (R) on bamboo manuscripts.

The form of the character shows there are some lacquer liquid exuded from the trunk of tree.
Preface

The plentiful underground water in the Southern area and the deep burial of tomb led to the better preservation of lacquers for a long time due to their saturated condition.

Lacquer wares in the chamber of tomb covered with water
Burial article

Painted tomb guardian

According to recent research, it may be played in family as a furniture, not just as service in tomb.
Food vessel

Painted two-handled cups and carved characters

Painted dish

Painted stem-cup

Painted two-handled cups and carved characters
Food vessel

Mawangdui (马王堆)
Han Tomb

Carved picture in bronze pot (四川百花潭)
Food vessel

Set of wine cup, dish & bottles in a case

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Baoshan（包山） Chu Tomb
Daily appliance

Painted toilet box
Daily appliance

Haiqu (海曲) Han tomb in Rizhao (日照), Shandong Province, excavated in 2002

Mawangdui Han Tomb
Weapon

Sword with painted scabbard

Painted sword scabbard and box

Yutaishan Chu tomb
Although only nine objects display in this exhibition, I believe, with the supplement of those unearthed relics from China, it should be able to attract the visitor with the unusual model and vivid designs of Chinese ancient lacquer.

The number of lacquer unearthed in Hubei province was vastly greater than other areas of China. I am looking forward to the more exchange of collections and the better development of relationship between the Hubei Provincial Museum and the British Museum.

All the best to the British Museum!

Thank you very much!