

Brilliant Uncovered:

Excavation of the 7th Century Chinese Crown

Professor YANG Junchang, Northwest Polytechnic University, China

Prof YANG Junchang 杨军昌 is one of the leading scholars in archaeo-metallurgy and conservation in Shaanxi Province. After 20 years' service as a conservation scientist in institutions of archaeology and cultural heritage, Professor Yang joined the Northwest Polytechnic University 西北工业大学 in Xi'an recently, setting up a new department to promote multi-disciplinary research combining material, archaeological and conservation sciences. **in Chinese, with English interpreter**) on Thursday 8 June:

In 2013, mausoleums of the famous Emperor Yang of Sui (隋炀帝) and his wife, the Empress Xiao (萧皇后) were excavated in Yangzhou. Her elaborate and extensively decorated crown was badly preserved and then lifted as a block complete with its piecemeal vignettes in the surrounding deposit. In this talk, Professor Yang Junchang will present the process of micro-examination and analysis of the crown and up-to-date results from the ongoing technical research. A vast range of materials and techniques including gilding, granulation, and inlay had been employed to produce this masterpiece providing significant evidences for the understanding of 7th century Chinese craftsmanship.

Venue: Room 612, UCL Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY