



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

## **Archaeological Research in China 1923-1934**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
IN CHINA  
1923-1934

CHAPTER I: INCEPTION OF OUR WORK.

Initial Phases.

In the autumn of the year 1922 Mr. John E. Lodge, Director of the Freer Gallery of Art, at Washington, and also Curator of Asiatic Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, at Boston, arranged a joint expedition, under the sponsorship of those two institutions, for the prosecution of archaeological research in China. The purpose of the expedition was not to be that of making collections, or even of conducting field-work, upon its own sole responsibility. On the contrary, my instructions were to try to effect with some Chinese scientific body, under the sanction of the Chinese Government, a definite and equitable agreement of the kind so frequently entered into for cooperative work between similar organizations of different Occidental nations. Our effort was to be in the nature of an experiment---an endeavor to ascertain whether the Chinese people were yet ready both to accept such an offer and to do their part toward making it effective.

We spent the winter in necessary preparation, and on February 12, 1923, I left Washington to proceed to Peking. With me was Mr. K.Z. Tung, who had accompanied me during several earlier journeys in China, and of whose great usefulness in the field I thus already had personal knowledge. Our ship reached Shanghai on March 17, 1923.

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