

# Technical investigation and conservation of two unusual offerings from Mongolia

Leslie Gisela Weber  
MCI Conservation Fellow

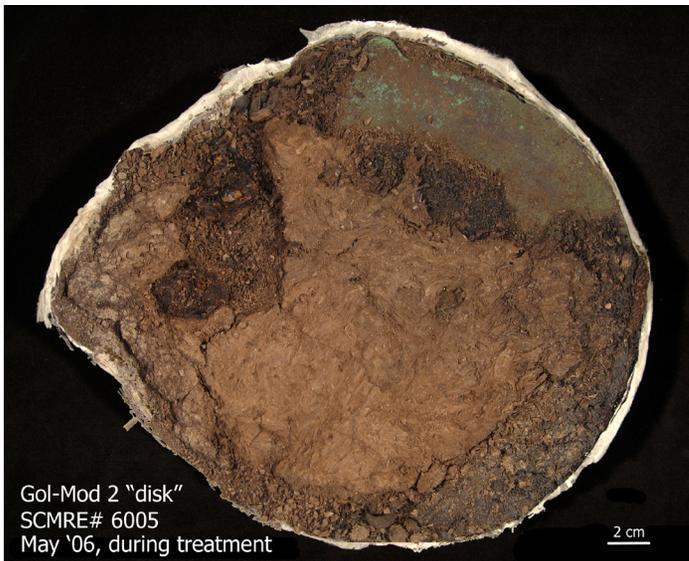
This presentation is an overview of technical study and conservation of two unusual objects excavated in 2005 from a burial in the Xiongnu period cemetery Gol Mod 2 (Mongolia).

The artifacts, a large disk and a small perforated hemisphere, included wrappings of fragile but well-preserved cloth and cordage remains. Following preliminary stabilization by conservators in the field, they were brought to the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute for further conservation and technical investigation. The artifacts' structure and composition were analyzed using several non-invasive techniques.



The information obtained from these analyses and comparative stylistic research has helped to elucidate the function of the artifacts and the possible provenance. As demonstrated by such artifacts, a link between the Xiongnu and more western nomads of Central Asia could have important implications in understanding the relationships among the Eurasian steppes peoples.

In addition, the results of this study provide further insight into Xiongnu material culture both for bronze artifacts and textile production.



MCI  
Topics in  
Museum  
Conservation

10:45am  
October 12, 2006

MCI Theater  
Museum Support  
Center

4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, MD 20746  
301-238-1240



Smithsonian  
Museum Conservation Institute