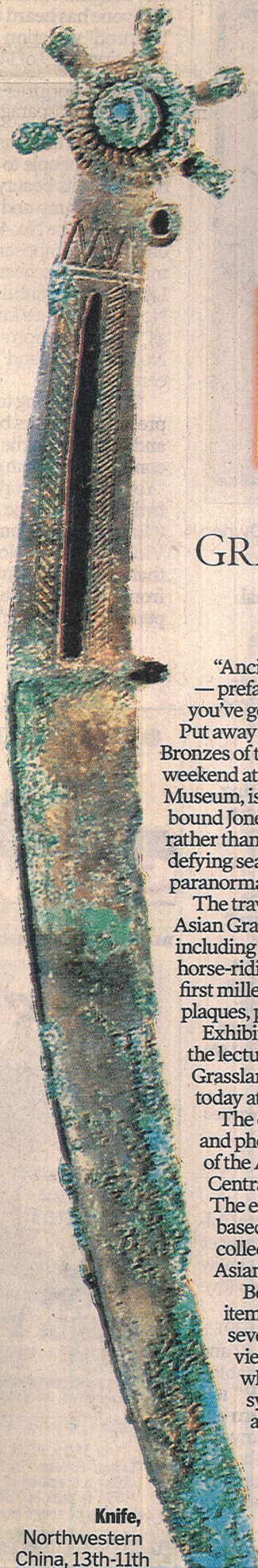


Bronze ornament from Northern China or Inner Mongolia, 5th-3rd century BCE



Knife, Northwestern China, 13th-11th century BCE

BRONZE BEAUTIES

SACKLER TRAVELING EXHIBIT OF ASIAN GRASSLANDS MAKES MCCLUNG MUSEUM STOP

BY DOUG MASON
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"Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands" — preface that with "Indiana Jones and the" and you've got a summer movie blockbuster. Put away the whip, though. The exhibit "Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands," which opened this weekend at the University of Tennessee's McClung Museum, is more the sort of experience the college-bound Jones would present to his archaeology class, rather than one of Indy's globe-trotting, death-defying searches for lost treasures of mythic and paranormal proportions.

The travelling collection "Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands" offers more than 80 works of art, including decorations and equipment, created by the horse-riding steppe dwellers of the late second and first millennia BC. Included are bronze belt buckles, plaques, pendants, ornaments and weapons.

Exhibit curator Trudy Kawami will present the lecture "Ancient Bronzes of the Ancient Grasslands: Who Wore Them and Why?" at 2 p.m. today at the museum.

The exhibit includes text panels, labels, maps and photomurals to explain the nomad culture of the Asian Grassland, which stretched from Central Asia to Mongolia and Northern China. The exhibit was organized by the New York-based Arthur M. Sackler Foundation, whose collection holds more than 1,000 works of Asian art.

Because of the small nature of some of the items in the exhibit, the museum has built seven new display cases that will allow close viewing of the ancient artifacts, many of which are detailed with animal symbols symbolic of tribal association, social rank and the spirit world.

ANCIENT BRONZES OF THE ASIAN GRASSLANDS FROM THE ARTHUR M. SACKLER FOUNDATION

- **When:** Continues through Aug. 3
- **Where:** UT's McClung Museum, 1327 Circle Park Drive
- **Lecture:** "Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands: Who Wore Them and Why," 2 p.m. today. Presented by exhibit curator Trudy Kawami, director of research for the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation.
- **Museum/lecture admission:** Free
- **Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- **Online:** mcclungmuseum.utk.edu, www.arthursacklerfdn.org

Horses and camels are common images because they were "animals that were important on the Silk Route in transportation, east and west," says McClung Director Jefferson Chapman. Also popular were images of stags, wild boars, birds of prey, tigers and bears.

"The dwellers of the steppe region were animal herders, traders, guides and sometimes raiders of the caravans that traveled the Silk Road that connected East and West Asia.

The exhibit, which runs through Aug. 3, continues the McClung Museum's mission to "develop awareness and appreciation of the Earth and its peoples," Chapman says.

"If you went back through our Objects of the Month, to our temporary exhibits, to our permanent exhibits, you would see a pretty extensive exhibit of the world's cultures, both past and present."

The museum's permanent exhibits include "Archaeology & Native Peoples of Tennessee," "Ancient Egypt," "Geology & Fossil History of Tennessee," "The Decorative Experience," "Tennessee Freshwater Mussels," "Human Origins" and "The Civil War in Knoxville."

Doug Mason may be reached at 865-342-6441.

McClung access couldn't be better than now

BY AMY MCRARY

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Here's one of the benefits of summer coming and school closing.

No, not sleeping in. No, not staying up late.

And no, certainly not that summer job you've got to get to afford gas, movies and next year's books.

When it's summer and the University of Tennessee is closed (except for summer school, of course), patrons of the Frank H. McClung Museum get an extra benefit: available parking.

The museum, filled with collections from fossils to decorative porcelain to archeology to Ancient Egypt, is located along Circle Park Drive on the UT campus. Parking is free along the circle.

The circle is a very popular place to park, and it's often almost full to completely filled up during the regular fall and spring semesters. But summer means fewer students, and that translates into more parking spots at Circle Park Drive.

Not only is parking free but so is admission to the museum.

So take a trip down to campus, find a parking space on Circle Park, and head into the museum to see its newest exhibit, "Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands."

"Ancient Bronzes" is a traveling collection of 84 ornate, well-made and richly decorated objects created by people who lived thousands of years ago in the Eurasian grasslands from northern China to central Asia. The objects include weapons, bronze belt buckles, knives and tools.

The owners of the objects were animal herders, nomadic guides and even trade caravan raiders. Their artwork, on everything from their clothing to their horses' gear, often depicted animals.

"Ancient Bronzes" comes from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation in New York and is a collection of what's called "steppe art" from the collection of the late Dr. Sackler. The traveling exhibit is at McClung through Aug. 3.



This finial for a funeral canopy is shaped like a horse and came from southwestern inner Mongolia in the fifth-or-fourth-century BCE (Before Common Era).

'ANCIENT BRONZES OF THE ASIAN GRASSLANDS' FROM THE ARTHUR M. SACKLER FOUNDATION

■ **What:** Ancient objects, often decorated with animal motifs, in latest exhibit at University of Tennessee museum

■ **Where:** Frank H. McClung Museum, 1327 Circle Park Drive, UT

■ **When:** Through Aug. 3; museum hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sundays

■ **Admission:** Free

■ **More information:** The McClung's permanent exhibits include those about archeology and Tennessee's native people, decorative arts, fossils/geology, Ancient Egypt and human origins