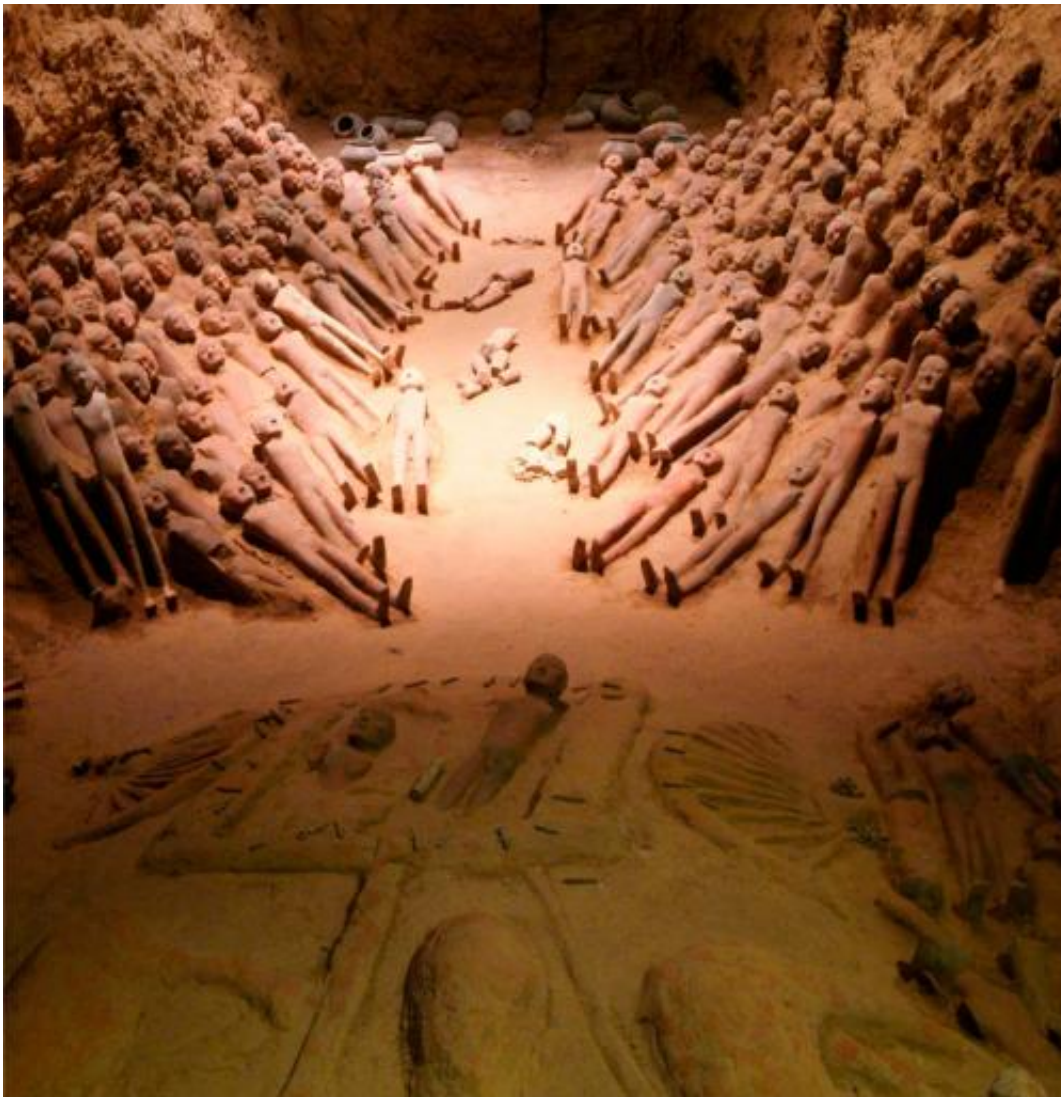


New steps recommended to preserve China's famous Terracotta Warriors and other relics

February 6 2013



Scientists are urging new measures to better preserve such artifacts as China's famed Terracotta Warriors and Horses. Credit: American Chemical Society

The preservation of immovable historic relics displayed in large open spaces like China's world-renowned Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses requires air curtains and other modifications to recreate the primitive environment from which archaeologists excavated the relics. That's the conclusion of a study of environmental control measures for archaeology museums in the People's Republic of China. Their study appears in ACS' journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

ZhaoLin Gu and colleagues point out that environmental factors have deteriorated many of the more than 1,500 unearthed relics in China's Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses, for instance, and in other museums involving large open spaces. The Qin museum covers an area of more than 17,500 square yards, almost three football fields. More than 5 million people visit the museum every year to see the life-size terracotta figures of warriors and [horses](#) uncovered in the mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang, who was born in 259 B.C. and became the first Emperor of all China.

The study recommends new measures to better preserve such artifacts. One, for instance, involves use of an "air curtain" that would blow across the space to separate the figurines in the Qin Museum from the outside environment. The air curtains would keep pollutants and heat away from the inside of the pits. A layer of cool air would also be used in the bottom of the pits to help form a blanket of stagnant air around the [relics](#) for protection from the environment.

More information: Article: ["Primitive Environment Control for Preservation of Pit Relics in Archeology Museums of China."](#)
Environmental Science & Technology.

Provided by American Chemical Society

Citation: New steps recommended to preserve China's famous Terracotta Warriors and other relics (2013, February 6) retrieved 9 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-02-china-famous-terracotta-warriors-relics.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.