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By Wong Siew Ying, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 08 January 2007
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SINGAPORE: It has been called a major archaeological discovery of 20th Century China, and the public will soon be able to catch a glimpse of the ancient treasures at the Asian Civilisation Museum.

"When you go to the exhibition and you see this magnificent mask, you will discover that actually, there were many different civilisations in China 3,000 years ago. So it really challenges us to rethink what we know about Chinese history," said Tan Hui Sm, Deputy Director, Asian Civilisations Museum.

The artifacts are part of some 4,000 items unearthed from two large pits in the Sichuan province in 1986.

Entitled "Mystery Men: Finds from China's Lost Age", they are making their first appearance in South East Asia.

Among the 103 exhibits are larger-than-life bronze masks, gold and jade pieces and turquoise items.

The curator says the discovery of the relics indicated the existence of an early socio-political centre beyond the Yellow River Basin - against common perception.

The exhibition will be open to the public from January 16. - CNA /dt



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