

Although the earliest confirmed falconry activity mentioned in Chinese literature was dated back in East Han dynasty (東漢) in the "Biography of Geng Gong" (耿恭傳 Geng Gong Chuan) in "East Hall Han Record" (東觀漢記 Dong-Guan-Han-Ji around 120-121 AD), the earliest image was the mural excavated (1971) from the tomb of Prince Yide (懿德太子, Li, Chung Yun 李重潤 683年—701 AD) of Tang Dynasty (唐). In the picture we can clearly identify a falcon (probably a dark saker) perched on the young prince's left arm and another falcon rested on the other falconer's right fist, both unhooded. We can also see a central Asian tazi/silk-haired saluki type of sighthound accompanied the two falconers. From this mural, I assume the tazi/saker cooperative hunting style could be dated back at least to around Jesus' time. The founder of Tang Dynasty was a mix of Chinese Han people and the Sibe (鮮卑 Siberia people) tribe. This hunting style might have been introduced into China by their steppe ancestors. This tomb is located near Xian city of China.

This photo was taken when this tomb was just unearthed, unfortunately, the color oxidized after contacted with the atmosphere.

Two photos are below.



Similar sighthound breed can still be found in Shaanxi Provenience of China.



Huisheng Chen, September 2013.