

Research Abstract

This archaeological research focuses mainly on ceramic culture including manufacturing technology, artistic patterns and cultural meanings of the Muang Nan-Ban Tao Hai Jae Liang and the Phayao–Viang Bua kilns during late 12th–13th century AD the period when several ethnic Tai groups settled and dominated their culture in Lan Na and Sukhothai regions. Research results are synthesized as follows :-

(1) It is proved that the Nan and Phayao kiln produced glazed stoneware since late 12th to early 13th century AD contemporaneous to the time of the ethnic Tai domination in Lan Na and Sukhothai regions.

(2) Both kiln sites used cross-draft clay-constructed kiln called Lan Na Kiln type similar to those of the Chaliang (early Sisatchanalai) and Sankamphaeng kilns and unlike to kiln and ceramic technology of neither in Old Khmer nor in China.

(3) Phayao kiln manufactured green glazed bowls and plates bearing decoration motifs representing cosmological model and wheel of law accompanied with auspicious zoomorphic and spiral motifs at centre.

(4) Muang Nan kiln at the same time, manufactured unglazed and glazed stoneware jar bearing bands of wavy line motifs representing cosmological model and wheel of law which was used as cremation urns. Coarse green glazed bowls and plates similar in shape to ceramics of Phayao kiln were also made at Muang Nan kiln.

(5) It is hypothesized that the ethnic Tai groups and their cultural neighbours organized and managed the production of ceramics both at Muang Nan and Phayao as at the Chaliang kiln (early Sisatchanalai) and Sankamphaeng kiln.

(6) Consumers of ceramic products should be all ethnic groups who belief in ancestralism, animism, naturalism, assimilating with Bhuddism, Hinduism and Taoism living in the Great Mae Khong Sub-region.