

## (N) CERAMICS

In the past, Thailand is considered to be the territory that there were variety highly of cultured tribes, cities and kingdom for over 2,000 years ago. The evidences that support this hypothesis are those ceramics that was found in different areas of monuments in Thailand. Some were utensils used in daily life while some were burial artifacts. The potters which are categorized and dated by archaeological methods are: prehistoric pottery; Dvaravati pottery; pottery of the south or Srivijaya pottery; Lopburi ceramic; Sangkhalok ware; pottery of the north or Lanna pottery; Bencharong wares; Lai Nam Thong ware; Chinese ceramic and Annamese ceramic. Although, the latter two are not made on Thai soil but many of them had been found in different ancient sites. Therefore, they could be useful for the dating procedure of those sites.

### CERAMICS IN THAILAND

In Thailand, Making the potteries is considered to important things for living in ancient times. The potters made potteries professionally since prehistoric times. Moreover, some of them are being displayed in this hall. Making wares in Thailand, in ancient times, we always make in type of pottery. However, we changed making from pottery to glazed ceramics afterwards because of Chinese people who started to settle down in Thailand in that period. There are many types of pottery and glazed ceramics that were found in different areas in Thailand such as; in Dvaravati period, jar with stamped designs, smooth pots and pouring vessels or in Lopburi period, the brown glazed jar. The production of ceramics that are well known is Sukhothai ceramics in Sukhothai period because there are many ceramics which are exported to many countries such as; Philippines and Indonesia. Whereas the productions of Bencharong are exported to China and we had got influence “Bencharong” from China too. Anyway, some of potters are trying to revive their ancestor’s techniques. Among the exhibition in this Hall (N) ceramics, most of ceramics are imported from China and Vietnam.

### BENCHARONG AND LAI NAM THONG

Among the Chinese export wares are painted on porcelains including blue and white porcelains, Bencharong and Lai Nam Thong wares.

Bencharong wares were produced exclusively for the Thai market during the Ayutthaya period and throughout the nineteenth century. These wares made according to Thai designs and specifications and was produced under the supervision of thai craftman. The Lai Nam Thong wares were introduced after the fall of Ayutthaya and became popular during the reign of the King Rama II of the Chakri Dynasty. The type of porcelain used in the execution of these wares as well as their shapes decorative patterns and used closely relates them to the Bencharong wares.

The best of Bencharong and Lai Nam Thong pieces were made for the Thai Royal Household and high ranking members of the nobility while all of the Lai Nam Thong was reserved for royalty.



Bencharong and Lai Nam Thong

## CHINESE CERAMICS

Chinese ceramics have always been found in many archaeological sites of Thailand. Sometimes, other artifacts were also discovered such as; jade earrings, bronze mirrors in the northeast area, kuanyin votive tablets and a green jar in Songkhla which could be traced back to Han and Tang dynasty. However, these artifacts cannot be made real archaeological evidences because they were not found from an excavation. Therefore, the exact layers are not yet know. Nevertheless, at lease, these discovered artifacts could prove that Thailand has had a relationship with China Sinco no later than the Han and Tang dynasty. Chinese ceramics which were commonly found in different sites could be categorized by each period as follow:

A: Dvaravadi archaeological sites: Ching-Pai ceramics of the northern sung dynasty;

B: Srivijaya archaeological sites or sites in the south: Ching-Pai ceramics, celadon wares long Quan, Yue wares and ceramics of Yuan dynasty, blue and white of Ming dynasty only in the continuously flourished sites

C: Lopburi archaeological sites: Ching-Pai wares, Long Quan and Kien-Yang or Tien-Mu ceramics found at the same time as life wares and glazed ceramics of Lopburi period.

D: Lanna and Sukhothai Archaeological and Historical sites: Ceramics of Yuan dynasty, blue and white ceramics and five colored enamels. These artifacts were found on the ground and in many important crypts such as; in Chiangmai and in Tak, ceramics found in this area were evidently the offering that Lanna people given to the Buddha, proving by the traditional way of covering each ceramic by the lacquer and gilt.



Chinese ceramics



Painted Enamel covers jar  
Chinese art: Ching dynasty 1644-1912 A.D.



Glazed Monochrome jar: Chinese art



Metal Vase: Chinese art



Chinese blue and white fragments: Ming dynasty: 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.



1. Fragment of stupa, Sangalok: Ban Pa Yang kilnsite, Srisachanalai district Sukhothai, Sukhothai period, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.
2. Fragment of Guardian



Sepulchral figures: Chinese, Tang dynasty 618-907 A.D.



Unglazed Earthenware reddish body: central Thailand kilnsite, Ayutthaya period