

CHINESE CERAMICS TRADE IN ANCIENT SILK ROUTE (Late Tang Dynasty to the Song Dynasty)

A.K. Rangika Madhumali

P.R. Asanka Buddikasiri

Former Graduate Apprentice at Department of National Museum, Sri Lanka,
BA (sp) Archaeology in University of Kelaniya, MA (Specialized Archaeology)
Sichuan University in China.

rangikathilakarathna8@gmail.com/ rangikam@kln.ac.lk

Graduate Apprentice at Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka, BA (sp)
Archaeology in University of Kelaniya, MA (Specialized Archaeology) Sichuan
University in China.

asanka.buddikasiri8@gmail.com/ asankab@kln.ac.lk

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චීන පිඟන් මැටි බඳුන් පෙරඅපරදේදිග සමුද්‍ර වෙළඳාමේ ප්‍රධාන භාණ්ඩයක් මෙන්ම සුබෝපබෝධී භාණ්ඩයක් ලෙස සැලකේ. විදේශ වෙළඳාම් කටයුතු සඳහා විශේෂයෙන්ම සාදන ලද චීන සෙරමික් අපනයනය නව වන සියවසේ සිට ආරම්භ වූ අතර එය දහතුන් වන සියවසේ සිට විශාල වශයෙන් වර්ධනය විය. මෙම පර්යේෂණ පත්‍රිකාවේ අරමුණ වනුයේ පැරණි සේද මාවත හරහා පැවති චීන පිඟන් මැටි බඳුන් (සෙරමික්) වෙළඳාම පිළිබඳව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමය. ඉන්දියන් සාගරයේ අවට ඇති ප්‍රධාන වරාය ස්ථාන සහ නැව් සුන්බුන් ආශ්‍රිත පූර්ව පර්යේෂණ ඔස්සේ මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ දත්ත රැස්කරනු ලැබේ. එහි දී විශේෂ අවධානයක් යොමු වූයේ සේද මාවතේ ප්‍රධාන ස්ථාන කෙරෙහිය. මෙහි දී තහවුරු වන ප්‍රධාන කරුණ වනුයේ එනම් සුන්බුන් සහ එහි භාණ්ඩවල පුරාවිද්‍යාත්මක ශක්‍යතාව අනුව තත්ත්ව රාජවංශයේ (Thang) අගභාගයේ සිට සොන් (Song) රාජවංශයේ දක්වා සොයාගත් විශාලතම සහ වඩාත් සවිස්තරාත්මක චීන මැටි පිඟන් භාණ්ඩ එකතුව හෙළිදරව් වී ඇත. විශේෂයෙන්ම මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ඔස්සේ මූලික වශයෙන් චීනයේ සිට මැදපෙරදිග දක්වා පිහිටි සේද මාවතේ වැදගත් සංදිස්ථාන ආශ්‍රිතව හමු වූ සාධක අනුව චීන පිඟන් මැටි බඳුන් දැඩි ඉල්ලුමක් පැවති භාණ්ඩයක් ලෙසත් හඳුනාගත හැකිය. එමෙන්ම මෙහි දී චීන පිඟන් මැටි බඳුන් වර්ගවල වෙළඳම ද පිළිබිඹු වේ.

ප්‍රමුඛ පද : චීන පිඟන් මැටි බඳුන්, රාජවංශය, වරාය, වෙළඳමා, සේද මාවත

Introduction

During the late Tang Dynasty to the Song Dynasty with high technical achievements, the porcelain handicraft industry developed and spread overseas, and the use of ceramic wares among the common folks was widespread. With a deluge of a great number of merchants sailing from the Middle East to China to try their fortune and look for valuable goods for trade, the Chinese ceramic wares were also exported continuously by sea to countries in Southeast Asia and West Asia. The opening of the maritime route from ports located in South China to the Middle East in the Tang Dynasty provided a channel for the export of the Chinese ceramic overseas during that time. The sea route from Basra to Guangzhou was over 6000 miles in length (John; 2018; P12-50). It should be stressed that West Asian merchants were not alone in their commercial endeavours. From the Han into the early Tang, China's most important sea trade was with the states of Southeast Asia (John; 2018; P12-50). According to Wang Gungwu (王赓武), by the mid-eighth century, a transition was underway in which the Kunlun merchants were giving way to Persians and Arabs with their long-distance trade, a change that became fully apparent in the ninth century (Wang;2011; P109–120) By the ninth century, the knowledge of how to accomplish this lengthy voyage was sufficiently widespread to result in descriptions of the route in both Chinese and Arabic. In his “One Route to Foreign Countries across the Sea from Guangzhou” (Guangzhou tong haiyi dao 廣州通海夷道) from 801, the statesman and geographer Jia Dan 賈耽 (729–805) provided a highly accurate sailing itinerary from Guangzhou to Baghdad, not only with the primary route past Sumatra and Ceylon and on to the Persian Gulf, Basra and Baghdad, but also providing alternate routes through Southeast Asian waters, and a further route skirting the Arabian Peninsula and going down to the north-eastern coast of Africa (欧阳修等;1975) In the Tang and Five Dynasties are the exoduses of Chinese ceramic wares to countries oversee reached the highest point. The export wares include the Yue ware from Yue kiln, White porcelain from Xing, Ding and Gongyi kiln, Changsha ware from Changsha kiln, Sancai ware from Gongyi kiln, green splashed ware from Xing, Gongyi kiln and Guangdong storage jar from Guangdong. This investigation marked the reputation and overwhelmingly acceptance of the Chinese ceramic wares all over the world.

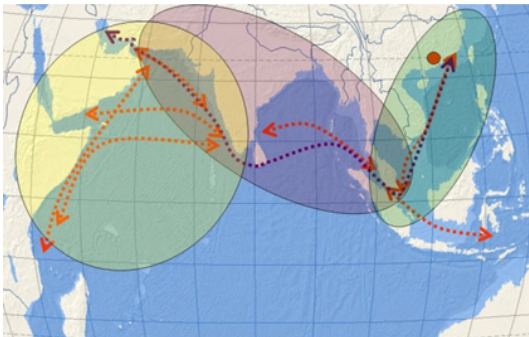


Fig.1. Map of three trading circles in the region from South China Sea to Indian Ocean.

Source: <https://doi.org/10.4000/oceanin-dien.1379>

Chinese ceramics found in Southeast Asia

The trade between the seventh and tenth centuries AD also saw the large-scale export of Chinese ceramics for the first time in history as well as the transition from the export of ware to that of predominantly higher-fired and glazed stoneware ceramics. Three main types of stoneware ceramics were predominantly exported from China in this period: “Changsha” (长沙), Yue, and Xing (邢) ceramics. Changsha ceramics – eponymously named after the ancient city in the southern Chinese province of Hunan (湖南) – have been found across various sites in both Mainland and Island Southeast Asia, especially at southern Thailand, the Malay Peninsula and central Java (Miksic;2009; P70-99) Changsha ceramics were produced at several major kiln complexes about 25–30 km north of the city, and characteristically incorporated a wide variety of forms that included bowls, plates, bottles, vases, handled ewers, rounded bowls, boxes, jars, lamps, and basins; Changsha ceramics in the form of kendis were also reportedly produced and found at various central Javanese sites. Also characteristic to Changsha ceramics are the polychrome iron brown and copper green colours typically applied as stylized, pictorial, or calligraphic painted decorations as well as in combination with a variety of appliqué, impressed and stamped motifs. The quantity of Changsha ceramics exported from China in this period was so large that their fragments still “litter the beach” at the site of Laem Pho on the eastern side of the Isthmus of Kra (Miksic;2009; P70-99) Yue ceramics are similarly distributed across various archaeological sites in Southeast Asia, especially in southern China, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The Belitung Shipwreck

The well-preserved Belitung wreck (also known as the ‘Tang’ or ‘Batu Hitam’ shipwreck) was discovered by fishermen in 1998 in the Java Sea between Sumatra and Borneo. The earliest shipwreck found that carried Chinese trade ware ceramics in substantial quantities is the Belitung shipwreck. Excavations and salvage were carried out in 1998 and 1999 by a Germany private archaeological company (Flecker;2010; P100–119.).

The majority of the cargo (98 percent) comprised of Chinese glazed ceramics (that represent the major types of wares produced during the ninth century): Changsha wares from Hunan province, Yue wares possibly from Zhejiang provinces, white Porcelain and green-splashed wares possibly from Northern province in China and Storage green wares from Guangdong province. Most of them are mainly the Changsha ceramics (60,000 pieces, mostly bowls). The majority of the ceramics consisted of Changsha bowls that were produced in the kilns of Tongguan, in the Hunan province. These wares were made during the latter part of the Tang Dynasty (618–906 AD), with the earliest piece bearing

an inscription, ‘the third year of Kaicheng’, which is the equivalent to 838 AD. The nine Chinese characters decorating one of the Changsha bowls have been interpreted as ‘the 16th day of the 7th month of the 2nd year (“宝历二年七月十六日”) of the reign of Emperor Jingzong’. Another bowl has three Chinese characters which interpret as ‘the year 826’ (Flecker;2001; P344).



Fig.2 Tang Shipwreck exhibition, Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore

This ship provides very strong archaeological evidence for direct trade between the Western Indian Ocean and China during the latter part of the first millennium, proving early Chinese and Arabic texts that mention the direct trade between China and the East.

The copper and iron decorated Changsha ceramics were recovered and comprises of mostly bowls that were packed neatly on board in both straw containers and large, green-glazed storage jars possibly from the Yue kilns; Changsha ewers, jar lets, as well as other vessel forms were also found in the cargo. Celadon round and square dishes, vases, lug handled basins, bowls were also recovered, as well as medium to large-sized jars which aside from being used as storage for Changsha bowls, were also found to contain lead ingots and star anise as well. The remaining Chinese ceramic cargo included white Xing and Gongxian ceramics, white ceramics with green splashed decorations hypothesized to be also produced by the Xing and Gongxian kilns as well as the earliest blue-and white ceramics produced by the Chinese. The discovery of the three Tang blue-and white ceramics in the Belitung cargo is significant not only because they represent the earliest production of this Chinese ceramic typology but also because they are the first complete examples of Tang blue-and-white ceramics to have been recovered.



Fig. 3. Left: Belitung shipwreck green-splashed stoneware cups.

Middle: Belitung shipwreck stoneware jars.

Right: Belitung shipwreck Changsha bowls.

The Cirebon Shipwreck

Chinese trade ceramics, the bulk of the surviving freight of the Cirebon ship, are a well-known import found in many sites throughout the Malay Archipelago and the Indian Ocean. The "Cirebon" shipwreck is a shipwreck with a huge cargo load. The wreck was located about 100 nautical miles from the sea off Cirebon, Indonesia. It was later than the "Black Stone" in the 10th century. In 2001, local fishermen found clues to the shipwreck and reported it to the Indonesian Heritage Department. Recorded by the National Commission, the investigation, preparation, and excavation work were concentrated in 2003 - 2005 (Adi Agung Tirtamarta; 2007; P151-154). The find is regarded as one of the most important discoveries in Southeast Asian history in recent years.



Fig.4. Five dynasties Yue and Ding ware Cirebon shipwreck Java Sea.

Approximately 500,000 pieces consisted mostly of Chinese ceramics

dated to the Five Dynasties period, along with Near East and Indian glassware, gemstones (sapphires and rubies), a pair of gold daggers, utilitarian and ceremonial objects, and other raw materials. The ceramic inventory consisted of Yue bowls, plates and dishes, white wares, porcelain jars, vases, basins, boxes, and ewers. Artifacts from China not only include more than 300000 pieces of ceramics from different origins, but also a large number of silver ingots, copper coins, Southern Han Dynasty cast lead coins, bronze mirrors, lacquer ware, etc. Among them, the largest proportion is Yue Kiln celadon and a small number of white porcelains from Anhui and Henan kilns (辛光灿 ;2019;P8-32).

Port of Laem Pho in Thailand

Laem Pho is an archaeological site located on the east coast of the Isthmus of Thailand. Back in 1982 to 1983, the Fine Arts Department of Thailand established the first project of survey and excavation on Laem Pho after the discovery of many ceramic shards around 5 square kilometres on the beach and shallow seabed of the headland (Khemchati:1984). Many fragments of Chinese ceramics and Middle East wares were discovered (Bronson;1996; P3181-200). The Chinese ceramics belong to the last century of the Tang Dynasty (800-900 A.D.), especially Changsha bowl with an Arabic character of the Islamic name of God, Allah. Middle East wares were found to be both ceramics and glass forms.



Fig.5 Various types of Tang ceramics recovered from Laem Pho. Chaiya National Museum

All the Chinese ceramic shards dated to the Tang Dynasty were categorized into at least five types, consisting of unglazed, white glazed, green glazed, underglaze brown and green, and brown sprayed wares, that were produced at Xing kilns in Hebei, Changsha and Gongyi kilns in Henan, Yue kilns in Zhejiang, Fengkai, Xinhui, Meixian and other kilns in Guangdong, all produced in the first half of the 9th century. A very few Persian blue glazed wares were also found that archaeologist suggested were probably produced in the eastern region of Persia around the early 9th century (Dhanmanonda; 2012; p.1-2/ Tharapong; 2004; P1-11).

The port of Laem Pho was one destination of Tang ceramics supplied by maritime trade routes to which the Belitung and Phnom Surin ships used to travel before they sank. All the above evidence also supports the idea of trade relations, especially in the 9th century, between the Tang Dynasty and Srivijaya Kingdom, including the varieties of products and cultures, maritime trade routes, trans-peninsular routes and the locations of inland cities and ports for contacts with the kingdoms in the Middle East, India, China and Southeast Asia through the Malay Peninsula, which lay between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean (Bronson;1996; P3181-200).

Chinese ceramics found in South Asia

The finds of Chinese export porcelain in Southeast Asia and the West, as noted above, show that during 9th-10th centuries, there were many ports on the coast of China engaged in maritime trade. The most important ports for export trade in this period were: Yangzhou, Mingzhou, Fuzhou and Guangzhou. However, these ports were not necessarily involved in exporting commodities directly to all destinations, and there were a number of entrepôts in the Indian Ocean trading circle. Cargo from ports in China could be transported firstly to these entrepôts and then loaded onto ships coming from other parts of the Indian Ocean for onward shipping.

Thus, Chinese ceramic began to spread throughout the world in the Tang Dynasty. The ceramics produced in the northern and southern parts of china were assembled at the Guangdong port for international trade. These assembled ceramic travelled from Southeast Asia to Central Asia and then to Arabia. During the late Tang Dynasty to the Song Dynasty, a large number of Chinese ceramic were exported.

Chinese ceramic fragments have survived at archaeological sites in Mantai (Sri Lanka), Sanjan (India) and Banbhore (Pakistan). Māntai Port is a unique place on the Indian Ocean. Centrally located on the Maritime Silk Road, Māntai port has become a centre of exchange for goods to the West and East.

Māntai Port in Sri Lanka

Māntai port site is one of the most famous ancient ports in the Indian Ocean. Māntai port is located on the Northwest coast of Sri Lanka. Excavations at Māntai have been conducted in 1886, 1907, 1926-28, 1950-1951, 1957, 1970, 1980-1984, 2009-2010 and 2018-2019. Evidence indicates that the port consisted of a fairly large settlement extending to about 8 hectares during the initial period up to about the fourth century A.D. The buildings in this phase had been wattle and daub constructions. But after about the fourth century A. D. they had been constructed with stronger materials such as bricks and stones (Siriweera;2003;

P117-126.). From this period onwards, the port had functioned as the central turn table of the Indian Oceanic trade. Especially, Māntai archaeological works in the last centuries have been given the most magnificent results (Carswell;2013; P231-267).

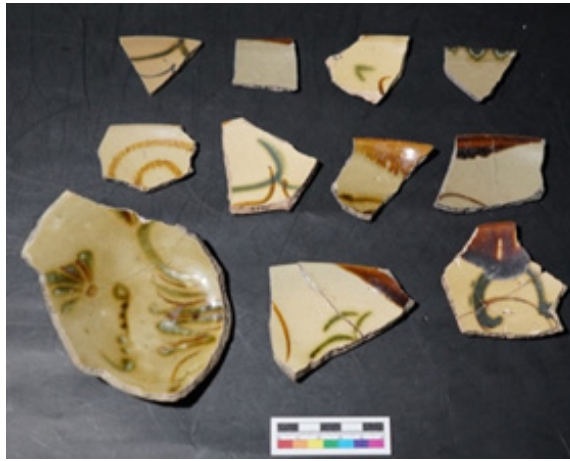


Fig.6. Chengsha Ceramic - Māntai Excavation 1980/84

This excavation was a systematic and largest excavation of Māntai, which began in the after 1980. The excavation began in three phases. They are 1980, 1982 and 1984. In this research has been given a more detail of Chinese ceramics and ware type. There are numerous examples of Yue stoneware, Tang white ware, cream-colored porcelain, Changsha ware, Dusun storage jars and other type stoneware. It is highly possible that the material recovered from Māntai will be found to include the earliest Chinese warty that reached Sri Lanka. Most of the Chinese material has been stored in the Archaeological Department at Anuradhapura. As Sancai was long believed never to have been exported from China its occurrence at Māntai, along with a bowl fragment from the 1984 season, refutes this view (Carswell;2013; P231-267).

Sanjan (Gujarat), India

The Sanjan site was excavated over a period of three years from 2002 to 2004. The principals of the project were Dr Homi Dhalla and later Dr Mani Kamerkar. The Director of the Indian Archaeological Society New Delhi and co-Directore was Dr. Kurush Dalal, Mumbai (Rukshana;2011; P80-87). The archaeological evidence suggests that during the earlier period of the settlement, Sanjan was probably involved more with coastal trading and had some limited contact with the foreign markets. It is likely that the contact may not have been direct initially and that it gradually developed until the trade with ports across the ocean become a mainstay of the settlement. The traded goods in this initial stage appear to be items other than ceramics (Rukshana;2011; P80-87).



Fig.7. Changsha fragment from Sajan in India

A considerable number of Chinese ceramics are represented in the Sanjan collection. Although quantitatively less prominent in the Sanjan Collection, they are of great relevance in understanding the dynamics of the trans-oceanic trade between West Asia and the Far East. However, it was in the 8th century and after that Chinese ceramic took precedence over silk, paper and other perishable goods which used to be the staple items of export (Rukshana;2011; P80-87.). Only one base Changsha shard has been found at Sanjan. As well as, Yue ware, Guangdong Storage jar and White ware ceramics have been found in here, but only several pieces of shards.

Pakistan – Banbhore site

Banbhore is situated on the northern bank of Gharo creek, about 65 kilometres (40 mi) east of Karachi in the Thatta District of Sindh, Pakistan. Banbhore is the present name for an early port of importance on a branch of the Indus River, in the Sind region of Pakistan. Following early excavations on a limited scale by Henry Cousens (1929), N.G. Majumdar (1931) and in 1951 by Leslie Alcock, systematic excavations were started in 1958 under the direction of Dr. F.A. Khan and continued each year until 1965 (Khan;1969)

The imported Chinese porcelain, celadon and stone wares as discovered at Banbhore mostly came through the sea trade. The presence of Chinese pottery of Tang period (618-906) and of a later date attest to a flourishing trade with Sindh during the ninth and tenth centuries, a time range confirmed by the numismatic evidence found in association with other imported pottery at Banbhore. It is significant that the blue painted porcelain of the Ming dynasty is absent at Banbhore indicating that the city had ceased to exist or had lost its importance after twelfth century CE. The Chinese imported pottery in Sindh consists of white porcelain, olive-green glazed stone wares that have a slightly grey body, the celadon wares and painted stone wares (Mohammad; 2012; P332-341).



Fig.8. Chinese Ceramic from Bandhore.

Chinese ceramics found in Western Indian Ocean

The beginning from the Tang Dynasty (ca. AD 618-907), linkages between East Africa and China became more regular. The continuous occurrence of Chinese trade ceramics in dateable archaeological contexts at several key sites in East Africa from the Tang through Qing Dynasties (ca. AD 618-1912) points to a long, productive relationship between China and East Africa. Although Chinese ceramics might have sporadically reached the Middle East in earlier periods, regular trade seems to increase around the beginning of the 9th century, with ships sailing between the China Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Many Chinese ceramic fragments have survived at archaeological sites in East Africa. Mapping the itinerary through which they were distributed on the coast and entered the hinterlands may offer the most promising perspective to grasp the mechanism of exchanges in this very region. Indeed, evidence from the Kenya coast demonstrates that East Africa was one of the final destinations for the earliest Chinese ceramics traded by sea to the West. This proves that, in the balance of the earliest Indian Ocean long-distance trade, Chinese ceramics were considered among the most desirable exotic goods along with textiles and glass beads, and exchangeable for numerous East African commodities that were highly sought after in Egypt, Persia and China.

Siraf Port in Iran

Siraf was a major port city during the early Islamic period. Previously occupied by the Sasanians, it lay at the centre of a maritime exchange network that reached most parts of the Indian Ocean world during the 8th to 10th centuries (Whitehouse;1973; P29–49).

Extensive excavations took place between the 1966 and 1973 under the direction of David Whitehouse on behalf of the British Institute of Persian Studies. This work produced vast quantities of finds, including over three million

pieces of pottery and ceramic. All of the Chinese ceramic shards dated to the Tang Dynasty were categorized into at least five types, consisting of unglazed, white glazed, green glazed, underglaze brown and green, and brown sprayed wares, that were produced at Xing kilns in Hebei, Changsha and Gongyi kilns in Henan, Yue kilns in Zhejiang, Fengkai, Xinhui, Meixian and other kilns in Guangdong, all produced in the first half of the 9th to 10th century (Tampoe M;1989).



Fig.9. Yue ware excavated in Iran, Siraf

Coastal region in Kenya

The East African coast also known as Swahili coast, it is a 20-200 km wide strip of land over 3000 km long, that extends from Mogadishu in Somalia to the north and south to Mozambique to the south. Population growth and economic prosperity, leading to the growth of numerous stone towns between the tenth and sixteenth centuries, was instigated by the expansion of the interregional commerce in the Indian Ocean basin, as well as the South China Sea and the Far East (秦大树 2017,P171-174). The continuous occurrence of Chinese trade ceramics in dateable archaeological contexts at these key East African archaeological sites like Manda, Shanga, pate, and Gedi in Kenya, Kilwa, Songo Mnara, and Unguja Ukuu in Tanzania among many more, from the Tang through Qing Dynasties (ca. AD 618-1908) points to a long, productive relationship between China and East Africa. Trade ceramics recovered in East Africa usually include Islamic ware and glazed ceramics, Chinese ware and porcelain, Indonesian and Thai porcelain, and Indian unglazed pottery. Chinese ceramics exported to the East Africa coast is mainly from different kiln complexes in south China as well as some few kilns from northern China. During the late Tang dynasty and during the Song dynasty the Chinese ceramics exported to East Africa came from both Northern China and southern China kiln complexes.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce of China, the joint archaeological team of Peking University and the National Museum of Kenya (lead by Professor Qin Dashu) made three archaeological investigations between

2010 and 2013 on Chinese ceramics discovered by other scholars from earlier archaeological excavations or surveys in 37 ancient sites or archaeological contexts (such as a shipwreck) in the coastal areas of Kenya. These include some well-known Swahili ruins such as the Fort Jesus ruins (built by the Portuguese in 1593, and occupied by them until 1698) in Mombasa, Gedi Ruin in Malindi, Shanga site in Pate Island, and Manda in Manda Island, etc. At the same time, a small number of Chinese ceramics with unknown discovery sites were also studied, which were housed in three museums including the Fort Jesus Museum in Mombasa, the Lamu Museum and the Gedi Museum (秦大树 2017, P171-174). A total of 9,552 Chinese ceramic fragments (or restored pieces) were thus identified and investigated. In addition, the team also carried out the China-Kenya Cooperative Overland Archaeological Excavation Project during the three years, and a total of 1,060 Chinese ceramic fragments were unearthed and investigated. Furthermore, the project also covered a small number of ceramics finds that had been produced in Japan or Southeast Asia. Altogether, 10,612 pieces of Chinese ceramics were investigated over the three-year period (秦大树 2017, P171-174).

According to the statistical research on the origin and era of Chinese porcelain unearthed in the coastal areas of Kenya, it can be seen that the sales of Chinese porcelain in the Indian Ocean region from the Tang Dynasty to the mid-South Song Dynasty (9th and 12th centuries) are relatively small and can be regarded as a low tide period. The number of Chinese porcelains discovered has increased again from the late Tang Dynasty (Zhao;2015; P6-10); especially the output of the Yuan Dynasty is the most prominent (秦大树 2017,P171-174).



Fig.10.Changsha shard, 9th century China; excavated in Shanga site, Kenya

Chinese ceramic Trade (Late Tang Dynasty to the Song Dynasty)

Among the commodities on the Silk Road, Chinese ceramics are introduced as a luxury good. Thus, Chinese ceramic began to spread throughout the world in the Tang Dynasty. The ceramics produced in the northern and southern parts of china were assembled at the Guangdong port for international trade. This

assembled ceramic travelled from Southeast Asia to Central Asia and then to Arabia. During the late Tang Dynasty to the Song Dynasty, a large number of Chinese ceramic were exported. The remains of the disseminated Chinese ceramics are still found in many countries.

From the point of view of the whole Maritime Silk Road, we can see that China's Yue ware, white porcelain and Changsha ware and ewer have been unearthed or exported successively in Māntai port as well as Belitung Shipwreck, Cirebon Shipwreck, Port of Laem Pho and Ko Kho Khao in Thailand, Muara Jambi in Sumatra, Sanjan, Bandhore, Nishapur and Siraf port in Iran, Samarra in Iraq, Fustat in Egypt and other places, which shows that China's ceramic reputation is well-known. As early as the Tang Dynasty, it has been drifting across the sea and gaining global prestige. As well as the port of Māntai can be identified as the center of the ceramic trade in Silk Route and can be identified as a gathering place of Chinese traders and Arabic traders.

Changsha wares have been reported for sites all along the ceramic trade routes going from China to West Asia. The numbers are always small, but the presence of these wares is significant considering that they were some of the earliest Chinese wares to be traded along with Yue and white wares of the kind found at Samarra. While a number of archaeological sites in West Asia and East Africa have recorded Changsha ware, one of the largest and most significant finds has been the discovery of the shipwreck off the island of Belitung in the waters of the java sea. The Guangdong Storage jars appear to have been containers for the Changsha bowls and other wares. Whitehouse discusses the Chinese ceramics from Siraf and dates them to the first quarter of the 9th century on the basis of their recovery from the Great Mosque. Changsha ceramics which he calls “painted stoneware”. As well as, Changsha ceramics (Bowl and Ewer) have been found in Māntai, Cirebon Shipwreck, Port of Laem Pho and Ko Kho Khao in Thailand, Muara Jambi in Sumatra, Sanjan, Bandhore, Nishapur, Manda, Shanga in Kenya and, Fustat in Egypt. At most sites, the dating of this ware does not go beyond the middle of the 9th century. The Yue ware was one of the earliest Chinese imports in West Asia and at other sites of the Indian Ocean trade network. It occurs at Samarra, Siraf, Fusta, Bandhore, Laem Pho, Sanjan, Shanga. The Yue base shades of a bowl from Māntai are almost an exact copy from other sites.

Guangdong storage ware shards have been found at sites all along the coastline of the Indian Ocean, indicative of the great demand for these for Eastern wares. These vessels were not only items of trade but were also containers for other trade goods of a more perishable or fragile nature. This is borne out by the cargo of the Belitung shipwreck. As well Guangdong jars as one of the earliest exported ceramic in the Persian Gulf region. Shards of Guangdong along with other ware such as Changsha bowls with glaze removed from the interior have

been founds in the Siraf. As well as Guangdong ware have been found in Cirebon Shipwreck, Port of Laem Pho and Ko Kho Khao in Thailand, Muara Jambi in Sumatra, Sanjan, Bandhore, Nishapur, Samara, Manda, Shanga in Kenya and Fustat in Egypt (Table.5.4).

Ceramic has been reported from almost all sites in the Indian Ocean littoral attesting to the great demand in the international market for this Chinese commodity. That a large part of the maritime trade was driven by the demand for specialty ceramic is clear from the far-flung regions which report them. From the West Indian Ocean to China, the demand for Chinese ceramic appears to have been high during the late Tang dynasty to the Song Dynasty (8th-11th century A.D.). The Chinese ceramic trade route stretched from the Southern Chinese coast through the Malacca straits or the Isthmus of Kra to Sri Lanka and the West coast of India to the Persian Gulf the red sea and the coast of East Africa. It is not surprising to find that Chinese ceramic have been reported from sites all along this route.

Summery

During the Tang and Song dynasties, Chinese ceramics were exported to many countries, not only with a large variety and quantity, but also with a variety of shapes, beautiful flower patterns, and crystal enamels, which was deeply loved by foreign people. Its export area covers East Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Arab and Africa, the range of communication is very wide. The ceramic production centers were in the North and South part of China. They are Yue ware - Yue kiln site in Zhejiang Province, Changsha ware and Changsha ewer- Changsha kiln (Tongguan kiln) in Hunan Province, Guangdong Storage jars, basin, and other ware – Guangdong kiln in Guangdong Province, White porcelain – Xing and Ding kiln in Hebei Province and Gongyi kiln (Baihe) in Henan Province, White porcelain with green splashed ware – Xing kiln in Hebei Province and Gongyi kiln (Baihe) in Henan Province, and Sancai Ware – Gongyi kiln (Huangye) in Henan Province. With the rise of the international trade in Chinese ceramic in the late Tang Dynasty, the ceramic spread from the East to West. This has been confirmed by archaeological research, especially in the East and West port and shipwreck. Among the products belonging to the late Tang Dynasty to early North Song Dynasty, we can identify some of the products that were in high demand international trade.

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