

**STUDY ON TERRACOTTA OBJECTS AND
EARTHENWARE FROM SRI KSETRA**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

Ancient structures are ones of the most important evidences to study the cultures of the past. Bricks and terracotta plaques have been used to build and decorate structures since protohistoric time. Raw material of bricks and terracotta plaques is clay. Clay can be obtained abundantly. By firing clay, terracotta objects and earthenware have been produced since ancient time. Earthenware has been used for storing food and drink, for ceremonial and religious purposes and also for decorating houses, palaces and shrines. Archaeological evidences from Stone Age, Iron Age, protohistoric period and historic period are uncovered throughout Myanmar. These archaeological evidences reveal that different cultures, which were belonged to prehistoric period, protohistoric period and historic period had flourished in Myanmar. Archaeological excavations have been carried out in Sri Ksetra since 1907 and totally sixty-seven archaeological sites were excavated until 2023-2024. Among these archaeological sites, Sri Ksetra is one of the interesting archaeological site in Myanmar because it is the largest Pyu ancient city. Archaeological evidences testify that Buddhism had flourished in Sri Ksetra but Hinduism had also flourished in Sri Ksetra. Buddhist religious monuments are still stand in Sri Ksetra and there might be countless number of archaeological evidences, which one related to Buddhism in the ground of Sri Ksetra. In modern archaeology, terracotta objects and earthenware play a vital role to investigate the human past. Potteries and decoration on them reflect environmental condition, social status and religious and beliefs of ancient people. They also reflect the artistic ideas and skills of potters. Terracotta objects and earthenware can provide not only relative dating but also absolute dating of terracotta objects and earthenware can be obtained. Therefore, terracotta objects and earthenware play an important role in archaeology to reveal past human activities and scientific dating.

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