

THE ROLE OF EARTHENWARE IN BAGAN

PhD (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

Pottery is major find in most archeological sites especially Neolithic Period onwards. Pottery is used for multiple functions, therefore, has played an important part in human history. In Myanmar, the earliest evidences of pottery are found before Neolithic Period. From that time onwards, pottery has been used in different cultures and even present day. In the long history ceramic tradition of Myanmar, so many turning points have been taken place. The different cultural pattern can be found out by tracing form, style and decoration of pottery because they provide important chronological indicator. In Myanmar, like other parts of the world, each culture has its own style of pottery. Comparative study of the pottery from different cultures shows that each culture has its own characteristic forms and styles. The changes of form and style of the pottery are based on belief, religion and social life style of people. According to the historical documents and archaeological evidence, there were so many cultural relationships between Pyu and Bagan Period. The chance and excavated finds of earthenwares from these two cultures reveal that there are some culture distinctive and overlapped pattern. However, except some simple earthenwares of Pyu Period, most of the pottery types of Bagan Period are greatly different from those of Pyu Period. Potters of Bagan Period invented the different types of earthenware vessels to suit for different purpose and purposes. Even they made varieties of earthenware vessels for single purpose. They applied their artistic skill extensively on the subject of pottery decorations. These earthenwares were used not only for domestic purposes but also for religious and ritual affairs. Therefore, the role of earthenware had played in essential role in Bagan Period.