

MATERIAL CULTURE OF HALIN

Ph D (DISSERTATION)

THA TUN MAUNG

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF YANGON

MYANMAR

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ABSTRACT

Halin left behind evidence of beliefs, technology and artifacts of Stone, Bronze and Iron age which are worth treasuring having fascinating historical and archaeological value. There are now sufficient radiocarbon dates for Halin to suggest that it was functioning from the early centuries CE. This Dissertation, Material culture of Halin, spotlights the study of stone tools, pottery and coins brought to light from Halin. Apart from potsherds, the stone implement is the most obvious feature of private collections. Stone implements uncovered from both explorations and inhumation burials with stone implements brought to light from stratigraphical context of the excavations of HL26 and 29 suggest the existence of Neolithic culture at Halin. Some of the stone implements are similar to those of other southeast Asian region such as Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Yunnan, Assam, Bengal and Bihar. The earthenware pots of Halin resemble and are common to those of Bronze, so called transactional (Samon), and Pyu cultural sites. The significance feature is that they were produced by both hand forming and wheel throwing methods. Most of them are undecorated. Nine types of coins from Halin come up with enlightening subjects. Among them type two (Srivatsa/rising sun) is the most common, wide spread and enduring artifacts. The find spots of silver coins indicate the existence of trading centers which may be connected by land and sea routes across the mainland Southeast Asia or Bay of Bengal or Indian Ocean. The material culture of Halin ensure the possibility of Halin as a successive cultural site or had cultural continuity with widespread trade/exchange relationships since Neolithic period. But fuller picture can be confirmed by getting scientific dates for relevant sites and further scientific methods and studies.