

Ceramic Trade Network around Taiwan Straits and the Galleon Trade

台灣海峽周邊的陶瓷貿易網絡與大帆船貿易

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Taiwan Straits connected the East China Sea with the South China Sea. The surrounding of Taiwan Straits was important area in the sea trade of Asia. In the 16th century European nations arrived at East Asia to trade directly with East Asia. At first Portuguese established a permanent settlement in Macau in the middle of 16th century and they built it as the base of their Asian trade. On the other hand, Spaniards constructed their city and fortress, Intramuros in Manila, the Philippines in 1571, and they started the Galleon trade between Asia and America. The galleon ships took on cargos of Asian goods such as silk and porcelain and transported from Manila to Acapulco. This Galleon trade route between Manila and Acapulco had functioned until the early of the 19th century.

And the role of Taiwan was very important for the Galleon trade under the sea ban order that prohibited maritime activities in the second half of 17th century. In those days official trade was prohibited or limited by Qing Dynasty. But Koxinga (Zheng Chenggong), who wanted to restore the Ming Dynasty, transformed Taiwan into a military base and trade base. So the merchant in the surrounding of Taiwan Straits brought goods of China and Japan into Manila via Taiwan. And some part of them were carried to the America by the Galleon ships. Taiwan was indispensable to maintain the Galleon trade under the sea ban order by Qing Dynasty.

Recently, the excavations have been carried out in various cities related to the Galleon trade. And the situations have been clarified. At first I will compare the situations of ceramics excavated from sites around Taiwan Straits, Manila and Mexico. Then I would like to think about ceramic trade network, including the Galleon trade, and about the role of Taiwan at that time.