

## The Peinan Site and the Prehistoric Cultures

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Over one hundred years since the discovery of the Pei-nan site, locating at N22°47'10", E121°06'48", there lay the site of ancient settlement, which was the biggest among all along the right side of Pei-nan river, with slate menhirs set up as landmark.

Relevant information regarding the Pei-nan site have been issued gradually including writings during Japanese occupation period, when the community at the site was viewed as old society, also photographs and simple literary publications on investigation reports. Around year 1929, when the investigation period of the Pei-nan site started, Kano progressively publicized the research results of the Pei-nan site in the east coast investigation reports. Year 1945, beside the biggest unearthed stone pillar, Kanaseki and Kokubu wrote the earliest excavation report of the Pei-nan site.

After decades, the following excavations including: (1) Salvage Excavation at the Pei-nan Site around the New Railway Station Area of Tai-tung (1980-1988). (2) The Trial Excavation at "Pei-nan Cultural Park" of the Pei-nan site (1990-1993). (3) The excavation for slate coffins in 1993. (4) The Exhibition on the Archaeological excavation at the Pei-nan Site (1996-2012). (5) The excavation for iron age culture remains (2002)

Hitherto after discovery, with surveys done for years, excavation bearing bunches of fruits, the researchers gradually ascertain the Pei-nan site was the one of a large community, and possibly was the biggest burial site all around the pacific area.

The chronological excavations at Pei-nan site yielded quite a few kinds of relics among which the representative objects are to be introduced here. At the Pei-nan site, there are culture layers from Neolithic, including cord-impressed pottery culture and Pei-nan culture, to Iron age, including “San Her culture”. Due to unearthened materials are not even, the following introduction will be chiefly about the Pei-nan culture with a glance at the Iron age culture.

There are long term archaeological works at the Pei-nan site. The field works are the foundation of the further processes including site protection, researches, relics preservation and display. With dense relics such as the Pei-nan site, the works would be even harder.