

# The Peinan Site and the Prehistoric Cultures

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## Introduction

“The Potential Locality as The World Cultural Heritage in Taiwan —Referential Materials of the Pei-nan Site” is a project entrusted by the Council for Cultural Affairs, prepared to promote the Pei-nan site as a potential locality as the world cultural heritage in Taiwan.

The main purpose of the project is to orderly arrange the records and literatures related to the Pei-nan site, which works are brought forth in different time phases after the discovering of the site, so the discovery and the relevant archaeological works are both of the basic referential materials.

Included in this report, there are three parts, among which the part one is the introduction of the Pei-nan site generally describing the archaeological works brought out in different time phases after the discovery of the Pei-nan site, also the present situation of the protection of the relics uncovered from the site; part two is to give a brief picture of the relics excavated including, timely, the Pei-nan culture and the newly discovered culture of iron age with artifacts mostly consist of stone (nephrite) and pottery objects; part three is about writing materials relating to the site. All literature materials available are listed in this report and archives are set up for the research works and thesis

In this report, all narrations of the archaeological works in different time phases were written with references to the relevant reports. The introduction words are simplified without bringing in all available materials, so please refer to the records and literatures to understand the archaeological works of different time phases in detail.

## Part I. Conspectus of the archaeological works and research at the Pei-nan Site

### 1. The Discovery of the Pei-nan Site

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. Near to the site ,there were tribes of Amis and Puma . One of the stone pillars was first photographed by a Japanese scholar Torii,L. in year 1896, when reaching eastern Taiwan for anthropological survey. In year 1914, the temporal Taiwanese habit study society belonging to the Governor of Occupation published a report of Taiwanese aborigines studies with that slate menhir shown. Taking the tribal legend of Pei-nan and Amis, the slate menhir was called by the scholar, "The stone menhir of Amis old society."

The Pei-nan tribesmen living close to there think the site was the place of residence for the ancestors of Amis, some time in history, the village was abandoned, left behind because of natural disaster taking place, with only the stone menhirs staying. So the site was viewed as a taboo, not permitted to enter for any tribesman. During the time under the Japanese governing, without influence by the aboriginal taboo, the Han people from Tainan established Gwo-been farm on the site, then the stone pillars gradually became less as time went on with the paces of development, at last a mere one was left to become the symbol of the Pei-nan site.

Hitherto after discovery, with surveys done for years, excavation bearing bunches of fruits, then the researches 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.

## 2. The Early Investigations and Excavations at the Pei-nan Site

The early investigations and excavation works at the Pei-nan site were mostly pointing to the stone pillars, aiming at investigating their functions. Important researchers doing surveys and excavations such as Kano , a Japanese scholar of the 1930's, and Kanaseki and Kokubu, both Japanese in year 1945. Kano was the first one doing the investigation at the Pei-nan site, starting year 1929 to 1937, reaching

the site ten times to conduct investigations.( Sung,W.S., translator.1955:96) The results of investigation published after 1930, such as writings entitled “the Sites of Megalithic Culture on the East Coast of Taiwan” and relevant works, inferred the stone menhirs were used in the old society as pillars supporting the houses.

In year 1945, Kanaseki and Kokubu excavated beside the tallest slate menhir at the Pei-nan site, where Gwo-been farm situated with the Wang’s residence closely built on the south of the menhir. From the excavation, the unearthed was inferred to be a side wall of a house, gravel stones were shop related, the building construction was of slate, laid from northeast and southwest, with length of 15m, width of 4.2 m to 4.3m. Besides, uncovered from there were pottery objects and stone objects. This find from excavation was the first time proving the slate menhirs were related to the housing construction.

### 3. Salvage Excavation at the Pei-nan Site around the New Railway Station Area of Tai-tung

In year 1980, the new Tai-tung Station of Railway was constructing , the construction had made a great amount of slate slab coffins emerging from the ground surface. From 1980 to 1988, the Ministry of Interior, also including both of the Government of Taiwan Province and the Tai-tung County, together with the Ministry of Education budgeted entrusting to Wen-shun Sung and Chaw-mei Lien, both professors of National Taiwan University, proceeding to do archaeological emergent rescuing around the new railway station. The area of excavation was about 10000 sq.m. uncovering the contents of livelihood layers and burial layer. From the former, 50 spots contained construction relics, and more than ten thousand pottery and stone implements of daily usages. From the burial layer, 1,500 slate slab coffins, and more than ten thousand pieces of pottery and stone (nephrite) burial offering objects were unearthed too, demonstrating the abundant cultural relics.

From year 1983 to 1984, to the southeast of the slate pillar, there was an area of 6000 m<sup>2</sup>, never excavated before, then on proceeding to construct sewage and mud sliding barrier. The railway constructive

section asked the Tai-tung government for help to dispose of the prehistoric relics. Without budget to entrust the work to any scholastic body, the supervisor, Duen-shann Wu, of rites and customs section belonging to bureau of public affairs, dealt the work with little expenditure. Within that 6000 sq.m., 473 slate slab coffins and more than 3000 pieces of burial offering objects were found.

#### 4. The Trial Excavation at “Pei-nan Cultural Park” of the Pei-nan Site

The excavation work at Pei-nan cultural park of the Pei-nan site was divided in two phases. Decided by the Ministry of Education, the first phase was to establish a “National Museum of Pre-histry”, then, in year 1988, to entrust to Wen-shiun Sung and Chaw-mei Lien, both professors of department of archaeology, National Taiwan University, to do trial excavation at the park area on purpose of providing references for designing the museum.

The trial excavation resulted fifteen 2 sqm. pits, and uncovered pottery objects, stone objects, and construction remains, slate slab coffins. The important result was that a slate slab coffin , found in the east boundary of the park, with three kinds of nephrite burial offerings preserved inside. The first was a tuba- shaped bracelet, the second was 102 pieces of bell-shaped beads, the third was 28 pieces of small tubular beads, while the first two burial offering objects were rare kinds found from Pei-nan site. That showed the east border of the park was an area with dense relics and coffins buried with abundant burial offering objects .

The second phase was after year 1990 when “National Museum of Pre-histoy” was initially built. By that time, to build the Museum near Kang-leh railway station was already decided, while the original building location would become a park of the relic site. Simplifying the facilities in the park, the biggest building is the travelers’ service center. In order to understand whether the facilities of the park would affect the deposits of the site, archaeologists of the planning bureau of the museum proceeded to do trial excavations, the works from 1992 to 1993, including the base of vistors’ service center, the archaeological site, parking lot, the road of 25m in width.

Besides, in year 1996, when observatory were set at the Pei-nan Cultural park, three stone plate coffins were excavated. That was known when the writings and records were being arranged in order, so

coffins were duplicated for displaying purpose.

### 5. The excavation in 1993

In year 1993, there were farmers plowing their private lands in the area of the Pei-nan site, then unearthing slate slab coffins and relics. The land damaged by digging is at the protected area situated in the east of Pei-nan park, 250m south there lay the Wang's residence, on the east is 30m distant from the west side of the new railway station. The total damaged area was the cavity about 700 sqm, rectangular shape, 1 to 2 m. in depth. The occurrence of the event brought the attention of the Ministry of Interior to entrust planning bureau of the museum proceeding for disposition.

The work from the end of 1993 till the beginning of year 1994 was to clear out those unearthed slate slab coffins, not to enlarge the scale of excavation. Totally clearing out 35 slate slab coffins, 891 pieces of nephrite burial offerings, 1 burial accompanied pottery jar, and 3659 pieces of small tubular beads. After clearing out the slate slab coffins, the cavities were laid with cloths then filled with river sands and stones(Li Kuen-shiou 1994).

### 6. The Exhibition on the Archaeological excavation at the Pei-nan Site

Demonstrating the archaeological excavation at the Pei-nan site is an important display of the Pei-nan cultural park. Since the beginning of the preparation for building the museum, the choosing of a suitable location to dig a deep pit at the Pei-nan site was planned aiming to show the procedure and method of archaeological excavation work, also to exhibit and investigate the cultural strata of the Pei-nan site. Hence the prerequisite of a suitable location is a place with standard cultural strata for display and investigation, but after several trial excavations, no place in the park suitable for exhibition was found. Then an ideal location should be on the east side of the park that is with dense relics. On the east of the eastern border of the park, a place with road planned, situated in the Pei-nan site with dense relics, was a proper place with required conditions. Therefore, starting year 1995, borrowing the planned road was proposed to the government of Tai-tung county to prop up a huge shelter of steel bar, to scheme pits for the excavation and display of archaeological affairs.

The archaeological shelter was a steel scaffold with mat awnings, of 40m and 25m, length and width respectively, area of 1000 sqm., surrounded by a steel fence to ward off winds and rains, so that workers and visitors could work or visit in a stable environment, at the same time, it protected the site and the unearthed relics from being damaged by the nature and human forces. Since the shelter was located at the Pei-nan site with dense relics, so the shelter was not set on an underground base, but tented with mat awnings being locked on between steel frameworks sitting on enlarged cement base. The space in the shelter was divided into three sections, the excavation, operation and visitation.

The excavation work of the archaeological shelter started at the end of year 1996, because it aimed to display archaeological excavation technique and the collecting of the Pei-nan site materials, also the preview of the preservative work of the site, so the excavation work is still proceeding.

## 7. The Protective work of the Pei-nan Site

As regard the protection of the Pei-nan site, there are two facets, one is the site protection, and the other is relics' protection. The site protection was related to the assignment of mounment, and relics' protection was affected by the Law of cultural heritage preservation .

During the Japanese occupation, after the discovering and reporting of the Pei-nan site, it was concluded to be pre-historic ancient relics. On year 1975, the Tai-tung county government appointed it as local mounment, then on 1979, it was temporarily appointed third class ancient relics by the Ministry of Interior. Starting 1980, on the Pei-nan site, several salvage excavations had been done to manifest the importance of its prehistoric relics and prehistoric culture. After reviewing and examining, in year 1988, the Ministry of Interior announced the Pei-nan site as first class ancient monument, with area of 706 sqm around the mere moon-shape slate menhir was under protection however.

In year 1984, the Law of cultural heritage preservation became effective, the Ministry of Education was made supervisory department of relics and artifacts, responsible for taking care of them. After the

salvage excavation on the area of the Pei-nan site around new railway station, a great deal of unearthed relics needed preservation and maintenance. "In the initial excavation, so moved by the abundant deposits and the enthusiasm of the public, the archaeologists reported to the local government suggesting to set up an "Outdoors Museum" to reach the twofold purpose, actual preservation and display." (Chaw-mei Lien & Wen-shiun, Sung 1989:1) In year 1986, the Ministry of Education set up a planning group proceeding to establish a museum, till 1990, it was taken over by the planning bureau of national museum of prehistory to undertake the work.

To clarify the area of Pei-nan site is always the goal of the researchers' concern and effort, but after the designation of the site to be first class, the area and the extent of protection of the Pei-nan site, which original research nature has to be added on with the administrative nature then, making it an even more difficult problem that will affect the relevant facility in the museum.

Year 1990, the first supervisor of planning bureau of NMP, professor Chaw-mei Lien, after integrating the results from the salvage excavation on the area of the new railway station, and the trial excavation on Pei-nan cultural park, suggested to the Ministry of Interior to extend the area of the Pei-nan site, first class monument, to 90 hectares including the area prepared for the establishment of NMP. After the acceptance of the motion, to avoid damaging the ancient monument caused by constructing big building, another 10.66 hectares of land was found from Feng-leh Farm, belonging to Taiwan Sugar Corporation, to be the site of the NMP.

During the time of preparation, to clarify the protective area of the first class monument, the Pei-nan site, there was still an item driving effort of the supervisory Ministry. Today, there was three sections at the Pei-nan site that controlled by the government, one is 5000sq.m that surrounding the slate menhir, another 18 hectares of land for the Pei-nan cultural park, and the third one was a 6000 sqm., east end of a road plan, situated beyond the Pei-nan cultural park (where the archaeological shelter sat).

The 18 hectares of land was initially set apart by the Tai-tung county government for the administrative use of NMP. The 6000 sqm on the east of the Pei-nan cultural park, an outreaching road plan, was a piece of land appropriated by the government from the site with

dense relics not excavated, which in year 1995, the Tai-tung county government lent to the NMP for setting up archaeological shelter to display and manifest the actual excavation work in live.

Situated at the Pei-nan site near to new railway station, the slate menhir area, excavated during the salvage period, recently by the Tai-tung county government, was entrusted the NMP to administer and enhance the facilities to further beautifying the landscape, so it was linked with the Pei-nan cultural park. Other than the above, the Pei-nan site containing another 50 hectares of land, densely depositing relics, were private properties.

The visitors' center, another major facility in the Pei-nan cultural park, displayed relics from Pei-nan site and the content of Pei-nan culture, also displayed simulation of the unearthing of slate slab coffins in year 1993 and the peelings of culture strata from the site.

For the purpose of preserving the relics from Pei-nan site, the NMP was established beside the Kang-leh railway station, opened to the public on Aug 17, 2002, consisting of a main building and an additional park. The function of the museum is to provide conservation, research, and display of the Pei-nan site relics and culture, allow extent to other unearthed Taiwan prehistoric relics, and the existing aboriginal material cultures. The exhibitions, on the aspect of environment adaption, display the material cultures in Taiwan from Paleolithic age to now , also including the peripheral cultures.

## Part II. Relics and Cultures at the Pei-nan Site

### 1. Neolithic remains at the Peinan site

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 unearthed materials are not even, the following introduction will be chiefly about the Pei-nan culture with a glance at the Iron age culture.

#### 1. 1. Slate Menhir at the Pei-nan Site

Slate menhir or stone upright are visible objects above ground at



the Pei-nan site. In the period of Japanese occupation, quite a lot of stone uprights were reported seen, however due to their conditions were different, objective statistics were hard to find. According to the observation from Kano, the width of the stone uprights were always facing to a definite direction, almost lining up to a straight line, pointing to north east(NE) and south west(SW), with holes on the upper part of the column. “The biggest is about 4.85m, 2.12m, and 15cm, respectively in height, width, and thickness, with two round holes close to the top, and sculptured circle pattern of 40cm diameter. Besides, plenty of shorter slate columns set were considered to be pillars of buildings.” (Kano 1952:144)

Usually in rectangular shape, the mere existent stone upright under protection symbolizing the Pei-nan site is deformed, causing the incompleteness of the round hole, so it is called “semimoon-shaped stone upright.”

## 1.2. Building Constructure Remnants at the Pei-nan Site

The Pei-nan site was a big community site preserving a good deal of constructional remnants probably used by the residents in different age periods for thousands of years. So, the remnants are mostly slanting making their age periods difficult to be identified.

Excavating beside the big stone upright in year 1945, the work of two Japanese scholars showed that the stone upright could be a part of a sidewall belonging to a house. Recently, the archaeological shelter is still unearthened with building constructions considered to be Pei-nan cultural relics of late age according to relevant excavated relics. Inferring from the building constructions, the then residences were built to approximately rectangular shape, lining up in rows, with the long wall set along north east (NE), while the short wall facing Du-lan hill. The foundation of wall was built of gravel stones piling in lines, possibly divided by slate slabs inside. From the building constructions of the archaeological shelter, no large stone upright has been discovered yet.

The interior area of the buildings might not be large. This inference is arising from the archaeological shelter unearthened with a housing unit of interior area of about 50sqm, which was half underground, laying with slate floor inside, the exterior gravel stone walkway slightly higher than the interior, outside drainage running from north to south according to the topography of the land.

### 1.3. Slate Slab Coffins at the Pei-nan Site

The existing great amount of slate slab coffins at the Pei-nan site, since the salvage excavation on the area of the new railway station started, including the unearthed but not from archaeological work and those from the trial excavation on the base of Pei-nan park, about 2000 are found. The Pei-nan site slate slab coffins were made up by constructing slate slabs, with the long axis roughly laid along northeast and southwest direction, and those deceased facing Du-lan hill. Slate slab coffins were used for burying adults, children or even new born babies.

Slate slab coffins manifested the burial customs and sense of value. From the coffins, but not every one, a great deal of burial offering objects was uncovered including tools for daily live, more popular ones were ornaments made of nephrite, lots of nephrite artifacts or potteries accompanying the deceased person in burial if died in rich. The delicate relics of Pei-nan site were mostly uncovered from the slate slab coffins which became the most important relics and phenomena as well.

There were four important types of slate slab coffins from Pei-nan site consisting of the Pei-nan type, Yan-wan type, “Ⅱ” type, and head coffin type. The Pei-nan type is in box shape, made up by joining six slate slabs, structural trait is two long side slabs with two short side slabs standing in between. The Yan-wan type is also a rectangular box, with side and cover slabs made up by joining multiple small slate slabs. The Ⅱ type is similar to Pei-nan type, always excepting the two long side slabs standing between the two short ones. The head coffin type is a slate slab coffin made to protect the head of the deceased. The Pei-nan type was the major type, totaling about 90% among all slate slab coffins yielded from Pei-nan site, with the most typified structure (ideal type) of six slate slabs put together to form a box. A more tasteful coffin would have tenon and mortise on the slate slabs for locking purpose, possibly because huge rocks were rare, so most of the long side slabs, cover and bottom slabs were made up by joining two (or more) slabs together causing some variations.(for detail, ref. Sung & Lien, 1985)

The slate slab coffins of Pei-nan site are burial, and are basically one coffin per deceased, that is, single body burial, with the deceased face up, stretching limbs, heading south while legs pointing north, the same posture for both adults and children. Later development showed multiple bodied coffin, however the postures of the deceased stayed the same as the single body burials.

The uncovered burial accompanied objects from slate slab coffins of Pei-nan site, included three object classifications of nephrite, stone, and pottery, among which the nephrite objects were the most in number. There consist of kinds of bell shaped head ornaments, square shaped earrings, round plate earrings, nephrite stems with two feed-throughs, nephrite tubular beads (beads), nephrite adzes, arrowheads, hair pins. Among stone objects, there were less slate made wristlets, round plate earrings, etc.. Pottery objects contained vessels, spindles, and tubular beads.

#### 1.4. Burial Offerings at the Pei-nan Site

The burial accompanied stone (nephrite) objects unearthed from the slate slab coffins of Pei-nan site include ornaments, tools, weapons. Among these three, ornaments and tools were mostly made of nephrite, as to the weapons, excluding jade objects, consisted of more stone objects made of slate. Most of the nephrite artifacts were burial offering objects uncovered from slate slab coffins, only little portion was from the layer of livelihood. Those burial accompanied nephrite objects, especially the ornaments, usually were kept up better conditions with higher degree of completeness. According to the forms and functions, the burial accompanied stone (nephrite ) objects can be mainly separated into the following kinds:

(1.) Ornaments: Ornaments were usually used on the human upper body, if according to the parts of human body they were used on, they could be classified into ornaments of head, ear, neck (chest), arm (wrist). The small nephrite bell was the only head ornament dressed on hair, there were various fashions for other ornaments.

Earrings were the most in both numbers and forms, among which round plate with an open and round plate with four nipple juts were the biggest portion, other variations such as wing shape, rectangular shape, square shape, especially “Beast on two men”, formation of men and beast is the most special one.

The neck (chest) ornaments made of nephrite were in tubular and

stem forms with different sizes. The cross-sections of the tubular nephrite ornaments could be in round and square shape, while the stem ones contained cross-sections in round, square and rectangular shapes. The tubular (stem) form could be as short as several centimeters, and as long as over 20cm, but up to 30cm for the round shape ones. The nephrite ornaments in tubular (stem) form used as necklaces or on breast were inferred, but the way of wearing it is still awaiting further study. Besides, a lot of tubular beads with length about 0.5cm were probably nephrite beads sewed on clothes.

The arm (wrist) ornaments contained slate thin armlets, and nephrite armlets of thick or in tuba shape, with the tuba shape armlets very little in quantity but manifesting the beauty of a three dimensional body.

(2.) Tools: There were tools including axes, hoes, adzes, and chisels. Among burial offering tools, axes and hoes were rarely found from layer of livelihood. Adzes and chisels were made rectangular shape with few close to square, sizes and width of the edges varied.

(3.) Weapons (Hunting): Consisting of spears, arrowheads, fully cutting edged sharp tools with shapes of tablet, sword, willow-leaf (kuei), but the spears and arrowheads are similar to those excavated from layer of livelihood, however the fully cutting edged sharp tools of those special shapes seldom found from layer of livelihood showed the complication of cultural factors.

Part of the tools and weapons (hunting tools) were wore out, while some were refinished, the implements with best sharp edge were possibly produced for the purpose of ritual using instead of actual utilization.

## 1.5.Exemplification of Stone Objects from Livelihood Level at Pei-nan Site

Including daily live usage and livelihood tools, stone objects of livelihood layer at the Pei-nan site had a few varieties in forms and kinds. Rare stone net sinkers or any relics related to ocean resources found manifested the cultural trait was land based. The following introduces its cultural peculiarities.

### (1)Stone ladders

These polished single sided instruments were made of schist, huge

in size and heavy, lengthy, with the longest over 2m, width about 70cm, thickness 15cm. After work processing, square cavities showed up, therefore was called stone mangers by Japanese scholars, considered used as food holders to feed the pigs. Recent investigation by researchers discovered the square cavities of the vessels were slanting to one side with traces of soft wear and tear, thereby inferred to be stone ladders.

## (2) Stone knives

Materials used were not consistent, rather containing slate, schist, sandy rock, shapes of the objects were inconsistent either. Stone knives yielded from the Pei-nan site are mostly made of slate with 3 shapes, square, semi-moon, and sickle.

### a. Square shape stone knives

The biggest portion among all, its special trait features were sided edge with two holes on the backs, length varied between 10cm to 12cm, width about 4-5cm, thickness 0.5-0.8cm, high consistency though, occasional various shapes were still found, such as stone knives with single hole or saddle shape.

### b. Semi-moon shape knives

Shaped to wide at the middle, two sharp angles at the ends, arched back with straight cutting edge or arched cutting edge, body length longer than square stone knives, about 18-19cm, width about 4-5cm, sided cutting edge, with two holes at the middle part of the bodies, these knives were less seen from other archaeological sites.

### c. Sickle shape stone knives

Also called stone sickle, body shaped as sickle, arched back and, arched cutting edge, edge sharpened at the middle along the blade, handled, the tools varied from refined to rough through the process of production, the sizes differed too, the body length could vary from 14-23cm. Since this type of relics in eastern Taiwan was mainly yielded from sites belonging to the Pei-nan culture, rarely found from other cultural sites, so is considered as the representative object of the Pei-nan culture.

The three kinds of knives were made with shapes and made of materials consistently, having high frequency of appearance from the Pei-nan site, considered important livelihood tools of the Pei-nan culture, with traits of age periods. The contemporary stone knives made of slate excavated from the coastal area were in apparent contrast to those tools belonging to the Pei-nan culture.

(3). Stone adzes

Made of metabasite, stone adzes were thick and heavy, mostly close to square shape, grinded to arched cutting edge, from River Ma-wuu-ku , the material was taken. The artifacts were broadly unearthed from sites of Neolithic age lay in the east coast, especially lots were from the Pei-nan site.

(4). Stone pestles

They were made of schist as well as phyllite by pecking to cylindrical shape with two parts, head and tail, while the head was cylindrical, carrying a shield, with the stem diameter about 6cm, the length varies from 30-15cm; the tail end was smaller about 3cm, length approximately 20cm. The two parts were probably connected by a piece of bamboo, similar to the way as those of Amis tribe .

(5). Stone axes with shoulders

By chipping the schistose sandstone or chlorite schist to shovel shape, the stone axes were made with sizes varying greatly from the biggest over 30cm in length, about 20cm in width, to the smallest, length about 15cm, width around 8cm. Since the shapes were having a number of variations too, hence the implements could be newly developed objects with shoulders as their common point, but there was a high ratio of objects with unbalanced shoulders, possibly made for the purpose of fitting handles on.

## 1.6. Exemplification of pottery at the Pei-nan Site

Excavated from the Pei-nan site, the pottery of Neolithic age including cord impressed and Pei-nan cultural pottery, which cord impressed pottery were not much but mostly potsherds, the most completed pottery were two round belly pottery jars of Ta-Pen- Keng culture.

The Pei-nan cultural plain surface pottery could be separated into two groups, the daily usage pottery and the burial accompanied pottery, with the former one mostly shards, the restored pottery objects included jars, bottle, bowls, and pestles, the non- vessel objects were spindles. Small amount of daily usage pottery could be used as burial offering objects, which, in general, had there own main types for that purpose of using.

From all excavations at the Pei-nan site, 170 burials were unearthed with 331 burial offering vessels, including ring-footed jars with double vertical handles, single vertical handled footless jars, single handled jars with outflow lip , single handled vases, little amount of jars without handle, and tou (bowl on stand). The ring-footed jars with double vertical handles were the main vessels for burial offering purpose, and also the representative vessels of the Pei-nan culture.

Multiple kinds of pottery vessels were uncovered at the Pei-nan site as the typical Pei-nan cultural vessels to be introduced below.

#### (1) Large ring-footed jar without handle

The peculiarities of this vessel were mouth rim let outwardly to trumpet shape, shouldered on the belly, big footing on the base. The size could possibly be the biggest among all Pei-nan cultural vessels, with the height up to 70cm strong, width 30cm strong.

#### (2) Big mouthed round belly jars

Big mouth with the rim barely let inwardly, big round belly, vessel sizes varied with big belly ones up to about 40cm, small belly ones about 20cm, were all made of slate and sand mixture, and usually broken to make face covered pottery covering the faces of the deceased.

#### (3) Double crosswise handled jars

The Pei-nan site yielded pottery of this type were all potsherds, none is a complete vessel so far. Inferring from the shards, the main form was a big mouth round belly jar, with a pair of lateral handles in bridge shape built horizontally on the belly, some vessels possibly with footings. The sizes varied greatly with the biggest up to about 40cm, the small one about 20cm, similar to the big mouthed round belly jars. Because of the highest frequent

appearance among the vessels excavated from the Pei-nan site cultural layer, these should be the representatives of daily usage vessels of the Pei-nan culture.

(4) Double vertical handled jars

The double vertical handled jars were the major burial offering pottery vessels frequently put about the slate slab coffins at the Pei-nan site both inside and outside, so there were more chances to uncover complete vessels resulting them to be viewed as the major vessels of Pei-nan culture. As a big mouth pottery jar with footring as large as or even bigger than its mouth, the vessel was made up of mouth, belly, and footring, three equal parts with each contributing one third of the whole body, also built with a pair of vertical handles in bridge shape between the rim and the belly. Excavated from Pei-nan site, the vessel of big size was about 20cm, the one of little size was not even 10cm.

(5) Single vertical handled vase

The special vessel of the Pei-nan culture is probably a variation of the double vertical handled jar, in comparison, it is like the double vertical handled jar without footring and a handle, the body slightly flattened, and the mouth rim mostly produced with an outflow lip. Majority of this kind of vessel was small, usually, about 15cm in height, less than 10cm in width, a burial offering vessel in the coffin laid to the head of the deceased with the outflow lip pointing to the mouth, so the meaning is very obvious.

(6) Tou ( bowl on stand )

Frequently appeared in the coffins, the Pei-nan site yielded tou-dishes included vessels of two main forms, one of them was tall-stemmed ring-footed tou-dishes, the other one is solid footed tou-dishes. The tall-stemmed ring-footed tou-dish was bigger, with a shallow dish, tall-stemmed, ring-footed in trumpet shape, diameter of the dish up to 20cm, height 15cm, length of the ring-foot about 10cm, consistent in shape for this kind of vessels. The solid footed tou-dish was smaller, with a shallow bowl, solid cylindrical foot, diameter of the bowl approximately 15cm, height of stem and foot, about 10cm and 5-6cm respectively.

## 2. Iron Age Culture of Pei-nan Site



There were iron implements excavated from Pei-nan site in year 1945, until 2002, the archaeologists from the NMP recognized the burial area and living area of the Iron age, then it was temporarily called “San Her Culture.”

About 2200 to 2000 years ago, the prehistor culture at the Pei-nan site apparently changed. The livelihood stratum was unearthed with stone wheel samples of metamorphic rock ,and also including pottery and small nephrite ear ornaments, red opaque beads, iron spears, and pieces of iron. The remain of iron spear, length about 12cm, the widest part about 4cm, its shape was very similar to the Pei-nan tribal thorny spear as reported by Kano(鹿野忠雄 1946 picture 12:3). These iron objects, following the report by Kanaseki and Kokubu (金關丈夫 and 國分直一, 1945) as the second one uncovered from Pei-nan site , were direct proof of the cultural relationship between the late stage of the Pei-nan site and the iron culture.

As regards the burial, burials with slate slab coffins were replaced by burials without coffin which scattered along a belt of width about 6m, running parallel to N30°E, directing toward Dou-lan hill. Inside the range of this burial stripe, two kinds of burial appeared, both underground passage upright burials, differed by long band pits and small oval pits (or round). There were 14 long band burials, sort of adult single body burials, with the deceased facing upward, limbs straightening, head and feet toward south and north respectively, which burials directions were going with the deceased same as the slate slab coffin burials.

The burial offering with pottery and opaque beads which had been excavated from slate slab coffins of late stage, but without nephrite objects, some small amount of stone objects were grinded to slate arrowheads, spears, stone knives and metamorphic hard shale points.

The oval but irregular upright burial of about 1m in length, 60cm in width, 30cm in depth was the biggest, barely enough to take in a deceased child of not even 1m tall, so was probably for burying babies and toddlers in the late age of the Pei-nan site . Due to the oval and band shape burials forming a belt of burial group, but the trait and appearance were very similar to the dust pits and fire place making them very hard to be accurately identified and enumerated.

Attention was worth to be paid on the shape of the burial offering

pottery vessels, after comparing with the pottery of the Pei-nan culture, quite a difference was found. Pottery vessels with small footings, red paint on the surfaces, possibly were not for practical utilizing purpose. The vessel shapes varied greatly, just the handles of the vessels would have four variations including not handled, double crosswise handled, double handled and single handled, further varieties existing under these categories, such as some handles were altered to triangular shape. The surfaces of the vessels decorated with incised straight cord pattern and impressed circular pattern, etc., combining to different themes, furthermore, the unpolished moldings and vessels changed in form, type and style.

### PartIII. Conclusion

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.

From year 1980 to 1988, the period of salvage excavation near to the new railway station at the Pei-nan site , Wen-hsun Sung and Chao-mei Lien, both professors of National Taiwan University conducting the excavations, wrote relevant planning reports by using the information collected, at the same time, supervised graduate students writing master thesis on related topics. Because the work of salvage excavation caught public attention, media reported on this matter quite a few, the two leaders published some shorter essays on the popular magazines or journals introducing the excavation at the Pei-nan site , which started the advance of research and promotion together.

After the establishment of the museum, excavation and research at the Pei-nan site continued under way on one hand, and yet on the other, made propagation and promotion, therefore the Pei-nan site relevant excavation reports issued by the researchers would usually

be cited by the promoters on the handbooks, pamphlets or leaflets for education purposes.

The first part of this section is the Pei-nan site relevant writings, the second part is records and literatures, the archive developed is contained in the Pei-nan site related investigation reports, papers over 50 pages, from the table of content and introduction the investigational results of the Pei-nan site and culture can be seen, and used as complement to the introduction.

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

As archaeologists, the authors give best regards to the leaders of the Pei-nan site archaeological works at every different stage, including Wen-hsun Sung and Chao-mei Lien, professors of department of archaeology, National Taiwan University, upon whom the responsibilities were laid to undertake the salvage excavation at the area of the new railway station; Mr. Duen-shann Wu, former supervisor of rites and customs section belonging to bureau of public affair of Tai-tung county, who dealt with that 6000 sqm site; and Mr. Kun-shiou Lee, the planner and executive for the Pei-nan site related excavation after the establishment of the NMP.