

Taiwan in the Perspectives of Asian Ceramic Trade— Concentrations of Ceramic Shards Found at Archaeological Sites of the 17th and 18th Centuries

Takashi Sakai 坂井隆

Graduate Institute of Art History, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

國立臺灣大學藝術史研究所

The ceramic trade during the 17th and the 18th century that Taiwan took its a part, had wide scale in whole Asia. Naturally, this time could be divided two periods with after years from 1682 to 1684 as the turning point. At the time of the surrender of the Zheng Government and abolition of the trade prohibition of Ch'ing Dynasty with linking subordination of the Banten Sultanate in Java to the Dutch, it has been thought the ceramic trade was changed in total. At the first period, one of the symbols in ceramic trade is suddenly entering of Japanese Hizen wares. It is certainly that the appearance of export style Hizen wares, a copy goods of Jingdezhen porcelain on the last time of Ming style, could be contributed by the Zheng, a strong maritime power. And in Banten, Hizen wares from Taiwan were became one of special goods among the Islamic trade connection round the Indian Ocean.

Therefore Hizen ware shards are found in large scale at Banten, however, we could not forget the fact that no Hizen wares were brought without Chinese ceramics. For example, in Tirtayasa Site, own most high percentage of them during 1678-82, about a half of ceramics were products of China. Certainly, this fact is an evidence of the condition of Ch'ing's trade prohibition in practice, and shows continuity of trade toward Southeast Asia from the Chinese Continent with concerned Taiwan.

Role of Taiwan at this period was a strategic base on the ceramic trade for Southeast Asia from two sources of supply, the Chinese Continent and Japan. At the second period, currently usually it was thought that 'the Age of Commerce' by Asian native powers had been finished, because the superiority of strong European powers. In fact, Hizen wares, a symbol of cooperation between Banten and the Zheng, already lost its function. However, we could not

forget mass export of Chinese wares in this period. Especially, in Banten the ceramic trade, concentrated inferior quality tableware, is reached to the peak, in spite of decrease of population in this port city. That is, a new ceramic trade was rapidly born, and it is coincided with the actuality of the junk trade. At this period, the Dehua wares are the symbol of ceramic trade included both superior and inferior quality, has been found in wide scale such as not only Tso-ying in Taiwan but also Banten or Istanbul. Therefore, it is known that Taiwan was yet involved into the global ceramic trade network, not as an important relay point but as a consumer place for Fujian ceramics. Throughout both period the structure of ceramic trade, a part of Asian native trade, basically had not be changed in large scale. The surrender of the Zheng Government and the subordination of the Banten Sultanate were happened without relation to the condition of the trade. And, the globalization of ceramic trade in Asia, included Taiwan since early of the 17th century, was continued to whole of the 18th century.