

SANGAMBAENG GLAZED POTTERIES

BY

Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda

In 1942 when traveling through the forest of Tambol On Tai, Amphur Sangambaeng, Changvad Chiengmai (ตำบลออนใต้ อำเภอสันกำแพง จังหวัดเชียงใหม่), at several places near small streams which drain into Huey Mae Lān (ห้วยแม่ลาน) and Huey Mae Phāhaen (ห้วยแม่ปาน), I came across fragments of glazed potteries scattered profusely on the ground. At that time, however, I had no opportunity to investigate further.

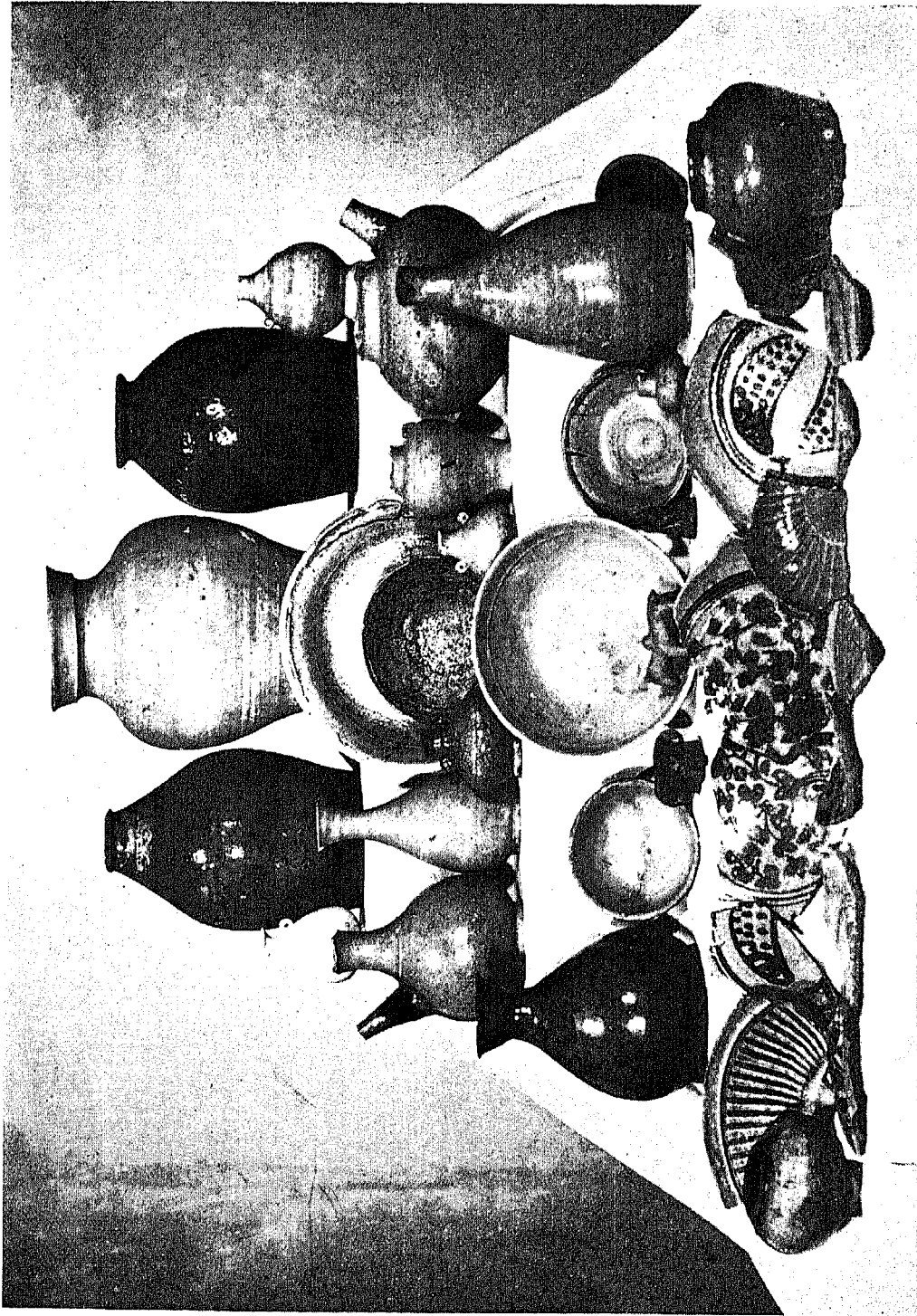
In 1943 whilst visiting the village of Bān Pā Tūng, Tambol On Tai, Amphur Sangambaeng (บ้านป่าตึง ตำบลออนใต้ อำเภอสันกำแพง), it came to my notice that the villagers were using strange-shaped potteries in the form of bottles, vases, cups, etc., as every-day household utensils. Upon enquiry, the village chief informed me that these potteries had either been unearthed within his village of Bān Pā Tūng (บ้านป่าตึง) when digging wells, holes for posts, etc., or had merely been picked from the dry bed of a small stream called Huey Mo (ห้วยหม้อ) which drains into Huey Mae Phāhaen (ห้วยแม่ปาน).

The village chief took me to inspect a mound behind Wat Pā Tūng (วัดป่าตึง). It was about 2 meters in height and 10 meters in diameter. He said that many glazed bottles had been discovered therein. Digging in the center of the mound, I found bricks, broken glazed potteries, and lumps of hard material, presumably the hardened drippings from the glaze. It is possible that this mound is an old kiln site. There are two more places in the village of Bān Pā Tūng (บ้านป่าตึง) which may also be the sites of old kilns.

Upon my third trip to Tambol On Tai (ตำบลออนใต้), I discovered more possible sites of old kilns, thus: 2 near Huey Mo (ห้วยหม้อ), 3 near Huey Cham Pā Bon (ห้วยจำปาดอน), 1 near Huey Makhonam (ห้วยมะขอน้ำ), 2 near Huey Nam Hak (ห้วยน้ำฮาก), and 2 near Huey Poo Laem (ห้วยปูนแหลม). These sites are always near streams which drain into Huey Mae Phābaen (ห้วยแม่พันนา) or Huey Mae Lān (ห้วยแม่ลาน). All sites lie within a distance of not more than 3 kilometers from one another and all are within sight of the villages of Bān Pā Tūng (บ้านป่าตึง) and Bān Pōng (บ้านโป่ง).

Several specimens in almost perfect condition were given to me by the villagers. One of these was a glazed horse head, possibly a chess-man. The colors of the glaze ranged from dark brown to light brown and from greenish grey to yellowish grey. At the site near Huey Poo Laem (ห้วยปูนแหลม), I found fragments with dark gray or black brush designs of fish, flowers, and groups of dots under the glaze.

In connection with these finds, attention is called to a dated stone inscription which could probably be used to establish the antiquity of the potteries. About 2 kilometers east of the village of Bān Pā Tūng (บ้านป่าตึง) there is a *wat*, called by the villagers, Wat Chiengsaen (วัดเชิงแสน). Within this *wat* I found a stone inscription half buried in the ground. It is written in Sukhodaya characters, telling us about the construction of a *vihāra* and a *cedi*, and the casting of 5 bronze images of the Buddha. The inscription gives the name of the *wat* as Sala Kalyana Mahan-tārām (ศาลากัลยาณมหารัตนาราม). Prince Atijavañña Pavarasiddhi (เจ้าอติชาวุฒาบรรพตราชัย), titled Mūn Dāb Ruan (หมื่นदानเรือน), was the chief or leading donor for the foundation of the *wat* in the year of the Monkey, C.S. 850 (B.E. 2031, A.D. 1488). This stone inscription has now been removed to the museum of Buddhasathān (พุทธสถาน) at Chiangmai.





Bān Pā Tūng (บ้านป่าตั้ง) lies on an old trade route between Chiengmai and Lampāng which could be easily reached by automobile in the dry season. It is about 12 kilometers east of the administrative seat of Amphur Sangambaeng (อำเภอสันกำแพง) and about 25 kilometers from the walled City of Chiengmai.

I am reporting this find in *The Journal of the Siam Society* with the hope that some day more scientific excavation of the kiln sites by archeologists will throw light on their antiquity as compared with the already known kilns of Svargaloka, Sukhodaya and Chiengrai (Kālōng, Vieng Pā Pao).

