

## **A Few Opinions on Dating the Ceramics Excavated at Pan-t'ou Village in the Hsin-kang District of Chiayi County**

Ming-liang Hsieh

### **ABSTRACT**

The archeological site at Pan-t'ou, located on the southern bank of Taiwan's Peikang Stream, is situated on what is traditionally regarded as the historic location of the Ch'ing Dynasty's Deputy Administrative Office of Chu-lo and Pen-kang Counties. Excavated in 1999 by the National Museum of Natural Science, the site revealed objects crafted from a variety of different materials, including bronze, glass, stone, bone, and ceramic. The largest single category of objects was ceramics, which totaled over 5000 individual items and shards. Based on the appearance and stratal relationship of these ceramic pieces, the archeological report dated the site and its contents to a period spanning the years 1730 to 1820. Following textual evidence, the report further suggested that the site was abandoned in the wake of a disastrous flood that occurred during the reign of the Chia-ch'ing emperor (1796-1820).

The primary purpose of the present essay is to compare datable ceramic samples found in foreign collections with matching pieces from the Pan-t'ou site. This comparison will demonstrate that the chronology of the site can and should be expanded to as early as the Yung-cheng reign (1723-1735) and as late as the Tao-kuang reign (1821-1850). This extended chronology proves that the Chia-ch'ing flood did not cause the abandonment of the site, and that the local inhabitants continued to utilize the area following the disaster.

**Keywords:** Taiwan, Pen-kang, P'an-tou-ts'un site, Ch'ing ceramics