Categorization of Yüeh Celadon Wares Recovered in the Taiwan Straits

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ABSTRACT

The present essay addresses two groups of objects. The first are a series of Yüeh-type celadon wares that were recovered from the Taiwan Straits and are now in the collection of the Graduate Institute of Art History at National Taiwan University. The second are Yüeh-type samples gathered on the P'eng-hu Islands and recorded in the book Yüeh-yao tsai P'eng-hu. The typological categorization made in this essay serves as the basis for investigating the chronology of the wares through comparison with relevant archeological evidence and several other Yüeh-style celadons inscribed with the character yung. The investigation concludes that the Yüeh ware samples recovered from the Taiwan Straits span over a long stretch of time from late T'ang through Northern Sung, with the majority of the pieces dated back to early Northern Sung period.

Keywords: Yüeh ware, Taiwan Straits, P'eng-hu, celadon, shipwrecks