

On the Dating of Ceramics Recovered from Jar Burials on Lanyu

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ABSTRACT

The island of Lanyu is located to the southeast of Taiwan in the Pacific Ocean. Its archaeological cultures include the so-called Lobusbussan Culture, which is distinguished by unadorned ceramics and jar burials. As the date and origin of these burials constitute key evidence for understanding the origins of the modern Yami people and their relationship to the ancient cultures of Lanyu, scholars have focused on establishing their date through Carbon-14 testing. This paper, by contrast, examines three Chinese ceramic artifacts collected from jar burials by Beauclair. It concludes that these vessels date from the mid-tenth to early eleventh century, the era of the Five Dynasties and early Northern Song periods, and were fired at kilns in southern China.

Keywords: Lanyu (Botel Tobago Island), Tao, Yami, Jar Burial, Chinese Ceramics