

#### IV. TRADE PORCELAIN AND STONWARE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

### A Report on the Symposium

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#### INTRODUCTION

The papers herewith reproduced or summarized were presented at the symposium on 'Trade Porcelain and Stoneware in Southeast Asia', which was held at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, convened by the writer, on 26 August 1961.

The subjects presented and discussed were as follows: *Results of Excavations in Malaya* by John Matthews (Australia), *Trade Porcelain and Stoneware in Borneo* by Tom Harrisson (Sarawak), *Ming Porcelain in the Philippines* by Kamer Aga-Oglu (U.S.A.), and *Occurrences of Trade Porcelain and Stoneware in the Ryukyus* by George H. Kerr (U.S.A.). A twenty-minute period was devoted to each presentation followed by open discussion. Complete papers were submitted by Matthews and Aga-Oglu, the texts of which are incorporated here, the latter abridged.

The Honolulu Academy of Arts also arranged a small exhibition consisting of approximately 100 examples of trade porcelain and stoneware, dating predominantly from the 14th to the 17th centuries, from China, Annam and Siam. The examples shown were from the Academy's own collection, augmented by pieces lent for the occasion by local Honolulu collectors, including Mrs John M. Allison, wife of the former United States Ambassador to Japan and Indonesia, whose collection of Far Eastern trade porcelain and stoneware is richly documentary. The convener herewith expresses his deep gratitude to Mrs Allison and others, who desire to remain anonymous; their generous willingness to lend made this interesting exhibition possible.

Also in connection with the Symposium and the Congress in general, Mr George H. Kerr, Advisor in Far Eastern Cultural History on the staff of the Honolulu Academy of Arts, organized an important exhibition of 'Study Materials from the Ryukyus', which was shown for a six-week period in two of the Academy's galleries.

A special word is in order here concerning the latter exhibition; it attracted wide interest from Congress participants, many of whom found material in it which had a direct bearing upon their own anthropological or archæological investigations elsewhere in Asia. The exhibition was, in effect, a capsular summary of the results of the Academy's cultural survey of the Ryūkyūs made in co-operation with the University of the Ryūkyūs (Naha) and Waseda University (Japan) under a grant to the Academy by the Rockefeller Foundation. Throughout the field work period administered by Mr Kerr (23 June-25 November 1960) the survey enjoyed the full support of the Ryūkyū Government Museum at Shuri and the Government's Cultural Property Protection Commission at Naha. A total of 39 islands lying between Formosa and Kyūshū were visited.

Tangible end-products of the survey include a reference file of some 3,000 annotated photographs, microfilm of some 23,000 pages of manuscript (dating from 1523 to the late 19th century), fifty reels of taped dialect samples from the Yaeyama and Miyako islands, newly compiled lists of 184 prehistoric and 114 historic sites of interest, appropriate maps and plans, a small collection of prehistoric artifacts, and an extensive record, in colour, of the traditional arts and crafts of Okinawa. There are also field reports on archæology, linguistics, craftsmanship, and conservation agencies and problems. The majority of these materials have been reproduced and are now available for study at Naha (University of the Ryūkyūs), Tokyo (Waseda University), and Honolulu (Academy of Arts). They are not studies in depth, but rather are designed to give a broad review of the major problems and types of material available to the enquiring scholar.

The Academy's exhibition consisted of examples of arts and crafts together with archæological materials, including sherds of trade porcelain and stoneware discovered in Ryukyuan castle sites, and numerous annotated enlargements of photographs of monuments and processes. In this case too, the Academy was indebted to local collectors, notably Mrs Valdemar Knudsen of Honolulu, for the loan of examples of Ryukyuan arts and crafts which added greatly to the documentary effectiveness of the exhibition.