

THAILAND SHIPWRECKS

Shipwreck Ceramics – Gulf of Thailand

Over the years a number of shipwrecks with ceramics included in the cargo have been discovered in the Gulf of Thailand. This includes the discovery early on in 1974 of the Ko Khram (Sattahip), Chonburi Province shipwreck, recognized as the first to be discovered in Southeast Asian waters. Numerous other Gulf of Thailand shipwrecks have since been discovered. They include the following along with the location and discovery date indicated:

- 1) Ko Khram (Sattahip), Chonburi Province – 1974
- 2) Ko Kradat Wreck, Trat Province – 1976
- 3) Pattaya Wrecksite, Chonburi Province – 1976
- 4) Prasae Rayong (Rayong), Rayong Province – 1977
- 5) Rang Kwien Wreck, Chonburi Province – 1977
- 6) Songkhla Wreck, Songkhla Province – 1979
- 7) Ko Si Chang One Wreck, Chonburi Province – 1982
- 8) Ko Si Chang Two Wreck, Chonburi Province – 1982
- 9) Ko Samui Wreck, Surat Thani Province – 1983
- 10) Ko Si Chang Three Wreck, Chonburi Province – 1985
- 11) Ko Samae San Site, Chonburi Province – 1987
- 12) Australia Tide (Klang Aow I), south of Sattahip – 1991
- 13) Klang Aow II, off the coast of Trat Province – 2004

Ceramics included in the collection from shipwrecks in the Gulf of Thailand are as follows.

Australia Tide (Klang Aow I):

TH-463 – potiche glazed white, the upright mouthrim encircled by two very lightly molded ridges, three loop handles high on the shoulder, D: 10.0 cm, H: 7.3 cm. (\$14)

Rang Kwien Shipwreck (Nga Chang wreck, Chinese Coin wreck):

TH-475 – covers (2) with lotus bud handle and domed top; cover No. 1 decorated in underglaze iron black; cover No. 2 covered with brown glaze, D: 10.6 cm and 9.9 cm. (\$50)

Unidentified shipwrecks - Gulf of Thailand

Ceramics included in the collection from unidentified shipwrecks in the Gulf of Thailand are as follows:

Unidentified shipwreck No. 1 - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite in the Gulf of Thailand (no further information available):

TH-350 – bottle vases (2) brown glazed and of extended ovoid shape with two loop handles, H: 11.2 cm. and 10.7 cm. (\$14)

Unidentified shipwreck No. 2 - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite in the Gulf of Thailand (no further information available):

TH-372 – Singburi pots (2) one with ovoid body and brown glaze, three loop handles; the other in *yuhuchunping* vase shape with spreading neck and flared mouthrim, H: 23.5 cm and 20.0 cm. (\$39)

Unidentified shipwreck No. 3 - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite in the Gulf of Thailand (no further information available):

TH-382 – jarlet globular form with short neck and lipped mouthrim, two loop handles, H: 6.3 cm. (\$6)

Unidentified shipwreck No. 4 - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite in the Gulf of Thailand (no further information available):

TH-432 – celadon bowl with light turquoise blue glaze, steep sides; vertical flutings carved down exterior sides, D: 13.4 cm. (\$12)

Total - \$135



Australia Tide (Klang Aow I)

Rang Kwien Shipwreck



Thai Unidentified: No. 1 No.2

No. 3

No. 4

SHIPWRECKS – GULF OF THAILAND

Details provided include ceramics recovered, date of sinking, location of wrecksite, discovery date, and reference sources:

1) Ko Khram (Sattahip) Shipwreck, Chonburi Province

Thai ware – including Sisatchanalai celadon ware and Sukhothai fish plates, also ceramics of Vietnamese origin – green glazed and blue and white - and Chinese ceramics were all recovered.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1450 -1475

Location - Latitude 12.36' 30" N and Longitude 100.40'17"E

Discovery Date - 1974

Shipwreck details - first Gulf of Thailand shipwreck discovered. found 12 nautical miles southwest of island of Ko Khram near Sattahip at depth of 42 to 44 meters; no evidence of recent looting. This site was discovered in the mid-1970s and an excavation was undertaken by a joint Thai-Danish team from 1975 to 1977. A very large quantity of Thai ceramics was recovered from the site (in excess of 5,000 pieces) and the site and the wares have been

described by Brown (1975), Howitz (1977) and Green (1981). The site is one of the largest and best preserved in the region. It is still remarkably intact, with no evidence of recent looting. Plates and bowls bearing typical Sukhothai fish motifs and floral designs were recovered. Sisatchanalai kiln products included incised floral plates and bowls and plain jarlets covered with celadon glaze. The glazed saucer-bowls with an unglazed centre recovered are believed to have been manufactured in Vietnam.

References

Brown (1975); Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988, Green & Harper 1983; Atkinson, et. al. 1989; Praicharnjit 1996.

Brown, Roxanna, 1975: "Preliminary report on the Ko Khram sunken ship," Oriental Art Magazine, Vol. 1/4, pp. 356-370.

Green, Jeremy 1981: "Further light on the Koh Khram wrecksite," Transactions of the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society, No. 8, pp. 18-26.

2) Ko Kradat Wreck, Trat Province

Thai ware – including Sisatchanalai underglaze painted material and brown glazed wares, and a variety of earthenware items. Also recovered were Chinese blue and white porcelains including a shard with a Jiajing reign mark (1522 – 1566).

Date of Sinking - approximately 1522 - 1566

Location - Latitude 11.52'22" N and Longitude 102.32'53" E

Discovery Date – 1976, excavated 1979 - 1980

Shipwreck details - the Ko Kradat wrecksite is located in the Gulf of Thailand south of Trat Province about one kilometer north of the northern end of the island of Ko Kradat, some 200 meters in from the fringing reef at a depth of approximately 2 to 3 meters. Date of sinking is approximately mid 16th century (1522 to 1566). A survey

was conducted in 1977 and the wrecksite excavated in April 1980. Finds included 74 complete Sisatchanalai fine stoneware ceramics: underglaze black decorated cover boxes, jars, bowls, and jarlets; brown glazed “eared” jars and gourd shaped jarlets; and brown spotted glaze jarlets. Also recovered were coarse Sisatchanalai stoneware jars with looped handles and squat necks; and jars and bowls, glazed and unglazed, of uncertain origins. A variety of earthenware items were also found including a small figurine of an elephant. Chinese blue and white porcelain found included fragments of bowls and plates, one with the base inscribed in underglaze blue with a six character Jiajing reign mark (1522 – 1566). A total of 5,500 shards were recovered: 60 percent – from large coarse stonewares, 30 percent – from earthenwares, 20 percent – from rice pots with stamped decoration, 8 percent – from fine stoneware, and 1 percent from Chinese blue and white porcelain. The latter included Swatow ware fragments from blue and white bowls: plants, bird, and lotus panels on one bowl; on the other a bird among plants and grass, along with two geese (ducks?) among lotus plants; footrim on both with adherent kiln grit.

References

Howitz (1977), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988.

Green, Jeremy, Rosemary Harper and Sayann Prischanchittara, 1981. The Excavation of the Ko Kradat Wrecksite Thailand 1979-1980. Perth: Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Maritime Museum Special Publication.

3) Pattaya Wrecksite, Chonburi Province

Thai ware – including Sisatchanalai material; also a Chinese blue and white porcelain shard was found in 1982.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1480 - 1510

Location - Latitude 12.54'37" N and Longitude 100.49'42" E

Discovery Date – 1976 (Found), 1982 (Excavated)

Shipwreck details - Pattaya wrecksite is located midway between Ko Lan and Laem Pattaya near a group of rocks called Hin Ko Lan at a depth of 26 meters. Excavated in January 1982, it had been subject to extensive looting and sports diving earlier. Thai wares found included earthenware – shards, kendi, plain bowls and bowls with impressed decoration. Sisatchanalai wares - celadons with incised line decor including bowls and bottles; and stoneware as well as coarse stoneware (bottles, medium jars, medium ovoid jars, and large storage jars). One Chinese porcelain rim fragment with blue and white decoration was also found.

References

Howitz (1977), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa, 1988.

Green, Jeremy, and Rosemary Harper, 1983. The Excavation of the Pattaya Wreck Site and Survey of Three Other Sites, Thailand, 1982. Albert Park, Victoria: Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Special Publication No. 1.

4) Prasae Rayong (Rayong) Wreck, Rayong Province

Recovered ceramics included Sukhothai underglaze black fish plates – 5, Sisatchanalai celadon bowls – 3, and brown glazed molded cover box lid (South China kilns) – 1, and Vietnamese ware.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1450-1487

Location - Latitude 11.50'10" N and Longitude 101.47'00" E

Discovery Date – 1977

References

Howitz (1977), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988.

Green, Jeremy, and Rosemary Harper, 1983. The Excavation of the Pattaya Wreck Site and Survey of Three Other Sites, Thailand, 1982. Albert Park, Victoria: Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Special Publication No. 1.

5) Rang Kwien Wreck, Chonburi Province

Vietnamese, Chinese, and Thai ceramics – including Sisatchanalai wares.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1400 to 1430

Location - Latitude 12.47' 54" N and Longitude 100.47' 18" E

Discovery Date - 1977

Shipwreck details - is also known as the Nga Chang wreck and the Chinese Coin wreck; was found in the Ko Khram Channel about 10 kilometers west of Bang Sa-re Bay and 800 meters off Rang Kwien Islet at depth of 18 to 22 meters. The site was excavated by the Fine Arts Department between 1978 and 1981 (Intakosai, 1983). It had been extensively looted by sports divers, but the Fine Arts Department excavation recovered copper coins, copper ingots, ceramics, gongs, bells, ivory, and a number of other interesting items. Reported to be 264 ceramics recovered: Thai - including Sisatchanalai and Sankampaeng, Vietnamese and Chinese. Sisatchanalai wares included bowls, plates and jarlets. Vietnamese wares included plates, bowls, beakers, dishes, cups and jarlets. Recovered Chinese ceramics included the following: celadon bowls and plates, lids, jarlets. Also recovered were Chinese coins - 200 kilograms of 7th to 15th century coins as well as others, and elephant tusks. Additionally, a large section of the hull of the ship survived, including the keel which had an unusual waterway cut out of the centre. In 1987, the survey group visited the site to recover timber samples for dating and analysis. During the visit, the keel was found to be exposed and so a series of cross-sectional measurements were made to record the keel waterway.

References

Green and Harper (1983), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988.

6) Songkhla Wreck, Songkhla Province
Chinese porcelain and Thai glazed ware.

Date of Sinking - 15th to 16th century

Location – off of Songkhla Province, near Malaysian border

Discovery Date – 1979 or earlier

References

Howitz (1979).

Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum Newsletter, Volume II Number 9, December 2005, “Shipwreck ceramics theme at River City auction,” page 3.

7) Ko Si Chang One Wreck, Chonburi Province

Chinese blue and white porcelains including a bowl with Wanli mark and Swatow ware; and Thai ware – including large jars similar to Bang Rachan, Singburi Province material.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1573 - 1619

Location - Latitude 13.09' 34" N and Longitude 100.56' 42" E

Discovery Date – 1982

Shipwreck details - dated to the late 16th/early 17th century and located off of Chonburi Province in the Gulf of Thailand and discovered in 1982. Recoveries included Chinese blue and white porcelains including numerous Kraak ware fragments, a bowl with Wanli mark, and some Swatow ware. Details are lacking with respect to the latter. Also recovered were Thai wares including large jars similar to Bang Rachan, Singburi Province material.

References

Green and Harper 1982, Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988, Charoenwongsa & Praicharnjit 1990, Wacharangkul 1990, Praicharnjit 1996.

8) Ko Si Chang Two Wreck, Chonburi Province

Thai ware – including Sukhothai, Sisatchanalai plates, a large jar similar to Suphanburi material; Chinese celadon; ivory; and 1 coin

Date of Sinking - approximately 1370-1424

Location - Latitude 13.08' 24" N and Longitude 100.45' 46" E;
found off Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 25 to 30 meters

Discovery Date – 1982 (Surveyed)

References

Green and Harper (1983), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988.

9) Ko Samui Wreck, Surat Thani Province

Chinese ceramics – blue and white, and celadon; and Thai ceramics including Sisatchanalai ware.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1506-1521

Location - Latitude 09.24' 10" N and Longitude 99.56' 55" E

Discovery Date - 1983

References

Intakosi (1984), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988.

10) Ko Si Chang Three Wreck, Chonburi Province

Thai ware – including Sisatchanalai stoneware storage jars, and Sukhothai Ware; also ceramics of Chinese and Vietnamese origin; ivory

Date of Sinking - approximately 1470-1487

Location - Latitude 13.11' 51" N and Longitude 100.43' 20" E;
found 7 kilometers northwest of Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 24 meters.

Discovery Date – 1985 (Surveyed)

References

Knight 1986, Richards 1986, Green and Harper (1987), Intakosai & Charoenwongsa 1988, Charoenwongsa & Praicharnjit 1990, Wacharangkul 1990.

11) Ko Samae San Site, Chonburi Province

Sisatchanalai cover boxes and bowls, Sukhothai wares, and storage jars – possibly of Bang Rachan, Singburi Province, central Thailand; and a Chinese blue and white porcelain bowl.

Date of Sinking - 1520 to 1550

Location – just off of Chonburi Province

Discovery Date – 1978

References

Harper (1987), Green & Harper 1983, Intakosai 1984, Praicharnjit 1996.

12) Australia Tide (Klang Aow I)

Nearly all the ceramics recovered were from the Thai kilns, along with a very limited number of Vietnamese and Chinese wares as described below.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1500 to 1530

Location - Latitude 11.36' 00" N and Longitude 100.58' 00" E

Discovery Date – 1991

Shipwreck details - one of more recent Gulf of Thailand shipwrecks discovered. Australia Tide (Klang Aow I; Central Gulf of Thailand Wreck) - located in the Central Gulf of Thailand some 60 nautical miles south of Sattahip, and at a depth of 55 to 60 meters. The wrecksite coordinates are latitude 11 degrees 36' 00" N and longitude 100 degrees 58' 00" E. The shipwreck is datable to approximately 1500 to 1530 and was salvaged in 1991 by Captain

Michael Hatcher and his crew. Michael Flecker accompanied the expedition to document the wrecksite.

The cargo consisted almost entirely of Thai ceramics, with many of the smaller items being stowed inside storage jars. Most were utilitarian in nature. Ceramics recovered included: Sisatchanalai celadon bowls, jarlets, jars with cover, various vase shapes, kendis and figurines (human, chicken, elephant) all with incised décor; Sisatchanalai monochrome white glazed jarlets, vases, vases with elongated neck, jars with cover and cover boxes. Also recovered were Singburi brown glazed storage jars, basins and lamps. Some Vietnamese blue and white brush washers, animal shaped water droppers, and jarlets were recovered as well. There were also a very few examples of Chinese porcelain consisting of blue and white bowls, hole-bottom saucers, and jars. Over 12,000 Thai ceramics were brought to the surface, including many storage jars, some of which contained smaller ceramic items.

When the bulk of the cargo had been recovered the Thai navy intervened, and after a prolonged stand-off, confiscated the ceramics from the salvor, Mike Hatcher. The Thais claimed violation of territorial waters, although the site was actually in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), where shipwreck excavation is not specifically banned. Free right of passage is guaranteed through the EEZ, while stopping to work is not necessarily permitted. The legality of the confiscation remains controversial. The confiscated cargo was handed over to the Thai Fine Arts Department, the institution that is responsible for shipwrecks in Thai waters.

The Chanthaburi National Maritime Museum in southeastern Thailand currently has in storage approximately 12,000 ceramics from the Australia Tide (Klang Aow I) shipwreck. This includes the following approximate quantities of recovered ceramic wares: Sisatchanalai - 7,850; Singburi - 3,600; Vietnamese - 545; and Chinese - 5. Sisatchanalai wares include the following: ovoid jarlets

with loop handles (Granada shape) - 2,793; monochrome white small jarlets - 800; monochrome white cover boxes - 600; large celadon plates - 449; small celadon bird figurines - 43; and small celadon elephant figurines - 34. Singburi wares include brown glazed tall jars with two loop handles (small, medium, and large sizes) - 1,750. Vietnamese wares include the following: rabbit and frog shaped water droppers - 284; underglaze blue decorated small round brush washers - 164; enamel decorated small round brush washers - 98; and one underglaze blue decorated jarlet. Chinese wares include one each of the following underglaze blue decorated wares: hole bottom saucer dish, bowl with scrolling lotus (D: 19.2 cm.), and jar with two underglaze blue rings encircling the upper shoulder and the mouth (H: 17 cm.). A detailed inventory record is maintained for each piece including a photograph, the physical description, the provenance, and acquisition source.

References

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Chanthaburi National Maritime Museum, 2007. Australia Tide (Klang Aow I) Inventory Records.

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Flecker, M. *The South-China-Sea Tradition: Hybrid Hulls of Southeast Asia*, International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, Volume 36(1), 2007.

<http://maritime-explorations.com/thailand.htm>

13) Klang Aow II

Sisatchanalai underglaze black ware, celadon and monochrome white ware, and Chinese blue and white dishes.

Date of Sinking - approximately 1520 to 1540

Location – off the coast of Trat Province in southeastern Thailand

Discovery Date – 2004

Shipwreck details - a more recently discovered shipwreck that has been given the site name Klang Aow II was investigated off the coast of Trat Province in southeastern Thailand in May 2004. The investigation was directed by the head of the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Fine Arts Department, Thailand. About 50 fragments of ceramics were recovered. With this new site name, the original Klang Aow ('Central Gulf') wrecksite now becomes 'Klang Aow I.' Klang Aow I is also known in various publications as the Central Bay of Thailand wreck, or the Australia Tide wreck, after the name of the ship used in its recovery in 1992. Klang Aow II is closer to shore than Klang Aow I, and it is probably about 10-20 years later in date, at least according to the late Roxanna Brown's theories about shipwreck chronology. Accordingly, Klang Aow I probably sailed approximately 1500 to 1520, while Klang Aow II most likely belongs to approximately 1520 to 1540. A major difference between the two cargoes is the presence of large numbers of

Sisatchanalai underglaze black ware – none of which were recovered from Klang Aow I – in the Klang Aow II finds. Both ships yielded Sisatchanalai celadon and monochrome white ware.

Four Chinese blue and white dishes were also recovered and all show the same basic decoration: an ornamental garden rock and peonies. Similar dishes are known from the Ko Samui wreck. The remainder of the pieces included Sisatchanalai underglaze black decorated covered boxes, and a potiche-shaped jar with no traces of its original monochrome white glaze and missing its cover. There was also an interesting set of three bowls in the same size and shape from the Sisatchanalai kilns: one is celadon glazed, one has underglaze black decoration, and the third shows the remains of monochrome white glaze. Monochrome white ware from the Sisatchanalai kilns is documented on only two shipwrecks, Klang Aow I and Klang Aow II.

The Klang Aow II is a new wrecksite explored by the underwater archaeology unit of the Fine Arts Department, Thailand. The head of the underwater archaeology unit is Erbprem Wacharangkul and Vira Panfak is a long-time master diver; they are both based at the Chanthaburi National Maritime museum in southeastern Thailand.

References

Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum Newsletter, 2004. Volume I Number 2 October, "Klang Aow II," p. 1.

Thai Unidentified Shipwreck No. 2



Thai Unidentified Shipwreck No. 4



COMPARISONS OF GULF OF THAILAND SHIPWRECKS FOLLOWS BELOW:

COMPARISON - 6 GULF OF THAILAND SHIPWRECKS

Name	Location	Date Found	Dating and Cargo
Ko Khram (Sattahip)	Found 12 nautical miles southwest of island of Ko Khram near Sattahip at depth of 42 to 44 meters; no evidence of recent looting 12.36' 30" N & 100.40'17" E	1974	approximately 1450 to 1475 Very large quantity of Thai ceramics, Sisatchanalai and Sukhothai, - but no report of cover boxes; also Viet and Chinese ceramics - 5,000 ceramics in total
Ko Kradat	Found one kilometer north of the northern end of the island of Ko Kradat at depth of 2 to 3 meters 11.52'22" N & 102.32'53" E	1976	approximately 1522 to 1566 Ceramics - underglaze black decorated cover boxes, etc., a total of 74 complete Sisatchanalai fine stoneware items and a total of 5,500 shards
Rang Kwien (Nga Chang wreck, Chinese Coin wreck)	Found in the Ko Khram Channel about 10 kilometers west of Bang Sa-re Bay and 800 meters off Rang Kwien Islet at depth of 18 to 22 meters, had been extensively looted by sports divers 12.47'54" N & 100.47'18" E	July 1977 survey	circa 1400 to 1430 Reported to be 264 ceramics recovered: Thai - including Sisatchanalai and Sankampaeng, Viet and Chinese; coins - 200 kg 7th to 15th century coins and much more, elephant tusks
Ko Si Chang II	Found off Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 25 to 30 meters 13.08' 24" N & 100.45' 46" E	1982 survey	circa 1370 to 1424 Ceramics - Sisatchanalai plates, Sukhothai, Suphanburi, Chinese celadon; ivory and 1 coin
Ko Si Chang III	Found 7 kilometers northwest of Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 24 meters 13.11' 51" N & 100.43' 20" E	1985 survey	circa 1470 to 1487 Ceramics - Sisatchanalai storage jars, Sukhothai, Vietnamese, Chinese; ivory but no coins
Pattaya Wrecksite	located midway between Ko Lan and Laem Pattaya near a group of rocks called Hin Ko Lan at a depth of 26 meters; extensively looted 12.54'37" N & 100.49'42" E	1976 found 1982 excavated	approximately 1480 to 1510 Ceramics - Thai ware including Sisatchanalai celadon and storage jars; a Chinese blue and white shard

**COMPARISON - 4 GULF OF THAILAND SHIPWRECKS
WITH IVORY AND/OR COINS**

Shipwreck and Dating	Ivory	Coins	Sisatchanalai Ceramics	Location
Rang Kwien circa 1400 to 1430	X	10,000+	Various	800 meters off Rang Kwien Islet at depth of 18 to 22 meters
Ko Si Chang II circa 1370 to 1424	X	1 only	Plates	off Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 25 to 30 meters
Ko Si Chang III circa 1470 to 1487	X	none	Storage jars	7 kilometers northwest of Ko Si Chang Island at depth of about 24 meters
Pattaya Wrecksite circa 1480 to 1510	none	none	Celadons and storage jars	midway between Ko Lan and Laem Pattaya at a depth of 26 meters

NOTES -

- 1) X = ivory recovered
- 2) Pattaya Wrecksite = close proximity to Rang Kwien Shipwreck

GULF OF THAILAND SHIPWRECKS – REFERENCES (Partial Listing)

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Further References

See References included at the end of the final Shipwrecks Summary - Other Shipwrecks.