

In the last ten years, ceramics recovered from the shipwrecks off the Viet Nam coast have provided new and valuable evidence for the study of the historical trade route on the South China Sea, the development of Vietnamese and Thai ceramic industries, and the economic and cultural interrelations between China, Viet Nam, Thailand, and Europe.

In particular, the recovery of the Cu Lao Cham cargo is of remarkable significance. The great amounts of Vietnamese ceramics, their richness of form and decoration and their recognizable identity, show an unprecedented development of the Vietnamese ceramic industry in the fifteenth century, the Golden Age of Viet Nam.

Comparative studies of Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai shipwrecks and their recovered ceramics are providing good data for a new reconstruction and broader understanding of the cultural history of Viet Nam and Southeast Asia.

1

See Pham Quoc Quan and Tong Trung Tin, *Report on the Marine Excavation of the Cu Lao Cham Wreck (1996–1999)* (Ha Noi: Archive of the National Museum of Vietnamese History [NMVH], 2000); John Guy, "Vietnamese Ceramics from the Hoi An Excavation: The Cu Lao Cham Ship Cargo," *Orientalions* (September 2001): 125–28; Butterfield and Butterfield, *Treasures from the Hoi An Hoard: Important Vietnamese Ceramics from a Late 15th–Early 16th Century Cargo*, auction catalogue, San Francisco, 2000; Mensun Bound, "Aspects of the Hoi An Wreck: Dishes, Bottles, Statuettes, and Chronology," *Taoci* 2 (December 2001): 95–103; Nguyen Dinh Chien, "Collection of Unique Items on the Cu Lao Cham Wreck," *Scientific Reports* (2000): 28–40 (Ha Noi: NMVH, 2000); Ivo Vasilief, "Date of the Cu Lao Cham Wreck," *Scientific Reports* (Ha Noi: Archive of the NMVH, 2000).

2

See Nguyen Dinh Chien and Michael Flecker, *Report on the Excavation of the Binh Thuan Wreck, 2001–2002* (Ha Noi: Archive of the NMVH, 2003); Christie's, Australia, *The Binh Thuan Shipwreck. Melbourne, March 1–2, 2004*, auction catalogue; Le Thi Thanh Ha, *The Ming Dynasty's Ceramics* (Ha Noi: NMVH publication, 2004).

3

See Nguyen Quoc Hung, "Marine Excavation at Hon Cau Island (Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province)," *Archaeology Review* 3 (1992): 62–73; Michael Flecker, "Excavation of an Oriental Shipwreck of c. 1690 off Con Dao, Viet Nam," *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 21, no. 3 (1992): 221–44; Christie's, Amsterdam, *The Vung Tau Cargo of Chinese Export Porcelain* (1992), auction catalogue; Christian J.A. Jong, 2001.

4

See Nguyen Dinh Chien, *Report on the Marine Excavation of the Ca Mau Wreck (1998–1999)* (Ha Noi: Archive of the NMVH, 2002), *ibid.* *The Ca Mau Shipwreck (1723–1735)* (Ha Noi: NMVH publication, 2000); John Kleinen, "How Was the Ca Mau

Wreck Related to Holland?" *Past and Present Journal* (2004): 61–67.

5

See Nguyen Dinh Chien and Le Cong Uan, *Discovery of Shipwrecks Containing 14th–15th Century Vietnamese Ceramics of Ca Mau Province: New Archaeological Discoveries* (Ha Noi: Social Sciences Publishing House, 2002), 416–18. It is anticipated that Sothebys, Amsterdam, will hold an auction.

6

See Pham Quoc Quan and Nguyen Quoc Hung, "Thai Ceramics on the Phu Quoc Wreck," *Culture and Arts Review* (1993): 66–67; and Warren Blake and Michael Flecker, "A Preliminary Survey of a South-East Asian Wreck, Phu Quoc Island, Viet Nam," *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 23, no. 2 (1994): 73–91.

7

Allison I. Diem, "Vietnamese Ceramics From the Pandanan Shipwreck Excavation in the Philippines," *Taoci* 2 (December 2001): 92.

8

Nguyen Dinh Chien, *The Ca Mau Shipwreck (1723–1735)* (Ha Noi: NMVH publication, 2002), 92.

9

John Kleinen, "How Was the Ca Mau Wreck Related to Holland?," 66.

10

Nguyen Dinh Chien and Nguyen Quoc Huu, *Report on the Excavation of the Phu Quoc-Kein Giang Wreck* (Ha Noi: Archive of the NMVH, 2004).