

# **A Primary Study on the Provenance and Technology of the Chinese Celadon Porcelain from Mantai, Sri Lanka.**

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## *Abstract:*

*By in this brief piece of research is discussed scientific techniques have been used for the analysis of archaeological Chinese ceramics discovered in Sri Lankan sites. The main objective was to apply methods of Chemical analysis to the examination of their origins and production technology. As right here, there was a great genuine chance to discriminate analyze and compare more types of original ancient Chinese porcelain wares, it was more convenient and useful to ceramic samples. XRF, XRD, ICP were some of the methods used for the analysis of chemical composition of ceramic body and glaze.*

*Key words: Celadon Porcelain, Mantai, China and Sri Lanka, X-ray Analysis, Archaeometry*

## **The background**

Sri Lanka is placed strategic point as central port on the ancient Ocean high way (Historical Silk Road on the Sea) cross the Indian Ocean from East to the West. We had been unlimited physical and literary facts to proves, Sri Lanka gradually became a main enter port and commercial center with bartering goods between East to West marine routes of Indian Ocean since about B.C centuries (Bastiampillai: 1990, Silva; 1990). The number of hoards of foreign coins and seals also Ceramics ware and objects as from as Indian, Greek and Rome, Chinese and later Portuguese Dutch and British had been unearthed specially coastal and inland sites of Sri Lanka. (Bopearachchi and Wijayapala ; 1994). There are special references of several types of Chinese and South-East Asian artifacts found from the country which have been disclosing Sri Lanka-Sino or East-West cultural relations. China had strong and unbroken historical connections with Sri Lanka as early as 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. The historical contacts between Sri Lanka and China were mainly on political, cultural (Needham 1954, 1980), trade and commercial intercommunion.

## **Introduction to Chinese celadon found in Sri Lanka**

Chinese Celadon (green porcelain) dated as early as periods of Tang, Five dynasties (618-960 A.D) and Song dynasty periods have been unearthed from both inland and coastal sites in the Island. As earliest Chinese ceramics in Sri Lanka, Tang Celadon (Jayasingha : 2006) wares found from North Western tip of the island was known as Mantai (ancient names Mahatittha, Mantottum, Mantota, Matota and currently in Mannar district) and was used as a great port during Anuradhapura period. Mantai is