

Changing of Archeological Sources in Nakhon Rachasima Province According to the Record of Archeological Sites in Northeast Region Book 1

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— *Review of* —
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ABSTRACT

This study was to investigate the changing of archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima Province according to the Record of Archeological Site Book 1. The study was aimed to study the current condition and significance of the archeological sources and to study the characteristics of the changing and factors of the changing of the archeological sources in the area of Nakhon Rachasima Province. This was expected to benefit the value assessment, preservation, tourism, and promotion of the learning area of history and archeology. The methodology employed was mainly the in-field survey.

The result of the study revealed that archeological sites were divided by 2 groups: 1) The archeological sites that were improving or the archeological sites that were repair or restored, preserved, or developed to be significant tourist attractions, 2) The archeological sites which were declining which referred to the archeological sites that were not repaired or restored, on attention was paid to and was destroyed or invaded by individuals or governmental sections.

Keywords : Changing, Archeological Sources in Nakhon Rachasima Province

1. INTRODUCTION

Nakhon Rachasima was the biggest province in the northeastern region of Thailand (Isaan) and has always been the historically significant city. There have been many historical evidences since the prehistoric age found. They were the Neolithic Age about 4,500 – 3,500 years ago, the Bronze Age about 3,500 – 2,500 years ago, and the Iron Age about 2,500 – 1,500 years ago.

Later in the turning point of the history (around 8-10 BE), the trace of commercial contact with far away land was found and also the influence of the early age of Buddhism.

As about the Historic Age (around 12 – present BE), it was the Dvaravati Age (around 12-16 BE) that the influence of Dvaravati culture from the central region expanded to the area that was Nakhon Rachasima nowadays (Muang Boran Sema – the ancient city in Sema Sub-district). This was the hub in distributing the Dvaravati culture to other lands in northeastern Thai and Mekong regions. Later in Lobburi Age (around 12-18 BE), it was the time when Thai received Khmer influence from the center part of the land that was Cambodia at present as there were many rock castles situated in the lower part of the northeast region especially in Nakhon Rachasima. Since the Ayutthaya

Age until now, Nakhon Rachasima always had the status of a big city with big population and was the very important city in terms of economy and politics.

In 1986, Division of Archeology, Department of Fine Art had published the Record of Archeological Sites according to the survey and registration of archeological sites. The survey covered the details of archeological sites in the area of the 6th Fine Art Unit (Nowadays, it was the 12th office of Fine Art in Nakhon Rachasima) which covered several provinces such as Nakhon Rachasima, Buriram, Chaiyaphum, Surin, Roi-et, Srisaket, Ubon Rachathani, and Yasothorn. In the record book, only some of the sites in the area under the responsibility of the 6th Unit were mentioned according to the document entitled “Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1 Nakhon Rachasima, Ubon Rachathani, and Yasothorn Provinces.” Not all provinces in the area of the 5th unit were published as document due to the fact that the archeological sites and archeological sources had been ruined or destroyed already. Some other archeological sites and archeological sources were unable to be discovered anymore. Also, the record document of the archeological sites was composed from the survey of the archeological sources since 1986. Since it was 2016 now, it has been 30 years ago.

For these reasons, the researcher conducted a research “Changing of Archeological Sources in Nakhon Rachasima Province According to the Record of Archeological Sites in Northeast Region Book 1” by survey as the main method of data collection. This was expected to reveal the current condition and significance of archeological sources and the characteristics of the changing and factors of the changing of the archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima province. This must benefit to value assessment, preservation, tourism, and promotion of the learning area of history and archeology in the future.

2. THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

2.1 To study the current condition and significance of Archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima province.

2.2 To study the changing and the factor of the changing of the archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima province.

3. THE SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The study of chaging of archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima province investigate the data from the archeology sources in Nakhon Rachasima province as appeared in the document of *Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1* of Division of Archeology, Department of Fine Art which covered 56 sites.

4. MOTHODOLOGY

This study employed qualitative methodology as follows:

4.1 Collect and study report document of the survey, report of excavation and archeological digging related with archeological sources in the area of Nakhon Rachasima province.

4.2 Collect field data by surveying and taking photo of archeological object and sites in the archeological sources, including the interview of community leaders or people living around the archeological sources.

4.3 Analyze the significance and the feature of land use of the local community surrounding the archeological sources, including the changing and factor of the changing of the archeological sources.

5. POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population of the study was the archeological sources that were registered to the Division of Archeology, Department of Fine Art. The researcher used the purposive sampling in the study which included the archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima according to the document of *Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1* of Division of Archeology, Department of Fine Art which covered 56 sites.

6. THE RESEARCH TOOLS

This study was a qualitative research and the tools in data collection included the record form from the field study and the non structure interview for data collection.

7. DATA ANALYSIS

This was a qualitative research to investigate the changing from the record form of field study and the non structured interview which the researcher analyzed and synthesized the data for the presentation of the data in descriptive analysis.

8. RESULTS

From the study of archeological sources in Nakhon Rachasima province according to the document of *Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1* of Division of Archeology, Department of Fine Art which covered 56 sites, They were:

Table 1: Table of Names of Archeological Sources in Nakhon Rachasima Province According to the Document of *Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1*.

Archeological Sources	Sub-district	Archeological Sources	Sub-district
Muang District		Pak Thog Chai District	

Madam Suranaree Statue	Nai Muang	Sa-hin Castle	Taku
Chumpol Gate	Nai Muang	Nha Pratat Temple	Taku
City Shrine	Nai Muang	Pagoda of Sapang	Muang Pak
Phra Narai Maharaj Temple	Nai Muang	Noan Hin Tang	Samrong
Panomwan Temple	Nai Muang		Sakaeraj
Prangtong Temple	Pud sa	Kasem Pagoda (Bueng	Sakaeraj
Boan Temple	Pud sa	Kam Castle)	Muang Pak
Faang Temple (abandoned)	Pud sa	Champatong Castle	Udomsap
		Nakae Rock Castle	Nok Ork
Soong Nuen District		Nhong Hoi Castle	Toom
Muang Kao Rock Castle	Korat	Baan Prang Pagoda	
Muang Kaek Rock Castle	Korat	Pagoda (laterite)	
Noan Koo Rock Castle	Korat	Pimai District	
Baan Bu Yai Castle	Soong Nuen	Pimai City	Nai Muang
Baan Sa Pleng Castle	Soong Nuen	Nhang Sa Phom	Nai Muang
Sema Ancient City	Sema	Waterside	Nai Muang
Laying Bhudda of Thamajak	Sema	Kudi Ruesi Noi	
Semaram Temple		Choke Chai District	
Buddhist Chapel between	Na Klang	Baan Pakoe Pagoda	Kratoke
Na Klang village and Na Yai		Sapleng Pagoda	Kratoke
village	Nhong	Baan Prang Pagoda	Plubpla
Buddhist Chapel of Ban	Takrai		
Huai Wat			
Noan Soong District		Kornburi District	
Koo (pagoda) of Baan	Muang	Kornburi Pagoda	Kornburi
Prasat	Prasat		
Castle of Baan Prasat	Muang	Red Bull Cave	Chaliang
	Prasat		
Pol Songkram Pagoda	Pol	Chumpuang District	
	Songkram		
Sida District		Baan Bo Pagoda	Prasook
Baan SIDA Pagoda	SIDA	Sila Pagoda	Sarai
Bua Yai District		Noan Thai District	
Pagoda of Baan Koo	Don Thanin	Klang Temple (Po Ki	Samrong
		Lang)	Ballang
Huai Talaeng District		Baan Fai Mai Buddhist	
		Chapel	
Sila pagoda	Loong	Kong District	
Baan Prang Pagoda	Pradoo	Baan Prang Pagoda	Baan Prang
Baan Kongrod	Hin Dad	Nhong Boonmak District	
Thaijan City	Kongrod	Baan Thanon Hak Rock	Baan Mai
Plubpla City	Ngio	Castle	
	Plubpla	Sikio District	
Pratai District		Huasa Castle	Kud Noi
Nangrum Castle	Nangrum	Sikio Temple	Sikio
Ped City	Nhongpluang	Singha Temple	Lad Bua
			Kaw

 Total Number of Archeological Sources 56 Sources

According to the table, it was shown that the 56 archeological sites were scattered in Nakhon Rachasima. All the sites were in historic ager around the 12-24 BE. They were influenced by the culture of Dvaravati, Ancient Khmer, Ayutthaya, and Rattanakosin. Due to the fact that the record document was constructed from the survey of the archeological sources since 1986 until present (2016) which was 30 years ago, the study was able to explore the current condition and significance of the archeological sources.

The result of the research was found that the archeological sites were divided into 2 groups which were:

1. The archeological sites that were improving or the archeological sites that were repair or restored, preserved, or developed to be significant tourist attractions
2. The archeological sites which were declining which referred to the archeological sites that were not repaired or restored, on attention was paid to and was destroyed or invaded by individuals or governmental sections.

9. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the study of the document of *Record of Archeological Sites in the Northeastern Thailand Book 1* of the Department of Fine Art which covered 56 sites, the researcher had conducted the research by exploring the report of the previous survey of the Department of Fine Art and collect data from field study by surveying and taking photo of the archeological objects and sites in the archeological sources including interview of community leader and people living nearby those archeological source. The characteristic of the changing was found in 2 significant groups as follow:

1. The group of archeological sites that was improving

According to the analysis of this group of archeological sources, it was found that all of them were repaired and restore by the Department of Fine and Art, Ministry of Culture which was the only organization in Thailand that was in charge of preserving archeological resources and repairing archeological sites. Most of the archeological sources in this group were influenced by Ancient Khmer around the 15-18 BE and were situated within big communities. The target in repairing these archeological sites and adjusting the surrounding area of the sites was to promote them to be learning sources of history and archeology for local people. This included the development to be tourist attractions which was another income for local people.

However, the repair and restoration of these archeological sites occurred to only grand sites and the sites that allowed anastylosis only. Since most of the archeological sites influenced by Ancient Khmer situated in Thailand were in the ruined condition and was not able to be restored or repaired to gain the complete condition.

Moreover, all of the archeological sites in the improving group which were located in the educational institutes or temples because the area of educational institute

and temples were the area that people pay respect to and were the important learning resources in Thai tradition.

2. The group of archeological sites that was declining

According to the analysis of the archeological sources in this group, it was found that all of the archeological sources and archeological sites in this group had never been repaired or restored by the concerned organization at all. There were only general surveys of the archeological sources that were only printed in document. This was due to the very ruined condition of the archeological sources that it was impossible to repair or restored. Especially, the archeological sites that were so ruined that it did not allow analysis. Some of them were found only the foundation left so it was impossible to learn the form of these archeological sites.

The invasion into the archeological sources of people and governmental sections was another reason that ruined the archeological sources. There were people who invaded and removed parts of the archeological sites to adapt the land for their plantation since these sites were usually far from the community. In the part of governmental sections both educational institutes and temples, they invaded in the area of the archeological sources and archeological sites to adjust the lands for construction of building and area for their activities. This ruined and changed the condition of the archeological sources.

Even though the archeological sites and Archeological sources were very well repaired and restored, without good care until they were in ruined condition and ignorance of the value of these archeological resources can lead to destruction of national significant archeological sources and archeological sites.

10. THE EXPECTED RESULTS

This study was expected to gain the knowledge in the characteristics of the changing an factor of the changing of the archeological sources. This was for preservation of national significant archeological resources and the promotion of the history and archeology learning area in Nakhon Rachasima province.

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