
Differences and Interactions of Roof Tile Production Technique between the Chinese Central Plain and the Korean Peninsula

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Abstract (in French and English)

The emergence of Qin and Han empires had drastically broadened the distribution of buildings with roof tiles in East Asia. In the Chinese Central Plain, although roof tiles were produced with almost the same method as pottery making at the beginning, by the early Western Han period (206 BC-AD 9) they had adopted new production technique – making end discs and semi-cylinders separately, joined together later – which was suitable for large-scale production. However, in the area where roof tiles began to be produced under influence from the Central Plain, roof tiles were made the way pottery was made. The most typical example of this is from the site of the Lelang Commandary in the Pyongyang region on the Korean Peninsula. The production technique which disappeared in the Central Plain in the second century BC had been used until the third century AD at Lelang. Furthermore, this technique was diffused further south in the early Paekche period. This technique is also observed in northeast China in the later period, such as the Wei and Jin periods and the kingdom of Bohai/Palhae (698-926). In short, the initial production technique which was abandoned earlier in the Central Plain continued much longer separately in the peripheral area where the specialization and shift to large-scale production of roof tiles was achieved much later.

Keywords: tile production, technique

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