

沙下考古發掘與研究的意義

Significance of Sha Ha Archaeological Excavation and Research Projects

沙下遺址的埋藏條件未能保存有機物質，如木製工具、動物或人類骨骼等，所以無法得知當時的動物資源或人體特徵；但沙下發掘大規模揭示遺址的不同遺跡和活動區域，可以較全面了解香港史前時期沿海聚居社群的生活概況。



探方的剖面，顯示不同年代的文化層
Stratigraphy of the excavated grid, showing the cultural layers of different periods

雖然沙下發掘並沒有發現一般認為年代較早的典型彩陶，但是次發掘出土了不同階段的器物群和多座墓葬的陶器組合，為重構香港以及環珠江口地區史前文化的序列提供寶貴的研究資料。

過往的研究常認為珠江三角洲的史前社群是漁獵採集社會或富裕採集者，珠江口的島嶼更屬於三角洲地區內的臨時或季節性居所。但是沙下發掘所發現的少量碳化稻米和栽培植物的硅酸體，顯示史前時期的漁獵採集社會很可能存在多種謀生方式。沙下發掘的學術意義是通過多學科的研究，重新檢視珠江三角洲史前漁獵採集社會的多樣性，亦有助探索中國史前時期黃河及長江地區農業社會與周邊地區的關係。



A探區圖
Excavation Area A

The preservation conditions at Sha Ha are not favorable to retain buried organic materials such as wooden tools, fauna or human skeletons. There is thus no way to ascertain the ancient animal resources and physical characteristics of the ancient Sha Ha inhabitants. Nonetheless, the large-scale excavation at Sha Ha revealed different features and activity areas within the coastal settlement, vividly illustrating the livelihood of the prehistoric community in Hong Kong.

Though this excavation has not yielded any painted pottery typically found in the earliest phase of the Neolithic period in Hong Kong, the artefact assemblages retrieved from the well-stratified sequence together with several groups of grave goods provide a valuable basis upon which the cultural chronology of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Estuary region can be reconstructed.



考古工作人員向參觀學生介紹發掘情形
Archaeologist introducing the excavation to students

In the past, researchers generally believed that the prehistoric communities of the Pearl River Delta were simply hunting, fishing and gathering societies or affluent foragers, and that the islands at the estuary were just temporary or seasonal places for people who lived in the delta. Evidence of phytoliths of cultivated plants and carbonized rice grains discovered in Sha Ha opens the door to further discussion on the diversity of prehistoric subsistence strategies. The findings of the Sha Ha excavation and research projects will initiate investigations on the variability of the hunter-gatherer society and the relationship between prehistoric agricultural societies in the Yellow and the Yangzi valleys and those in peripheral regions in China.



考古工作人員討論發掘進度
Archaeologists discussing the excavation progress