

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PAEKCHE EARTHENWARE OF THE SABI PERIOD

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The term Paekche earthenware of the Sabi period (538–660) refers to the earthenware produced and used by Paekche people after the period when the capital of Paekche was transferred to Buyeo. Along with the development of Paekche's culture and through the continuous interchange of cultural affairs with surrounding countries, Paekche earthenware became diversified in kind and can be distinguished by its characteristic feature.

Paekche earthenware of the Sabi period can be broadly divided into the following four types: grayish blue hard earthenware, biscuit-fired black earthenware, gray earthenware, and lacquered earthenware. Production and distribution of Paekche earthenware of the Sabi period seemed to be under governmental control, with regard to rendering services, distributing, and trading. Facilities for producing this type of earthenware were governmental kilns located in the neighboring districts of Buyeo at the basin of the Kum-gang River. The climbing kilns and up-draft kilns for standardized roof-tiles and biscuit-fired utensils managed by specialized groups of artisans. These products were supplied to people in the capital area for everyday use, including the royal palace and local districts, as well as temples and for use as burial accessories. It is noteworthy that the international and open-hearted character of Paekche culture is also found in the Paekche earthenware of the Sabi period.