

從考古資料看古代人類對南中國海的開發

The Exploration of South China Sea by ancient humans as Viewed from Archaeological
Data

摘要

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南中國海是為西太平洋的一部分，面積約 350 萬平方公里，其中有超過 200 個有人或無人居住的島嶼和岩礁，合稱為南海諸島。南海為中國大陸、台灣、菲律賓群島、馬來群島及中南半島各國所環繞的陸緣海，自史前時代以來，即為周邊地區人類生活之重要場域，在資源開採、人群移動與文化交流上扮演著重要的角色。因之，故民族學家凌純聲教授曾將這一海域稱之為「亞洲地中海」。本文擬運用周邊地區近些年所發現的考古資料，對古代人類在南中國海的開發、利用及年代等相關之議題作一討論。

South China Sea is a part of the Western Pacific Ocean, with a size of about 3.5 million Km². Over 200 islets and rocks are located in the waters of the South China Sea, which is surrounded by the Chinese mainland, the island of Taiwan, the Philippine archipelagos, Malay Peninsula, and the Southeast Asian Peninsula. Since the prehistoric time, the South China Sea has been used by its' coastal inhabitants as an important place for daily life, and therefore played an important role in marine resource exploration, people movement and cultural exchange. For this reason the late ethnologist Lin Shun-sheng called the South China Sea as "the Asian Mediterranean Sea". In this paper I would like to discuss some issues related to the contents and dates of ancient people's exploration of the South China Sea by using archaeological data found recently.