



mark that appeared on Ding kiln porcelain should not be interpreted as a general designation for official kilns, but should be narrowly be seen as referring to a particular government unit engaged in firing kiln and this was very possibly an abbreviated term that referred specifically to the *Taiguanshu* under the *Guanglusi*. The development of the Ding kiln in the Tang-Five Dynasties period laid excellent foundations for the prosperity and glory of the Ding kiln in the Northern Song dynasty.

**KEY WORDS:** Tang-Five Dynasties period; Ding kiln; start-up period; *periodisation*; special characteristics.

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## A Preliminary Study of Dragon Kilns of the Eastern Han Dynasty in Zhejiang

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**ABSTRACT:** The history of the dragon kilns of Zhejiang might extend back to the Shang dynasty, and by the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, dragon kilns were found extensively throughout the Hangzhou Bay area of Zhejiang and their structure was being constantly improved and developed. Many studies of dragon kilns have already appeared, but this author focuses on the kilns of the Eastern Han dynasty and discusses their distribution, structure, their use of kiln furniture and their firing of ceramic items, filling a gap in the history of dragon kilns.

**KEY WORDS:** Eastern Han dynasty kiln sites; the structure of dragon kilns; kiln furniture; the firing of ceramic items.



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