

EMMISSION OF SPECTROSCOPY IN DETERMINING THE ORIGIN
AND THE COMPOSITION OF ANCIENT GLAZED TITLES
FOUND AT THE EXCAVATION OF THE 2ND CENTURY
B.C. ABHAYAGIRI STUPA AT ANURADHAPURA

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There is hardly any evidence of glaze making in the history of Sri Lanka. But high fired glazes were made in China about 3500 years ago and reached their highest standards 700 years ago. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of glazed portions of the tiles indicate high concentration of Sn and Pb. The concentrations of Sn and Pb in naturally occurring silicates of Sri Lanka do not have high values. Hence it was thought that these glazes were imported. But the presence of unfinished glazed tiles and pieces of glazes in the vicinity, and the absence of a high concentration of Sn and Pb in the pottery part of the tiles led us to believe that the glazes would have been manufactured here using imported clay. The composition of the glazes has close similarity to the Tang glazes of ancient China. The Tang period marked the highest pinnacle in the history of Chinese Buddhism. Simultaneously in Sri Lanka, the Anuradhapura culture reached its zenith of development, along with Buddhism. Therefore it can be postulated that during the Tang period (618-906 A.D.) that imported clay from China would have been used to manufacture these glazes.

References

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