



HAL
open science

The Bagan Iron Project: Preliminary results of the first intensive study of iron production in the Bagan region, Myanmar (11th to 20th c. CE)

Kalayar Myat Myat Htwe, U. Phyo Pyae Ko Ko, Pira Venunan, Mitch Hendrickson, Stéphanie Leroy, Bob Hudson, T.O. Pryce

► To cite this version:

Kalayar Myat Myat Htwe, U. Phyo Pyae Ko Ko, Pira Venunan, Mitch Hendrickson, Stéphanie Leroy, et al.. The Bagan Iron Project: Preliminary results of the first intensive study of iron production in the Bagan region, Myanmar (11th to 20th c. CE). THE 3RD SEAMEO SPAFA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY, Jun 2019, Bangkok, Thailand. cea-02416617

HAL Id: cea-02416617

<https://cea.hal.science/cea-02416617>

Submitted on 17 Dec 2019

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



The 3rd SEAMEO SPAFA International Conference on Southeast Asian Archaeology

3rd SEAMEO SPAFA
International Conference on
**SOUTHEAST ASIAN
ARCHAEOLOGY**

17 - 21 June 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

SEAMEO SPAFA
HELM SOLUTIONS

THE BAGAN IRON PROJECT: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FIRST INTENSIVE STUDY OF IRON PRODUCTION IN THE BAGAN REGION, MYANMAR (11TH TO 20TH C. CE)

Dr. Kalayar Myat Myat Htwe
University of Mandalay, Myanmar
kalayar.yinminthu@gmail.com

U Phyo Pyae Ko Ko
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
phyopyaekoko.arch@gmail.com

Dr. Pira Venunan
Silpakorn University
pira.venunan@gmail.com

Dr. Mitch Hendrickson
University of Illinois
mjhendri72@yahoo.ca

Dr. Stéphanie Leroy
UMR5060 IRAMAT (CNRS)
stephanie.leroy@cea.fr

Dr. Bob Hudson
University of Sydney
bob.hudson@sydney.edu.au

Dr. T.O. Pryce
UMR 7055 (CNRS)
topryce@gmail.com

The Kingdom of Bagan, with its capital on the Irrawaddy River in central Myanmar, was a primary regional competitor to Angkor whose success was similarly based on rice, trade and conquest. A key question is whether other practices, such as intensified iron production, similarly enabled Bagan's political domination of the region. The Bagan Iron Project represents the first exploration of iron smelting practices conducted around the capital, focussing on three production sites at the village of Zi-O. This paper presents the preliminary results of excavation, mapping and pXRF analyses from the 2019 field season. Comparison of slag and slag mound morphology, furnace visibility and spatial organization between each site suggests the presence of different technical traditions or modifications of one tradition over time. Overall, the scale of Bagan's iron production shows some important differences with their counterparts in Cambodia.