

Thesis Title	Human Skeletal Remains and Mortuary Practice Analysis at Prasat Phanom Wan, Muang District, Nakhorn Ratchasima Province
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### ABSTRACT

This research focused on an analysis of human skeletal remains and mortuary practice at Prasat Phanom Wan, Muang District, Nakhorn Ratchasima Province. It aimed to study an ancient community at Prasat Phanom Wan site before the construction. The work focused on two specific periods: the first period was before 370 B.C. to 1,400 B.C. by relative dating; the second period was from 370 B.C. to 230 A.D. by absolute dating with the dating method of Accelerator Mass Spectrometry. The human skeletal remains at this site were analyzed by two methods: firstly, a Physical Anthropological study by which gross analysis method was applied; and secondly mortuary practice analysis. The skeletal analysis of the site under studied was compared with other nearby sites. The excavation at the main palace and stupa (1997) and the East Ko-Pu-Ta-Ra (1992) revealed that they are seven skeletons found at the two sites. They are adult males and female with the age ranged between 30 and 40 years old at death. Their heights were between 16 -171 cm. Two of seven skulls showed the characteristics of Mongoloid which were not different from Thai. The paleopathological analysis of all skeletal remains found that there were dental caries, periodontosis and degenerative changes. The comparative studies of mortuary practice at the main palace and stupa (1997), the East Ko-Pu-Ta-Ra (1992) and the west Ko-Pu-Ta-Ra (1993) resulted in the similarities of their belief systems and death ceremonies for both periods. Three features of all burials were extended burial, secondary burials, and burial jar. Some were tied-up before buried with grave-goods. Some were put with or above broken pieces of pottery in the grave. However, the direction of deceased's head was uncertain. It can only be concluded that there was the continuation of these two periods. The results of this study showed that people of the two periods in the same and nearby archaeological sites were similar in their morphology and their

mortuary practice. This analysis can be very useful for any comparative studies with other similar sites in Thailand.