

Thesis Title	Typological study of iron Artifacts in Thailand
Name	Piyapa Promtong
Concentration	Prehistorical Archaeology
Department	Archaeology
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ABSTRACT

The objectives of typological study of iron artifacts were to study the patterns of the iron tools at the national museums in Thailand, to classify the iron tools according to their function of the tools, and to compare the general characteristic of the iron tools from every region. Typological study of iron artifacts focused on the prehistoric iron tools, which are only maintained and kept in national museums. The iron tools studied include 36 items stored in museums in Northern Thailand, 294 items from museums in Central Thailand, and 68 items from museums in Northeast Thailand. A few iron tools from museums in Southern Thailand were not studied because of its fragmentary nature.

Prehistoric artifact found in Thailand can be classified into four functional types. First, the iron woodworking tools; such as, axe, chisel, and nail. Second, the iron agricultural tools; such as, spade. Third, the hunting tools and weapon such as, arrow, point, spear, and harpoon. Fourth, the general - purpose iron tools.

It is also noticed by this research that iron tools found in every region consist of various forms. Those found in central Thailand seem to show the highest variability. Generally speaking, iron tools found in one region are a little different to those from other regions, especially between iron tools from the North and Northeast Thailand.