

Thesis Title A Study on Handloom Development in Thailand  
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### Abstract

Humans have known how to weave cloth for a longtime. Twinning and wattling were probably the earliest of the preweaving construction techniques. Primitive weavers undoubtedly drove two stakes into the ground and stretched their warp between them, each yarn or group of yarns was weighted at the bottom with stone or a piece of metal. The process of weaving was essentially from simple looms to horizontal looms. The development of this technology freed the weavers physical movements.

The results of the study found that prehistoric man in Thailand knew the process of weaving a thousand years ago. Some archaeological remains e.g. spindle whorls, yarn of linen, cotton, silk and cloth fragments at Ban Chieng, Udon-Thani province, indicated that they used the technique of plain weave. Unfortunately, there was no evidence of any loom equipment that could be used to deduce the loom con-

struction. However a loom apparatus that was created about 112 years ago appeared in a mural painting in a temple at Wat Phumin, Nan Province.

This research found that typical handloom construction in Thailand could be classified into 3 types:-

1. Back strap or hill tribes loom - still used among the Karen groups in the Northern part of Thailand. Because of its construction it could weave only a narrow strip cloth.

2. Ancient loom or local loom. This type is distributed in several parts of Thailand. It could be used to weave various interesting designs e.g. Mud-Mi, Tin-Chok, Tin-Sin, Hua-Sin, Sash-cloth etc. This loom is easy to adjust for weaving a wide or narrow strip cloth.

3. Percussion loom - The most recent development in loom construction, it has the ability to weave more rapidly than any loom; but it can not produce interesting designs. Nowadays the government supports the local people to weave cloth by using this loom.

This research shows that loom construction has not changed very much. But some of the equipment has been changed e.g. the beater has changed from wood teeth to iron teeth and the shuttle which was made of wood changed to a plastic shuttle.