

## PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

### THE HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY OF THU DAU MOT PROVINCE (BINH DUONG) IN THE FRENCH DOMINATION PERIOD (1862 – 1945)

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**Nguyen Huu Hao, Nguyen Dinh Co, Le Ba Vuong, Hoang Van Tuan. The Handicraft Industry of Thu Dau Mot Province (Binh Duong) In the French Domination Period (1862 – 1945) -- PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology 18(08), 2413-2425. Issn 1567-214x**

**Keywords: Handicraft, Binh Duong, French Domination Period, Lacquer, Ceramics**

#### ABSTRACT

The article presents the development process of Binh Duong handicrafts under the French domination period (1862-1945). Since the Nguyen dynasty signed the Nham Tuat Peace Treaty (1862), ceding three of the southern provinces of Cochinchina and Con Lon Island to the French, Binh Duong officially became a part of the colonial Cochinchina (Cochinchine Française). After completely occupying the six provinces of Cochinchina (1867), France established a governing apparatus and carried out economic development in order to maximize profits for the country. With the strength of the handicraft industry (natural conditions, resources and labor resources), the colonial government had many policies to promote the development of traditional handicraft industries in Thu Dau Mot and Binh Duong areas.

#### INTRODUCTION

Formerly Binh Duong was the canton of Binh An, one of the first settlements of the Vietnamese on the way down to the South. Over time, the Vietnamese (then the Chinese) came to live, exploit the land, and set up villages in the increasingly crowded Binh an land. Along with that process, the Vietnamese brought traditional handicrafts from Thuan Quang to Binh An. In the mid-nineteenth century, Chinese immigrants (mainly Phuc Kien people) came here with many new industries that had the effect of pushing the handicraft industry to develop. Resonating with favorable natural conditions and geographical location, a number of typical traditional handicraft industries of Thu land were initially formed. Towards the end of the 19th century, after completing the

process of invasion and stabilizing the situation, the French colonialists had many investment policies to exploit colonial Cochinchina, including Thu Dau Mot. In order to exploit the strengths of the traditional handicraft industries, the colonial government has made a significant investment in infrastructure, building factories, investing in more industries... especially the establishment of a Fine Arts School. indigenous people (1901) to train good workers to serve the development of handicrafts here. A new phase of Binh Duong handicraft industry is opened.

Thu Dau Mot<sup>1</sup> is a province of Cochinchina colonized by the French colonialists with many development investment policies to serve the exploitation of the rich natural resources here. There are many research works on Thu Dau Mot province during the French colonial period from different aspects. The records of the contemporary French have partly depicted the scene of Thu Dau Mot in the first time the French arrived and developed the economy of this land. In which, the activities of traditional handicraft production (ceramics, winemaking, lacquerware, carpentry...) in Thu Dau Mot are won by the authors a considerable amount. These include: "*Monographie de la Province de Thu-Dau-Mot*" published from Saigon's Indochina Research Company newsletter in 1910; "*La Cochinchine et ses habitants (Provinces de l'Ouest)*" by Dr. J. C. Baurac published in 1899; "*Onze moi de sous-préfecture en Basse Cochinchine*" by L. De Grammont... are very realistic descriptions of life, daily activities, as well as economic activities (including handicraft production activities) of Thu Dau Mot residents during the early French colonial period.

Some works have been compiled in the current period on the historical development of Binh Duong, such as: "*Thu Dau Mot - Binh Duong, the land of people*" by Ho Son Diep, the book "*Phu Cuong, Cultural History and Revolutionary Tradition*" by Huynh Ngoc Dang (Military Press, Ho Chi Minh City, 1990), "*The Ancient Seal of Thu Land*" by Nguyen Hieu Hoc (Young Publishing House, Ho Chi Minh City, 2009), "*Thu Dau Mot Binh Duong, good land, birds perch*" edited by Vu Duc Thanh, a collection of articles by researchers inside and outside the province, or the work "*Binh Duong Geography*" published by the Provincial People's Committees in 2010... all have few Many descriptions of the land of Thu Dau Mot (Binh Duong) under the French colonial period in different aspects (including the development of traditional handicrafts).

In addition, the works referring to the development of each specific handicraft industry in Thu Dau Mot are also indispensable documents to complete the picture of Thu Dau Mot handicraft industry during the French colonial period. These include: the work "*Binh Duong Ceramics*" by Bui Chi Hoang, Nguyen Van Thuy published in 2014; The work "*Art of applied lacquer in Binh Duong*" by Nguyen Van Minh; "*Binh Duong pottery from the 19th century to 1975*" by Nguyen Van Thuy; The work "*Binh Duong Fine Arts Past and Present*" of Binh Duong Literature and Art Association in 1998... Directly mentions the

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<sup>1</sup> Thu Dau Mot under the Nguyen lords (17th-XVIII centuries) was the canton of Binh An belonging to Tran Bien palace, in the Nguyen dynasty (first half of the 19th century) was raised to a district. In 1871, the French divided Cochinchina into 24 Inspectorate counties, Thu Dau Mot inspection county was officially born. On December 20, 1889, the Governor General of Indochina issued a decree, effective from January 1, 1900, all the counties in Cochinchina were changed into provinces like in the Central and the North. The district of Thu Dau Mot was changed to Thu Dau Mot province.

development process, characteristics, as well as measures to preserve the traditional handicrafts of the Thu. Binh Duong industry in the new situation. In summary, the works mentioned the development of a number of traditional crafts in Binh Duong during the French colonial period in several aspects: the process of formation, development, the characteristics of the handicraft industries. Thu land industry compared to neighboring areas... However, in general, the works are still mentioned relatively sporadically, not systematically, there is no monograph on handicraft industries of Binh Duong below. French colonial period.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is qualitative analysis, combined with synthesis and inductive methods, and explanatory research. The analysis process was carried out by using historical information and with historical and reading the text.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### ***Factors Affecting Binh Duong Handicrafts During the French Colonial Period***

Natural condition. The land of Binh Duong has many rich natural resources, which are favorable for economic development (especially handicraft industries).

Cao Lanh in Binh Duong has relatively large reserves, rich in types and good in quality compared to kaolin from other provinces in the South. Kaolin is the main raw material for the ceramic and porcelain industry and as an additive for the paper industry. In terms of distribution, kaolin is ubiquitous in Binh Duong, typically mines in Dat Cuoc, Vinh Tan, Suoi Voi, and Ben San (Tan Uyen); Dinh Hiep, Minh Thanh (Dau Tieng), Phu Hoa, Hiep Thanh (Thu Dau Mot), Binh Hoa, Thuan Giao, Binh Nham (Thuan an) Phuoc Vinh (Phu Giao). Regarding reserves, Binh Duong has about 300-320 million tons, with 15 areas being exploited. Each mine usually has reserves ranging from about 200,000 tons to 5 million tons. In the land of Binh Duong, there are many kaolin mines with large scale and reserves, typically Dat Cuoc, Chanh Luu, and Tan Lap mines (Ho Son Diep, 2012: 22).

Clay is the raw material used to produce bricks. In addition to being a raw material for the production of bricks and tiles, clay is also used as a raw material for the production of colors and materials in the ceramic industry and as a filler for other industries. In Binh Duong, clay of weathered origin has little reserves, distributed in only a few places. However, the clay used for making bricks and tiles is of sedimentary origin distributed over a large area and has relatively large reserves. The whole Binh Duong province has more than 20 clay mines with reserves of about 1 billion m<sup>3</sup>, widely distributed throughout the districts and towns in the province, typically mines in Dat Cuoc, Vinh Tan, Khanh Binh (Tan Uyen), Chanh Phu Hoa, My Phuoc (Ben Cat), Dong Chinh (Phu Giao); Phu Loi, Phu Cuong (Thu Dau Mot)... (Ho Son Diep, 2012: 23).

In terms of forest resources, ancient Binh Duong had vast forests with many rare plants and animals. In the middle of the seventeenth century, when Vietnamese exiles came to this land to reclaim and establish hamlets, they relied on old forests to exploit forest products, build houses, and develop handicraft industries. During the Nguyen lords and the Nguyen Dynasty (17th - 19th centuries), Binh An canton (later elevated to a district) was sparsely populated, and the land was inhabited by various species of oil rot, cheetah, star black, rosewood, car seat, shape of incense, type of honey, zealous, chieu Lieu, etc. When the French set up the apparatus of domination and exploitation, along with the destruction of many forest areas to plant rubber trees, the government belonged to the government. The locality has promoted the exploitation of forest resources, set up a sawmill, and built a warehouse for pre-processed timber before bringing it back to the country. *Monographie de la Province de Thu-Dau-Mot* in 1910 said: The province has abundant income from forest exploitation, not only the bustling timber trade but also the exploitation of wood by-products such as: oil, plastic, gum bring excellent benefits. The forest includes many precious woods such as: rosemary, star, marble, rosemary, boi, dio, oil... (Indochina Research Company, 2015: 40).

Thu Dau Mot - Binh Duong, besides the advantages of charming scenery, rich natural resources favorable for the development of many economic sectors, it also has the advantage of being easily connected to Saigon. Cho Lon, with Bien Hoa and the Central Highlands region. Binh Duong belongs to the Southeast region, located at the transitional position between the South Truong Son of provinces such as Tay Ninh, Binh Phuoc, and Dong Nai with the rest of the Southern provinces. From the center of Binh Duong, extending to a radius of 50 km are Ho Chi Minh City (in the South), Bien Hoa (in the East), Dong Xoai and Tay Ninh (in the West and North), surrounded by 3 rivers. The Saigon River in the West forms the boundary with Tay Ninh Province, the Be River in the North is adjacent to Binh Phuoc Province, and the Dong Nai River in the East serves as the boundary adjacent to Dong Nai (People's Committee of Binh Duong Province, 1998: 21). Regarding the waterway boundary, Nguyen Phan Quang specifically described: the Be River runs along the border of Bien Hoa over 10km, the Saigon River is also a natural boundary with Tay Ninh and Gia Dinh over 200km, Thi Tinh canal is a tributary of the river. The Saigon River is over 60 km (Binh Duong Provincial People's Committee, 1998: 59). The favorable location allows Binh Duong to easily connect with other areas, acting as a transshipment point for goods (especially are handicrafts) right from the French colonial period.

The "Thien Ly Cu" road from Saigon to the North and vice versa passes through Thu Dau Mot. The waterways on the Saigon River flow back and forth to Thu Dau Mot, boats from upstream or downstream are easy to dock to load and unload goods.

Regarding residential conditions. The Vietnamese people have come to reclaim wasteland in the land now belongs to Binh Duong. The Vietnamese first settled in Lai Thieu, the center is Binh Nham. After that, along the Saigon River, the Vietnamese poured into Thi Tinh, Ben The, and Tan An areas. The Vietnamese diaspora continued to increase in the late seventeenth century. The fertile lands

along the Saigon River became increasingly crowded and narrow. From Lai Thieu forward, from Thi Tinh down, gradually Phu Cuong, Chanh Nghia and Phu Tho areas became settlements of the Vietnamese (Huynh Ngoc Dang, 1990: 10-11). The Vietnamese are the largest community, playing a key role in the construction, construction and development of Thu Dau Mot land under the French colonial period. Vietnamese people from the Five Quang region when migrating brought traditional crafts from their homeland, encountering favorable conditions here, initially built and developed a number of typical industries of Vietnam. Thu land, according to the Indochina Statistical Yearbook of 1910, the population of Thu Dau Mot province at that time was 105,704 people, of which there were 84,831 Vietnamese natives, 1,213 Chinese people, the rest were other ethnic groups (Annuaire général de l'Indochine Française, 1910:445).

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In addition, the presence of the French with Western technology and science also contributes to the rapid urbanization process in Thu Dau Mot.

### ***The Policy of The French Government Applied in Thu Dau Mot***

Since the completion of the process of invasion, the French colonialists have implemented many policies to exploit Thu Dau Mot land, especially taking advantage of the natural conditions here to promote the development of handicraft industries.

### *Forming And Developing The Transport System, Promoting The Exchange Of Goods*

Realizing the favorable position for the formation of a large handicraft production center of Cochinchina, right from the time of establishing the ruling apparatus, the colonial government built a transportation system to serving the colonial exploitation, transshipment of goods to Saigon and other areas.

According to the record of doctor JCBaurac who came to Thu Dau Mot before 1899, when the French had established a solid government here: Thu Dau Mot has many well-maintained roads, including main routes, such as: Thu Dau Mot - Saigon, to Binh Loi passing through Bung, Lai Thieu, to Thu Dau Mot; the way to Thi Tinh, passing Ben Cat, going to Tuong Hiep; the last is the road to Kra-tié, going to Cambodia, crossing Moi region through Chon Thanh and Hon Quang (Huynh Ngoc Dang, 2020). The Monographie de la Province de Thu-Dau-Mot also tells us: the distance between Thu Dau Mot and the capital of the Indochinese Federation is about 30 km, with about 28 km of perfectly maintained roads passing through. local trading centers such as Bung, Lai Thieu, Thu Dau Mot. From there, pottery, wicker products, and fruits harvested in the province were gathered and sent to Saigon. Then passing through Binh Loi<sup>2</sup> (Gia Dinh province) where an iron bridge crosses the Saigon River, goods continue to follow the trans-Indochina railway system to the outside (Indochina Research Company, 2015: 28). In addition, the road from Thu Dau Mot to Bien Hoa is also quite convenient (with a distance of more than 20km), there is a public bus running twice a day to transport passengers and telegraph between the two provinces. Besides, the road traffic from Thu Dau Mot to Tay Ninh has also been completed (about 80 km in length passing through Trang Bang). Especially, the Saigon - Loc Ninh railway was built and put into operation, creating a strong connection between Thu Dau Mot and surrounding localities. In addition to the road system, the river system was also consolidated and exploited by the colonial government. According to J.C. Baurac, “the colonial government invested in a steamboat as a shuttle service twice a day between Thu Dau Mot and Saigon” (Huynh Ngoc Dang, 2020). This train stopped at the main trading centers of Thu Dau Mot such as Phu Cuong, Lai Thieu, Bung, etc. Later (since 1907), a Chinese company won the contract and took over the transshipment. this. A Chinese sampan boat with relatively comfortable facilities serves the daily route between Thu Dau Mot and Saigon, with a journey time of 2 hours, both serving the transport of goods, tourists, both serving the sightseeing and tourism of tourists from Saigon up. From Saigon to Thu Dau Mot on a chaloupe of Chinese ship owner Yeng Seng, one trip a day departs from Thu Dau Mot at 7am to Saigon at 10am and vice versa departs from Saigon at 3:30am. in the afternoon and arrive at Thu Dau Mot at 6:30 pm, with round trip stops at Lai Thieu (People's Committee of Binh Duong province, 1998: 60). From 1915 to 1923, the French shipping company, Messageries fluviales, won the bid to transport water throughout Cochinchina. This company has carried out equipping better motor boats, with more complete facilities on board. This has attracted more passengers traveling on the Saigon - Thu Dau Mot route. In the later period, French shipping lines and Chinese shipping

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<sup>2</sup> Binh Loi Iron Bridge in Thu Duc District (present day Ho Chi Minh City)

companies continued to have fierce competition, which contributed to improving the quality of this shipping route.

### ***Economic Exploitation Investment Policy***

Thu Dau Mot is the land of Southern that became a French colony after the Treaty of Giap Tuat (1874). The main and long-term goal of the French colonialists was colonial exploitation. Combining both methods of exploitation is feudalism and capitalism. Therefore, in addition to maintaining the forces of landlords with the form of farming and collecting rents, the French colonialists gradually invested in handicraft and industrial production as well as establishing plantations on Thu Dau Mot land.

To serve the purpose of exploitation, the French colonialists focused on developing the infrastructure system. The colonial government invested in building many roads, bridges, schools and stations, such as: National Highway 13 (old) connecting Saigon with Thu Dau Mot, the river route was also consolidated to create a connection between Thu Dau Mot. Dau Mot with Dong Nai, Saigon - Cho Lon; railway routes, electric lines connecting Saigon, Go Vap, Bien Hoa with Thu Dau Mot up to Loc Ninh.

In parallel with economic and political policies, the French colonialists paid attention to the establishment of a new social structure here, which manifested firstly by focusing on building a team of Western-educated intellectuals. at the same time training a team of skilled workers (workers) to serve the colonial regime. A Western school system is set up to the General. In addition, to serve the exploitation of local strengths, the colonial government established a vocational school (Thu Dau Mot Indigenous Fine Arts School<sup>3</sup>) including 4 workshops: wood carving, casting, embroidery, mosaic and painting. This school has trained and provided a relatively abundant skilled labor force for the development of a number of traditional handicraft industries in Thu Dau Mot, such as lacquer, ceramics, carpentry... The policies of the colonial government have partly brought about drastic changes to the handicraft industries in the land of Thu Dau Mot.

### ***Discuss The Development Of Some Typical Handicraft Industries***

#### ***Lacquer craft***

Around the beginning of the twentieth century, Fine Arts schools were established, especially the Indochina Fine Arts School, our country's painting profession had great changes: besides the relics of paintwork and applied lacquer products with a unique character. Decorative arts, lacquer painting was born on the basis of traditional painting, through research and experimentation by innovating with the national spirit of artists and painters. This event has made lacquer art more prosperous, especially applied lacquer, due to the parallel

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<sup>3</sup> Thu Dau Mot Indigenous Fine Arts School (École d'Art Indigène de Thu Dau Mot) was established in 1901, and in 1932 changed its name to Thu Dau Mot School of Practical Fine Arts (commonly known as Ba Nghe School). This is the earliest Fine Arts school established in Indochina (Bien Hoa Fine Arts School - Dong Nai was established in 1903, Gia Dinh Painting School in 1913; Indochina Fine Arts College in Hanoi in 1925).

resonance between the background of fine art painting techniques and the impact of the art of lacquer painting, contributing to the characteristics of applied lacquer in Vietnam in general and Thu Dau Mot in particular.

In Thu Dau Mot, in 1901, the French colonialists opened a fine arts vocational school with the name: Thu Dau Mot native art school (École d'Art Indigène de Thu Dau Mot), because the school trained many professions such as: carpentry, wood carving, wood carving, conch carving, fine art painting, bronze chiseling, decoration... so it's called the Thu Dau Mot School of Art. For pragmatic purposes, they quickly gathered most of the excellent artisans of Thu land together with French experts to train good workers in various industries adding a team of skilled workers with formal training, marking a new stage in the development history of traditional crafts in Binh Duong.

At this time, groups of "Thu" workers gathered in Tuong Binh Hiep village - Phu Cuong mainly produced lacquer products and wood carvings. The names of the craftsmen Xu Nhon, Phen... are famous everywhere, along with the class of educated young artisans who graduated from art schools such as Indochina Fine Arts College, Gia Dinh, Bien Hoa, and Thu Fine Arts. Oil One. In 1935, the colonial government carried out a technological revival (because this field requires little capital but high profits because it takes advantage of cheap, but skillful labor and local raw materials). According to the statistics of the economic journal Indochina 1939, the number of craftsmen in Cochinchina during this period was about 19,134 people (nearly 5 times less than that of Tonkin and Trung Ky), but the total value of products made by Cochinchine was equal to that of Cochinchine. Tonkin and superior to Trung Ky (Nguyen Van Minh, 2015: 34). This shows that traditional crafts (including pottery, lacquer, and carpentry) in Cochinchina were commercially superior to other regions in the early twentieth century.

Since its inception, Binh Duong Fine Arts School has made an important contribution to the formation, maintenance and development of traditional lacquer villages, starting with the birth of Thanh Le lacquer workshop, the first lacquer factory in Vietnam. Binh Duong was founded in 1943 by 2 Truong Van Thanh and Nguyen Thanh Le, two excellent students in the academic year 1938-1942.

According to the 1945 statistics, there were 10 lacquer production facilities in Binh Duong. Particularly in Tuong Binh Hiep village, there are more than 300 households engaged in the profession. Especially, Thanh Le Lacquer Factory, established in 1943, was the largest production base at that time, creating a reputation at home and abroad.

Also according to the author's investigation: "According to some artisans, in the late 30s of the twentieth century, two Mr. Nam Nhuong and Ba Lam, after finishing the lacquer training class at the School of Fine Arts, practiced it. Thu Dau Mot has returned to the village to open a lacquer factory. Then, around the end of the 40s, Mr. Le Van Co - commonly known as teacher Co or teacher Son also returned to the village to teach his children and youth in the village. Just like that, the lacquer technique was passed on from generation to generation"



(B.T.H, 2019). At this time, Thu Dau Mot lacquer painting was focused on investment development and market expansion by the colonial government. Lacquer paintings of Thu land, especially of Tuong Binh Hiep village appear frequently in colonial competitions (like fairs, or exhibitions). Researcher Nguyen Dinh Tu said: the fighting was first held in Saigon on February 25, 1866, at the row of tile houses, the armory of the marine department (magasins de l'Avalanche), now belonging Botanical garden. This time, there are more than 700 items produced in Annam, including handicrafts produced in Saigon, Thu Dau Mot (Nguyen Dinh Tu, 2016: 285). Lacquer products are definitely one of the staples of Thu Dau Mot land to introduce to friends around the world. From such promotional activities and product introductions, Thu Dau Mot's fine arts products in general and lacquer products in particular have been better known to customers.

### *Ceramics*

Pottery was known to ancient inhabitants of Dong Nai culture about 3000 years ago. Archaeological sites in Doc Chua, Vuon Du, Cu Lao Rua, Phu Chanh... excavations in Binh Duong<sup>4</sup> have discovered many ceramic tools, such as jars, jars, jars, bowls... This shows that the early period of Prehistory in the Southeast (in present-day Binh Duong) had skilled and technically qualified workers (Binh Duong Literature and Art Association, 2009: 75). At the end of the seventeenth century, along with the migration of Vietnamese people from Thuan Quang area to the South to explore Gia Dinh land, pottery was also brought into the new land by a part of the Vietnamese. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a number of pottery kilns appeared in Binh An canton. However, the number is very small, the scale is small, and the technology is still low. During the Nguyen Dynasty (early 19th century), pottery in Binh An district had a flourishing development. Especially in the mid-nineteenth century, when the Hokkien Chinese migrated in large numbers to the central area of Binh An district (currently Thu Dau Mot City), bringing with them new industries from China, it created a transformation of the local ceramic industry. According to researchers on the Chinese in Binh Duong and through surveys, the Chinese came to settle in Binh Duong in the middle of the 19th century, around the time when Phu Cuong market was newly formed, ie around the end of the reign of the King Minh Mang (1820-1841).

According to the *Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi* series compiled during the reign of King Tu Duc, the Phu Cuong market area is recorded as follows: "Phu Cuong market in Phu Cuong village, Binh An district, colloquially known as Dau Mot (or Dau) market Miet), at the district headquarters, boats and boats are busy" (National History of the Nguyen Dynasty, 2006: 269). The bustle of the streets and the excitement of trading activities here have created a certain attraction with the Chinese force from Gia Dinh, Dong Nai and surrounding areas coming to exchange goods and services. permanent settlement. Gradually the Chinese community was established, more and more crowded in Phu Cuong area, contributing to the prosperity of the central area of Binh Dien, Binh An district. According to the authors of the Chinese in Binh Duong: "Phu Cuong is the

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<sup>4</sup> Most of the ancient relics of Binh Duong are located in Tan Uyen district, Binh Duong today, along the Dong Nai river.

earliest settlement of the Chinese in Binh Duong” (Huynh Ngoc Dang, 2012: 32). An important reason why the Phu Cuong market area (the center of Thu Dau Mot city today) attracts a large number of Chinese people to settle down is because it is close to the center of the province (Gia Dinh), next to Bien Hoa, precious forest products and products from the mountains and forests want to go to the province, all pass through here. The Chinese (mainly Phuc Kien) came to Dai Nam with their traditional profession, a very sophisticated pottery making, and found that in the Phu Cuong area there were many favorable conditions for development. First of all, in terms of raw materials, this area and the surrounding area have abundant clay resources and meet the standards for the development of the ceramic industry. Secondly, about the convenience in consuming goods when finished products, Thu Dau Mot area is an important traffic hub. From the 19th century, boats carrying jars, jars, bowls... from Phu Cuong market down to the West, up to the province and to Cambodia (Huynh Ngoc Dang, 2012: 33-34).

Moreover, before the Chinese came here, some Vietnamese also established a number of small pottery establishments before (typically, Mr. Chin Than's Ly Kip kiln). According to the authors of the book *The Chinese in Binh Duong*, the group of Chinese people settled in the Phu Cuong market area, contributed to making this market crowded and urban, and at the same time, the Fujian Chinese established established here a large-scale ceramic production center, Lo Chen area, famous in both Binh Duong and the South. From this first area, the Chinese continued to settle in "Tan Thoi (Thai) West village, Tan Thoi commune bordering the East (including Thinh Ha commune and Tan Thoi commune (Vinh Phuc village)" (Trinh Hoai Duc, 2005: 99) turning this place into the busiest market is Lai Thieu market. The Phuc Kien also took advantage of the rich clay raw materials here to open pottery kilns. Lai Thieu Pottery Center was also born there (mid 19th century) and prospered during the French colonial period. At the same time, the need for business and opening a pottery kiln attracted the Chinese to Binh Nham Thuong market (probably Binh Nham today), custom called Cay Me market (Binh Nham, Bung, An Thanh present) living together. This becomes the 3rd gathering place of the Chinese in Binh Duong after Phu Cuong market and Lai Thieu market. In Tan Khanh area, there are two villages, Tan Khanh Dong and Tan Khanh Trung, which also attract Chinese people to live here, but mainly to open pottery kilns. The oldest pottery kiln in Chanh Nghia was built in the mid-nineteenth century. It is Mr. Vuong Luong's pottery kiln, known locally as Mr. Tia's kiln in Ba Lua area today (Ly Phat, Do Tien, 2006: 10). According to the authors of *The Chinese in Binh Duong*: This kiln is located on a low hill near Ba Lua port, on the bank of a small canal that today locals often call Ong Tia canal.

Another condition is that at the end of the 19th century, after a period of strong development, Cay Mai pottery showed signs of going down. Perhaps due to the increasing population, increasingly narrow area, increasingly difficult source of raw materials, Cay Mai pottery has gradually moved to Lai Thieu area and then spread to An Thanh, Hung Dinh, and Phu Cuong areas... Along with the spread of Cay apricot pottery, Lo Chen area welcomed more and more Phuc Kien people to settle down and develop pottery. Along with many policies of the colonial government, the ceramic industry in Thu Dau Mot has been promoted

to a new stage. Especially since the establishment of Ba Nghe School in Thu Dau Mot, many skilled craftsmen have been trained to create jobs that have brought the province's pottery industry into a more methodical process.

According to the Thu Dau Mot index in 1910, the province recorded 40 pottery kilns, including 5 kilns in An Thanh, 8 kilns in Hung Dinh, 1 kiln in Tan Thoi (Lai Thieu), 3 kilns in Binh Chuan, 9 kilns in In Tan Khanh, there are 14 furnaces in Phu Cuong alone (Indochina Research Company, 2015: 43). By the 30s of the twentieth century, the number of pottery kilns in Thu Dau Mot province increased to nearly 100 kilns, attracting tens of thousands of workers (Tran Bach Dang, 1991: 480). According to Bui Chi Hoang, Nguyen Van Thuy, before the French era, belonged to the foreign market where Binh Duong ceramics' goods were consumed abroad, mainly in Cambodia. During the French colonial period, Binh Duong pottery school was expanded to France. The French market mainly consumes civil products that Thu Dau Mot pottery produces such as: tea sets, bowls, plates (Bui Chi Hoang, Nguyen Van Thuy, 2014: 28)... In 1943, Thanh Le Pottery Factory was established, with a pottery workshop specializing in the production of high-class fine art ceramics. This workshop has attracted many skilled workers not only in Thu Dau Mot area (trained at Ba Nghe School) but also good workers in neighboring areas, such as Bien Hoa, Tan Van San... Pottery products of this period were also more diverse, such as: household and ornamental items (single vases, elephant statues, unicorns, ornamental pots, tea utensils, water tanks...); in addition, there are plaster products of all kinds (Buddha statue of Quan Am, Lord Jesus, Phuoc Loc Tho, Quan Cong, Than Tai,); especially antique imitation ceramic products with a breakthrough in the use of ceramic glaze, high technical level... Thanh Le ceramic products in particular and Thu Dau Mot ceramics in particular have been honored at many international fairs and occupy many markets (Europe, Hong Kong, America and some African countries (Nguyen Van Thuy, 2009: 37). Similar to the analysis in the previous section, the fighting activities were regularly organized by the colonial authorities (in Saigon, Hanoi and even in France) to promote the typical products of the colony. According to Duong Van Triem: Thu Dau Mot participates in tricks regularly, almost continuously and at all levels: regional, national, and international levels. However, the participating products are not stable and continuous (Duong Van Triem, 2019). However, handicrafts are still the mainstay and the most important is still ceramics.

### *Carpenter*

When the Vietnamese set foot to explore the ancient land of Binh Duong, this place was full of dense forests, rich in forest products and natural resources. During the Nguyen Dynasty and the beginning of the Nguyen Dynasty (18th to early 19th century), the land of Binh Duong was a favorable business place for carpenters. The first is the class of workers who come to saw and cut down forest trees; next is the class of housebuilders and interior decorators. Over time, the art of wooden furniture of Binh Duong workers has developed more and more. The increasing demand of the market requires specialization in production and leads to the formation of relatively prosperous carpentry villages in Thu land, such as: Phu Cuong carpentry village, Lai Thieu carpentry village.

According to Grammont's memoirs, even before 1863, Phu Cuong carpentry village was the second largest center of sawn timber in Cochinchina. This village is also known as An Nhat Thuyen (the largest boat building in Binh An district). In the area of Thu Dau Mot Market in the early French colonial period (late 19th century), there were about 22 large boatyards located along the river, specializing in supplying products for both Cochinchina and Indochina (Hoi Van, Binh Duong Art School, 2009: 26). The carpentry industry developed rapidly when the French colonialists carried out a colonial exploitation policy with advanced Western techniques applied to sawing, processing, and creating products with many designs and patterns. in the transportation, exchange and sale of products. In the early twentieth century, when the colonial government opened Ba Nghe School in Thu Dau Mot "to train workers capable of making tables, chairs, cabinets..." (Nguyen Phi Hoanh, 1984: 185). Since then, the well-trained carpenter classes from this school have been born, along with the inherent ingenuity of the craftsmen, creating a transformation in the production of carpentry. Thu Dau Mot's carpentry products are known and favored by many places. In Phu Cuong, according to the French statistics in the early twentieth century, there were no less than 200 households engaged in sawing, processing and building new (Binh Duong Literature and Art Association, 2009: 27).

In Thuan An area during this period, there were famous carpentry villages such as: Binh Nham, An Thanh, Hung Dinh... with many famous products not only in the country but also internationally, such as: beds, church cabinets. screws, salon sets – Louis, wooden houses, communal houses... (People's Committee of Thuan An city, Binh Duong, 2020: 420). According to French statistics from 1901, the whole Thu Dau Mot province has about 80 clog-making establishments, more than 150 sculpture establishments with countless famous wooden art products such as trays, caskets, furniture, beds, cabinets, etc. especially the Louis salon and the model of the old house of the sculptor Thu Dau Mot were selected by the colonial government to display in the Indochinese handicraft competitions in Paris, Marseille (Ho Son Diep, 2012: 272).

In addition to the typical crafts as above, during the French colonial period Thu Dau Mot - Binh Duong, many other handicraft industries also flourished, typically: glass painting in Lai Thieu (Thuan An city today now) is famous throughout Cochinchina with a wide variety of products; laterite mining (mainly in Tan Uyen district at present); The profession of sugar-cooking was noted in a report in 1910 that "there are several sugar kilns, but the means for extracting sugar from sugarcane are of the most rudimentary" (Indochina Research Company, 2015: 43).

## CONCLUSION

The traditional handicraft industries have formed along with the southern step of the Vietnamese into the land of Binh an (later Thu Dau Mot - Binh Duong). Then the Chinese community came to bring new industries from China to promote the development of industries one step further, forming a number of traditional craft villages. However, it was not until the French established the government in Cochinchina, as well as Thu Dau Mot, with methodical policies and new techniques were applied, that the Native Fine Arts School was established (1901) The handicraft industry developed old rules, initially with

modernity. The famous handicraft villages of Binh Duong have entered the development stage, the handicraft products from here are consumed throughout the domestic market and famous at international fairs.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my warm thanks to Board of editors, my family, colleagues and brother in assisting convenient conditions for my research paper. Thanks to Thu Dau Mot University, Binh Duong province, Vietnam for sponsoring the research project "*Thu Dau Mot - Binh Duong handicrafts under the French colonial period (1862-1945)*".

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