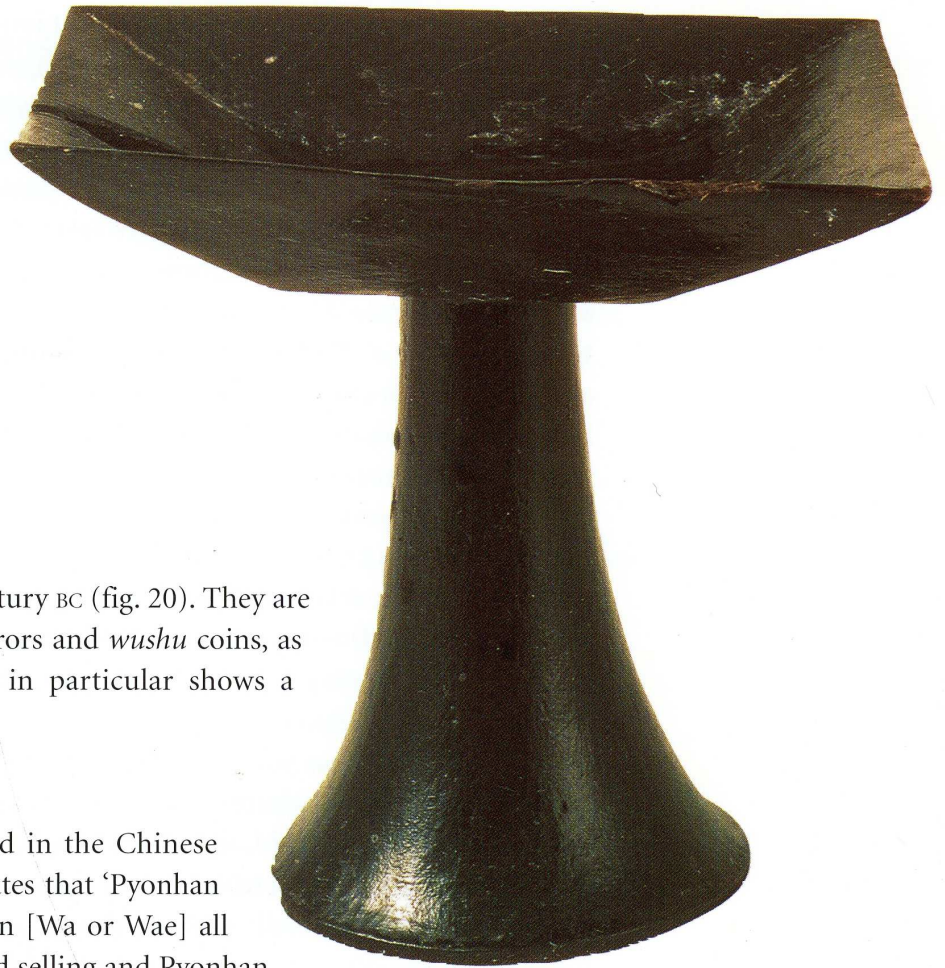


20. Black lacquered
square stem-cup
excavated from Taho-ri.
Iron Age, c. 1st century BC.
Ht: 12.5 cm.



production of lacquer during the first century BC (fig. 20). They are mixed with Chinese imports such as mirrors and *wushu* coins, as well as glass beads. The writing-brush in particular shows a sophisticated cultural level.

Technology and trade

Iron technology in the south is recorded in the Chinese histories, such as the *Sanguo ji*, which states that 'Pyonhan produces iron. Han, Ye and Ancient Japan [Wa or Wae] all come to buy it. Iron is used for buying and selling and Pyonhan also supplies iron to the two Chinese commanderies of Lelang and Daifang.' Choi suggests that, despite the undoubted introduction of iron technology from China through the Chinese commanderies in the north, there is strong evidence for an indigenous development of iron technology in the south predating the commanderies and arising around the time of the founding of Wiman Choson (194–108 BC). Many iron objects, both weapons and tools, are found in tombs from this period but it is sometimes difficult to be certain whether they are Chinese or Korean products. Taylor concludes that although iron artefacts were present on the peninsula from c. 500 BC, local production probably began in small pit furnaces in the early Iron Age–Proto-Three Kingdoms period. It is uncertain what the proportions of Korean products were to imported Chinese ones.⁶¹

Stoneware technology also developed in Korea during this period, under Chinese influence. The precise date of this development is somewhat unclear and is the subject of controversy amongst Korean scholars. On the basis of kiln excavations at Taegok-ri and Chinchon in the southwest of the peninsula, Barnes argues that the long sloping kiln technology of south China was probably carried by sea from southeast China to southwest Korea. Although the earliest kiln remains in south Korea so far date to the late third to early fourth centuries AD, it is likely that stoneware production in the north started considerably earlier than this and was introduced via Lelang. Korean terms for pottery of this period have been revised and now the traditional but rather imprecise term of Kimhae ware (named after the site near Pusan where paddled and incised grey Iron Age pottery, accompanied by iron slag and a Chinese Wang Mang coin dated AD 14, was first excavated

in 1921 by Umehara and Hamada) has been replaced by *yonjil* (earthenware), *wajil* (literally 'tile-ware', meaning a sort of high-fired earthenware) and *kyongjil* or true high-fired stoneware made of stoneware clay. A typical *yonjil* shape is a round-bottomed jar with horn-shaped handles (fig. 21). There is clear similarity between the so-called Kimhae paddled pottery and Late Zhou and Han Chinese vessels, while the cross-hatched designs on the shoulders of some Korean *wajil* jars reflect southern Chinese stoneware of the second–third centuries AD.⁶²

Apart from the references in the Chinese historical records to the Wa or Wae, archaeological evidence in the form of excavated Yayoi pottery attests to trade with ancient Japan during the Iron Age. In the far north, the Puyo people, living in the area of present-day Changchun and Jilin in northeast China, exported horses, sable furs and red gemstones to China. Puyo (Chinese: Fuyu), located between the Xianbei and Koguryo, maintained a mutually beneficial relationship with China. Puyo reached a peak of power in the first century AD, but eventually surrendered to Koguryo in AD 493.⁶³ Its capital was at Jilin, where excavations at the cemeteries of Mao'ershan and Laoheshan have revealed gold earrings as well as bronze cauldrons with pierced stands, both of which are interesting precursors of Korean metalwork and ceramics of the Three Kingdoms period.

21. *Yonjil* (earthenware) jar with horn-shaped handles. Proto-Three Kingdoms period, c. 1st century AD. Ht: 43 cm.

