

Chinese is the most worth valued product from China to Siam(Stated by John Crawford, the British ambassador in B.E. 2373)

Collectible and intense cultures of Chinese were gradually spreadable and they moved to become mainly Phuketien in Phuket tin mining boom period. It can be referred that many occupations and technologies were originally developed and influenced from mining that Chinese were the main role. They gathered Thai local knowledge and culture as well as Malaysian, Indian and western migrants.

Coffee Shop๕ : Chiam was used as money

Besides coffee and tea (Se Long) selling at a coffee shop (Kopi) in the morning, there are fresh local dessert and Khanom Chin (a kind of noodle served with a spicy curry sauce, originally made from fish) as well. Later, there will be more fresh dessert additionally and some dried foodstuff that are made from vegetable.

๕ Some coffee shops have the product as same as in grocery and additionally something that are related with tea and coffee, for instance; condensed milk and sugar. In the area that there does not have grocery, coffee shop is similar to a grocery.

Coffee shop in tin mine(mining?) is act as a grocery for labors. They will use ไม้ Chiamไม้ (a piece of wood, rattan or zinc marked with symbol or color to show its value) that is paid for their wages as their money.

Dried snack๕ : ไม้ Eat as same as riceไม้

๕ Dried snack that is produced by Chinese shows many parts that influences on how to use flour to do many kinds of snack such as Khanom Sai Kai, Khanom Shueak Khwai, Khanom Khai Ta Pae and Khanom Phrik, etc. Phuketien usually eat fresh snack (and dried snack) with coffee as their breakfasts.

๕ The well-known dried snack shops are Kheng Tin (Bang Neo intersection) and A Tak Kae (Dibuk Road).

Khanom Chin (Noodle served with a spicy curry sauce)๕ : Variety of vegetable

๕ Before B.E. 2500, Khanom Chin in Phuket is not added with preservative that is the reason to finish selling before noon.

๕ The way to eat Khanom Chin for whole day long influences from people who do not live in Phuket. They are tourists who wish to taste it locally. Therefore, now Khanom Chin can be bought in Phuket since morning until night (a kind of noodle served with a spicy curry sauce).

๕ Spicy curry sauce for Khanom Chin is mainly Nam Ya (Originally made from fish). There are also other curries such as Nam Phrik (Chilli paste), Namchup (Chili paste), Kaeng Phung Pla (Spicy and sour fish viscera curry), Kaeng Nua (Beef curry), Kaeng Kie Wan (Green curry), Kaeng Pu (Crab curry), Kaeng Sap Nok, serving with Phak Glet (dipping vegetable) that are various kind of fresh, pickle and blanching vegetable for example; Luk Niang (Djenkol bean), Luk Rieng, stink bean, Phak Nam (Lasia Spinosa), Spider Weed, Water dropwort, top of cashew leaf, banana blossom, bean sprout, basil. Some restaurant serve free of Indian anchovy and small dried fish. Some have boiled egg, Ho Mok (Curry fish mouse) and Thot Man (Fishcake).

Ore sifting : Main occupation

Europeans that are Portuguese, Dutch, French and British were the merchants who bought tin. They involved urging mining operators to develop the tin mining since B.E. 2055.

๕ Types of mining are Mueang Lan (Ground Sluicing), Mueang Khra (Hill Mining), Mueang Ru (Shatt Mining), Mueang Umong (Underground Mining), Mueang Plong (Shift Mining). Once having Chinese labors, there was Mueang Hab (Open-Cut Mining) in King Rama III. When Europeans developed and ran the business in selling the machine, mining operator brought it to use instead of labors. That was the origin of Mueang Sup (Gravel Pumping) and Mueang Chit (Hydraulic Mining) since King Rama VI. Captain Edwards T. Miles developed seaway dredger to originate Phuket mine excavation ship in B.E. 2450. Finally it became the first sea-going bucket dredger in B.E. 2514

๕ All type of tin mining, it was necessary to separate iron from sand that was why labors used equipments called โ ลียงโ for sifting as Dulang washing. That was the main job of Phuketien that mining owners were mainly rich businessmen.

Labour : โ Adventurerโ

๕ Tin mining labors worked so hard for two shifts a day. One shift was two rounds. One round was four hours per working period in the strong sunlight and heavily raining in the season of south-western monsoon. When there was heavy raining, they needed to help the drainage in order to protect their bossโ s Mueang Hap (Open-Cut mining) from flooding. They faced with Malaria that was very difficult to cure. Luckily, they would be able to recover and having their own family, children, grandchildren later. Some labors had such a great opportunity to promote to be tin mining bosses latterly.

Transportation : First coming

๕ Early transportation and vehicle using around, between other provinces and abroad in Phuket was boat. There were piers in most of houses in order to communicate with Europeans (Portuguese, Dutch, French and British) since B.E. 2054. Boats could be moored at Tha Ruea Bay and Sa Pam Bay. In year 2450, the pier at Phuket Bay was started accordingly.๕ The name boat lists appearing in King Rama V were Ro Sa, Be Si, Se Hua, Tung Kang. In the period of World War II, there were Tong Ho, Sing Pang Nga and Thepphithak.

๕ In Thung Kha district (presently city centre), the trolley (Lang Chia) and the horse carriage (Bea Chia) were used generally. In World War II, there were the tricycle with sidecar and personal car coming in B.E. 2450. It was developed to be the public transport car named Po Thong and the truck called Lo Li. The next, there were more vehicles after the beginning of Thap Krasattri Road and connecting with Phetchakasem Road.

Seasoning made from bean : Main Dish

๕ Chinese preferred to use bean to be an ingredient in their dishes. These all dishes were Tao Gua (Yellow Tofu), Tao Yu (Pickled bean curd), Tao Huay (Soft custard bean in syrup), Tao Goa Chi (Fried Yellow Tofu with mixed ingredient inside), Tao Tueng (Bean in syrup), Tao Pao A Goy (Chinese pancake), Tao So (Chinese cake), Tao Ngae (Bean sprout). Some used as seasoning e.g. Tao lo Dam (Sweet black soy sauce), Tao lo Khao (Soy sauce) or Chio Cheng, Tao Chiaw (Salted soya bean) and Tao Si (Salted black bean).

๕ Saeng Chan Shop located in Thalang district is the seasoning producer since World War II.

Chinese shrine : Being knowledge and faithful

๕ Frequently practicing and having more experience in Chinese language and literature will be able to show the creativity of the proverb and auspicious poetry for somebodyโ s enrichment.

๒ In the occasion of Chinese New Year, the sixtieth anniversary, Vegetarian festival and shop opening ceremony can be shown the Chinese writing in public. Permanent writer at Chinese shrine is the person who encourages the dream of Chinese become true primarily.

Opium : Political drug

๒ After planting the opium poppy in India by Arab doctor and getting as great harvest, East Indian from England was the company that brought opium for sale in China. The distribution purpose was in term of narcotic rather than being medicine from desert land.

๒ Emperor Daoguang๒ (B.E. 2325-2393) noticed that opium was disaster so๒ he commanded to anti the usage of opium. But it was loser to European. Chinese economic was collapse. Chinese migrated to get their luckiness in abroad. Opium was spread out menacingly in Asia to be acceptable that it is legal. Siam could not be able to against this idea. At the end, opium became legally and allowed to establish opium den in the country.

๒ Phuket used to have opium den at Bang Neow, Ban Khian and Nai Thu market. It was served for Chinese labors largely and harmful for health of the rich people who were addicted.๒ In B.E. 2470 Phuket government started to collect the opium tax that could earn around two million baht while getting four millions from tin mining and 500,000 Baht more for income tax.

Prostitute : Ex-job๒

๒ Although prostitute is considered immoral and illegal, but there is remaining until now that causes venereal decease and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

๒ In the prosperous mining period, Phraya Ratsadanupradit (Khosimbi Na Ranong , B.E. 2400-2456) limited the prostitution area at Soi Ang Ha Lai (Romani). There were women from Macau, Japan, Malayu before changing to be women from northern part of Thailand to do this job in hotels and brothels at Bangkok Road. After big fire at Bangkok Road, they moved to Phun Phon Road and located in bars and night clubs around Phuket town.

Lathe man, Blacksmith : Loaded work

๒ Human had invented the furnace with 1,538 degree Celsius about 4,000 years ago thus they could forge to be iron.

๒ Iron is stickier and stronger material than bronze iron and stone. Mine workers popularly used steel to be equipment in tin mining. Smithy produced these equipment e.g. Tong Siew (Crawbar), knife, big knife, axe, Thi Teng (Nail) Thi Thui (Hammer), งอเยี่ยว Ngo Yeo (.), เจี้ยมจ๋วย Chiam Chui (โ ข) using in Lan (Ground Sluicing), Mueang Khra (Hill Mining), Mueang Plong (Shift Mining), Mueang Umong (Underground Mining), Mueang Ru (Shatt Mining), and Mueang Hap (Open-cut Mining).

๒ In Mueang Sup๒ (Gravel Pumping), Mueang Chit (Hydraulic Mining), excavation ship and dredger had big iron equipment that were produced in smithy and lathe factory e.g. steel joint, Tu To(ตุต้อ),๒ Bucket(ลูกเซอ), Chui Siaw (จ๋วยเสี่ยว),๒ Hong Ko (ฮองก่อ), Uan(อ้วน),๒ Chui Pit(จ๋วยปีด), Tap (ตาบ)

Ko Chan fishery โ Chinese fishing methodโ

๒ Phuket Bay was the resource center of local fishery. Hokkian used Ko Chan boat or Thai Pet boat mooring at Bang Yai canal entrance to the sea in order to trawl with the big net longer than 30 meters.

๒ Ko Chan fishermen took what they trawled to be food for their family and sell to merchants to Ban San (market) when it was left from household

consume. Fishes sold in the market were such as Siamese glassfish, Parrot fish ปลาหำป, Striped sea catfish, Sand whiting fish, Sea bass, Sea mullet, Surgeonfish, ปลามีหลัง, ปลาหลังเขียว, Marsh clam, Cockle, Thai escargot, Wing shell, หอยกรำซำง, หอยฝำใหม่, Rough periwinkle, Tongue shell, Rock lobster, Mud crab, Horse crab, Spiny rock crab, Sea crab, Squid, หมักเม็ดหนูน

๒ Ko Chan fishermen brought the trawl to sundry in the area of Bang Yai canal entrance that became to name of ำ Bang Niawำ and has been used as the name of this community until present.

ำ Master Artistำ

Cheng Loetkit Sombun

His master piece sculpture was miniature goddess of mercy (Kuan Im) carving sized of 6.2 x 14.2 mm. Face was 2.4 mm width. She was in the posture of sitting on lotus petal width of 1.1 mm.๒ He created equipments from syringes to work as knife and drill. He used magnifying glass glued the cover of condensed milk can. Moreover, he had many pieces of works on wooden god carving and Chinese panting door panel in many Phuket shrines and houses. Those were included of more than 3,000 pieces in Malaysia.

Besides being a master of sculpture and carving, Mr. Cheng also created the first Phuket coconut grater in B.E. 2524. It was oval wood turning putting with motor axle. Driving nail into piece of wood and cutting nailำ s head in order to use for scratching or grating coconut from half of coconut shell.๒

๒ The one that he was so proud was Thep Tharo wooden carving as same as the real size of Pho Than Chaem in Chalong Temple. Then it was handed to be Phuket possession. However in B.E. 2500, he did the molding similar to Pho Than Chaem who was the most respectful from all of Phuketien and Buddhist generally. He used clay mixed with chaff and straw paper. The height was 7 inches that became the mold of Pho Than Chaem Buddha image which was popularly respectable in many houses and other places.

๒ Cheng Loetkit Sombun was admired and awarded as the master artist in the field of southern culture for carving in B.E. 2532.