THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF VUON CHUOI

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VC Team

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Nguyễn Văn Thắng (Museum of Photography, Lai Xa Village)
TOPICS

Cultural Formation
Cultural Characteristics
Some Issues on Preservation and Conservation
Vuon Chuoi Complex of Sites

**Location:** Lai Xa village, Kim Chung commune, Hoai Duc district, Hanoi City.

Go Cay Muong, Go Chua Gio, Go Vuon Chuoi, Go Den Ran, Go Mo Phuong, Go Chien Vay

Now only Go Vuon Chuoi, Go Den Ran left
Two sites are located in urbanization area
Map of Distribution of Metal Age Archaeological Sites in Hanoi (Courtesy: Nguyễn Đức Trung)
**History of research:** The archaeological relics have been discovered and studied by archaeologists since 1969. Since then, many research surveys and excavations have been conducted.

From 2009 to 2014, Vuon Chuoi was the place for Fieldschool of VNU USSH, Hanoi.

During 2019 and 2020, Institute of Archaeology, Hanoi Department of Culture and Department of Archaeology, USSH, VNU Hanoi conducted the excavations at the site for evaluation of the values making the preservation plan (archaeological theme park or open-air on-site archaeological museum) for utilization of the archaeological values in contemporary society.

**Characteristic:** So far the results have determined that this is a residence-burial complex developed continuously through Dong Dau - Go Mun periods.- Dong Son periods (Pre Dong Son and Dong Son Cultures from 3500 to 2000 BP). This is an important site for prehistory of Red River Delta.

**Total excavated area of 1.649m²/15.500m² (until 2020)**
Fieldschool of VNU USSH, Hanoi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Area (m²)</th>
<th>Strata</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Institute of Archaeology</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>2</td>
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The excavated pits at Vuon Chuoi, the red colour ones done in 2020
Location of trench 1 and 2 at 2019 Vuon Chuoi Excavation

Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
Cultural Formation

Spatial Distribution

Chronological Sequences
The traces of residence and burial of ancient population communities are unevenly distributed over the whole area of the site and the thickness of cultural layer varies depending on the excavated points, the thinnest is about 0.70m and the thickest is over 2m.

Dong Dau residents live mainly on the mound top (northeast region). Residents of Go Mun and Dong Son periods on the southwest region, which mean that they extend their residence towards the lower mound.

**Strata**  
**From 3500 – 2000 BP**

Pre Dong Son: Phung Nguyen (4000-3.500 BP)  
Dong Dau (3500 – 3000 BP)  
Go Mun (3000 -2.500 BP)  
Dong Son: 2.500 BP to AD 100

Photo: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
2010 VC T.1. There were detected the remains of Dong Dau settlement and Dong Son Burials, which were buried in Dong Dau habitation layer.
TP1: Cultural Layer 1.9m

TP2: Cultural Layer 0.7m

TP3: Cultural Layer 1.3m

Dong Son Burial in layer 3 TP3

Dong Dau Residential area In the Northern Part of the VC site (2019 VC)
Eastern Part – Go Mun and Dong Son Periods
TP25: Cultural Layer 0,3 – 0,6m

TP26: Cultural Layer 0,7m

TP27: Cultural Layer 0,35m

TP28: Cultural Layer 0,15m

Southern Part – Dong Son Period
Western Part: GÒ MUN - ĐỒNG SƠN
• Stratum sequence at 20VC.T.3

  - Surface-0.15m, disturbbeb Late ĐS cultural layer.
  - Late ĐS cultural layer 0.3m đến 0.5m (L1).
  - Basal layer: Typical yellow Vinh Phuc Pleistocene clay sendiment.

  ➔ So, the area where the trench 3 was opened is the low terrace which contained only the ĐS graves, no habitation remains.

  This area was heavily destroyed by antiquity looters, who used metal detector for collecting Đong Son bronze artifacts
Late Dong Son Habitation layer
Above the potsherd reinforced layer
Dong Son Burials
Alluvium soil
Go Mun

2019 VC. T.2
Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
Strata, Eastern Wall 19VC. T.2

Lớp Mặt
Đông Sơn
Alluvium
Gò Mun
Sinh Thố
Basal Layer
Dong Son Cemetery

Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
• Layer 1 (L1) – Two Đông Sơn culture phases
• Alluvial soil layer (Tn1).
• Layer 2 (L2) - Gò Mun culture layer
2020 VC T.1, Western wall

- Recent pit
- Cultivated layer
- Late Dong Son layer
- Reinforced potsherd layer
- Early Dong Son layer
- Dark soil pit
- Go Mun layer
- Basal layer
The Features
Features

Vestiges related to the treatment of houses platforms such as built yellow clay foundation in Dong Dau period; reinforced potsherd layer in Dong Son period..., relics of black soil pits, brown earth pits, fireplace relics and bronze foundry, pit for exploitation of clay...

Burials from Dong Dau and Dong Son Periods
19VC.T.1.L.7  Dong Dau Period  

Photo: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
19VC.T.2.L.7 Go Mun and Dong Son Periods Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
The traces related to the ancient flow and ponds, in which there were yielded the floral remains and wooden artifacts dating to Go Mun Period.

Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
Dong Son Cemetery 19VC.T.2 (layers 11-12)

Source: 2019 VC, Institute of Archaeology
Đồng Sơn graves
20VC T.1
Dong Dau Burial 2010 Vuon Chuoi Excavation

Image Description:
- 11.VC.H7.M1
- Cụm gốm
- Nội gốm to
- Hiện vật hình cực áo
- Nội gốm nhỏ
- M1
The graves from Dong Son period are often buried in the residence areas of Dong Dau and Go Mun communities. The burial rites are various and typical for Dong Son culture.
Secondary Burial

12 VC T.2. Burial4
Secondary Burial in Jar of Dong Son Period - into Go Mun Residential Layer
Grave 8, 20VC, T.1

- Appearing in excavated layer 9, the grave pit is rectangular and narrow, north-south direction, size 2.6m long, 0.5m wide.
- The burial remains lie in straight position with the skull to the north. The study initially identified the owner as a woman from 29 to 32 years old (had M3 molars), about 1.6m high.
- The grave goods consisted of 8 bronze artifacts, 5 bronze fragments and 2 ceramic pots.
Cultural Characteristics
Artifacts

The artifacts are also very various in material, type and making technique including stone, pottery, copper, iron from late Phung Nguyen early Dong Dau to developed Dong Dau phases, Go Mun and Dong Son cultures. Quite a lot of Go Mun wooden tools thanks to well preserved muddy conditions. Stone ornaments are rich in form and decoration.
Stone artifact in button shape
Dong Dau - Go Mun Periods VC 2019
Bronze Artifacts of Dong Dau and Go Mun Periods
* Bronze Artifacts in Dong Son Burials
Collected Artifacts by Local Villagers
Evidences of bronze making
Iron Artefacts

Hiện vật sắt có hình dáng giống lưỡi câu

Hiện vật sắt
Bone Artifacts
Wooden Artifacts - Gò Mun Period
Dong Dau Pottery
Go Mun Pottery

11VCH1.L.6. Gò Mun
Dong Son Pottery
Hạt Rubus spp. (x 15) Di tích Vườn Chuối
(ảnh Nguyễn Thị Mai Hương)

Họ Rosaceae (Hoa Hồng)
Xoài (*Mangifera* spp.) di tích Vườn Chuối
(ảnh Nguyễn Thị Mai Hương)

Hạt Xoan nhù - di tích Vườn Chuỗi
(ảnh Nguyễn Thị Mai Hương)

Hệ thực vật đa dạng và phong phú giúp nghiên cứu môi trường sống của cư dân Tiền Đồng Sơn, Đông Sơn
Faunal Remains
Carbonized Rice Grains (Dong Dau Period)
Husk imprint in burnt clay
## Radiocarbon Laboratory
### The Australian National University

#### $^{14}C$ results

<table>
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<th>S-ANU#</th>
<th>Sample ID</th>
<th>Context No.</th>
<th>internal ID</th>
<th>F14C</th>
<th>±</th>
<th>$^{14}C$ age</th>
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Sample 65337 2019 T2
Dong Son layer
19.VC.T2.L4.Dg01

Sample 65336 2019 T1 Go Mun layer
19.VC.T1.L.3.e5

Sample 65338 2019 T2 Go Mun layer
19.VC.T2.L9.c1.Cg01

**Locations of the samples**
It is the combined residence and burial site continuously existed through the pre-Dong Son - Dong Son and after Dong Son periods. Providing tangible and intangible evidences about life, society, natural environment and population.

Vuon Chuoi contributed to study the structure of living space, economic structure, wet rice cultivation, handicrafts, fishing, hunting, breeding … in the pre-Dong Son and Dong Son periods. Suitable for building the open-air on-site archaeological museum.
* Vuon Chuoi also provides data to study the cultural short- and long-distance relationships. Vuớn Chuỗí Vuon Chuoi is an ideal location to conserve the archaeological heritages and building museums, archaeological parks.

* This site gives us the materials for interdisciplinary research, especially for international cooperation in archaeological excavation and study.
Vườn Chuỗi and Public Archaeology

Di chỉ Vườn Chuỗi https://www.facebook.com/nguoi.laixa/?tn-str=k*F
Bảo tàng Nhân học https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011331599115
The sites are located in strongly urbanized areas.
Vuon Chuoi Complex 11.2019
Preparing for Preservation Plan.
The Balance between Development and Conservation
thank you!