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## Jar Burial Traditions in Prehistoric Vietnam

Jar burials played a crucial role in prehistoric mortuary practices across Southeast Asia, particularly in central and southern Vietnam. While often linked to the Sa Huỳnh culture, their origins date back to the Late Neolithic Bàu Tró culture (4500–3500 BP), primarily for infant burials. However, findings at Đền Đò and Cồn Nền, where some jars lack human remains, suggest broader ritual functions. During the Metal Age, burial customs diversified. The Đông Sơn culture in northern Vietnam favored earthen pits and log coffins, with jar burials mainly for infants. Làng Vạc is a notable exception, featuring both child and adult jar burials. The Sa Huỳnh tradition developed through two phases: the pre-Sa Huỳnh phase (1500–500 BC), marked by stone tools and pottery, and the Sa Huỳnh phase (500 BC–2nd century AD), incorporating iron tools and glass ornaments.

In central Vietnam, the northern Sa Huỳnh region (Hà Tĩnh–Bình Định) is characterized by egg- and cylindrical-shaped jars, iron objects, and glass adornments. In the south, jar burials extended to offshore islands, forming a distinct tradition. Recent research suggests ties between Sa Huỳnh pottery and Philippine traditions, with northern Sa Huỳnh ceramics resembling Tabon ware (in Palawan), while southern variants, notably at Hòa Diêm, share traits with Kalanay pottery (in the Visayas). These findings highlight extensive maritime interactions and the still-debated origins of jar burial traditions.

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