



...when the Chinese set  
from India. Tang Dynasty  
ceremonies. By the end of  
action had been achieved  
... The famous Venetian  
... in his tour report in  
... during the period 1644 to  
... adopted by the Koreans  
... A.D.

Like any other country, Japan also has early history of pottery traceable to the beginning of the Stone Age. In excavations of old palaces, relics of earthenwares and stonewares have come to light is the earliest work of ceramic art known in Japan. The vessels of clay found in these relics could be well classified into two types: (1) Jamon type (made by hand) and (2) Yoyoi type (made by the potter's wheel). The Jamon type of wares are the oldest earthenware in Japan and they are full of variety in design and shape among the earthenware of that age.

The Yoyoi type of ware, made on wheel, is superior in shape and finish. In both these cases, red clay has been used as the main raw material which requires low firing. These types of wares are called "Suyaki". They are without any glaze. Even to-day in Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, this type of unglazed Suyaki wares are used to offer rice wine called "Sake" to gods or spirits.

Later came a type of ware called "Sue" or "Inobe" and the speciality of these wares was that they were thrown on potter's wheel with uniform shapes and fired at a higher temperature giving more strength to the ware. The advent of the so-called "Ana-Gama" (sloped-kiln) was of epoch-making significance in pottery industry and this gave a chance to fire the wares at a higher temperature. "Nobori-Gama" (sloped-kiln) was invented to suit the mountainous conditions of Japan in which not only a high temperature was reached but also the use of firewood was convenient due to its character of continuity. Even to this day one could see here and there a kiln or two of this type in Japan which is the speciality of this country. These developments are generally regarded as having taken place towards the end of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.) and it was introduced into Japan through South Korean pottery and were continued to be manu-