ABSTRACT

The ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia is a mature area of study, having benefited from the works of many distinguished scholars. This paper looks into the area of ceramic artifacts in the Peranakan Museum of Singapore and the Nonya Baba Museum of Melaka. The characteristics of the collection are explored in terms of the earlier material culture inherited by the Peranakans. It may be pertinent to make the point that from a “whole culture” approach, these ceramics used at the commonest, middle and higher levels embraced a cultural transference that might not be claimed by the Peranakans alone. Another important part of this investigation is the linkage made to the larger commercial networks in which these ceramics were traded.