

ARTEFACT STUDY: THAILAND ELEPHANT

PURPOSE

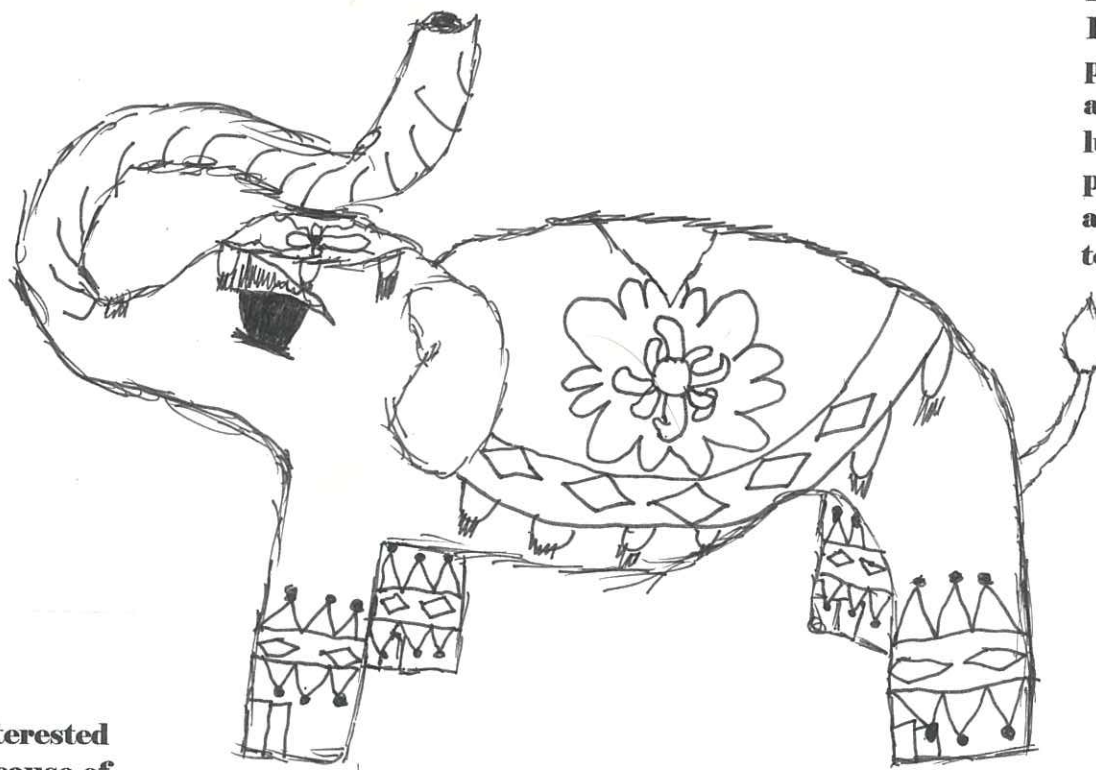
I believe this artefact is a piece of craft work created for good luck and decorative purposes. I believe the artefact was a symbolic image for Thai people because historically elephants were used in war and represented intelligence and strength. Today, many people purchase these ornaments for good luck and display them in their homes to bring fortune. The elephant must have its trunk upwards and must be facing a door for it to actually bring good luck. Other people purchase them just to decorate their home.

THREE QUESTIONS A HISTORIAN MIGHT ASK ABOUT THIS ARTEFACT

1. How else was silver used in this time in Thailand?
2. Why were elephants chosen as a good luck charm by Thai people?
3. Were intricate patterns used in other crafts during this time?

ORIGIN

I think this elephant is from Thailand. The elephant sculpture is like the ones I saw in Thailand when I went on holiday in 2014. This sculpture is similar to one I have at home, which my mother purchased in Thailand, that is used as an ornament and as a symbol of good luck. The elephant is an icon for Thai people and it is often seen on drawings and paintings in royal palaces and on temples.



CIVILISATION

I believe this civilisation was interested in patterns and lots of detail because of the intricate work on the mat placed on the elephant's back and head. I think this civilisation believed in nature because of the emphasis on floral and leaf patterns carved into the silver. I believe this civilisation chose an elephant because it symbolises strength due its size and wisdom because of its strong memory and intelligence. The elephant represented good luck and this civilisation believed in superstition and myths. The elephant has jewels and tassels and could represent a wealthy or significant person or a religious figure. The elephant also has a royal meaning because of the way it has been dressed. I believe there was machinery involved to create this artefact as there are many wonderful patterns and such detail, could not be done by hand.

TIME PERIOD

I think this ornament has been made in modern times. I am not sure of the specific period but would have to be fairly recent due to the fact that machinery has been used to make this. Thailand is not a very developed country and I don't think they have had machinery for a long time.

