

Changes in Jingdezhen Export Porcelain from 15th to 17th Century: A Study on Archaeological Discoveries in Hong Kong and Macau

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Important findings of Chinese export porcelain were recently made both in Macau and at the Penny's Bay in Hong Kong, two trading points close to each other on the South China Sea. Porcelains excavated at the Penny's Bay were dated to a period right before that of the shards found in Macau, and were mainly intended for the Southeast Asian market while the latter were related with the Sino-Portuguese porcelain trade. Based on these materials, my paper discussed the changes in style of Jingdezhen export porcelain from the late 15th to the early 17th century.

Porcelains unearthed at the Penny's Bay are rich in varieties. Most of them are blue-and-white wares made in the period from the late 15th to the early 16th century, while the latest pieces could be dated to the late 16th century. Through careful comparison between these porcelain shards with those found at the Lena Shoal in the Philippines, this paper reveals the fact that porcelains found at the Penny's Bay were actually export wares at that time. There was no major difference, however, between these wares and those for Chinese domestic use. It should be noted that there are a few *kraak* porcelain and shards decorated with the "Portuguese Cross" at the Penny's Bay, which reveals traces of the Sino-Portuguese smuggling trade once conducted at this place. My paper will discuss the status of the Penny's Bay in the porcelain trade and examine the trade route for the porcelain excavated here.

A large number of export wares, most of which are *kraak* porcelain from the late 16th to the early 17th century, are recently found in Macau, providing physical evidence for the early Sino-Portuguese trade. These *kraak* wares, as well as the Western-style decorations on porcelain, such as the Armorial bearings, indicate that Chinese export porcelain gradually began to shift to *Chine de Commande* style in the late 16th century. This is an important change in Chinese export porcelain, and heralds a new age of the porcelain trade between Jingdezhen and the world.

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