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Dutch demand for porcelain: The maritime distribution of Chinese ceramics and the Dutch East India Company (VOC), first half of the 17th century

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Citation

Ketel, C. L. (2021, September 30). *Dutch demand for porcelain: The maritime distribution of Chinese ceramics and the Dutch East India Company (VOC), first half of the 17th century*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3214229>

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DUTCH DEMAND FOR PORCELAIN

THE MARITIME DISTRIBUTION OF CHINESE CERAMICS AND THE DUTCH
EAST INDIA COMPANY (VOC), FIRST HALF OF THE 17th CENTURY.

Christine Louise Ketel

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ISBN: 978-94-6423-404-6

Printed by: Proefschriftmaken.nl

Cover Designs: Vera van Beek

Cover illustration: De rede van Batavia met VOC-retourvloot. Adam Willaerts, 1649. Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam, Inv.nr. B.0258.

Backcover illustration:

Stucco ceiling in the porcelain chamber (Porzellankabinetts) with a detail of the ceiling painting signed by Augustin Terwesten, 1697, portraying an "Allegory of the Introduction of Porcelain to Europe".

Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg/ Photographer: Wolfgang Pfaunder.

**Dutch Demand for Porcelain.
The Maritime Distribution of Chinese Ceramics and the Dutch
East India Company (VOC), first half of the 17th Century.**

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van

de graad van doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,

op gezag van rector magnificus prof.dr.ir. H. Bijl,

volgens besluit van het college voor promoties

te verdedigen op donderdag 30 september 2021

klokke 13.45 uur

door

Christine Louise Ketel

geboren te Tokio, Japan

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Leeuwarden.

DEDICATION

Woo!!....vases and our life are fragile.

I remember when I met Roxanna at the museum, that visit opened my eyes.

Our most precious, valuable pottery broken.

What a life!

In sorrow,

Cong Tran -Vietnamese collector

From: 'The contributions of Roxanna Brown to the study of Southeast Asian Ceramics'.

by Dawn F. Rooney in: *Southeast Asian Ceramics: New Light on Old Pottery*. Ed.

John N. Miksic, Singapore, 2009.

My dissertation is dedicated to Roxanna Maude Brown (1946-2008), who was unjustly arrested in Seattle, U.S.A. where she was invited to lecture. She was charged with having misused her electronic signature for dealings in Asian antiquities. Imprisoned without a trial, she spent four days in a cell and died from complications of peritonitis as a result of lack of treatment. As Mort Rosenblum wrote: *'However unintended, Roxanna Brown suffered capital punishment without trial because of what appears to be simple identity theft, now so common to our daily lives.'* In 2009, the US federal government paid \$ 880,000 to settle the lawsuit filed by her son.

Roxanna was an authority on Southeast Asian ceramics and used the concept of finds from shipwrecks to support her theory on the Ming Gap. She became curator at Bangkok University's Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum and has written extensively on subjects relating to Southeast Asian ceramics. Her works have inspired me because she was the first to compare ceramics salvaged from shipwrecks to their origins, the kilns where they were shaped, decorated and fired. I think that this method is crucial for thorough research on identifying and dating ceramics, and this is the principal aim of my dissertation.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I first wish to commemorate Professor Dr. H.A. van Oort (1916-2001), who became professor at the department of *Oost Aziatische Kunst en Archeologie* at the University of Amsterdam. His enthusiasm inspired many who were interested in this subject to become his students and get acquainted with the unique collection of Asian Art in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The University closed the faculty in 1986 after which this subject was no longer taught there. I also commemorate Bas Kist (1933-2003), curator of the department of Dutch History at the Rijksmuseum. Under his supervision, between 1979 and 1982, I coordinated a research group, together with Christien Smits, to sort out and research the 200 kilos of broken blue and white Chinese porcelain salvaged from the VOC shipwreck the *Witte Leeuw* by the Belgian diver Robert Sténuit. This resulted in the publication of *The Ceramic Load of the Witte Leeuw (1613)*. It was my introduction to maritime archaeology and Kraak-type porcelain.

I cannot mention all the archaeologists, maritime archaeologists and specialists on the subject of Chinese export porcelain whom I have become acquainted with during conferences, most of which took place in China. I especially thank Cao Jianwen, Li Jian'an, Qin Dashu, Jiang Bo, Cheng Peikai and many others for the lively discussions and exchanges of information on the subject of Chinese export ware.

As to the thesis itself, I thank Robert Parthesius for encouraging me to undertake it, and Menno Leenstra for his advice on the archival material. Special thanks also to Ink de Pree to help me get through the first drafts. My supervisor, Anne Gerritsen, encouraged me to reach the ultimate goal of the dissertation. Finally, I thank the Doctorate Committee for their useful comments.

Many thanks to Cao Jianwen, Hugo Crespo, Jack Harbeston, Valerie Esterhuizen, R. Jayasena, Elena Strong of the National Museum of Bermuda, and Peter, the grandson of the deceased Edward von der Porten, who provided me with much of the photo materials. Also thanks to Claire Delery, curator of Musée Guimet in Paris for sending me numerous images of the porcelain collection housed in the Santos Palace in Lisbon, as well as Jeroen ter Brugge and Maria Smit of the Rijksmuseum for the new images of the porcelain from the *Witte Leeuw* shipwreck. I intend to write an updated catalogue with these in the near future. Stan van Houcke helped to complete my overview of the Ardebil Shrine collection by presenting me with the enormous catalogue of the Iran

Bastan Museum. I am also grateful to the library assistants of the Rijksmuseum who regularly had to carry the heavy Topkapi Palace Museum and Ardebil Shrine books to my desk for me to re-check images and texts.

There are so many others I wish to thank for having supported me on this long journey that I do not know where to start. First of all, my loving family and the many warm circles of friends. Naturally they often asked why I was putting myself through this ordeal, and I just could not provide an adequate answer. Their support however, kept me going.

My advice to others on this long and lonely road is written on a card for my birthday: "Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you HAPPY". *Bedankt* Kees, it took awhile, but in the end, in spite of all the setbacks, it did.