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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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Propositions:

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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1. It is not possible to verify the exact amount of porcelain on board the *Santa Catarina*, captured by the Dutch in 1603. The claim by Levinus Hulsius that '1000 centner of porcelain' (equivalent of around 50 tons) formed part of the booty, thus far has not been corroborated by any archival document relating to this event.
2. After the establishment of the VOC trade post at Formosa in 1624, substantial quantities of porcelain arrived in the Dutch Republic only between 1635 and 1645, a much shorter period than assumed in the literature.
3. During the first half of the 17th century, the combination 'kraak' and 'porselyn' was seldom used by the Dutch for Chinese porcelain. From the second half of the 17th century, the combination was mainly used in the sense of 'old' or 'antique'.
4. The Portuguese and Spanish did not use the term *carraca* for a ship. *Carrack* was used by the English as early as 1449. The word may have derived from the Irish word *curragh* and came to be used in maritime Northern Europe for a trading vessel. Thereafter the Dutch used *kraak*, *karaak*, *crake*, *kraecke*, but only for a Portuguese ship and not for the porcelain on it.
5. The principal decorative feature, panels or cartouches, which distinguishes Kraak-type porcelain from other sorts produced during the same period, should be chosen as the reference point to categorize Kraak porcelain. Descriptions as 'blue and white panel-decorated Chinese porcelain made for export', or simply, 'panel-decorated Kraak porcelain', 'Kraak-panelled porcelain', are more relevant.
6. A *candeelscop* (a caudle cup) is a type of bowl used for warm beverages in 17th century Dutch Republic. It is likely that this was misread by scribes, and therefore the term *cameelscop* (camel cup) continued to be written on orders and shipping lists for such an item.
7. Salvaging shipwrecks should only be authorized when executed by certified maritime archaeologists and under surveillance of governments in whose waters the wreck has been discovered. A shipwreck should be treated as an object of cultural heritage and not as an opportunity for generating profit.
8. A publicly available database integrating currently separate documentation on Chinese ceramics from dated shipwrecks would greatly facilitate future research on the subject.

9. It is only right that there is no maximum age limit for academic research. Younger PhD. students may benefit from the experience they no longer get the chance to accumulate themselves.