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Silk, Porcelain and Lacquer

China and Japan and their trade with Western Europe and the New World 1500–1644

A Survey of Documentary and Material Evidence
Silk, Porcelain and Lacquer
China and Japan and their trade with Western Europe and the New World
1500–1644

A Survey of Documentary and Material Evidence

Teresa Canepa
Universiteit Leiden 2015
In memory of Gordon Lang, whose knowledge and passion for Oriental ceramics inspired me to change my career path and pursue research in this field.

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Abbreviated Curriculum vitae
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I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of many scholars, and terrestrial and marine archaeologists who shared with me their research finds, and also granted me permission to illustrate some of them. I owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Chinese archaeologists: Prof. Li Jian’an from Fuzhou; and Prof. Cao Jianwen, Huang Wei and Huang Qinghua from Jingdezhen, who were instrumental in permitting me to visit various kiln sites in their respective provinces, and discussed with me their recent archaeological finds during my visits to China. I express my gratitude to the following people: In Argentina to Luis María Calvo; in Bermuda to Charlotte Andrews, Elina Strong, and Wendy S. Tucker; in Canada to Aaron Miller; in Chile to Mónica Barretta, Claudia Prado and Verónica Reyes; in China to Prof. Liu Zhaohiu; in Cuba to Dr. Lourdes Domínguez; in Denmark to Per Kristiansen; in the Dominican Republic to Pedro Borrell, Tracy Bowden, Juan López, Violeta Martínez, Juan Pérez Morales, Tania Pitaluga, Federico Schad, and Francis Soto; in France to Franck Goddio; in Germany to Prof. Dr. Dagmar Eisenberger, and Daniel Sueßmann; in India to Nizammudin Taher, Rohini Pandi and Abhijit Ambekar; in Italy to Prof. Francesco Morena, and Maura Rinaldi; in Japan to Nogami Takenori; in Malaysia to Sten Stjernquist; in Mauritius to Yann von Arpin; in Macao to Roy Sit Kai Sin; in Mexico to Patricia Fourrier García, Susana Gómez Serafin, and Eladio Terrero; in Peru to Miguel Flum, and Juan Mogrovejo; in Portugal to Salome Abreú, Francisco Afonso, José António Bertencours, Ivo Botelho, Catarina Garcia, Lígia Inês Gambini, Mathilda Larsson, James W. Nelson Noreña, Luís Rufio, Dr. Nuno Senos, Miguel Serra, Mário Varela Gomes, and Nuno Vasallo e Silva; in South Africa to Dr. Véronique Enthoven, and Jane Kloos; in Spain to María Isabel Álvarez Zamora, Rosa Benavides, Antonio F. Dávila Serrano, Dr. José Gaich-Tomás, Yayoi Kawamura, Dr. Cinta Krahe, José Manuel Casado Paramio, Alfonso Martín Flores, Laura Pérez Vega, Fernando Rodríguez Suarez, and Father Lázaro Sastre; in Switzerland to Prof. Dr. Christine Göttler; in Taiwan to Dr. Lu Tai-Kang, and Dr. Takaki Takahashi; in The Netherlands to Johann Bischop, Bruno Bloné, Dr. Jan de Hond, Miguel Gomes da Costa, Alejandro Mirabal, Sebastián Oestkamp, Dr. Jep Pijl-Domijis, Dr. Dries Rarmackers, Christine van der Pijl-Kerel, and Jan Veneendaal; in the United Kingdom to John P. Allan, Malcolm Baxter, David Bradley, Thomas Cadbury, Philippa Cleaveville, Dr. Todd Gray, Chris Jarratt, Jenny Little, Dr. Li Baoping, Gil Manfield, Gill Neal, Jaqueline Pierce, and Stuart Tyler; in the United States to Mari-Tere Álvarez, Karina Corrigan, Chester DePrater, Jack Harbke, Paul Huy, George Kuroyama, Linda Pompei, Jeffrey Quilter, Cordelia Thomas Snop, Filipe Visita de Castro, and Edward von der Porten.

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Conversions of units of length, weight and currencies in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries

**Length**
1 li = 400.57 miles = 646.64 km.
1 Che Foot (che) = 12.3 inches = 31.81 cm
1 vara = 0.836 meters
1 palmo de vara = 22 cm

**Weight**
1 picul (dan) = 100 catties = approx. 133 pounds = approx. 60 kilograms
1 catti or cate (jin) = 20.8 ounces to the pound
1 arroba = 25 líbras (25 pounds)
1 quintal = 4 arrobas = approx. 150 pounds
1 líbra (1 pound) = 16 onzas (16 ounces) = 460.09 grams

**Currency**
**Portugal**
1 cruzado = 360 réis (sixteenth century), 400 réis (seventeenth century)
1 ducado = approx. 345 to 360 réis
1 peso = approx. 320 réis

**Spain**
1 real = 34 maravedís
1 real de a 4 or tomin (1 real of 4 pieces) = 136 maravedís
1 real de a 8 or peso (1 real of 8 pieces) = 272 maravedís = 400 Portuguese réis
1 ducado (ducat) = 375 maravedís

**Spanish colonies in the New World and the Philippines**
1 peso de oro común (1 peso of 8 pieces) = 8 reales o tomines = 272 maravedís
1 real o tomin = 34 maravedís
1 peso de oro de mina = 450 maravedís

**Northern Netherlands/Dutch Republic**
1 guilder (guilder) or florin = 28 stuivers = 0.36 Portuguese cruzados of 400 réis
1 stuiver = 8 duit

**England**
1 pound = 20 shillings = 4 Portuguese cruzados of 400 réis
1 shilling = 12 pence

**VOC in Japan**
1 tael (shu or shai) = 10 max (mae) = 100 condreij (condreia)
1 real (real de Ocho, Spaanse mat) = approx. 6.5 shillings = 2.5 guilders

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**Abbreviations**

ACA Arundel Castle Archives, Arundel
ADEEC Archivo del Departamento de Estudios Etnográficos y Coloniales, Santa Fe
AGI Archivo General de las Indias, Sevilla
AGNP Archivo General de las Notarias de Puebla, Puebla
AGS Archivo General de Simancas, Simancas
AHEC Archivo Histórico del Estado de Colima, Colima
AHMC Archivo Histórico del Municipio de Colima, Colima
AHN Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid
AHPM Archivo Histórico de Protocolos de Madrid, Madrid
AHPNZ Archivo Histórico de Protocolos Notariales de Zaragoza, Zaragoza
AHU Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, Azores
ANHQ Archivo Nacional de Historia, Quito
AnotDF Archivo de las Notarías del DF, Mexico City
ANTT Archivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisbon
APMZ Archivo del Palau, Marquesado del Zenete, Barcelona
ASCG Archivoum Storico Compagnia di Geria, Rome
BA Biblioteca da Ajudia, Lisbon
BNL Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa, Lisbon
CPS, Colonial Calendar of Estate Papers, Colonial Series. East India, China and Japan
IANTT Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais Torre do Tombo, Lisbon
NA Nationaal Archief, The Hague
NFJ Nederlandse Factorij Japan
VOC VOC Archives
Leg. Legajo (Bundle)
Fol. Folio (Page)
v. verso
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