

The Multiple Markets for Jingdezhen Blue-and-White Porcelains during the Mongol Yuan Period

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This paper reviews the past study on the markets of Jingdezhen Yuan blue-and-white and proposes a new picture in the light of archaeological discoveries and recent studies. The aim of this present study is three folds. First, I will investigate the markets of Yuan blue-and-white porcelains and look at the conclusive features of different markets based on recent archaeological findings. Secondly, I will analyze these features according to their consumption in different markets. Thirdly, I will explore the emergence of Yuan blue-and-white porcelains in the existing markets to see their role in the history of ceramic trade.

After re-examining the multiple markets for Yuan blue-and-white porcelains, the previous assumption of emphasizing solely Islamic market has to be altered and re-evaluated. Revealing that the form and pattern subjects are really not that different, it is that sizes, organization of patterns, and categories of vessels matter for different markets. In addition, we will see the works from Jingdezhen were very likely produced according to market demands, demonstrating the strong link between consumers, brokers and Jingdezhen potters, resulting in a trade network in the porcelain trade. This is a new development in the history of Chinese export ware history at this time.

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