The Hybrid Style of Ordered Trade Porcelain: The ‘Islamic’ Style of the Kraak Type Blue-and-White Porcelain

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In the new trade context of the Great Voyage Era at the turn of the 17th century, the rapid flow of commodities from different areas became a predominate phenomenon. This paper attempts to explore the hybrid style of traded artworks as well as the rapid flow of different styles which have come along with this phenomenon.

Undoubtedly, the kraak type blue-and-white porcelain produced in Jingdezhen kilns of Jiangxi province is famous for its ‘Chinese’ branding. This paper, however, attempts to illustrate another aspect of 17th century Chinese trade porcelains, that is, the ‘exotic element’ of kraak type blue-and-white porcelains may have come from an Islamic art style, and to explain its historical origin. I will use the types of the ‘Klapmutsen’ and the ‘Albarello’ and the motif of the ‘Dutch Flower’ to illustrate my points.

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