

PORCELAIN ■ SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE



■ 艺林撷珍丛书
A COLLECTION OF BEST ARTISTIC WORKS
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【瓷器】



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■ 艺林撷珍丛书上海人民美术出版社

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An Introduction to Chinese Porcelain

Known throughout the world for the wide selection of excellent pieces, China is an porcelain-producing country with a long history. The difference in the porcelain clay, the ingredients of glaze and the fire temperature bring about the various kinds of porcelain such as blue porcelain, white porcelain, black porcelain, red porcelain, yellow porcelain, underglaze colored porcelain and glaze-ground colored porcelain. Blue porcelain is the first kind of porcelain produced without interruption in China. Blue porcelain, counting the Shang primitive porcelain, has a long history of over 3500 years. With the improvement in its quality, the well-known kilns and articles appeared one after another for centuries. At the late stage of the Eastern Han, blue porcelain was really mature. Up to the Northern and Southern Dynasties the porcelain was basically Southern blue porcelain produced mainly in Shangyu, Zhejiang. During the Tang Southern blue porcelain reached a new peak. The porcelain, mainly produced in Ningshao Plain, was called Yueyao blue porcelain. In special "Mise Ci", the articles of tributes, produced in Shanglin Lake of Cixi, were the best blue porcelain products. During the middle of the Northern Song, Yueyao was gradually declining. Northern blue porcelain eventually took the place of Southern porcelain. The carved Yaozhou celadon, produced in Yaozhou, Tongchuan, Shaanxi, became the models of Chinese blue porcelain. Because most of fine porcelain products, produced by Ruyao, Guanyao, Geyao and Junyao, were for the use of the

emperor, there are few extant products of these areas today. It was during the Southern Song that Southern blue porcelain revived. Longquan celadon and Jingdezhen blue-and-white porcelain became the representatives of Southern blue porcelain. Longquan celadon, covered in the perfect glaze, won praise from the masses. During the Yuan Longquan became an important porcelain-producing city. Song blue-and-white porcelain products of Jingdezhen, described as being "white as jade", had characteristic styles.

The process of making white glazed products is to mould a figure in clay with low iron content, then cover the model in a translucent glaze and fire it in high temperature. Some pieces of early white porcelain were unearthed from the Eastern Han grave in Changsha, however, the real time to produce white porcelain was late Northern Dynasties, and then white glazed products were really mature during the Sui. In the Tang Dynasty both the rich and the poor were able to afford Xingyao white porcelain products, which were produced in Neiqiu and Lincheng, Hebei. The Tang porcelain industry was described as being "white porcelain in the North and blue porcelain in the South". Dingyao was the most famous place to produce white porcelain during the Song. At that time the main white-porcelain-producing center was Quyang, Hebei. In the reign of Congbai, Yuan, the government specially produced blue-and-white porcelain in Jingdezhen. It was during the Ming that white porcelain also reached the peak. During the reign of Yongle Jingdezhen white porcelain products

were celebrated for the translucent ivory-white glaze. Dehua blanc-de-chine products, which were well known for their mould-making, had a good sale in Europe.

The rule of making black glazed products is only to add iron in the glaze. Early black porcelains were produced with blue porcelains in the same oven. In the Northern and Southern Dynasties the most famous black-porcelain-producing center was Deqingyao of Zhejiang in the South. During the Tang, Yaozhou black glazed products were unique and unsophisticated. In the Song the large black glazed teacups were popular throughout the country, and then some special kilns such as Jianyao of Fujian and Jizhouyao of Jiangxi appeared.

Choosing different kinds of glaze and regulating the oven temperature may bring about the porcelain of all colors. High fired colored glaze was initially produced in Jingdezhen during the Yuan. In high temperature, the red glazes such as peachbloom, unusual red glaze and copper-red, are produced by using a trace copper as coloring agent. If the glazes contain cobalt, under the favorable temperature bright blue porcelain products may be fired. During the process of making low fired colored glazes, lead is used as the main solvent, and the elements such as iron, copper, cobalt, manganese and antimony are added in the solvent. The suitable temperature control will also help to get a wide selection of low fired colored glazes such as "Imperial Yellow", celadon glaze, iron-red decoration and turquoise glaze.

When to glaze porcelain may bring about underglaze colored porcelain and glaze-

ground colored porcelain. The process of making underglaze colored porcelain is to paint on the mould at first, then glaze it, finally fire it. The piece of underglaze colored porcelain discovered earliest was a blue brown pot with lid. It was Changsha of the Tang that began to produce underglaze colored porcelain on a large scale. During the Song Ci County in Hebei became the center of colored porcelain. Jingdezhen blue-and-white porcelain, appearing in the late Yuan, was in its glory during the Ming. The requirements of temperature control for Jingdezhen copper-red, which was initially produced in the Yuan Dynasty, are much stricter than that for blue-and-white porcelain, Hence the completed copper-red becomes the porcelain treasure. The process of making glaze-ground colored porcelain is very complicated. The glazed and fired porcelain product is decorated with colored drawings. Then it is fired in the oven again. The completed piece has a raised touch. Song enamel-decorated porcelain products, produced firstly in Dingyao of Hebei, were the earliest pieces of glaze-ground colored porcelain. The charming doucai porcelain, gorgeous famille verte porcelain, elegant green-and-aubergine porcelain and mild famille rose porcelain are all excellent works of colored porcelain.

中国瓷器

● 历史悠久的青釉瓷器

中国是瓷器的故乡，最早发明的就是青釉瓷器，简称青瓷。青瓷生产如从商代原始瓷算起，已有3500多年的历史，且历代从未间断过，质量不断提高，名窑纷起，名品迭出，遂成为历史最悠久的品种。

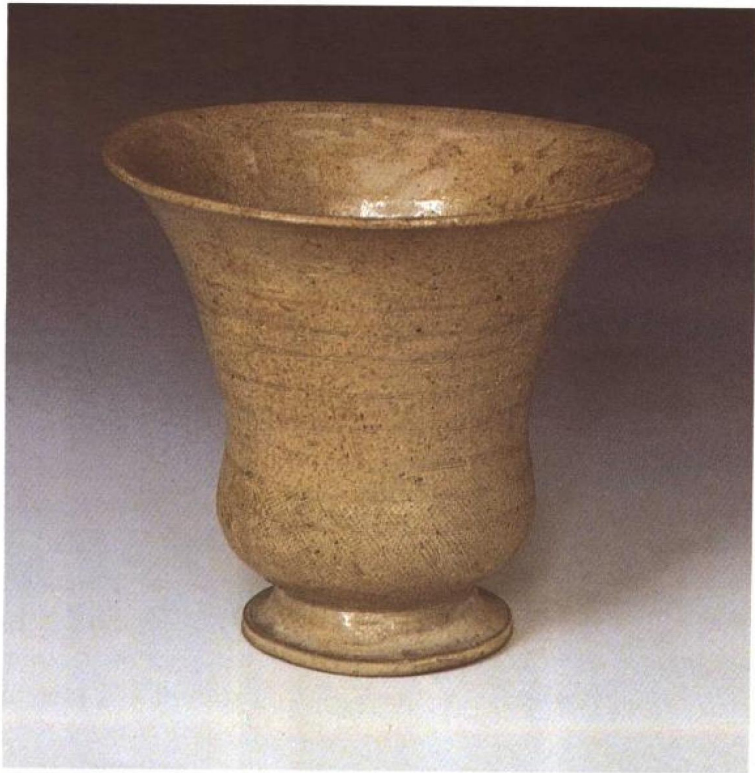
青瓷的始祖——原始瓷

出现于商代前期，盛行于春秋战国的原始瓷，用瓷土作胎，表面施青釉，但它具有较多的原始性，尚未达到真正瓷器的程度，所以称之为“原始瓷”。商代和西周时，除个别器物比较规整外，大部分器物的制作都比较草率，器壁厚薄不均，釉色泛黄，有的釉面还有褐色釉斑。春秋战国原始瓷的制作有了很大的进步，器形规整，壁厚均匀，釉层薄而匀，釉色青黄，器型多与当时的青铜器相仿，有尊、鼎、簋、壶、盃、豆、钟、勾、钺等。春秋战国时期的原始瓷带有浓厚的吴越文化色彩。

青瓷的一统天下——南方六朝青瓷

真正的成熟青瓷在东汉晚期出现，自此直到魏晋南北朝，中国瓷器基本上是青瓷的天下，主要是浙江生产的南方青瓷。东汉晚期浙江上虞等地生产的青釉胎料纯净，烧结充分，通体施釉，釉色青翠，透明光亮，表明它已成为名符其实的瓷器了。但其造型、纹饰仍未摆脱传统，带有与当时陶器、原始瓷相似的特点，常见器形有耳杯、罐、壶、盆、簋、熏炉、五联罐等，装饰多见水波纹、麻布纹、弦纹和贴印铺首等。三国时期青瓷胎呈浅灰色，青釉淡雅，纹饰简朴，造型优美，一些以后流行的器物，如鸡头壶、虎子、羊形插座、蛙形水盂、堆塑罐等都是此时出现的。西晋历年虽不长，但青瓷的特点却很鲜明，胎色偏深，釉色青灰，器物造型稳重，偏于矮胖，装饰趋于繁复，多见以动物形象作造型的器物，如熊灯、蛙盃、虎子、鸡壶、羊形插座、狮形辟邪等。在器物的口沿、肩或腹部装饰

以网格、联珠、弦纹等组成的带状花纹，并配以模印的铺首或佛像，成为西晋青瓷的标志性装饰。在三国时用于墓葬的堆塑罐，西晋时十分流行，以后就基本不见了。西晋末，在一些器物上开始出现褐色点彩装饰。至东晋，青瓷的造型由矮胖向瘦高发展，逐渐变得挺拔秀气，而纹饰则趋于简朴，流行弦纹和点彩，点彩看似随意，却常有点睛之笔，如在鸡、羊的双眼和器物的口沿、系上点上一笔，往往起到突出造型的作用。南朝时佛教盛行，瓷器上常以莲瓣和荷花装饰，此时褐色点彩仍然流行，但褐点小而密集与东晋时不同。



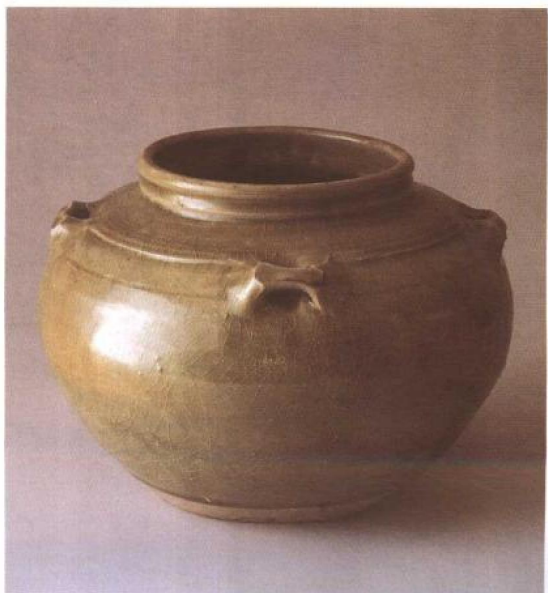
1 原始青瓷尊 商

Proto-celadon beaker vase (Shang)

2 原始青瓷盃

战国

Proto-celadon
he-vassel (Warring
States period)



3 青釉罐 东汉
Celadon guan-vase
(Eastern Han)



4 青釉熊形烛台 西晋
Celadon candle stand
in bear shape (Western Jin)



5 青釉蛙形水盂
三国
Celadon coupe
in frog shape
(Three Kingdoms)

6 青釉虎子 西晋
Celadon chamber pot
(Western Jin)

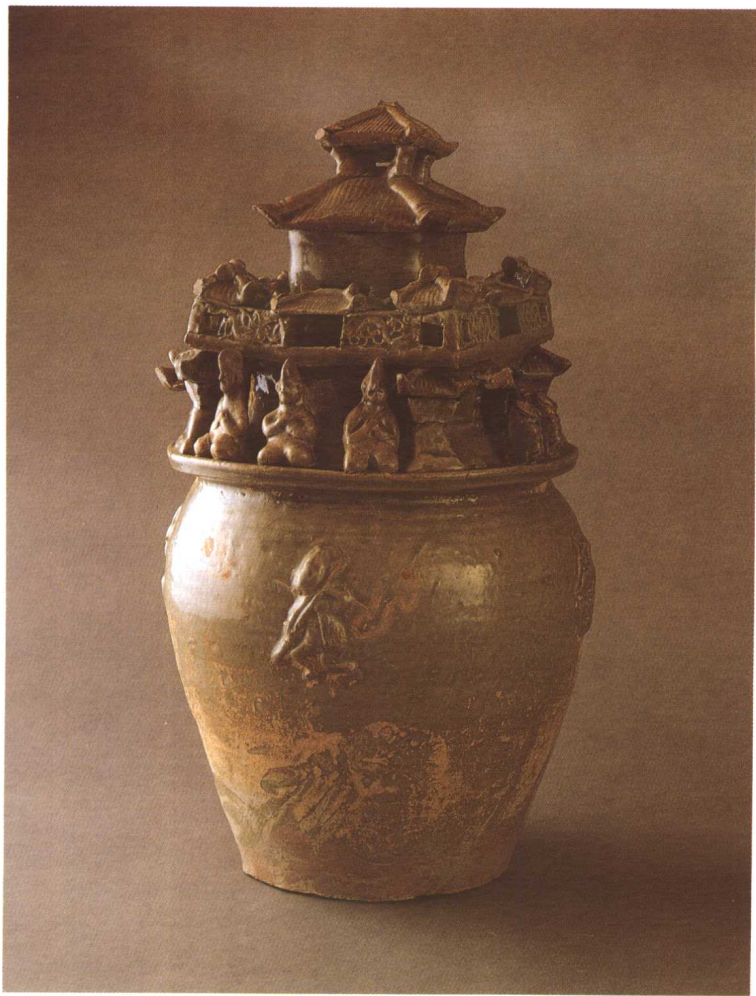


7 青釉刻花莲瓣纹罐
南朝
Carved celadon jar
(Southern Dynasties)



8 青釉褐彩羊形插座 东晋

Celadon candle stand with decoration in brown (Eastern Jin)



9 青釉人物楼阁堆塑罐 西晋

Celadon guan-vase with human figures design (Western Jin)