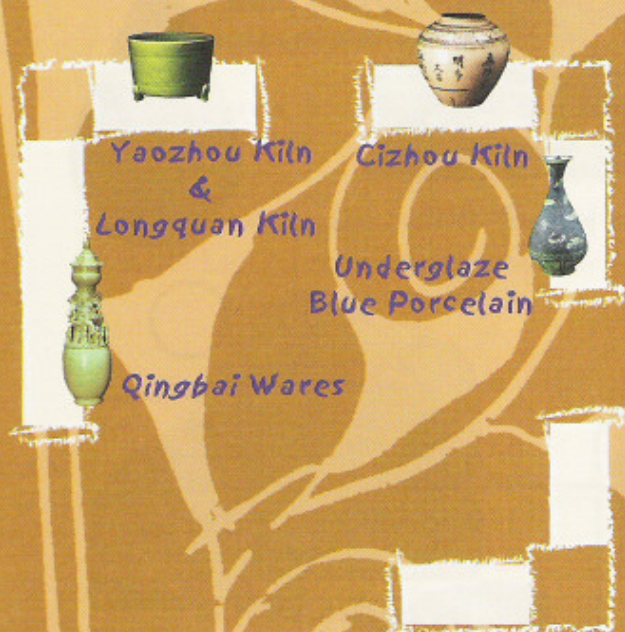


**T. T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art
Activities Pamphlet: Song and Yuan
Ceramics**



You
are
here

Editors: Judy CHAN LEE Suk-yee
CHENG Woon-tong
LO Yan-yan

Designers: Doris WONG
Jannie CHAN



Printed by the Printing Department
Printed on paper made from woodpulp derived from renewable forests

2011002A—11/2002

How Much Do You Know about
the Ceramics of the

Song and Yuan Dynasties ?

In the Song and Yuan dynasties (960-1368) in China, ceramics were made in a wide variety of styles, shapes and sizes, and they were richly and attractively decorated. Our company, Hong Kong Ceramics Heritage Company, is planning to launch some new products based on these styles. So we'd like to invite you to go back to the Song and Yuan dynasties to find out the secrets of how these amazing ceramics were made. Bring your findings back to us and we will make you a ceramics expert of our company.

Now,
let's start by finding
out about the
different types of
Song and Yuan
ceramics!



Follow me! →

Printed by the Printing Department
Printed on paper made from woodpulp derived from renewable forests

2011002A—11/2002

Know Your Stuff

Ceramics were used every day by people in Song and Yuan society. Here are some examples of daily utensils. Do you know what they might be in modern times?

Song and Yuan



1.

(Hint: Go to the "Cizhou Kiln" display case)



2.

(Hint: Go to the "Cizhou Kiln" display case)



3.

(Hint: Go to the "Underglaze Blue Porcelain" display case)



4.

(Hint: Go to the "Yaozhou Kiln and Longquan Kiln" display case)



5.

(Hint: Go to the "Qingbai Wares" display case)



Modern

● Flowerpot



● Wash-basin



● Wine vessel



● Pillow



● Container

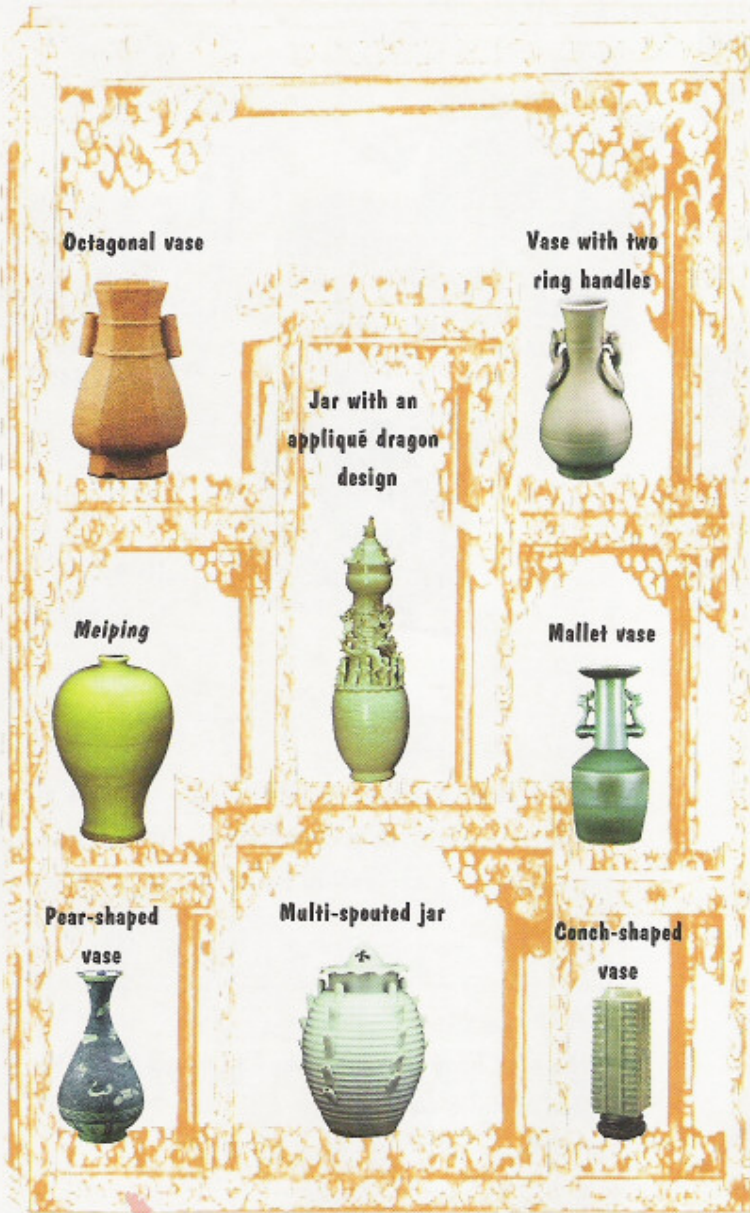


Now let's find out about the characteristic forms of Song and Yuan ceramics.

Answers
1) Container
2) Pillow
3) Wash-basin
4) Flowerpot
5) Wine vessel

Get Them into Shape

Look at the ceramics on the rack! See how many different styles and shapes there are. Which one do you like most? Could you design a new vessel with a new shape for our company and describe what makes it so special?



New Design

Name of the product

Characteristics

Of the designs above, I think the most special one is _____.

Because _____.



Let's go and discover the secrets of how Song and Yuan ceramics were decorated!

On the Face of It

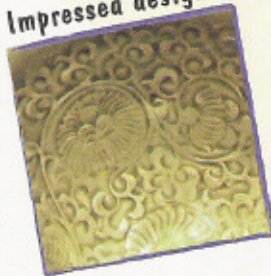
The competition in the ceramics market was very keen during the Song and Yuan dynasties, and kiln factories in different towns were always trying to outdo each other by adopting new art and craft techniques and launching new products. The figures below show some popular ceramics designs, while the descriptions reveal the techniques used to produce the ornamentation. Can you tell which design is produced by which technique? Give it a try!

Incised design



Black design on white ground

Impressed design



Crackled glaze (Kaipian)



Appliqué design



Sgraffito

A _____

Production technique:

The half-dried clay was inscribed with sharp tools.

B _____

Production technique:

The half-dried clay was embossed with porcelain moulds carved with designs.

C _____

Production technique:

The design was carved onto the surface of the clay body, while the rest of the surface layer was cut away.

D _____

Production technique:

The biscuit was coated with a layer of white slip, painted with black slip and then coated again with transparent glaze before being put in the kiln.

E _____

Production technique:

The clay body was baked and removed from the kiln early to be cooled.

F _____

Production technique:

Clay patches in different shapes were pasted onto half-dried wares.

- Answers
- A) Incised design
 - B) Impressed design
 - C) Sgraffito
 - D) Black design on white ground
 - E) Crackled glaze (Kaipian)
 - F) Appliqué design



Do you think the ornamentation techniques used in the Song and Yuan dynasties were related to the tea-drinking culture of those times?

In the Black

Did you know that tea bowls in black glaze were very fashionable in Song society? Do you know why? Go and find out how tea was prepared during the Song dynasty and tell us **why black glaze was so popular**. During the Song dynasty, tea was prepared using a method known as the "whipped tea method". This involved

1. grinding the tea cake into a fine powder,
2. placing the powder in a bowl,
3. pouring boiling water from a ewer into the bowl,
4. stirring the mixture with a whisk until a white froth appeared on the surface.



The reason is _____

Although the tea bowls are dark, they are richly decorated to brighten up the dull surface. What differences can you see between them? Look for the answers in the lines of the decorations.



Hare's fur glaze
Yellowish brown long fine lines like the fur of a hare

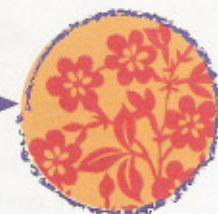


Tortoise-shell markings
Yellowish brown patches like tortoise shells



Partridge feather markings
Iron black spots with a golden lustre like the markings on partridge feathers

This is a Hong Kong partridge. Do the markings resemble those on the bowl?



Cut-paper resist decoration
Differently shaped paper cuttings are applied to the clay body, which is then covered with glaze, before the cuttings are removed



Russet paintings
Russet lines on a dark purple glaze

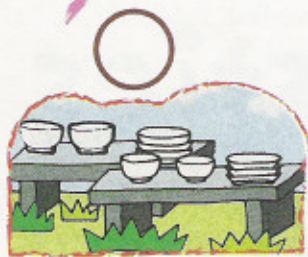
- Answers
Because the white tea froth stands out best against the black glaze of the tea bowl.
- 1) Tortoise-shell markings
 - 2) Russet paintings
 - 3) Partridge feather markings
 - 4) Cut-paper resist decoration
 - 5) Hare's fur glaze



Now let's find out about the underglaze blue porcelain of the Yuan dynasty.

From First to Last

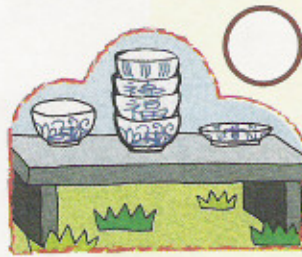
Look at the beautiful underglaze blue objects from the Yuan dynasty. Do you know how an underglaze blue porcelain is produced? See if you can put the various steps in the production of underglaze blue porcelain in the right order below.



The pieces of formed objects are dried



Clay is thrown onto the potter's wheel



End product



The porcelain clay is selected



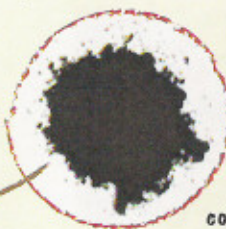
The decoration is painted and the objects are glazed



The products are fired

Did you know?

Underglaze blue porcelain is made by applying cobalt oxide as a colouring agent when painting the decoration.



cobalt oxide

Congratulations!

You have completed all the research on Song and Yuan ceramics to the satisfaction of our company. You are formally appointed an expert in Song and Yuan ceramics!



- Answers
- 1) The porcelain clay is selected
 - 2) Clay is thrown onto the potter's wheel
 - 3) The pieces of formed objects are dried
 - 4) The decoration is painted and the objects are glazed
 - 5) The products are fired
 - 6) End product