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Some Problems on the Ceramic Road between East and West Eurasia

In this paper, I deal with the structure of the ceramic trade between Yuan China and Islamic world via Southeast Asia and India and reflect some problems on it. The study on the Yuan ceramics has been advanced mainly by archaeologists and art historians from the viewpoints of production, distribution and consumption, and abolishment and inheritance. Recently, new groups of the white porcelains and celadons of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries in Yuan China were found and introduced by Japanese archaeologists, Tanaka and Morimoto. They identified them the products of the kilns near the Minjiang River and coastal area of the Fujian province. Such typed porcelains are hardly found in the main island of Japan, but, easily found in the Okinawa Islands. In addition, it became clear that they were also distributed in Southeast Asia, Persian Gulf, and Iran.

On the other hand, the records of Chinese ceramics on the customs tariff table of the Aden port in the *Nūr al-Maʿrif* that was archives of Sulṭān Muzaḥḥar's era of the Rasulid Dynasty gives clues of historical approach to clarifying the ceramic trade structure for historians. The Chinese ceramics in the *Nūr al-Maʿrif* is classified not in Chinese but in Arabic, therefore it is difficult to identify the types and production places of the ceramics, but, this classification reflects the real circumstance of conveying ceramics on the maritime route.

This paper, from historical and archaeological perspectives, covers the following topics:

1. Kinds and trend of the exported ceramics from Yuan China
2. Distribution and production kilns of Longqian kiln celadon and its copies
3. Meaning of "Zaytūnī" or Quanzhou typed ceramics
4. Gift cultural values and merchantability of the Yuan styled Blue-and-White
5. Who were the exporters of Chinese ceramics to Islamic world?