

PRESS



RELEASE



**Publication of the *catalogue raisonné* of
Chinese porcelain in the Frits Lugt Collection,
Fondation Custodia**

When the famous Dutch art historian and connoisseur Frits Lugt (1884-1970) and his wife Jacoba Klever (1888-1969) decided to present their collections in the Hôtel Turgot in Paris, Chinese porcelain ranked among their priorities. They intended to give the French public an impression of Dutch Golden Age interiors and a porcelain cabinet had traditionally been part of Dutch material culture (ill. 1).

Frits Lugt started assembling his Chinese porcelain collection when he lived in the Netherlands. After the Second World War, the couple settled in Paris, and Lugt continued his acquisitions from dealers or at auctions, in France and England. He bought a variety of pieces, either made for export or for domestic Chinese use. The result, permanently



exhibited in the Fondation Custodia, is a small but exquisite collection of high-quality Chinese porcelain, ranging mainly from the 16th to the 18th centuries. It reflects the Dutch preference for Kraak, Transitional and Kangxi porcelain, but a few unusual or even unique non-export porcelains are also on display (ill. 2). Almost all of these pieces are decorated in underglaze cobalt blue. Three Japanese works are included to complete the collection.

The directors of the Fondation Custodia who succeeded Frits Lugt have added a number of porcelains to the collection. Ger Luijten acquired some items that he deemed missing, for example a complete garniture and a large Kangxi jar (ill. 3), plus an astonishing piece of *Chine de commande*: a *trompe-l'œil* plaque which imitates with extraordinary fidelity a framed Dutch print or drawing (ill. 4).





It was also Ger Luijten who set up the project for a *catalogue raisonné* of the Fondation Custodia's collection of Chinese porcelain. This was to replace the small publication of 1981, illustrated mainly in black and white and written by Daan Lunsingh Scheurleer. This update was both necessary and possible thanks to the important scientific progress made in recent decades.

In this new catalogue, written by Christiaan J.A. Jörg, Dutch specialist on Chinese and Japanese porcelain, each of the 125 pieces is described in detail and placed in a scholarly context. Special attention is paid to iconography, inscriptions, and marks. A longer, informative essay elaborates on the history of the collection and shorter essays introduce each of the six sections into which the catalogue is chronologically divided. Every object has been photographed and reproduced from multiple angles, including the base that often reveals a lot of information about their manufacture.



Work on the collections

The plan to produce a *catalogue raisonné* provided a perfect opportunity to carry out a scientific project on the collection of Chinese porcelain in the Fondation Custodia.

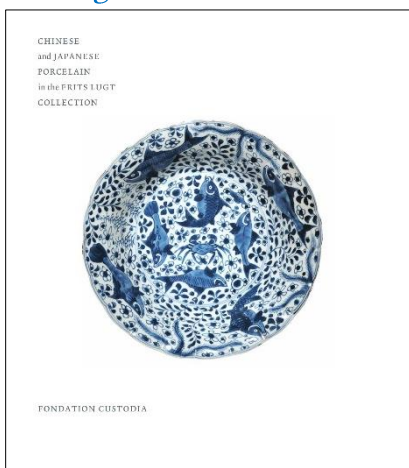
To start with, a lengthy process of verification and identification of the objects allowed us to update the inventory of the collection; some of the pieces were still poorly identified or, unfortunately missing or broken, had not been removed from the lists of our collections.

Each piece thenceforward was subject to a detailed description. A programme of documentation and research was undertaken at the same time to gain a better understanding of the pieces and to allow us to trace the provenance of each as exhaustively as possible. Several of the pieces had formerly belonged to eminent collectors, in particular from London such as Riesco, Reitlinger, Whitehouse, Seligman and Russell.

The material condition of the items has also been the subject of scrutiny. Before a comprehensive photographic record of the collection could be made, each piece was dusted off with great care. An overall evaluation of the condition of the collection made it possible to identify pieces that required specific types of conservation, or lengthy treatment. These pieces were entrusted to the conservation workshop of Cécile de Chillaz in Paris. She restored them to their pristine condition in a way that respected their historic and heritage character.



Catalogue



Christiaan J.A. Jörg
Chinese and Japanese Porcelain in the Frits Lugt Collection
Paris, Fondation Custodia, 2023
Catalogue raisonné
272 pages, c. 430 colour illustrations
28 x 25 cm, hardcover, in English
ISBN 9 782958 323431
€ 45



The author

Christiaan J.A. Jörg studied art history at Leiden University, where he specialised in Oriental export porcelain and received his PhD in 1979. He worked as keeper and head of research at the Groninger Museum from 1978 to 2003 and taught East-West Interactions in Decorative Art at Leiden University from 1997 to 2009. He has curated several major exhibitions, lectured all over the world, and published numerous books, catalogues and articles on Asian export porcelain and Japanese export lacquer. Presently he is academic supervisor of the Dresden Porcelain Project, which is creating a digital *catalogue raisonné* of the Asian porcelain in the former collection of Augustus the Strong.

Presentation of the catalogue in the presence of the author:

Thursday 8 June 2023, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at the Fondation Custodia.

This presentation will be held on the occasion of Printemps asiatique in Paris.

To attend: info@printemps-asiatique-paris.com / www.printemps-asiatique-paris.com.

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Images available to the press

Catalogue raisonné of Chinese porcelain in the Frits Lugt Collection, Fondation Custodia



1. Cabinet for porcelain, Dining room of
Hôtel Turgot, Paris
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris



2. *Dish*, Jingdezhen
Kangxi, dated 1672
Porcelain. – 27,4 cm (diam. of the rim)
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris, inv. 6658



3. *Jar*, Jingdezhen
Kangxi, 1685-1700
Porcelain. – 47 cm (h.), 21,7 cm (diam. of the rim)
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris,
inv. 2021-C.2



4. *Plaque with a trompe-l'oeil decoration*, Jingdezhen
Qianlong, 1760-1770
Porcelain. – 27,1 x 35,2 cm
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris, inv. 2011-C.1

62. MOUNTED BOWL

Chinese porcelain, Jingdezhen
Wanli, 1600-1620
H. (with the silver mount) 8.5 cm, h. (without
the silver mount) 7.5 cm, d. rim 12.5 cm,
d. footring 4.5 cm
Inv. no. 1578

PROVENANCE: E. H. Beaudt Collection; sale
London, Christie's, 3 February 1965, lot 55,
to Frits Lugt/Fondation Custodia
PUBLISHED: Lion-Geldschmidt 1978, p. 192,
fig. 122; Tamsingh-Schuurker 1980, p. 42,
cat. no. 19
EXHIBITED: Fondation Custodia 1985 (not
in the catalogue)

Kiaak bowl or crows cap on a footring, with
spreading sides and an everted, slightly
scalloped rim.

Decorated in underglaze blue with a continuous
scene, with twice a stippled deer in a
landscape with bamboo and flowering plants,
crouching down overhead, in the center, a large
bird on a rock, its five toes emphasised. The
sides with a continuous decoration of grasses,
a flower spray, two peach sprays and an insect
between two spiky stems. The bowl has a
Dutch 17th-century, probably contemporary,
gilded silver mount comprising a high,
spayed foot and two beaded scroll handles.
The silver is not marked.

Crows cap with parallel sides and a continuous
scene on the outside are rare. There
also is a marked difference in the quality of
the painting, which is better on the outside.
In the early 17th century, Chinese porcelain
was a rare novelty in the Netherlands
and treasured by its owners. In particular
in Friesland, in the north of the country,
porcelain bowls were sometimes provided
with gilded silver mounts to enhance their
special status, thereby changing the shape
and connecting the exotic object to its new
cultural context. Besides bowls, krak covers,
bontes, kerdas and other closed shapes could
be mounted as well. In this case, the tripod,
but elegant mounts clearly indicate the
esteem the owner once had for this bowl. For
more on the 'bird on a rock' motif, see the
introduction to this chapter.

1. For a survey of mounted Wanli porcelains,
see Tamsingh-Schuurker 1980, figs. 9-20.



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5. Example of an inside double page of the catalogue



6. *Bowl*, Jingdezhen
Wanli, 1590-1610
Porcelain. – 10,2 cm (h.), 14,8 cm (diam. of the rim)
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris,
inv. VI(A)

7. *Ewer*, Jingdezhen
Chongzhen, 1635-1644
Porcelain and gilded mounts. – 22,5 cm (h. without cover)
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris,
inv. 6606