

## **BANDA SHIPWRECK REPORT ON SHARDS ACQUIRED**

### **Banda Shipwreck**

The Banda sank in a hurricane in March of 1615 off the west coast of the island of Mauritius, near present day Albion, in the Indian Ocean about 2,000 kilometers off the southeast coast of the African continent. The shipwreck was officially excavated in 1979 and Kraak plates, dishes, *klapmutsen*, a vase, and a large jar cover were among the approximately 90 intact porcelains recovered. Also recovered from the Banda was Jingdezhen mainstream ware including small white cups with semi-pierced swastika or *wan* lattice decoration with underglaze blue base mark in seal mark form, as well as diminutive finely potted wine cups with flame motifs above a band of scrolls encircling the foot. Findings have also included Swatow (Zhangzhou) blue and white shards from large plates along with possibly dishes and bowls. The porcelain is believed to have included the property of Pieter Both, the first Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies (1610 to 1614), who perished in the shipwreck of this VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie) vessel.

Over the years, primarily around hurricane season, quantities of shards have also been recovered from Albion beach including approximately 10,000 shards collected from around the 1970's to 1990's and studied in 2002. Although specific details are not available, these Banda shards were reportedly almost all from Kraak ware. Also possibly included among shards attributed to the Banda may be some specimens from the *Geunieëerde Provinciën*, the sister ship of the Banda, which sank in the vicinity of the Banda during the same storm. However, concrete proof of this is lacking -

although this observation may be more relevant with respect to Swatow shards than Kraak shards.

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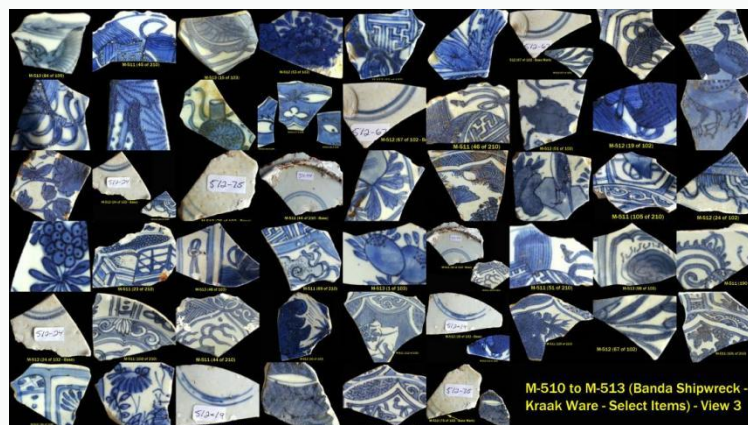
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*Klapmutsen* with *taotie* are represented in the Collection by the following: M-507 (No. 8 of 14) from the Banten excavations in West Java, M-510 (Nos. 17 to 19 of 109) from the Banda shipwreck, and M-515 from an old Japanese collection.

### Ceramics Catalogue Entries for Banda Shards

The Ceramics Catalogue Entries consist of M-510 to M-513 for the Banda Shipwreck Kraak Shards (all combined into one section) and M-514 for the Banda Shipwreck Swatow and Jingdezhen Ware Shards, as reproduced below:



## **M-510 to M-513**

## **Banda Shipwreck Kraak Shards**

Kraak ware study collection shards (524) from the Banda shipwreck with forms represented consisting of dish, plate, *klapmutsen*, cup, and bowl. The tone of the underglaze blue décor of these Jingdezhen Kraak ware shards is predominantly strong and vibrant, but ranges to more subdued and pale. On the base shards, M-511 (1 to 210), the foot is markedly inward slanting on the exterior and nearly upright on the interior, the unglazed beveled footrim with compact fine grained body ranges in color from white to cream colored. Many of the base shards contain varying degrees of adhesions of kiln grit, which is particularly pronounced on M-511 (2), M-511 (15), M-511 (114), and M-511 (170). Marine encrustation is also present on a few of the base shards, e. g., M-511 (23), M-511 (27), M-511 (44), and on some side shards as well. The shards include five with double circle base marks, a very unusual feature rarely encountered on Kraak wares (*Rinaldi, page 100, Pl. 89*). These shards are M-511 (44), M-512 (19), M-512 (24), M-512 (67), and M-512 (75).

The shards identified as “base” shards all contain some portion of the foot and footrim, although there are none with the footrim in its entirety. The “bottom portion shards” M-512 (1 to 102) are from the proximate area of the base, but do not include any part of the foot. The “side portion” shards, M-513 (1 to 103), are from the cavetto or side and do not include any portion of the mouthrim. The mouthrim, M-510 (1 to 109), and side portion shards, M-513 (1 to 103), are typically decorated on the exterior with panels containing a variety of filler elements (as illustrated in relevant Photos of each shard), as is

(Continued)

### M-510 to M-513 (Continued)

characteristic of Kraak ware. Molded features are also included on some of the mouthrim and side portion shards, for example, on shards M-510 (1), M-510 (63), M-513 (21).

The diameter/length of each individual shard was precisely measured; however, with respect to the thickness a more casual comparison was made based on perceived relative thickness (thin/medium/thick). The thick shards, e. g., M-511 (62), M-511 (90), M-511 (127) would be from large plates; the thin examples, e. g., M-510 (16), M-510 (81), M-513 (78) from quite small dishes and cups; and the medium shards, e. g., M-510 (17), M-510 (20), M-511 (169), M-512 (56) from a broader range of small, medium and large dishes, plates, bowls, and *klapmutsen*. The base of the three shards identified as being from large plates is unglazed as is typical of this series of Kraak wares (*Sjostrand, page 163, Serial No. 5070; Rinaldi page 103, Pl. 92*). In contrast, the unglazed base of shard M-511 (169), which would appear to be from a small dish, is atypical for this form. Totals for the classification of the thickness of the shards are as follows: thin - 134, medium - 234, thick - 156, for a grand total of 524.

The elements of the décor and motifs of this large quantity of Kraak shards are summarized below in terms of Diaper Patterns (14), Auspicious Symbol motifs (37), and other motifs of floral, avian, animal, scenic, and decorative nature. Diaper décor is typically found in narrow panels surrounding the central medallion and in vertical panels on the side and cavetto. (Continued)

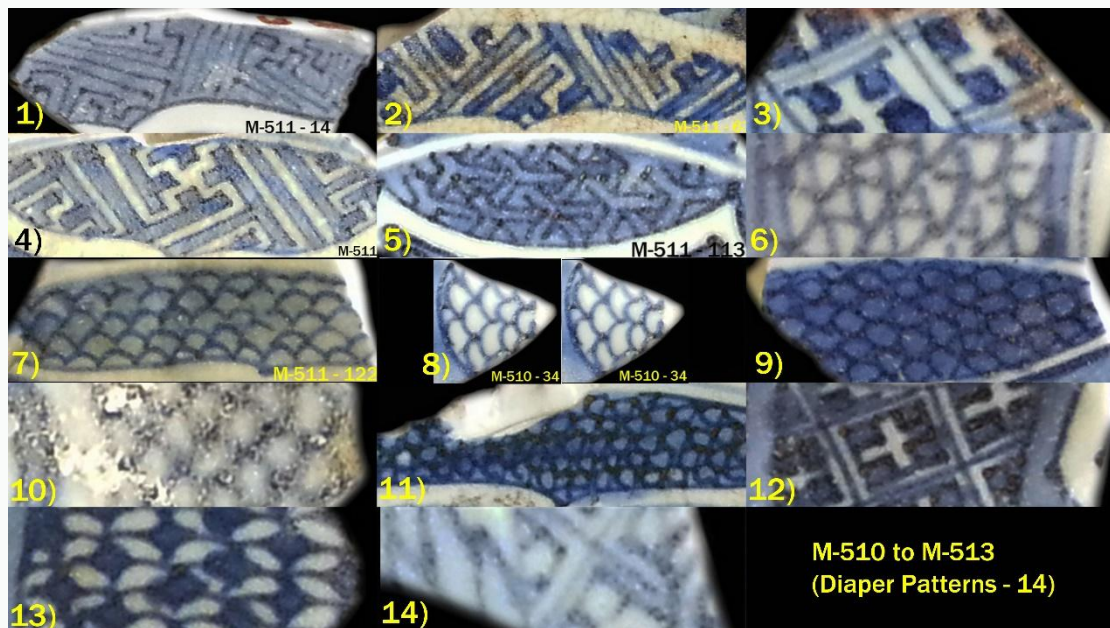


M-510 to M-513 (Continued)

The considerable range of Diaper Patterns (14) encountered among the shards consists of the following with the corresponding Catalogue Number of examples indicated:

- 1) Geometric diaper in dark blue outlines on blue ground (M-511 - 14)
- 2) Geometric diaper in mottled dark blue, white filler (M-511 - 63)
- 3) Geometric diaper quatrefoil format, mottled dark blue (M-513 - 89)
- 4) Swastika diaper in white on blue geometric ground (511 - 90)
- 5) Interlocking diaper, dark blue outlines on blue ground (M-511 - 113)
- 6) Interlocking diaper elements outlined in dark blue (M-510 - 31)
- 7) Fish scale diaper, dark blue outlines on blue ground (M-511 - 122)
- 8) Fish scale diaper outlined in dark blue (M-510 - 34)
- 9) Circular diaper outlined in dark blue on blue ground (M-511 - 82)
- 10) Circular diaper outlined in dark blue (M-513 - 81)
- 11) Diaper with particles outlined dark blue, blue ground (M-511 - 23)
- 12) Diaper with "X" forms reserved in white, blue ground (M-511 - 130)
- 13) Diaper extended "X" form, white on dark blue ground (M-513 - 80)
- 14) Diaper in large "X" form with small dot filler (M-513 - 97)

Reference Photo, M-510 to M-513 (Diaper Patterns - 14), presents these examples in the same order as indicated here in the text:



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M-510 to M-513 (Continued)

Auspicious Symbol motifs (37) present among the décor of the shards include the following:

Symbols - scroll & tassel, double circle base mark

Symbol - scroll with diaper filler, ribbons

Symbol - scroll with ribbons

Symbol - scroll with ribbons, streamers

Symbol - perhaps scroll

Symbol - tassel with ribbons

Symbols - tassel and possibly scroll with stippling

Symbol - tassel, blue on blue diaper panels

Symbols - possibly tassel and lantern

Symbols - gourd with stippling, tassel, roundel

Symbol - gourd with dark blue line detailing, ribbons

Symbol - gourd with ribbons

Symbols - gourd & tassel with ribbons, stippling

Symbol with ribbons & diaper filler

Symbol with ribbons

Symbol with streamers, geometric diaper

Symbol with streamers

Symbol with streamers and ribbons

Symbol - lantern with streamer

Symbol - lantern & ribbons, streamers

Symbol - lantern with swastika diaper

Symbol - lantern with ribbons

Symbols - lantern & scroll with ribbons

Symbol - lantern

Symbols - lantern, Artemisia leaf & tassel, double circle base mark

Symbols - ruyi head & lantern with ribbons

Symbol - Artemisia leaf with streamer

Symbol - Artemisia leaf with ribbons

Symbols - Artemisia leaf & scroll with ribbons

Symbol - Artemisia leaf

Symbol - *Taotie* monster mask

Symbol with ribbons, double circle base mark

Symbol - wheel of Buddha with ribbons

Symbol - fan with ribbons

Symbol - perhaps a fan, with ribbons

Symbol with blue on blue geometric diaper

Symbol with blue line accents on dark blue ground

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**M-510 to M-513 (Continued)**

Other motifs of floral, avian (in a variety of species, postures and sizes), animal, scenic and decorative nature include the following: peach spray, peony blossom, chrysanthemum blossom, lotus seed pod, lotus blossom, various floral or leaf sprays in variety of motifs, foliage in circular form, *lingzhi* fungus, a variety of birds, duck, possibly crane or heron, butterfly, horse, aquatic animal (perhaps a seal), flaming sunburst element, flaming spiral form, landscape scene, trefoil roundel, scrolling element, cloud forms, lattice work element, interior scene, large rocks with blue shading, water forms, indefinable form (possibly animal snout), hanging bow, beaded pendants shaded in blue and aligned in a column, double circle base mark. Absence of a deer motif on any of the shards is consistent with the published examples of Kraak wares recovered from the Banda shipwreck, none of which include deer.

Totals for the décor attributes of the shards are as follows:

Diaper/Symbols - 237, Panels - 219, Floral - 112, and Other - 154, for a grand total of 722 (total exceeds actual number of shards, 524, because a single shard may have more than one attribute - both panels and floral décor, for example.

On the basis of a solitary shard it is sometimes not possible to definitively identify the original intact ceramic form. Similarly, the original décor of the intact ceramic form may not be completely and conclusively revealed from a single shard. In these instances carefully considered judgments are arrived at based on detailed

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M-510 to M-513 (Continued)

examination of the characteristics of the individual shard, as well as comparison with similar material. Because of the characteristics and condition of this large quantity of shards, the original intact form of each individual shard has not been specifically identified in the accompanying Worksheets. Any attempt at an accurate assessment would have been fraught with conjecture and uncertainty; and therefore has not been undertaken.

**The Excel Worksheets (included in separate Worksheets Folder)**

describe each of the 524 Kraak shards in terms of the décor, classification of the motif (Diaper/Symbols, Panels, Floral, Other), thickness of the shard (Thin/Medium/Thick), Diameter/Length in centimeters of each individual shard, along with any applicable references for examples with similar/comparable décor:

**M-510 (1 to 109) Banda Shipwreck - Mouthrim Shards (5 pages)**

**M-511 (1 to 210) Banda Shipwreck - Base Shards (8 pages)**

**M-512 (1 to 102) Banda Wreck - Bottom Portion Shards (5 pages)**

**M-513 (1 to 103) Banda Wreck - Side Portion Shards (6 pages)**

**(Also provided in separate Photos Folder are Photos of each shard - front and back).**

**Dating: 17th century Ming - 1615 of Wanli period (1572 to 1620).**

**Provenance: Banda shipwreck - acquired from previous owner in the United Kingdom who gathered them in the 1970's from rockpools at low tide at Albion beach on the west coast of the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean (July 2017).**

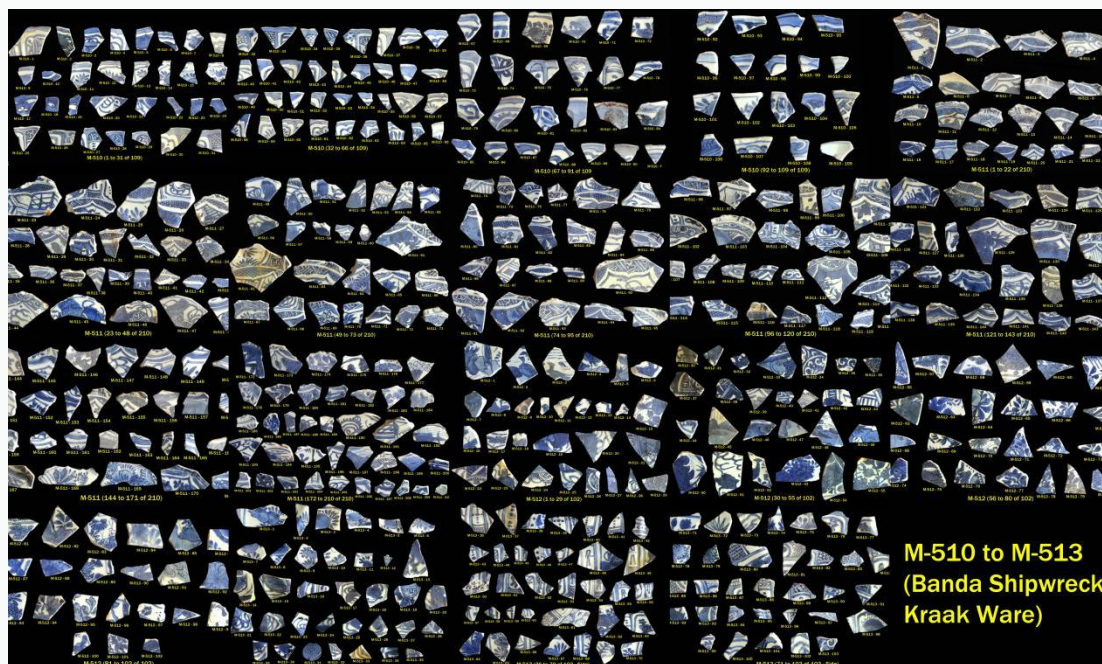
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## M-510 to M-513 (Continued)

(Also possibly included among the shards may be some specimens from the Geunieëerde Provinciën, the sister ship of the Banda, which sank in the vicinity of the Banda during the same storm. However, concrete proof of this is lacking - although this observation may be more relevant with respect to Swatow shards than Kraak shards.)

### **Photos (included in separate Photos Folder)**

- 1a) M-510 to M-513 (Banda Shipwreck - Kraak Ware - Select Items)
- 1b) M-510 (1 to 109 of 109 - Mouthrim) - Banda Kraak
- 2) M-511 (1 to 210 of 210 - Base) - Banda Kraak
- 3) M-512 (1 to 102 of 102 - Bottom Portion) - Banda Kraak
- 4) M-513 (1 to 103 of 103 - Side Portion) - Banda Kraak
- 5) M-510 to M-513 (Banda Shipwreck - Kraak Ware)
- 6) M-510 to M-513 (Banda - Kraak Ware - Base, Bottom, Exterior)
- 7) M-514 (1 to 15 of 26) - Banda Swatow
- 8) M-514 (1 to 15 of 26 - Base, Exterior) - Banda Swatow
- 9) M-514 (16 to 26 of 26) - Banda Jingdezhen Ware
- 10) M-514 (16 to 26 of 26 - Base, Interior) - Banda Jingdezhen Ware



## **M-514 Banda Shipwreck Swatow and Jingdezhen Ware Shards**

Swatow (Zhangzhou) and Jingdezhen ware study collection shards (26) from the Banda shipwreck. The Swatow blue and white shards (Nos. 1 to 15) are from a large heavily potted plate (Nos. 1 to 4) and the remainder (Nos. 5 to 15) from smaller and medium sized vessels of uncertain form, but probably including dishes and bowls. On the shards the underglaze blue is rather subdued in tone with hints of grayish hues, and the medium textured body ranges in color from cream to russet toned. On nine of the eleven base shards (Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15) the foot, with adherent kiln grit, is strongly inward slanting on the exterior and slightly outward sloping on the interior. On the remaining two base shards (Nos. 11 and 14) the higher, thinner more upright foot assumes a more vertical position on the interior. Décor of the shards includes diaper with quatrefoil forms in white on blue ground, foliage, scroll elements reserved on either a blue or white ground, aquatic scene with lotus and water weeds, ruyi head border with band of petals below, and a lotus blossom with scroll element reserved in white on a blue ground.

The Jingdezhen blue and white shards (Nos. 16 to 26) appear to be from rather small sized dishes, bowls and cups; except for the two more heavily potted shards: No. 26 – which would appear to be from a large plate, and No. 24 – of uncertain origin. The underglaze blue ranges in color from strong and intense (Nos. 23 and 24) to more subdued and pale (Nos. 19 and 20). The body of the shards is fine grained, compact and white colored. On the base shards (Nos. 17, 18, 22, 26) treatment of the foot varies from upright (shard No. 18)

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**M-514** (Continued)

to strongly inward slanting on the exterior (No. 26). The main decoration of the shards consists of a variety of floral motifs including lotus, water weeds, and foliage. Shard No. 17, which contains a crisply incised leaf spray with prominent veining on a monochrome white ground, is of particular interest. Also, shard No. 22, adorned with foliage and a rock, is distinctive with a base mark consisting of Chinese character(s) in a double circle. Additionally, shard No. 25 is also noteworthy with its prominently molded features accented in underglaze blue.

**The Excel Worksheets (included in separate Worksheets Folder)** describe each of the Swatow (Zhangzhou) and Jingdezhen shards in terms of the décor, classification of the motif (Diaper/Symbols, Panels, Floral, Other), thickness of the shard (Thin/Medium/Thick), Diameter/Length in centimeters of each individual shard, along with applicable references for examples with similar/comparable décor: **M-514 (1 to 26) Banda - Swatow & Jingdezhen Shards (2 pages)** (Also provided in separate Photos Folder are Photos of each shard - front and back).

**Dating:** 17th century Ming - 1615 of Wanli period (1572 to 1620).  
**Provenance:** Banda shipwreck - acquired from previous owner in the United Kingdom who gathered them in the 1970's from rockpools at low tide at Albion beach on the west coast of the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean (July 2017).

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**M-514** (Continued)

(Also possibly included among the shards may be some specimens from the Geunieëerde Provinciën, the sister ship of the Banda, which sank in the vicinity of the Banda during the same storm. However, concrete proof of this is lacking - although this observation may be more relevant with respect to the Swatow shards).

For details on the Banda, references consulted, and Photos included see the Introduction and the previous entry – M-510 to M-513.

