



Why did the furious beheading of the Ceramic officer occur at the Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Factory?

The furious beheading of the Ceramic Supervisor occurred at the Jingdezhen Zhushan Imperial Kiln Factory.

It is said that during the Yongle period of the Ming Dynasty, the three major halls in Beijing, namely Jinshen, Huagai, and Qintian, were destroyed by a major fire. To rebuild these halls, they decided to fire some Qinglong white porcelain jars. However, these jars were large and thick and failed to be successfully fired multiple times! In desperation, the three major halls had to use copper jars as substitutes.

The cracked porcelain dragon jars were smashed and buried beneath the west wall of the Imperial Kiln Factory. It was not until 1988 that archaeologists excavated them, and these Qinglong white porcelain jars saw daylight again. Now they are displayed in the Dragon Ball Exhibition Hall and the Pintao Study, allowing people the opportunity to appreciate these precious historical artifacts. This story is truly full of twists and surprises!

An astonishing event happened here! During the reign of Emperor Zhu Zhanji in the Ming Dynasty, he ordered the transformation of half of the Dragon Jar Kiln from the Hongwu period into a celadon kiln. As a result, the number of kilns in Jingdezhen increased to fifty-eight, and the Imperial Kiln Factory began producing more porcelain. The porcelain from the Xuande period was the most exquisite in the Ming Dynasty, especially the blue and white porcelain, which reached a high level of craftsmanship. Some describe them as "exquisite in every aspect, particularly delicate and exquisite, truly the pinnacle of Ming Dynasty kiln firing!"

The management system of the Xuande Official Kiln was very strict. Officials were sent by the court to supervise ceramic production, especially for the production of porcelain for the imperial court. However, the Ceramic Supervisor Zhang Shan was extremely greedy and cruel, treating the workers under him harshly. He often used surplus and substandard products as bribes to his colleagues. This behavior became unbearable for the people.

Therefore, in the second year of Xuande (1427), in order to rectify discipline, the court decided to take action. They were enraged and furious, and the greedy Ceramic Supervisor was beheaded! At the same time, all the surplus and substandard products from the official kiln were shattered and then buried on-site. This way, the authority of the emperor was upheld, and the exquisite craftsmanship of the official kiln's porcelain was thoroughly showcased. This story is truly astonishing!