



How to win the favor of emperor Xuande by cricket jars?

The production of cricket jars was to win the favor of Emperor Xuande. It is said that Emperor Xuande, Zhu Zhanji, was a person who had a special fondness for crickets! In the classic literary work "Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio" in the chapter "Promoting Weaving," there is a description of him playing with crickets. Although there are no detailed records in the official court history, the archaeological discoveries in 1993 at the Zhushan Xuande Imperial Kiln confirmed this. It turns out that the Imperial Kiln Factory specially made many exquisite cricket jars for the court, with dozens of different types! Among them, there is one called the blue and white double-sided five-claw dragon pattern cricket jar, which was the emperor's dedicated pot for watching cricket fights. This emperor not only had a special fondness for crickets but also enjoyed raising birds and appreciating flowers. The Xuande Imperial Kiln Factory produced many porcelain pieces depicting flowers, birds, insects, and fish, with dozens of different types! It seems that his love for nature was truly profound!

That's right! Emperor Xuande, Zhu Zhanji, had a special fondness for crickets. He loved keeping crickets and ordered the craftsmen at the Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Factory to create a series of pottery pieces with crickets as the theme, with the most famous being the cricket jars.

It is said that Emperor Xuande had a unique fondness for crickets. He kept many crickets and would carefully observe their activities and listen to their chirping every day. He believed that crickets were lively and spiritual creatures, and their chirping could bring

good luck and auspiciousness. Therefore, he treasured crickets greatly and wanted to perpetuate the image of crickets in pottery.

To fulfill this desire, Emperor Xuande ordered the craftsmen at the Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Factory to create a special pottery piece called the cricket jar. Cricket jars are usually small and exquisite porcelain pieces, with a round or polygonal shape and finely carved cricket patterns on them. The top of the pottery piece has small holes for the crickets to enter and exit, allowing their chirping to be heard.

Creating cricket jars requires highly skilled craftsmanship and exquisite techniques. After repeated experiments and improvements, the craftsmen at the Imperial Kiln Factory successfully produced exquisite cricket jars. These jars were not only visually beautiful but also had a delicate texture, providing a good living environment for crickets. Emperor Xuande was very satisfied with these cricket jars. He personally selected some of the most exquisite pottery pieces as his collection and bestowed them upon important figures and nobles in the court.

Cricket jars became unique pottery pieces during the reign of Emperor Xuande, showcasing the emperor's fondness for crickets and his support for the Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Factory. These pottery pieces are still cherished and collected by people today, becoming one of the treasures of Jingdezhen ceramic culture. Cricket jars have also become a symbol of people's longing for luck and auspiciousness.