



Why was there an increase in the production of office tool porcelain during the Kangxi period?

During the Kangxi period, it is said that the Imperial Kiln Factory produced a large quantity of various porcelain items for study and office use, such as brush holders, water basins, armrests, and inkstones. This is closely related to Emperor Kangxi's cultural policy of respecting Confucianism and Confucian scholars. Emperor Kangxi was an emperor with great foresight. He realized that relying solely on the military power of the Manchu people was not enough to rule over China. He understood that by honoring Confucius' teachings and embracing Han Chinese culture, he could strengthen the Qing Empire's rule. Therefore, at the beginning of his reign, he established Cheng-Zhu Neo-Confucianism as the official philosophy and implemented policies to reconcile with Han Chinese intellectuals.

The appreciation for culture naturally promoted the production of porcelain items for study and office use. Emperor Kangxi specifically requested the craftsmen at the Imperial Kiln Factory to create various study and office utensils, among which the most outstanding were the brush holders. These porcelain items for study and office use held a very important position in the ceramics history of the Qing Dynasty. Emperor Kangxi was indeed a monarch who highly valued culture. In order to consolidate his rule, he utilized not only military power but also culture. This story is truly awe-inspiring!

Have you heard of Emperor Yongzheng? He was the fourth son of Emperor Kangxi and affectionately known as "Prince Four." This emperor was a stern and impartial ruler, but he also had the

temperament of a scholar. He had a refined taste for art and particularly admired porcelain with an elegant and simple style, pursuing the beauty of nature and subtlety.

Emperor Yongzheng personally participated in the manufacturing of porcelain. From the palace archives, we can learn that the styles of porcelain produced by the Imperial Kiln Factory had to be in accordance with Emperor Yongzheng's wishes and were personally selected by the emperor himself. Porcelain from the Song Dynasty was renowned for its delicate body, elegant colors, and graceful beauty, which Emperor Yongzheng greatly admired. Therefore, during the Yongzheng period, the Imperial Kiln Factory produced a large quantity of Song-style porcelain. One of them was the famille rose porcelain, which had a glassy pink base and was adorned with colorful patterns that created a rendering effect, reminiscent of Chinese ink paintings. Emperor Yongzheng greatly favored this style, so during his reign, famille rose porcelain was extensively produced and highly popular.

Emperor Yongzheng was not only a powerful ruler but also a monarch with artistic taste. His love for and appreciation of simple and elegant porcelain made the Imperial Kiln Factory a place where many beautiful works were created. This story is truly awe-inspiring!