

CA MAU SHIPWRECK - UNDERGLAZE BLUE DISH WITH UNDERGLAZE RED, CELADON, AND INCISING

Porcelains adorned in the complex variety of underglaze blue, underglaze red, and celadon, along with carved and incised accents are seldom encountered because of the difficulty, cost and uncertainties of manufacturing. The period of production for these works was confined to the early Qing dynasty, primarily the Kangxi period (1662 to 1722) and continuing to the Yong Zheng period (1723 to 1735) and on up to the Qianlong period (1735 to 1796). These were the glory years of Qing dynasty porcelain production in terms of innovation, workmanship, and quality. Among the innovations of this era were porcelains successfully adorned with this complex variety of techniques.

An example is a dish from the Ca Mau shipwreck as described in **Catalogue Entry C-163** below:

C-163

Dish adorned with a complex medley of underglaze blue, underglaze red and celadon, along with lightly carved and incised accenting. Across the dish is a lake side scene with three scholars conversing atop a hillock under a spreading pine tree. Two of the scholars are rendered in dark blue, the other in brilliant red. The pine tree with brilliant red trunk and dark blue needles; a blossoming bush in vibrant red to the right. On the lake light blue ripple accents and a fisherman in a sampan rendered in dark blue. Lightly carved and incised detailing includes the outline of the tree trunk, the three figures, outline of the hillock, and the ripples in the lake. The unadorned underside covered in light mint green celadon glaze.

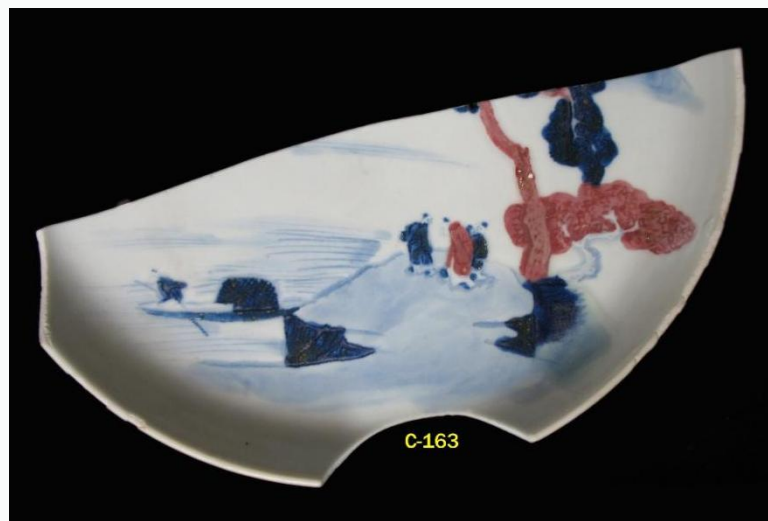
Broad glazed base is convex; foot is wedge shaped with extremely fine grained white body exposed at the unglazed edge of the footrim.

D: 8 1/4 in. (21.1 cm.).

Qing: Yong Zheng period (1723 to 1735) - circa 1725.

Provenance: Ca Mau shipwreck, Vietnam - acquired in Saigon (January 2014).

There are two corresponding dishes in this series illustrated in Sotheby's (Amsterdam), *Catalogue for Made in Imperial China - 76,000 Pieces of Chinese Export Porcelain from the Ca Mau Shipwreck, circa 1725*, January 29 - 31, 2007, page 138, lot 495. The Ca Mau sale included only one lot of these dishes consisting of *the two items in lot 495 with an estimate of EUR 800 to EUR1,200 (\$1,040 to \$1,560)*, and which sold for \$13,260 (EUR 10,200) - including the 23.8 percent buyer's premium). Although there were no dishes in the series illustrated in Nguyen Dinh Chien, *Tau Co Ca Mau (The Ca Mau Shipwreck)*, there were other correspondingly decorated items including the bowl and incense burner on page 192, N.266 and N.267, respectively.



Ca Mau Shipwreck

The Ca Mau Shipwreck was discovered by local fishermen in the summer of 1998 near Ca Mau Island about 90 nautical miles south of Cape Ca Mau, southern Vietnam at a depth of 36 meters. The official excavation of the wrecksite was performed from August 8, 1998 to October 16, 1999 by the government owned Vietnam Salvage Corporation (Visal), the National Museum of Vietnamese History, and the Museum of Ca Mau. A total of over 130,000 ceramics along with numerous broken items and shards dated to the Yong Zheng reign (1723 to 1735) of the Qing Dynasty were recovered from the wrecksite. This total includes official recoveries as well as material recovered earlier by fishermen. Sotheby's conducted the sale of 76,000 Chinese ceramics from the Ca Mau shipwreck in January 2007.

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