

RABBIT MOTIF ON CHINESE CERAMICS

The rabbit or hare, in addition to being one of the twelve animals of the zodiac, has special importance as a Daoist symbol associated with longevity and immortality. The hare is said to beget offspring by gazing at the moon, and this is a common decorative theme in Chinese arts including ceramics.

The rabbit or hare is represented in the Ceramics Catalogue by the following twenty-four (24) items:

C-044 (No. 2 of 2 cover box), C-051 (cover box), C-064 (dish), C-157 (39 of 42 - bowl), C-209 (cup), M-028 (dish - base mark), M-035 (cover box - base mark), M-046 (cover box - base mark), M-095 (polychrome dish), M-099 (dish), M-151 (saucer dish), M-216 (cover box), M-257 (jarlet - base mark), M-299 (1 & 2 of 2 - cover boxes - rabbit shape), M-314 (jarlet - base mark), M-379 (cover box lower section - base mark), M-424 (33 of 69 - cover), M-424 (34 of 69 - cover), M-437 (dish), M-490 (No. 4 of 4 - cover box), M-500 (No. 4 of 6 - cover box), M-509 (No. 2 of 7 - cover), and M-518 (bowl).

The rabbit is encountered as a base mark on 6 of these porcelains, all dated to the Ming Dynasty. There does not appear to be any recorded example of a Qing Dynasty porcelain with a hare base mark.



Detailed Descriptions of each of the above 24 porcelains are included in the **Ceramics Catalogue** in the corresponding ceramic category (Qing or Ming). Details include the Catalogue Number, description, size, dating, provenance (origin, place and date of acquisition, cost), and any references to comparable examples. Similarly, additional photos are available in the corresponding **Ceramics Catalogue - Photos Folder**.

Rabbit Motif (C-044 to C-209 & M-028 to M-518)



References (Partial Listing)

Bartholomew, Terese Tse, 2006. *Hidden Meanings in Chinese Art*. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum.

Welch, Patricia Bjaaland, 2008. *Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery*. North Clarendon, Vermont: Tuttle Publishing.

Williams, C. A. S., 1960. *Encyclopedia of Chinese Symbolism and Art Motives*. New York: Julian Press.