

BATAVIA WARES

Underglaze brown wares, typically combined with underglaze blue and white or enamels, were very popular with the Dutch in the 18th century and great quantities were shipped from their large trading center at Batavia (present day Jakarta), consequently the name “Batavia wares” originated. The wares were shipped primarily to Europe and Southeast Asia from the beginning of the 18th century to around the century’s end. The underglaze brown color is achieved by using iron oxide as a pigment, which like underglaze blue, needs to be fired at high temperatures. The brown glaze is typically found on the underside of dishes and the exterior of bowls with the decoration often contained within medallions. Decorative motifs may be executed in overglaze enamels or underglaze blue.

A range of brown tones are found on these wares and some of the specific names used to describe the wares include *Café au lait*, *Capuchin* ware, and *Capucijnergoed* (Chickpea ware, after the color of the legume). Batavia wares are found in a fairly wide variety of shapes including saucers, plates, dishes, cups, bowls, covered jars, vases, tea pots, and kendis. During the early 19th century there appears to have been a limited revival of the Batavian décor, primarily for wares exported to the Southeast Asia markets.

The eight known and documented wrecks which included Batavia type brown glaze wares in the cargo are the following (in chronological order, with date and location of sinking indicated):

- **Wanli shipwreck (dated to circa 1625) and found in Malaysia, only two Batavia type wares recovered, and both were miniature kendis.**
- **Pingtán No. 1 Shipwreck (Wanjiao No. 1 wreck) (dated to circa 1700) and found on Wanjiao Reef near Pingtán Island in Fujian Province, China – the only Batavia wares salvaged were a very few vases with elongated neck and globular body.**
- **Kangxi Indonesia shipwreck (dated to circa 1710) - represents the only Kangxi period (1662 to 1722) wreck, also the earliest of the six wrecks containing Batavia bowls, cups and dishes. In contrast to the plentiful quantity of blue and white bowls and dishes recovered from the Kangxi Indonesia shipwreck, bowls and dishes with Batavia type brown glaze were dramatically fewer in number. The Kangxi Indonesia shipwreck Batavia wares in the Collection (16 – photos below) consist of the following: C-182 (No. 1 & 2), C-197 (No. 1 & 2), C-198 (No. 1 to 4), C-199 (No. 1 to 3), C-211 (No. 1 & 2), C-225 (No. 9), C-225 (No. 13), and C-226 (No. 3).**
- **Ca Mau (dated to circa 1725) and found in Vietnam – the thirty-five (photos below) Batavia saucers, cups and cover in this writer's Collection of 127 Ca Mau wreck items are an example of these types of wares.**
- **Göteborg (dated 1745) and found in Sweden - the bowl fragments and cover (photos below) catalogued as C-076 (4 of 11), C-076 (9 of 11) and C-054 (9 of 11), respectively, in this writer's Collection of 12 Göteborg wreck items are examples of the Batavia type wares.**
- **Diemermeer (The Cannon Wreck) (dated 1747) and found in the Banana Islands, Sierra Leone – contained only a very limited**

number of Batavia ware fragments (2), those of a tea bowl and a saucer.

- **Nanking Cargo (Geldermalsen) (dated to 1752) and found in Indonesia - the small bowls or cups and saucers (7 – photos below) which are catalogued as C-052 to C-240 in this writer's Collection of 33 Nanking Cargo wreck items are examples of the Batavia type wares.**
- **Sadana Island Shipwreck (dated 1765) and found off the Red Sea Coast of Egypt - contained only a limited quantity of Batavia type wares.**

The brown glazed base on some of the Kangxi Indonesia shipwreck Batavia type bowls represents an unusual feature. In the other five shipwrecks with corresponding Batavia type brown glaze wares the base of the bowls, as well as that of the cups and dishes, was invariably glazed white.

The greatest quantity of Batavia wares were recovered from the Ca Mau shipwreck, the Kangxi Indonesia shipwreck, and the Nanking Cargo. The widespread distribution of the ships with Batavia wares, from Southeast Asia to Africa to Europe to the Red Sea Coast of Egypt, suggests considerable commerce, interest, and demand for these wares.

Example from Kangxi Indonesia Shipwreck (dated to circa 1710):





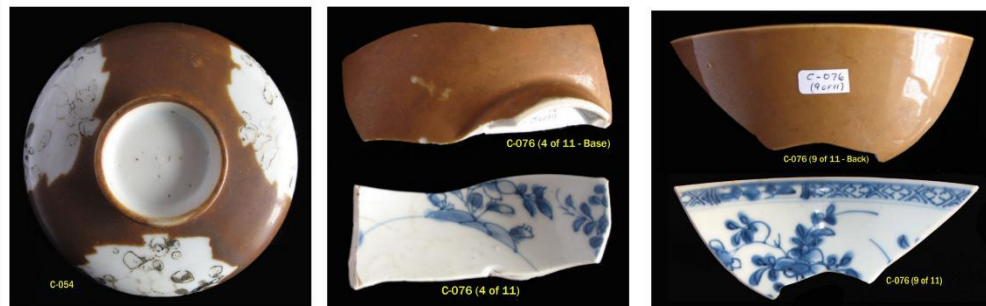
Ca Mau Batavia Wares (C-029 to C-243)



Kangxi Indonesia Wreck
Batavia Wares (C-182 to C-226)



Nanking Cargo Batavia Wares (C-052 to C-240)



Gotheborg Batavia Wares (C-054 to C-076)

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"Batavia Brown (Capucin) wares 1700 - 1800"

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"Batavia Ware"

<http://gotheborg.com/glossary/bataviabrown.shtml>
"Batavia brown"

