

## **PHILIPPINES SHIPWRECKS**

**Lena Shoal (Busuanga), Pandanan, Jolo Wreck (Gujangan), Santa Cruz (Zambales), Balabac Island Shipwreck, San Diego, Royal Captain Shoal (Wreck 2) - included for information only, Marinduque (Gaspar site) - included for information only, San Isidro, Luuk Island Wrecksite, Santiago Island Wrecksite, Unidentified shipwreck No. 1 - an unidentified wrecksite in the Philippines, Unidentified shipwrecks No. 2 to No. 5 - unidentified wrecksites reportedly in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao.**

**Lena Shoal (Busuanga) – located north-east of Palawan off the island of Busuanga (6.5 nautical miles from Calauit) at the approximate latitude N 12.2813° and longitude E 119.8146°, and discovered by fisherman from Marinduque in early 1997. Archaeological excavation at a depth of 48 to 50 meters conducted from March to May 1997 resulted in the recovery of some 5,000 artifacts, the majority of which were blue and white Chinese ceramics datable to the late 15th century - Hongzhi period (1488 to 1505). The blue and white Chinese ceramics recovered included a very considerable quantity of large saucer shaped plates (32.5 centimeters in diameter) with a variety of decorative motifs, a total of 357 small and large bowls, ewers, jarlets, oval cover boxes, writing (pen) boxes, tea cups, saucers, kendis, vases, bottle shaped pots and lids. Chinese celadon plates, basins, dishes, bowls, cups, and jarlets; monochrome white ware, and brown glazed jars and ewers were also found.**

**Thai ceramics included Sisatchanalai celadon plates, jars, jarlets, bottle shaped pots, basins and lids, as well as brown glazed jars from Singburi and Sisatchanalai. Large celadon plates originally attributable to the Northern Thai kilns at Wang Nua or Kalong kilns were also found. Subsequent research later determined that these large plates are in fact of Burmese origin. Additional Burmese wares recovered consisted of smaller sized celadon plates and a large**

brown glazed jar decorated with vertical and horizontal lines in relief. The 28 Vietnamese wares recovered consisted primarily of blue and white jarlets and cover boxes as well as large brown glazed ovoid jars with fluidly incised décor.

The recovered artifacts were in large part retained by the government of the Philippines, with some representative specimens retained by the excavators. However, even larger quantities of the Lena Shoal ceramics found their way to the fishermen's huts of Marinduque and the antique shops of Manila. Shards of the large blue and white plates, for example, were being offered for sale by the fishermen priced by the kilogram.

Lena Shoal ceramics (21) included in the collection are as follows (M-242 to M-407, TH-094 to TH-176 and B-082 to B-086):

**M-242** – Ming blue and white bowl with aquatic plants, scrolling lotus, and panels with *langsa* characters, D: 14.6 cm. (\$191)

**M-243** – Ming blue & white bowl with lotus scroll, D: 12.7 cm. (\$96)

**M-244** – Ming blue and white large plate with three friends, D: 32.2 cm. (\$958)

**M-253** – Ming celadon bowl, incised floral motif, D: 11.9 cm. (\$0-)

**M-312** – Ming blue and white large plate, floral roundels, trellis pattern filler, D: 31.7 cm. (\$50)

**M-327** – Ming blue and white large plate, floral roundels, trellis pattern filler, D: 32.8 cm. (\$20)

**M-328** – Ming blue and white large plates (3) with floral roundels, trellis pattern filler, D: 31.9 to 32.1 cm. (\$230)

**M-364** – Ming shipwreck shards (3), a portion of base and rim of large blue and white plates: No. 1 with five cranes surrounded by overlapping wave elements; No. 2 floral sprays with spiky leaf tips and flying horses on the underside; No. 3 with peach spray roundels amid trellis pattern; D: 23.5 cm. – No. 1, L: 25.2 cm. – No. 2, L: 17.5 cm. – No. 3. (\$4)

**M-407** – Ming blue and white hole-bottom saucer with two standing figures - a scholar carrying a *qin* next to an attendant holding a

large lotus leaf overhead, D: 12.1 cm. (\$65)  
TH-094 – Sisatchanalai celadon “coconut” jar, H: 14.9 cm. (\$153)  
TH-096 – Sisatchanalai brown glazed jar, H: 23.7 cm. (\$134)  
TH-173 – Burmese very large celadon plate, D: 40 cm. (\$130)  
TH-175 – Burmese very large celadon plate, D: 42 cm. (\$208)  
TH-176 – Burmese celadon bowl, D: 12 cm. (\$13)  
B-082 – Burmese large celadon plate, incised, D: 27.7 cm. (\$130)  
B-084 – Burmese celadon plate, incised, D: 26.7 cm. (\$130)  
B-086 – Burmese large celadon plate, incised, incipient  
phosphorescent flashes, D: 28.8 cm. (\$130)

**Total - \$2,642**

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**Pandanan Wreck** – located 250 meters off the north-west of Pandanan Island, in Balabac, Palawan ( latitude 8d 9' 48"N and longitude 117d 3' 6" E). Discovered by a pearl diver in June 1993 with excavation conducted from 17 February to 15 May 1995 at a depth of 40 meters. Cargo consisted of Vietnamese, Thai, Chinese and Burma ceramics along with some metal artifacts with a total of 4,722 specimens excavated. The vast majority of the celadons, stoneware jars, and blue and white ceramics comprising the cargo are datable to the mid 15th century, although a few earlier pieces were also found.

Vietnamese ceramics comprised 72 percent of the the findings and included 3,228 grayish blue, green glazed and brown glazed Cham type bowls with unglazed stacking rings from Binh Dinh Province, central Vietnam, along with brown glazed cups, pear-shaped bottles, small jars, jarlets, limepot(s) and 75 stoneware jars in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and decorative techniques. Vietnamese blue and white wares included bowls, jars, pear-shaped vases, large plates and jarlets. Two blue and white cover boxes complete with matching lids and saucer dish inset into the lower section were also found.

Also recovered were 113 Chinese celadon saucers with incised floral scroll and a few celadon plates, jarlets and cups. A small quantity of brown glazed Chinese jars was also recovered. A variety of Chinese blue and white porcelain was also found comprising just under four percent of the total cargo recovered, and representing the earliest blue and white ware recovered in significant quantity from a shipwreck. Thai ceramic recoveries included a few Sisatchanalai celadon bowls, and four Sukhothai fish plates approximately 24 centimeters in diameter. Also recovered were 63 stoneware jars attributable to the Singburi kilns at Mae Nam Noi in central Thailand. A very limited number of celadon plates from Burma along with one stoneware jar of possible Burma origin were also recovered. Additionally, also contained in the cargo were 4 Yuan ceramics, which included a couple of small yingqing gourd shaped ewers.

The recovered artifacts were in large part retained by the government of the Philippines, with some representative specimens retained by Ecofarm Systems and Resources, Inc., who provided funding for the excavation project. Some of the Pandanan Wreck ceramics, however, were also to be found in the antique shops of Manila. These included large quantities of the Vietnamese Cham bowls as well as blue and white bowls. Also obtainable from the shipwreck, but not mentioned in published accounts of the excavation, were Vietnamese bowls and plates decorated in polychrome enamels and monochrome blue Vietnamese bowls.

Pandanan Wreck ceramics (15) included in the collection are as follows (V-001 to V-012, B-083 and M-321 to M-323):

**V-001** – Vietnamese blue and white bowl with scrolling lotus, D: 16 cm. (\$52)

**V-002** – Vietnamese dish, light green glaze, steep sides and rolled rim, unglazed stacking ring, D: 15.1 cm. (\$18)

**V-005** – Vietnamese polychrome plate floral décor, D: 24.9 cm. (\$52)

**V-006** – Vietnamese blue and white bowl with scrolling lotus, D: 13.2 cm. (\$52)

**V-007** – Vietnamese dish, dark yellow glaze, steep sides and rolled rim, unglazed stacking ring, D: 15.8 cm. (\$0-)

**V-009** – Vietnamese bowls (2) with polychrome enamel floral decoration, base coated with chocolate wash, D: 13.4 cm. (\$78)

**V-010** – Vietnamese bowl, polychrome enamel decoration, base coated with chocolate wash, D: 13.6 cm. (\$39)

**V-011** – Vietnamese dish, yellowish green glaze, steep sides and rolled rim, unglazed stacking ring, D: 16.0 cm. (\$13)

**V-012** – Vietnamese monochrome blue bowl with chocolate base, D: 13.2 cm. (\$26)

**B-083** – Burmese very large celadon plate, cavetto with vertical gouges, D: 34.2 cm. (\$195)



**M-321** – small Chinese celadon dishes (2) with turquoise blue crackled glaze, flared rim, incised lotus spray, D: 14.1 cm. and 14.5 cm. (\$76)

**M-322** – small Chinese celadon dishes (2) with plain bucket-shaped sides, dark green glaze, molded floral spray, D: 12.6 cm and 12.2 cm. (\$76)

**M-323** – small Chinese celadon dish, with flared rim, in the center a broad underglaze black floral spray, D: 14.1 cm. (\$38)

**Total - \$715**

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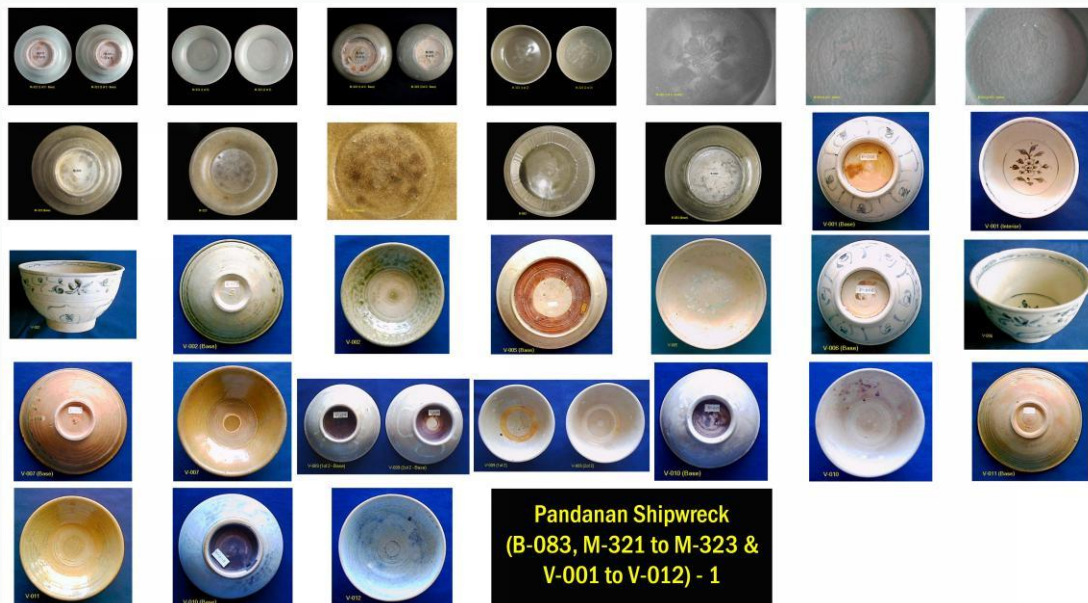
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**Jolo Wreck (Gujangan)** – reportedly located a few hundred meters off the northern coast of Jolo Island (near the much smaller Gujangan Island) in the Sulu Seas and discovered by fishermen in mid 1998 at the coordinates latitude N 6.0601° and longitude E 121.2746°. The Chinese porcelain recovered is dateable to the late 15th to early 16th century and included 50 to 60 extra large blue and white ceramics in four distinct forms: plates (51 cm.), double gourd vases (44 cm. and 30 cm.), guan jars (36 cm. and 28 cm.), and bowls (35 cm.). Also found were garden stools (36 cm.) one of which was monochrome white, one celadon stoneware double gourd vase, and various other smaller items.

The smaller items included monochrome white wine cups with steep flaring sides, unglazed stacking rings in the interior center, and underglaze blue seal marks on the bases (referenced in M-255 below); blue glazed cups with white glazed interior and steep flaring sides (referenced in M-334 below); and small bowls decorated on the sides in underglaze blue with three tiers of repetitive Sanskrit characters (referenced in M-373 below). Only a very limited number



of Chinese porcelains were available from the diminutive sized vessel with a small cargo. Exclusively Chinese porcelains were found, there were no ceramics recovered from other sources.

This material all appeared in the antique shops of Manila in August 1998. The Philippine Navy did salvage parts of the ship and some of the cargo, which was exhibited in the museum in Navy Headquarters on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Jolo Wreck ceramics (22) included in the collection are as follows (M-254 to M-428):

**M-254** – Ming polychrome enamel decorated bowl, D: 15.2 cm. (\$0-)

**M-255** – Ming white glazed wine cups (8) with steep flaring sides, underglaze blue seal mark, D: 6.4 cm. to 7.5 cm. (\$39)

**M-332** – Ming white glazed wine cups (2) with steep flaring sides, underglaze blue seal mark, D: 7.5 cm. and 7.2 cm. (\$25)

**M-333** – Ming polychrome enamel decorated bowl, D: 13.3 cm. (\$25)

**M-334** – Ming blue glazed cup with white glazed interior and steep flaring sides with strongly everted mouthrim, D: 9.0 cm. (\$37)

**M-336** – Ming bluish white glazed thinly potted dishes (2) with sharply everted mouthrim, overglaze polychrome enamels now eroded, underglaze blue seal mark on base, D: 13.6 cm. (\$44)

**M-365** – Ming bluish white glazed thinly potted dish with sharply everted mouthrim, D: 16.3 cm. (\$20)

**M-367** – Ming white glazed wine cups (2) with steep flaring sides, underglaze blue seal mark, D: 7.8 cm. and 7.3 cm. (\$20)

**M-372** – Ming blue glazed cup with white glazed interior and steep flaring sides with strongly everted mouthrim, D: 9.2 cm. (\$50)

**M-373** – Ming small bowl decorated on the sides in underglaze blue with three tiers of repetitive Sanskrit characters of simplified version for *om* (sacred syllable), D: 9.5 cm. (\$40)

**M-374** – Ming white monochrome hole-bottom saucer thinly potted and covered with slightly bluish tinged white glaze, D: 9.9 cm. (\$20)

**M-428** – Ming bluish white glazed thinly potted dish with sharply

everted mouthrim, overglaze polychrome enamels now eroded,  
underglaze blue seal mark on base, D: 13.6 cm. (\$12)

**Total - \$332**

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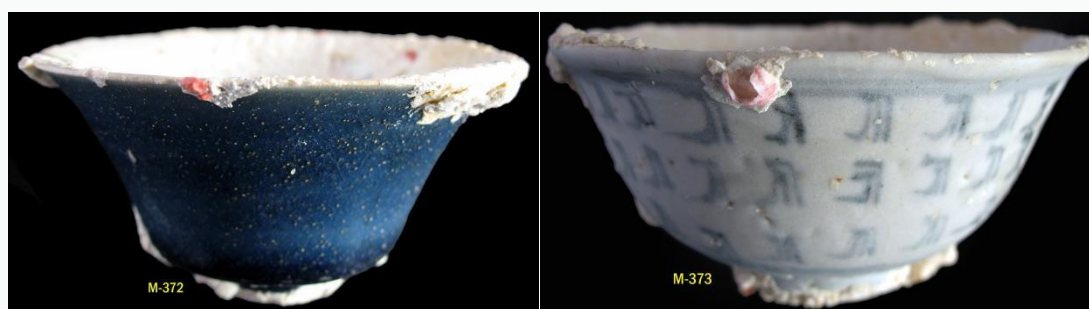
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Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum (SEACM), Bangkok University - Shipwreck Data Base References and Photos.



**Santa Cruz (Zambales)** - the Santa Cruz shipwreck was discovered by fishermen in April 2001 at a depth of 32 meters off the west coast of the Philippines 15 kilometers from the town of Santa Cruz, which is the northernmost town in Zambales Province. The ship was on its way from the south-east coast of China to Luzon, the main island of the Philippines, when it struck a reef and sank in about 1490. The

National Museum of the Philippines became aware of the shipwreck when salvaged artifacts appeared in the antique shops of Manila. They decided to perform an archaeological excavation on the wreck as soon as possible in order to avoid the plundering and destruction of the wreck.

Excavation of the wrecksite started in July 2001 with a team of 32 people and continued for 2 and one-half months. Approximately 15,000 artifacts were recovered from the wrecksite dateable to the Hongzhi reign (1488 to 1505) of the Ming Dynasty. This represents quite a significant finding of Chinese porcelain from that period. The recovered material included 11,500 ceramics, many of which were Chinese porcelain of excellent quality and pristine condition including blue and white plates, wine cups, hole-bottom saucers with peony, barbed rim plates with an underglaze blue lion and celadon underside, kendis, water-droppers modeled as mandarin ducks, and writing boxes. Also among the ceramics were Longquan celadon bowls, dishes, and hole-bottom type saucers; storage jars from South China; and large brown glazed jars with incised flower heads from Vietnam. Some of the storage jars were filled with more than fifty small blue and white porcelain wine cups, and typically none of the cups were broken despite the wreckage of the junk. Thai wares salvaged included Sisatchanalai celadon jars in granada and coconut shape, and Singburi brown glazed storage jars in medium and large size, as well as kendis and basins. Recovered also were a variety of Burmese wares including large celadon plates, jars and holders for incense or possibly a candle with a modeled animal figure supporting the central tubular shaped shaft (refer to catalogue number B-122 for a similar holder also of Burmese origin).

For the first time a wreck had been found in which the packing was almost completely intact, enabling the archaeologists to know what kind of goods were packed in the different parts and compartments of the junk. Chinese merchants were famous for their art of packing. The porcelain was so skillfully packed that no space was wasted and the

pieces stabilized themselves perfectly. This is evidenced by the fact that most of the porcelain remained intact after the ship capsized. The Santa Cruz was lost at a time when private overseas trade had been banned by the Chinese Emperor. China isolated itself during the Ming Dynasty, from the middle of the 15th century onwards. People were, however, dependent on the maritime trade, and illegal trade continued to flourish, despite the threat of the death penalty for smuggling.

All the recovered artifacts were registered by the National Museum of the Philippines and the recovery team headed by Franck Goddio. The recovered artifacts were retained by the government of the Philippines, with some representative specimens given to the excavators. However, large quantities of the Santa Cruz shipwreck material were also available in the antique shops of Manila.

Santa Cruz ceramics (9) included in the collection are as follows (M-283 to M-338, TH-564, V-232 and B-085):

**M-283** – Ming blue and white hole-bottom saucer with peony,  
D: 13.1 cm. (\$58)

**M-284** – Ming plate with underglaze blue lion, barbed rim and celadon underside, D: 19.9 cm. (\$120)

**M-285** – Ming celadon glazed hole-bottom saucers (2),  
D: 10.3 and 11 cm. (\$23)

**M-324** – Small celadon dish with foliated rim, incised décor,  
D: 12.2 cm. (\$38)

**M-338** – Ming blue and white hole-bottom saucer with magnolia blossom and stylized leaves band, on exterior a lotus scroll,  
D: 13.1 cm. (\$49)

**TH-564** – Thai celadon “coconut” jar with light sea-green crackled glaze; neck with two loop handles, and narrow mouth has a rolled rim; a band of eight carved ridges high on the steep shoulders, mid body with a continuous series of incised double outlined overlapping large “X” shaped elements, H: 16.4 cm. (\$149)

**V-232** – Vietnamese large brown glazed jar with incised flower heads,  
H: 34.3 cm. (\$233)

**B-085** – Burmese very large celadon plate, incised, phosphorescent  
flashes, D: 33.5 cm. (\$195)

**Total - \$865**

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**Balabac Island Shipwreck** – extremely limited information is available about this shipwreck. It reportedly was discovered by local fishermen sometime prior to February 1999 off of Balabac Island, southern Palawan and is datable to the late 15th century to early 16th century. The primary material salvaged appears to be Thai ceramics from the Sisatchanalai kilns including granada bottle vases (grenade shaped jarlets) some brown glazed and others green glazed, and white glazed covered jars with flattened globular body. The glaze of the latter pots - bluish-tinged with an overall network of wide crackle - is referred to as “elephant” glaze in the Philippines. Some of the grenade shaped jarlets recovered contain considerable marine encrustations including small shells and what appears to be a small amount of pink colored coral. It appears that only a very limited amount of material was salvaged from this wrecksite, which was reportedly located very close to Malaysian territorial waters.

A total of 3 Balabac Island shipwreck ceramics are included in the collection as follows:

**TH-171** - bottle vases (2) in grenade shape, one brown glazed and the other green glazed, cup-like mouth, two vertical loop handles, flat unglazed base, beveled footrim, H: 11.8 cm. and 12.4 cm. (\$62)

**TH-172** - white glazed covered jar with flattened globular body, unglazed base without footrim, domed cover flattened at the edge with lotus bud handle, H (with cover): 8 cm. (\$65)

**Total - \$127**

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Field Notes: Manila - February 1999.



**San Diego Wreck** - sank on December 14, 1600 and is located 900 meters northeast of Fortune Island, Batangas, Philippines. Archeological exploration was done in 1991 and 1992, and excavation activities conducted in 1992 and 1993 at a depth of 50 meters. Recovered more than 1,200 blue and white porcelains dated to approximately 1599 of the Wanli reign (1572 – 1620) of the Ming Dynasty. These included plates, dishes, bottles, jars, double gourd vases, kendis, and boxes. The pear shaped bottles (*yuhuchunping* vases) represent the most complete collection of this type ever discovered. The majority of the recovered ceramics was Kraak ware made in the Jingdezhen in kilns, but a quantity of Swatow ware was also included in the cargo and recovered. The San Diego contained various Swatow blue and white ceramics: large jars with floral décor; plates with phoenix, duck or deer; and bowls, vases and jarlets all primarily with floral and bird décor. Also found were two Swatow pieces with overglaze red and green enamels: one oblong cover box and one bowl. Overall, the range and quantity of Swatow ware in the cargo of the San Diego was apparently quite limited. Also recovered were in excess of 750 stoneware jars of Chinese (48%), Thai (34%), Burmese (4%), Spanish and Mexican (11%), and unknown (3%) origin. The Thai jars recovered were from kilns in Singburi, in Sisatchanalai and Ban toa Hai in Phitsanulok province. Additionally, over 70 Philippine-made earthenware pieces were recovered. Bronze artifacts, silver coins, and iron anchors were also recovered.

The bulk of the recovered artifacts were kept by the government of the Philippines, with a comprehensive selection of material retained by the excavators. A number of representative specimens and unique examples of the ceramics from the San Diego wreck are on display in the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila. The shipwreck findings share of the excavators, World Wide First, is scheduled to be on permanent display at the Museo Naval, Madrid, Spain and the National Museum of Asiatic Arts-Guimet, Paris, France.

San Diego wreck ceramics (1) included in the collection are the following:

**M-344** - Swatow blue and white dish with a long-tailed phoenix, five peach spray medallions, reserved against a fish scale diaper ground on the wide everted rim, the narrow well is plain D: 18.0 cm. (\$62)

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Valdes, Cynthia O., 1993. *Saga of the San Diego*. Manila: National Museum of the Philippines.



**Royal Captain Shoal (Wreck 2)** - located on the flat ledge of the Royal Captain Shoal about 48 miles west of Palawan Island, Philippines at a depth of 3 meters ( latitude 9 degrees 02' 55" and longitude 116 degrees 39' 87"). The entire shipwreck cargo of Chinese ceramics was immersed in a hardened mass formed by coral aggregate and required the use of hammer and chisel to extract. Excavation was done during 1985 by a joint venture between the National Museum of the Philippines and the French private entity World Wide First, Incorporated. The Chinese ceramics recovered are dateable to the late 16th to early 17th century during the Wanli reign (1572 – 1620) of the Ming Dynasty. The recovered material consisted of plates (59), saucers (60), bowls (34), cups (35), boxes (32), covers (21), bottles (4), jarlets (45), jars (16), and various fragments. The porcelain was comprised of Jingdezhen ware as well as Swatow wares, Fujian, and De Hua material. The majority of the ceramics found were blue and white, but monochrome white and terracotta pieces were recovered as well. Decorative motifs included animal, floral, and human themes. For example, 39 plates out of a total of 59 were decorated with the standing phoenix motif. There is no specific mention nor any photographic evidence of any Kraak ware being found.

All of the excavated ceramics were deposited in the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila.

There are no Royal Captain Shoal shipwreck ceramics included in the collection.

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**Marinduque shipwreck (Gaspar site)** – found off of Marinduque Island between Gasan Island and Gaspar Island in the central Philippines. The wrecksite is located approximately 1,000 yards

north of Gaspar Island at Latitude 130 degrees 15' 45" N and 121 degrees 50' 30" E at a depth of approximately 40 meters. It was found in 1980 when a fisherman reportedly recovered some 1,000 pieces of intact Swatow porcelain from the wrecksite, alerting the National Museum of the Philippines of its existence.

The official excavation of the wrecksite was conducted by Marine Archeology Unlimited, Inc. (M.A.U.I.) and the National Museum of the Philippines. After performing initial exploratory dives early in 1981 actual archeological salvage excavations began on February 9, 1982 through mid August and again from November until the end of December, 1982. Excavation was started again in April and concluded in August 1983. Intact material recovered included some 188 blue and white jarlets, jars, plates large and small, dishes, saucers, bowls in various sizes, cover boxes, and spice containers as well as stoneware jars with loop handles and molded dragon design along with pale green celadon plates. A total of 1,072 shards were also recovered including shards from jars, bowls, plates and stoneware storage jars, along with a few earthenware shards. The recovered material consisted primarily of Chinese ceramics from the Swatow kilns and datable to the mid to late 16th century. There was no evidence of Kraak ware or of Thai or Vietnamese ware included as part of the cargo.

A portion of the recovered material was given to Marine Archeology Unlimited, Inc. consistent with the original salvage agreement. The remainder of the recovered ceramics was transported to the National Museum in Manila for conservation and storage.

There are no Marinduque shipwreck ceramics included in the collection.

### **References**

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Dizon, Eusebio Z., 2002. Underwater and Maritime Archaeology in the Philippines, paper presented to the International Symposium on Ming Provincial Blue and White Ware from Jingdezhen, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 26-27 September 2002.

Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum (SEACM), Bangkok University - Shipwreck Data Base References and Photos.

**San Isidro junk** - sank in the mid 16th century in the Philippines off the west coast of Luzon, north of Manila and approximately nine kilometers from Barangay San Isidro, Cabangan Municipality, Zambales Province (latitude 15 degrees 10' 81" N and longitude 119 degrees 57' 20" E). It was discovered in 1994 under a twenty-inch layer of coral sand at a depth of about 44 meters by the Underwater Archeology Section of the National Museum of the Philippines and the Far Eastern Foundation for Nautical Archaeology during a search for another shipwreck. Excavation of the shipwreck was conducted by the two foregoing entities some time in 1994 to 1995. The vessel



was a Chinese junk laden with a ceramic cargo of primarily blue and white Swatow wares including large dishes, bowls, cups, saucers, jars, lids and a box that were all made around 1550 in Fujian province of South China. Also recovered were Chinese and Thai stoneware jars of various sizes and shapes, two Thai jarlets, and a Vietnamese box. In total approximately 1,180 items were recovered, including intact ceramics, shards and cooking woks. Most of the Swatow ceramics recovered are utilitarian wares with flower and bird designs painted in underglaze cobalt blue. But decorative motifs did also include Chinese characters, human figures, fish, qilin and a dragon.

The recovered ceramics were deposited in the National Museum of the Philippines and remain stored there. There is little further information available, published or anecdotal, on the total number of Swatow ceramics recovered from this shipwreck. However, in the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines 2008 exhibition “Zhangzhou Ware Found in the Philippines – ‘Swatow’ Export Ceramics from Fujian 16th – 17th Century,” a total of 24 ceramics (all plate and dish forms) were specifically identified as recovered from the San Isidro shipwreck - Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines. Additionally, the Denver Art Museum exhibition “Sunken Treasures: Ming Dynasty Ceramics from A Chinese Shipwreck” (November 18, 2000 to October 20, 2002) included 53 ceramics from the cargo of the San Isidro, more than thirty of which reportedly came from the single private collection of Frederick R. Mayer and included dishes, cups, saucers and bowls.

San Isidro ceramics (1) included in the collection are the following:  
**M-335** (No. 2 of 2) - Swatow blue and white dish with unglazed firing ring, five petal blossom in the central medallion, on exterior two leaf sprays, D: 12.4 cm. (**\$25**)

### **References (Partial Listing)**

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Tan, Rita C., 2007. *Zhangzhou Ware Found in the Philippines - 'Swatow' Export Ceramics from Fujian 16th - 17th Century*. Manila: Publication Partners - Yuchengco Museum & the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines.



**Luuk Island Wrecksite** - reportedly discovered sometime late in the year 2004 or early in 2005 near Luuk Island in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao, Philippines - midway between Basilan and Tawi-Tawi. The ceramics recovered consisted primarily of Chinese green glazed bowls and brown glazed jarlets datable to the 14th century of the Yuan dynasty. The bowls have steeply rounded conical sides and four small notches nearly equidistantly spaced on the everted mouthrim. The interior well of the bowls is incised with cursively rendered floral spray panels. The center of the bowls is plain and encircled by an incised line border. The crackled glaze on the unadorned exterior extends to the vertical foot, which slants outward on the interior. The roughly finished narrow base of the bowls is convex and unglazed with compact light gray colored body. Varying quantities of marine encrustations adhere to the bowls. Also found were brown glazed jarlets with squat flattened body devoid of decoration. A very brief neck with flared mouthrim thickened at the rounded edge characterizes the jarlets. Interior of the jarlets is unglazed. The dark brown mottled glaze generally ends in a relatively even line just below mid-body. Base of the jarlets is unglazed and ranges from broad and flat to broad and concave with coarse textured gray colored body. The base of a very limited number of the jarlets is inscribed in black ink with a three Chinese character mark. There is presently no further information available on this shipwreck.

Luuk Island shipwreck ceramics (3) included in the collection are as follows:

**Y-074** - light sea green glazed bowl with steep conical sides and four notches on the everted mouthrim, interior Incised with four floral spray panels, narrow base unglazed, D: 16.6 cm. (\$30)

**Y-075** - brown glazed jarlets (2) with squat flattened body, very brief neck with flared mouthrim, base with a three Chinese character mark inscribed in black ink, D: 10.9 cm. and 10.4 cm. (\$54)

**Total - \$84**

### References

Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.

Sabal, Macs - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila.



**Santiago Island Wrecksite** - was discovered by a local fisherman in February 2008 off of Santiago Island, near Bolinao, Pangasinan on the northwest coast of Luzon, Philippines. The ceramics recovered consisted of fragments of Chinese underglaze blue plates and bowls as well as Chinese medium sized brown glazed jars with horizontal loop handles. Based on the characteristics of the fragments and comparison with analogous material the estimated dating is mid/late 17th century to early 18th century. The base fragment medallions recovered are decorated in a variety of motifs in attractively hued underglaze blue, all sparsely adorned on the

underside and each containing an underglaze blue base mark within a double circle. Decorative motifs include: bird surrounded by four flowering chrysanthemums, gnarled branches below; flower vase flanked by and surrounded with various bannered symbols; and two writhing opposed dragons in pursuit of a precious pearl and surrounded by stylized wave elements. The main motif is enclosed within multi-line borders, the cavetto accented with blue wash, and there is a mark on the base. Each of the fragments has a distinct underglaze blue base mark within a double circle consistent with its décor: bird and chrysanthemums - cross-hatched square base mark, flower vase - floral form base mark, and two dragons - lotus leaf base mark. All of the medallions have fine grained compact body ranging in color from cream to very light buff at the unglazed footrim, which is inward sloping on the exterior and upright on the interior. All also with flat glazed base and with the underglaze blue double circle enclosing the mark unusually close to the very edge of the base. Marine encrustations adhere to each of the medallions.

### **Research Results**

Research undertaken did not identify any material which is really close in overall resemblance to the Santiago Island base fragments. The following examples illustrated in S.T. Yeo & Jean Martin, *Chinese Blue & White Ceramics*, share some commonalities with the base fragment medallions from the Santiago Island shipwreck:

- page 249, PI 60 - right, dish with underglaze blue double circle unusually close to the foot (dated Kangxi period - 1662 to 1722);
- page 245, PI 155 - dish, jar and bowl (all three dated Kangxi period) each with overlapping blossom or leaf forms reserved in white on a blue ground; similar to the treatment on fragment No. 4;
- page 194, PI 106 - dish (Swatow ware dated 17th century) decorated in a manner very similar to the rendition of the dragons on fragment No. 3.

Additionally, the bases of least two items from the Vung Tau cargo recoveries (dated to 1690 of the Kangxi period) have an underglaze blue double circle unusually close to the edge of the base.

Photographs of these two pieces are included below.

Santiago Island ceramics (4) included in the collection are the following:

**C-056** - base fragment medallions (4) decorated in a variety of motifs in underglaze blue - bird and chrysanthemums (medallion No. 1), vase with flowers (medallion No. 2), and two dragons (medallions No. 3 and No. 4); cavetto with blue wash; each has flat base with an underglaze blue mark in double circle; D: 17.4 cm. to 13.9 cm. (**\$49**)

### **References**

Adhyatman, Sumarah, 1999. *Zhangzhou (Swatow) Ceramics Sixteenth to Seventeenth Centuries Found in Indonesia*. Jakarta: Ceramic Society of Indonesia.

Christie's Amsterdam, 1992. *The Vung Tau Cargo, Auction Catalogue, April 7 & 8, 1992*. Amsterdam: Christie's.

Delgado, Jimmy - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila - Jimmy Delgado of Manila traveled to Santiago Island in February and March 2008 and accompanied the fisherman and divers on salvaging trips, witnessing ceramic recovery efforts and results.

Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.

Yeo, S.T. & Jean Martin, 1978. *Chinese Blue & White Ceramics*. Singapore: Arts Orientalis.





### Unidentified Shipwrecks - Philippines

Ceramics included in the collection from unidentified shipwrecks in the Philippines are as follows.

**Philippines Unidentified shipwreck No. 1 (mid to late 15th century)** - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite (13 ceramics - M-320 to M-326 and TH-427 to TH-461) in the Philippines (no further information available):

**M-320** – small celadon dishes (2), pie crust rim, incised/molded floral spray, black ink Chinese character base mark, D: 12.3 cm – No. 1 and 12.7 cm. – No. 2. (\$76)

**M-325** – Longquan celadon dish with bucket-shaped sides molded with fluting, covered with dark green glaze, circular daub of glaze in center of base, D: 11.2 cm. (\$38)

**M-326** – ewers (3) globular body, short neck, cupped mouthrim, two loop handles, celadon glaze eroded, H: 9.6 cm to 9.9 cm. (\$217)

**TH-427** – celadon jarlets (3) slightly flattened globular form with short neck and cupped mouthrim, two opposing loop handles, shoulders and lower body carved with deep vertical grooves of “interrupted” variety, glaze now eroded, H: 6.2 cm to 7.2 cm. (\$60)

**TH-428** – celadon jarlets (2) slightly flattened globular form with short neck and cupped mouthrim, two opposing loop handles, shoulders and lower body carved with deep vertical grooves of “interrupted” variety, glaze eroded, H: 6.2 cm and 7.1 cm. (\$40)

**TH-461** – small brown glazed gourd shaped bottles or jarlets (2), two loop handles on the shoulder; large quantity of marine encrustations adhering, H: 7.3 cm and 7.1 cm. (\$40)

**Total - \$471**



**Philippines Unidentified shipwreck No. 2 (mid to late 16th century)** – a very limited quantity of ceramics, including Swatow wares, were recovered in 2007 to 2008 (best estimate) from an unidentified wrecksite reportedly in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao, Philippines; one Swatow bowl (1) from the wreck was acquired in Manila in March 2008 (no further information available):

**M-343** - Swatow blue and white bowl, the exterior with six lotus panels, on the interior an unglazed stacking ring, small underglaze blue circle in the center, D: 17.8 cm. (\$62)

### References

Magbuhos, Vincent - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila.  
Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.



**Philippines Unidentified shipwreck No. 3** - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite (4 ceramics - M-345 to M-348) reportedly in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao, Philippines (no further information available):

**M-345** - blue and white dish decorated in the center with two boys in a garden, a trellis/diaper band on the narrow flattened mouthrim, on the underside a lotus scroll, D: 13.4 cm. (\$62)

**M-346** - hole-bottom saucer dish with unusual light greenish blue glaze, the center with an applied fish in unglazed biscuit covered with iron-brown wash, surrounded by six clusters of underglaze blue water plants, D: 12.6 cm. (\$62)

**M-347** - Longquan celadon dish with bucket-shaped sides molded with fluting, covered with sea green glaze, circular daub of glaze in center of base, D: 11.5 cm. (\$62)

**M-348** - Longquan sea green glazed celadon deep dish with plain steep sides and a fluidly incised lotus spray in the center, underside of this lightly potted dish plain, D: 12.7 cm. (\$62)

**Total - \$248**

### References

Magbuhos, Vincent - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila.  
Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.



**Philippines Unidentified shipwreck No. 4** - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite (2 ceramics - Y-072 and Y-073) reportedly in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao, Philippines (no further information available):

**Y-072** - light sea green glazed saucer dish with unglazed stacking ring, flared mouthrim, base unglazed, D: 12.6 cm. (\$37)

**Y-073** - Shallow bowl with flared sides, the brown glaze eroded, wide unglazed stacking ring, narrow convex base, D: 13.7 cm. (\$0-)

**Total - \$37**

### References

Magbuhos, Vincent - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila.

Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.



**Philippines Unidentified shipwreck No. 5** - recovered from an unidentified wrecksite (2 saucer dishes) reportedly in the Sulu Sea off of Mindanao, Philippines (no further information available):

**S-053** - Longquan celadon saucer dishes (2) with steep sides and wide, flattened rim upturned at edge, dish No. 1 with sea green glaze and dish No. 2 with olive green glaze, cavetto molded with closely spaced fluting, base glazed, D: 16.5 cm. & 13.4 cm. (\$74)

### References

Magbuhos, Vincent - March 2008. Personal discussions in Manila.

Field Notes: Manila - March 2008.

