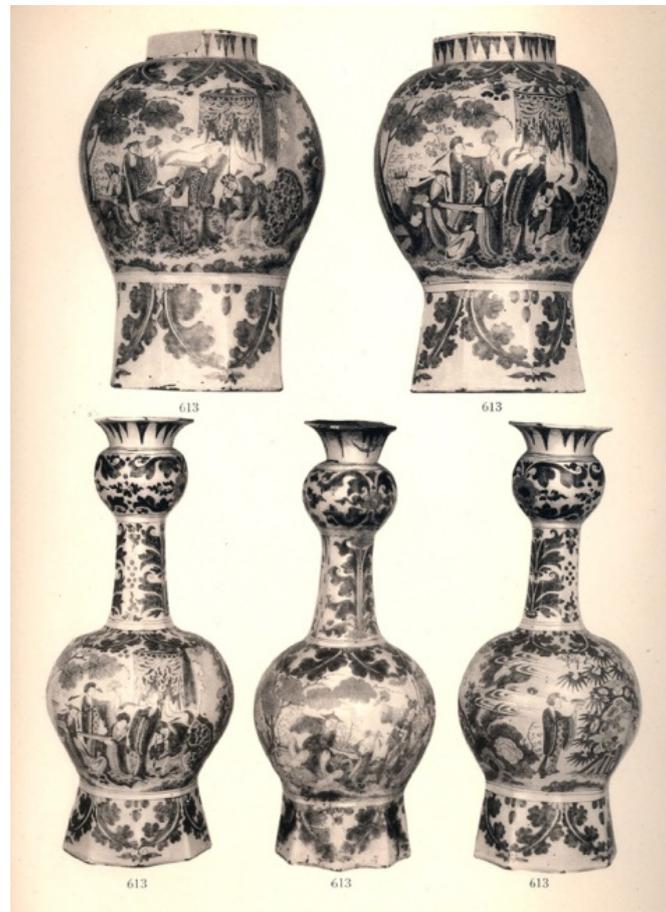
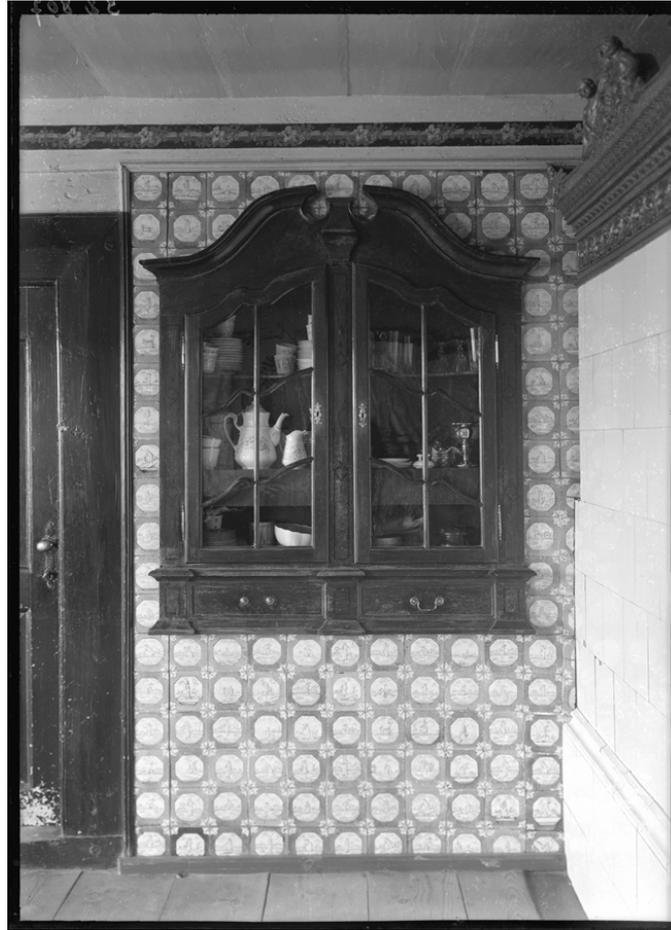


## Dutch Ceramics



Costumes five earthenware vases, Delft, half. XVII in., From the collection of Gdańsk collector L. Giełdziński, sold at auction in Berlin in 1912, Sammlung Giełdziński Danzig, Rudolph Lepke's Auctions Kunst-Haus, Berlin 1912.

In seventeenth-century Europe erupted violently fashion for Chinese, white and blue porcelain. This was, however, very expensive and sold it (literally) at a premium. Europeans do not know because the secrets of production technology, and the Chinese closely guarded their secrets. Only at the beginning of the seventeenth century, in Saxony, at the court of Augustus II the Strong we managed to rediscover the process of its production and appeared Meissen porcelain. Until then, extremely expensive and desirable ceramics Chinese sought to replace much cheaper products faience, painted with cobalt and adorned patterns imitate, more or less ineptly, eastern motifs. In the production of such vessels forefront Netherlands. From the seventeenth to the twentieth century in Delft worked 34 workshops producing vases, plates, dishes, figurines, and even bird cages.



The interior of the defunct home Classen in Palczewo (Żuławy) with Dutch tiles, approx. 1938. B. Schmid, Die Bau- und Kunstdenkmäler des Kreises Marienburg, Gdańsk 1919.

Blue "delfts" arriving in huge quantities in the holds of ships to Dutch the ports of Gdańsk and Elbląg, where he still stumbles upon them in the course of excavations archaeological sites. Dutch ornamentation also had a huge impact on the local ceramics: Gdańsk, Elbląg and Żuławy. Yet another phenomenon was Dutch tiles - wall tiles decorated ships landscapes, animals and biblical scenes. They do not produced them, however, as is often mistakenly believe in Delft, but in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, Frisian cities Harlingen, Makkum and Bolsward. In the eighteenth century, every palace and wealthy bourgeois house had to boast the interior lined with just such plates, and decorated them at least fireplace. But keep in mind that the buyer of that time were guided by the fashion for Chinese food (chinoiserie) and not ... the Netherlands. We know of at least 20 such rooms in the former Gdańsk (in Some tiles covered even ceilings!), but there must have been much more. A few hecatomb survived the war or was later reconstructed (Old Town Hall, Town Hall Main Town, New Bench House).

These products are arriving to Gdańsk and Elbląg in their millions, the more they were also the perfect ballast ships arriving from the Netherlands after the wood grain, leather and raw materials natural. For example, June 28, 1603, the ship Schwarts Hundt (Black Dog) arrived to Elbląg laden "16000 Hollandtsche fliesenn" (16,000 flagstone).

When in the second half of the eighteenth century it became fashionable rococo wallpaper and gilded paneling, Dutch tiles began widely chains and sell on the secondary market. Many of them had then hit the Żuławy, the homes of wealthy hosts, often descendants Dutch settlers - the Mennonites. It is possible that they knew that their confreres faith, living in the region Zaanstreek north of Amsterdam, also particularly keen They place them in their homes and adorned them wonderful fireplaces - so called smuigers.

After World War II the majority of Dutch tiles in Żuławy disappeared forever, even before it was described and photographed. Only a small part of them saved in its collection museums and collectors. We know that once decorated the plates representative of "white" kitchen and hallways in Palczewo, Izbiskach, Orłowie, Przemysławiu, Kępnowie, Kazimierz, Lubieszewo, Marynowach, Starynia, Drewnowie, Lasowice Małe and Myszewku. pre-war German researchers considered them as part of the most widespread and so typical of Żuławy Interior that even they failed to register - similar facilities could even be about a thousand. To this day, the remains of tiles can be found in two houses in the arcaded Żuławki. This probably the only such traces of ancient material culture - a culture that no longer exists.

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