

Masonic objects

Andrea Kroon

Dear Listmembers,

During the 18th and 19th century many of the important positions in the East India Company and other trade organisations were held by Dutch freemasons. Lodges were founded in the trading posts in the former colonies in Japan, Indonesia and India. They were responsible for the production and export of oriental objects to Europe, including Japanese lacquer ware with Masonic decorations. The Dutch also exchanged goods with English and Swedish masons in the area, and traded in Chinese porcelain decorated with masonic symbols.

A short time ago I've started research for a PhD in Art History on the subject of my research is 'The Influence of Dutch Freemasons on the Trade with Asia and its Material Culture, 1734-1853'. I would like to get into contact with museums, archives, auction houses, lodges and private collectors, who may have relevant information on Dutch freemasons in Asia or have oriental objects with Masonic decorations in their possession.

Ifd you are familiar with Masonic export objects in a collection in your area, please be so kind as to alert me to them. If you would like to receive additional information on my research, I will be happy to provide this for you. Please feel free to forward this email to others. Thank you in advance for your kind co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Andréa Kroon.

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Reference:

Q: Masonic objects. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 4, 2002 (accessed Jul 3, 2025),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/25332>>.