

Forbidden Porcelain at the Prinsenhof in Delft - 15 June 2017

A large group of members enjoyed a fascinating morning in the Prinsenhof in Delft under the expert guidance of English-speaking guide. Naturally we met for coffee first, then were shown round the exhibition, learning about the age-old connections between the Netherlands and China. These connections still exist: there are regular exchanges between staff in Dutch potteries and their counterparts in particular areas of China, and Chinese influence on our potters and vice versa are very apparent. The Chinese porcelain on show was all found during archaeological excavations in The Forbidden City, and because anything made for an Emperor for either ornament or use in the Forbidden City



had to be absolutely perfect, all of the pieces found were broken and have been lovingly and expertly repaired, hence an exhibition formed from a very large quantity of pot shards! Many of the pieces exhibited were decorated with examples of Chinese myths and stories, as well as emblems of the various Emperors and our expert guide explained the significance of these decorations. Altogether an amazing glimpse into the Forbidden City in Beijing.