

## **Circulation of the “Spherical Pattern”: A Discussion Starting from Goryeo Celadons and Song Dynasty Spherical Patterns**

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### **Abstract**

The present study addresses the topic of the spherical pattern from several points of view. First, the illustration accompanying the description of a “ball pattern” (spherical pattern) in the Northern Song technical treatise *Yingzao fashi* confirms that a similar pattern on Goryeo celadons is in fact the “ball pattern.” Second, after examining the situation concerning the popularity of spherical patterns in the Song dynasty and its possible origins, it is believed that it may have been a decorative pattern with western origins. Third, the spherical pattern was confused with the Chinese coin pattern having a square hole in a round form and then integrated with the lion-and-ribbon-ball theme, the problem of sinicization for the spherical pattern arising therefrom. Fourth, there are spherical pattern decorations found within East Asia, from China to the Korean peninsula and Japan. Finally, the sinicized spherical pattern later returned to influence both Western Asia and Europe.

**Keywords:** Spherical pattern, Goryeo celadon, *Yingzao fashi*, pattern of two lions playing with a ball

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