

The presence of Asian products in Madrid

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European cultural patterns were no longer exclusively Europeans but global in eighteenth century. As nations were part of international networks and agents and representatives not only of their domestic but also colonial industry, displaying national consumption. However, the consumption of certain commodities was higher in urban areas -such as Seville or Madrid-, due to the contact with other influences and cultural habits of travelers, merchants and foreigners.

The diffusion of new commodities in Europe followed two distinctive circuits. The first was related with half-finished products, that is, products that needed a second transformation to be consumed and in which the cost of transport affect the final price. The second group included products, such as seeds or animals, linked with the diet of strata of the society, easy adapted to the climate and soils in Europe, where the freightage and cost of transport had a limited impact, but with a widely impact from an economic point of view. In this paper, we want to take a closer look to Asian goods, in particular how textiles and porcelain reached Spanish households.