

36003 Indigo, made of Woad

Before the discovery of the sea route to India around the Cape of Good Hope, there was a big Woad-industry in Europe. In Germany, France - Provence, Italy and Spain big areas for the extraction of the blue dye were cultivated. At this time, Indigo from India already existed, but this dye was very expensive because of the difficult transport- and sales routes.

After the discovery of the sea route to India the Portuguese imported the Indigo from India much cheaper than the European Woad.

In the previous cultivable areas of Woad rebellions broke out, there were civil-war-like tries to forbid the import of Indigo. Nevertheless the cultivation of Woad almost disappeared.

Lately there has been a revival of Woad-production. Even though the quality of the Woad-Blue isn't inferior to the Indian Indigo, the colour is slightly greyish. Due to the extraordinary laborious extraction of the Indigo made of Woad (production is still like in the Middle Ages) it is more expensive than the Indian Indigo.