



**Southeast Asian
Ceramic Society**

The Evolution of Blue and White Wares: Three Examples of Complete Dishes From the Batu Hitam Ship Wreck

A talk by Lim Yah Chiew

Thursday 14 October 2010 @ 7 p.m.

Venue: 82 Cairnhill Road, Singapore



Synopsis

It was a general belief that the blue and white porcelains were first fired in the south Chinese kilns of Jingdezhen in the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368), and from then on, made virtually all China's blue and white until today. In the early 1980s, blue and white porcelain fragments were excavated from the Tang city of Yangzhou, the main international port at the time, but this small number of porcelain using cobalt as a blue pigment painted under a white glaze was very short-lived.

The first complete examples have come to light on the Batu Hitam shipwreck which also provides the most specific clues so far for their dating. The three dishes recovered from the Tang wreck show for the first time complete designs. Their main feature is a quatrefoil motif based on a single or double lozenge surrounded by palmette-like fronds of leaves. The few shards discovered in China are the remains of bowls, dishes, a ewer, a pillow and a box, with similar or simpler designs.

But even when this momentous development began in the 9th century, it was to take about four centuries for this new colour scheme to be successfully fired and reproduced in China. The 9th-century activities can be seen as a trial run, albeit unsuccessful in the long term, for the history of blue-and-white porcelain.

About the speaker

Lim Yah Chiew is a Vice-President of the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society, Singapore. He is a Council Member (Overseas): Antique Ceramics Research Committee (based in National Palace Museum), PRC and Honorary Council Member of the Southern Song Imperial Wares Research Committee, Hanzhou, PRC. He has presented more than 30 research papers on Antique Ceramics at the Annual International Antique Ceramics Conference held annually in PRC and also published numerous papers in the academic journals in PRC.

This lecture is for members only.

Application forms for membership will be available on the evening of the talk.

This talk is organised by the
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