

**Tang Treasures Revealed at last!**  
**By Margaret White 220311**



On March 19<sup>th</sup> 2011, a large group of SEACS members was treated to a visit at the recently opened ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, to view the exhibition, *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds*.

For most of us, it was an opportunity not to be missed, to get up close and personal for the first time to some 400 of the long-lost artefacts from the 9<sup>th</sup> century Belitung cargo displayed to their best advantage.

The bulk of the 60,000 made-in-China pieces were customised ceramics destined for West Asia. Members studied the earliest known blue-and-white plates, an enormous green-splashed ewer with dragon stopper based on metalwork shapes and dozens of well-preserved Changsha bowls.

However, it was the rare, solid gold, octagonal cup and plates, silver boxes, ingots and bronze mirrors that were particularly given close inspection. We could really appreciate the fine and detailed workmanship of these special pieces, as well as learning more of the painstaking restoration work carried out.

Thanks must go to SEACS President, Alvin Chia, for an excellent tour.