



**Southeast Asian
Ceramic Society**

Public Lecture

Cargos for Java: Two 10th Century Shipwrecks

A talk by Horst H. Liebner

Thursday 10 September 2009 @ 7 p.m.

Celadon Room
Concourse Level, NUS Museum
University Cultural Centre Annex
50 Kent Ridge Crescent
National University of Singapore
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The talk presents two recent shipwreck finds in the Java Sea, the 'Cirebon/Nan-Han' and 'Karawang' wrecks, both dated to the 10th century by coins and ceramics. Besides a small amount of white-glazed 'pre-porcelain' ceramics, both wrecks were carrying 'Yue-Type' green-glazed earthenwares, the origin of which, however, is still to be discussed.

The majority of the ceramic vessels retrieved show comparatively similar workmanship and shapes, allowing for the assumption that at least the green-glazed wares came from respectively related manufacturing backgrounds – and thus posing the question of how production, marketing, transport and final vending of the cargoes could have been effected. It has to be assumed that these ultimately unfortunate trade ventures were organised by some large-scale economic prowess, which must have been closely related to political might; a virtual analysis of cargo items, their distribution and loading patterns hence should furnish unique information on early medieval Asia's ceramic production, trade routes and their institutions.

About the Speaker

Since 1987 Horst H. Liebner has researched various aspects of maritime culture and history of what used to be called 'The Malay Archipelago'. Since 2004 he has advised the National Committee for Underwater Finds (PANNAS BMKT) and salvage companies in submarine excavations for the Indonesian Government's Research Agency for Marine Affairs and Fisheries. He was appointed as scientific advisor to both excavations, and together with a team of students of the Department of Archaeology of the Universitas Indonesia for the 'Karawang' find, he developed a database system for registration and evaluation of the retrieved artefacts.

*This talk is co-organised by the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society and NUS Museum,
as part of the public programme to celebrate the exhibition
"Southeast Asian Ceramics: New Light on Old Pottery"*

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