



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

P.O. Box 80, Dasmariñas Village, Makati, Metro Manila

NEWSLETTER October 2006

Monthly Regular Meeting

Date: **October 21, 2006** (Saturday)
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Residence of Ronald & Victoria Reidenbach
2 Bilaan Street
La Vista Village
1108 Quezon City

Speaker: **Victoria Reidenbach**

Topic: ***A COLLECTION OF TRADE CERAMICS
FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES***

Vicky Reidenbach's collection of more than 1000 pieces of trade ceramics include celadon, white ware, blue-and-white, and brown ware mainly from China with a small proportion from Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. A visit to her collection will be a good exposure to the broad range of trade wares reaching the Philippines, evidence of a strong trade pattern between the Philippines and China and her other neighboring countries in Southeast Asia before and during the colonial period.

The map showing the direction to her residence in La Vista Village, Quezon City, will be enclosed with this newsletter.



- *Cizhou* bowl, Song, 11th -13th century (top)
- *Jizhou* dish, late Southern Song, 13th century (middle)
- *Qingbai* covered box, Song (bottom right)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Garlicki

Typhoon Xangsane, locally known as Typhoon Milenyo, blew through Manila with such fury that it disrupted many of our lives. Many structures were toppled, and massive trees uprooted – all causing extensive damage. By the time you receive this newsletter, I trust that we shall all be back to our normal routines.

Although a few are still without power, the OCSP Board did manage to meet to finalize this newsletter and the upcoming Saturday meeting on the 21st at Vicky Reidenbach's with merienda should prove fun and informative. See you all there.



One of the scars left by typhoon Xangsane in Manila

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September Lecture - *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANCIENT CULTURES: Ceramics from South and Central America* by Jürgen Hirschberg

Pilar B. Martinez-Miranda



During the 10 – 12 years of traveling through South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador), Jürgen Hirschberg developed a fascination for the art and culture of the region and began to collect ceramics, paintings and carpets that allowed him mementos of those fascinating journeys. In his historical review of North, South, and Central America, Jürgen discussed the immigration of people from Asia into the Americas, on foot over 22 thousand years ago, and earlier, by boat, from Polynesia, China, Egypt, etc. He showed how the ancient peoples exchanged ideas by pointing out the existence of pyramids in Egypt, Mexico, and Turkey; the similarity in the solar calendars of the Maya in Mexico and the Han in China.

He discussed the key cultural centers: Mesoamerica with the Mayan and Aztec cultures, and the Andic with the Incas of Peru. He discussed the Connection Zone that had smaller cultures, a much larger population and no state religion but yet people maintained their culture 200-300 years after the Spaniards had landed.

Pre-Hispanic Colombian ceramics show animal and human shapes depicting scenes from daily life. They were designed to hold drinking water and to keep it cool. The best quality and highly ornamented ceramics came from the Tumaco culture and were made for domestic, ritual, and funerary use. Many of their ceramics depicted disabled people. The Malagana culture's ceramics depicted human and bird figures. From the Zenu culture came human figures with square heads.

These cultures also excelled, aside from ceramics, at metallurgy, and worked gold into an art form. The Talima and the Musica were highly acclaimed for their gold work. Jürgen mentioned the legend of "El Dorado" and showed a photograph of the lake from where the stories, and then the legend began.

There was richness to the Americas, a highly developed culture before the Europeans arrived. The Europeans came to see that the culture of the Incas and Mayas was as highly developed as their own. In their zeal to colonize, the Europeans brought war and disease to the Americas and wound up destroying whole cultures in the process.

PROGRAM

1) **Pots we made at the Woodfire Workshop in July, 2006 ready for pick up:**

We are pleased to inform you that our ceramic masterpieces made at the Pettyjohns' studio in July have now been fired and are ready to be collected by the owners. The pots are at **The Pottery Workshop** at Glorietta 4, level 4, Ayala Center near the cinemas, Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Go all the way down the aisle called Home Buddies. Ask for Ivy, telephone 812-0766. The 3 fish plates were unfortunately left out from this firing, but will be in the next firing, Jon said.

2) **December 2006 - Meeting & Christmas Dinner**

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: **Lorenzo Tan**

Topic: **T'nalak - How Do You Keep the Music Playing?**

Venue: Residence of Rita C. Tan, South Forbes Park, Makati

The T'boli people of Lake Sebu, one of more than 30 ethnic tribes living in the lush mountains and forests of Mindanao, are renowned for their unique culture and ethos expressed through their weaving, metal craft, poetry, music and dances. T'bolis' t'nalak weaving and elaborate, colorful attires celebrate the essence of tribal life and their spiritual relationship with nature.



T'boli woman holding gavel

Lory Tan's concern to preserve the T'boli's cultural heritage became very acute while his team filmed and recorded in fast disappearing traditions for their publication, *Dreamweavers*, which came out in 2001. Lory worked closely with the local organization, Helobung, resulting in the collection of T'nalak textiles at the National Museum of the Philippines. (See also **the Helobung Cultural Troupe's Performance**, under **Local News**).

There will be a display of T'nalak weave around the walls of the venue where Lory gives the talk. Please contact Yukie Sato (ranesbi@attglobal.net, +63 918 918 8729) if you are willing to display some of your collection for the occasion.

3) **January 2007 - Regular Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: John Forbes
Topic: **Vietnamese Wares I Have Known** – Show and Tell
Venue: Residence of John Forbes, Mandaluyong

4) **September 2007 - OCSF's Joint Exhibition with Yuchengco Museum:
*Zhangzhou (Swatow) Ware Found In The Philippines***

Rita C. Tan, the Exhibition Committee chairperson, updated the membership on the proposed specifications of the exhibition catalog (9" x 9", 160 pages, four-color printing); hard cover to retail for PHP 1,750.00 and soft cover for PHP 1,500.00. Rita asked the floor if it would agree for the OCSF to commit to purchasing 100 copies. No one dissented. Rita also asked the members to assist her in finding polychrome Swatow ware.

HOSTING AND LOGISTICS

The engaging meeting with Jürgen Hirschberg as a guest speaker for September was hosted by Mary Garlicki & Riyaz Moorani. The co-hosts, who contributed a variety of dishes and drinks, were Chita Gatbonton, Mary Garlicki & Riyaz Moorani, Pilar Martinez-Miranda, Sevrine Mialhe, Angela Quila, Betty Go Roxas-Chua, Rita C. Tan, Malu Unson, and Muchit Villasor. Thank you, everyone, for your contributions.

We request the membership to kindly volunteer their home as a venue for our monthly meetings, and to please let us know. Our meetings have about 25 to 30 attendees on average with an occasional meeting having a few more.

Please kindly volunteer to bring merienda for the October meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2006, at Vicky and Ronald Reidenbach's home. While there is no meeting scheduled for November, the board members will co-host the Christmas meeting and dinner on December 5, 2006. Again, we would like to request for your contributions for the coming months starting January 2007. Please indicate what dish you can contribute for which meeting to **Candy Reidenbach** (+63 917 469 5205, kendi@pacificsun.ph) or **Connie Pascal** (+63 916 346 2869, +632 696 3839). We will circulate a sign-up sheet for food contributions at each meeting. For those who cannot be present at meetings, we would nonetheless appreciate your contribution.

LIBRARY

The OCSF Library is located at the residence of Mary Garlicki. If you wish to reference any of the library's materials, please contact Mary to make arrangements: mary@moorani.com or +63 917 836 1405. The library catalog is available via email only.

NEWSLETTER

Your comments and information on ceramic and archaeological research, museum exhibits, publications, and a relevant activity of other ceramic societies are always welcome. Yukie Sato, Newsletter Editor (+63 918 918 8729 or ranesbi@attglobal.net) is happy to hear from you and to convey your messages to the

group. The deadline for submission is **October 15, 2006**.

MEMBERSHIP

1) **Welcome:**

Two new members have joined the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines, and were welcomed during the October meeting. We all extend a big welcome to them.

Stevenson Bajet, a Filipino business consultant, has a collection of oriental ceramics and wishes to do more research into Song dynasty ceramics. He too has some computer skills. Perhaps he can provide us with some assistance. Hint! Hint! We wish him a warm welcome and hope to see him at many of our future meetings

A big welcome is likewise extended to **Cheryl L Alston**, a physician at the Regional Medical Office of the US Embassy. Although she does not have a ceramic collection, she wishes to learn more about the subject. She's come to the right place! Whenever she is in Manila, we hope she can come to all our meetings.

2) **Your E-Mail Address:**

Please inform Mary Garlicki (mary@moorani.com or +63 917 836 1405) on any new or changed email addresses.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

E-mail from Birgit Woolcott (2006-09-22, rwoolcott@ozmail.com.au)

I do enjoy receiving the newsletters and keeping in touch with how well the Ceramic Society is doing.

I was hoping that instead of you having to post the newsletter to me, you would be able to email it in future, now that you have my e-mail address as I would like to continue to hear from you.

Please will you also pass my very best wishes to Connie Pascal and Nening Manahan and tell them that finally I think we are getting the National Gallery here in Canberra slowly moving on Asian Art (after all these years of trying to get enough interest in the idea). They have now taken a decision that the way to go in the future is to build an Asian Wing. My husband and I have also decided to give them some of our own better items from the Philippines and Indonesia for the Gallery, and you might like to know that the gallery staff also enjoys reading your newsletters.

Birgit Woolcott

LOCAL NEWS

1) **CONTEMPORARY STONEWARE EXHIBITION**

October 3 – 11, 2006

Ugu Bigyan, Jon Pettyjohn, and Jaime de Guzman will showcase their latest stoneware pieces with the new generation of emerging potters such as Lope Mosaing, Jeff van den Broeck, Pablo Capati, Pete Cortes, Joey de Castro, and Sammy Kilat.

Art Space, Level 3, Glorietta 4,
Makati, Metro Manila
+632 729 2980

2) **TIPON: Artist Organizing**

October 19, 2006 – February 23, 2007

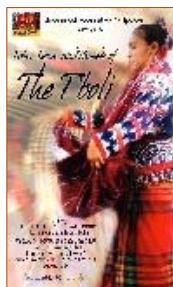
This exhibit brings together six diverse art organizations from different parts of the country: Davao Artists Foundation Incorporated, Pampanga Arts Guilds, Luna Art Collective, Produksyon

Tramontina Incorporated, Anting-Anting, and Ilustrado ng Kabataan. More than mere expressions of regional identities, the exhibit will highlight the role of art organizations in helping individual artists in developing the Philippine visual art scene, and in serving as partners in economic progress through the creative industries. Curators: Brenda Fajardo, PhD and Bobi Valenzuela.

Metropolitan Museum of Manila

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

- 3) **TALES, TUNES, AND THREADS OF THE TIBOLI - The Helobung Cultural Troupe**
November 24, 2006, 8:00 p.m.



The Museum Volunteers of the Philippines, in celebration of its 25th year, will bring a taste of T'boli from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato to Manila.

12 Indigenous T'boli artists will perform their repertoire of both a traditional yet dynamic cultural legacy where identity and education are constantly formulated, shared, preserved, as well as reborn.

PCI Bank Building, Francisco Santiago Hall
De la Costa Street, Makati
Tickets: PHP 800.00

The Museum Volunteers of the Philippines

For tickets: mvp_tboli@yahoo.com, or contact Yukie Sato (+632 918 918 8729).

EXHIBITIONS / LECTURES / TOURS

EXHIBITIONS

- 1) **Art and Imitation in China**
October 14 – December 17, 2006

The Oriental Ceramic Society's special exhibition explores one of the most enduring and fascinating themes in Chinese art over the past 3,000 years - imitation in its broadest sense, from sincere emulation to venal deception. The theme includes imitation as a tribute to the utopian past through re-creating ancient Chinese objects and styles (*archaism*); imitation of foreign idioms and designs for purposes of religion, novelty, trade or social commentary (*transcultural influence*); and, to showcase the technical virtuosity of craftsmen, imitation of works of art in a different medium from that in which they were originally crafted (*inter-media exchange*).

On view will be a spectacular display of over 200 exhibits selected from the private collections of OCS members and institutional contributors, traversing a broad sweep of Chinese history from the Shang Dynasty (c.1600 – 1100 BC) to the present day. These include bronzes, jade, lacquer, ceramics, glass, textiles, brush and oil paintings and works of art in wood, bamboo, cloisonné and enamels.

The curator is Anthony Hua-Tien Lin. Catalogue essays are contributed by George Fan, Kao Mayching, Rosemary Scott, Paul Serfaty, Richard Stanley-Baker and Julian Thompson.

Hong Kong University Museum & Art Gallery

94 Bonham Road
Hong Kong
www.hku.hk/hkumag

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong

Telephone +852 527 0696
ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

- 2) **Dirty Little Secrets** by **Steve Harrison**
September 26 – October 14, 2006



Potter's Statement:

This new work is dark and not made from clay in the normal sense. The material is an interesting mixture of decomposing basic igneous rock fragments and dirt that I collect locally. I found some similarities with the ancient Song dynasty Ge ware. Ge ware was produced exclusively for royalty. And uncannily the first piece of this work that I produced was as a gift for a King. The Song dynasty potters spend centuries developing and perfecting this very difficult technique. I have the benefit of modern technology to speed the process and have condensed the exercise down to two years.

This strange dirt is composed almost entirely of equal parts of silica, alumina and iron oxide. I have taken the Chinese references above (and these are the only Chinese imports in the show) and developed a series of works that reflect this venerable and ancient tradition. There are references to the traditions of the tenmoku bowl, which has been an enduring preoccupation of mine, the Song guan bowl, Longquan celadons, as well as the work of the late Ivan McMeekin. The work in this exhibition can be viewed at www.leggegallery.com.

Legge Gallery

183 Regent Street
Redfern
New South Wales 2016
Australia

- 3) **Official Opening of the National Museum of Singapore**

The museum will be officially open to the public in December 2006.
93 Stamford Road
Singapore 178897
Telephone: +65 6737 3448
Email: art@artforum.com.sg

Coming up:

November 7, 2006 – Lecture on Vietnam by Bruce Lockhart, National University of Singapore
December 5, 2006 – Holiday Party, SEACS website UNWRAPPED at Art Forum
January 10 – 18, 2007 - A trip to Vietnam and Cambodia
Website: www.seaceramic.org.sg
Email: ceramic@seaceramic.org.sg

OCSF Board of Directors for 2006-2007

	Board Position	Committee Position
Mary Garlicki	President	Library, Membership
Yukie Sato	1 st Vice President	Newsletter
(Vacant)	2 nd vice president	
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Connie C. Pascal		Hosting & Logistics

