



The Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines

P.O. BOX 80, DASMARIÑAS VILLAGE, MAKATI, METRO MANILA

Newsletter April 2007

A SPECIAL LECTURE

Open to the Public

Detecting the Fakes: Dating & Connoisseurship of Chinese Ceramics



An early Ming (Xuande reign, 15th century) blue-and-white jar (left) with 18th century (center), and 20th century (right) copies.

Date: **Monday, April 30, 2007, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Place: **Alliance Française de Manille, Auditorium**
209 Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo Street)
Bel-Air 2, Makati City
Telephone: +63 2 895 7585; +63 2 895 7441

Speaker: **Professor Peter Y. K. Lam**, Director, Art Museum, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Since the very early days in the history of Chinese ceramics, fakes, forgeries and copies have existed. In recent years, following the opening up of China and the escalation of prices of good collectors' items, the situation has aggravated.

At the OCSP's special lecture, Professor Lam will share his experiences on the subject through a language comprehensible to laymen, but at the same time, illuminating to serious collectors, dealers, and experts. He will tackle the topic by combining an art historian's approach with scientific techniques, which involve destructive and non-destructive analysis.

Admission fee: PHP100.00 (OCSP member); PHP 200.00 (non-member)

Since seats are limited, please inform Yukie Sato (ranesbi@attglobal.net) or Mary Garlicki (mary@moorani.com) or +63 2 817 3156 (home); +63 917 836 1405 (mobile), if you are attending the lecture.

Also, there will not be the usual OCSF dinner after the lecture. You may try the AFM's restaurant, *Le Coude Rouge*, for its authentic French cuisine.

OCSP Committee Reports & Announcements

Program

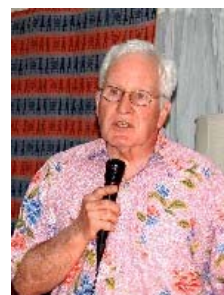
LECTURE AT THE MARCH MEETING

March 20, 2007

VIETNAMESE CERAMICS 1ST-16TH CENTURIES – BEAUTY AND INNOVATION

David Rehfuss gave an illuminating presentation on Vietnamese ceramics using PowerPoint slides and examples from John's collection of Vietnamese wares. John Forbes passionately complemented the talk of David Rehfuss with charming pieces from his collection.

Northern Vietnamese ceramics were always produced in the Red River delta area around Hanoi throughout this long period from the first to the sixteenth centuries. During the first 1000 years potters produced vessels similar to those of China, the colonial ruler.



David Rehfuss



John Forbes

The next four hundred years, from the 11th to the 14th centuries, an independent northern Vietnam underwent a cultural renaissance.

Ceramics were beautifully potted often using innovative techniques such as iron-brown inlaid decoration.

The 14th -16th centuries saw extensive exports of the famous underglaze cobalt blue-and-white ceramics. These stonewares were exported by the millions and have been found from Istanbul to Japan, and especially in insular Southeast Asia.

After the 16th century Vietnamese production was largely for domestic purposes. Champa, a central Vietnam polity independent of China and northern Vietnam, produced stonewares during at least the 14th and 15th centuries. Wares produced were largely utilitarian, and included caramel-glazed storage jars and small, grey, green-glazed plates and bowls both discovered in significant numbers in the Philippines.

A SPECIAL VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION – May 2007

May 19, 2007 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m. at the Ayala Museum

THE ROBERTO T. VILLANUEVA COLLECTION OF CHINESE AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRADE WARES

The primary focus of this collection is the comprehensive range of its Chinese trade ware spanning a millennium from the 9th to the 19th centuries. They are mostly from famous kilns in Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, and Guangdong provinces. Thai and Vietnamese ceramics complete the representations in this collection.

Exclusive to OCSF members only, a special guided tour of this excellent collection will be made available on May 19, 2007 by Rita C. Tan, an expert of Chinese trade ware who curates the

exhibition, and is the Society's president. Rita will share with us her curatorial expertise on those valuable objects. Do not miss this rare opportunity.

There will not be a regular meeting in May. Instead, we will be having a guided tour of the Villanueva collection. Members who are interested in taking part should come to the 4th floor of the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City on **Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.**

Admission fee to the museum: PHP150.00 (50% discount for senior citizens. Please bring your senior citizen card.)

OCSP Supports the Project of Archaeological Studies Program

At the request of the Archaeological Studies Program (ASP) of the University of the Philippines, for funding of its on-going research program, the board approved on March 6, 2007 the amount of PHP 20,000 to assist "The Mindoro Archaeology and Heritage Project." For the past three years ASP has been excavating early churches in Oriental Mindoro while actively promoting grass-roots heritage work in the communities around the sites. The Society has supported two such projects. At the end of each excavation, ASP donates the working exhibit of the excavation results to local communities. The check was sent out to ASP on March 15, 2006.

OCSP Members' Response to Help the Sikat-T'boli Foundation, Lake Sebu

At the last Christmas meeting, the Society's members responded generously to the call to assist the community program of the SIKAT – Schools of Indigenous Knowledge and Tradition, T'boli in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. The contribution totaled PHP 19,300.00 and was sent to the Foundation in March 2007. A report on its receipt will follow in the next newsletter.

Hosting & Logistics

We thank the hosts, John and Evelyn Forbes, for providing the venue and food for a most enjoyable meeting at which a wide range of John's Vietnamese ceramic collection was made available for members to handle. We are equally grateful to the co-hosts who provided food: Johnny Lim, Kevin Hwang, Vicky Reidenbach, Colleen Mangun, Stevenson Bajet and Malou Unson. Thank you, everyone.

Membership

Membership Fees

Following the close examination of the Society's revenues and expenditures at the turnover Board meeting on March 6, 2007, the Board presented at the members meeting on March 20, 2007, the Society's financial situation showing the expenses far exceeding the income that is mainly drawn from membership fees. One remedy proposed was to increase the regular membership annual fee from PHP 700.00 to PHP 1,200.00 for individuals and from PHP1,000.00 to PHP 1,800.00 for couples. As there was a quorum, it was decided that the proposal be put to a viva voce vote. There was unanimous approval of the increase in membership dues. The collection of the approved amount took immediate effect.

In line with the review of the membership fees for regular members, the board decided on March 27, 2007 that the Society's membership joining fee for new members would be increased from PHP 300.00 to PHP 1000.00 as of 1 April, 2007.

Withdrawal of Membership

Cynthia O. Valdes expressed in February 2007 her wish to withdraw her membership from the

Society. On March 6, 2007, the board accepted her request with much regret, and thanked her for her various contributions over the years.

Library

A new contribution of a publication was made by David Rehfuss, Washington Oriental Ceramic Group, which the Society greatly appreciated.

JAPANESE PORCELAIN FROM THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FOUND IN INDONESIA

A seminar paper by Sumarah Adhyatnam, David Rehfuss, and Hotoshi Shindo prepared for the Ceramic Seminar of the Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan. Proyek Pelita, Penelitian dan Penggalan Purbakala, Hipunan Keramik Indonesia, Jakarta, second printing, 1988. Size 21.5 x 28 cm, 32 pages, 36 illustrations, first published in 1979.

Newsletter

We are happy to hear from Etsuko Miyata Rodriguez who stayed once in Manila doing her research on Oriental ceramics that crossed the Pacific on Galleon trades (See below). We hope that Etsuko will share with us her preliminary report on mapping the 16th-18th centuries ceramic-trade patterns between Asia and Latin America.

Please send your contributions or information to Yukie Sato, Newsletter Editor, at ranesbi@attglobal.net or +63 918 918 8729. Deadline for the May issue is May 1, 2007.

News from Members & Friends

E-mail

Etsuko Miyata Rodriguez, (2007-03-13, etsukocarlos@yahoo.co.jp) Barcelona

Greetings from Barcelona!

I now reside in Barcelona doing my dissertation on ceramic trade through the Manila galleon trade.

I am mostly working on the ceramics excavated in Mexico and comparing them with the written documents in Sevilla; the merchant's network in Asia and in Mexico and how they were distributed in the New World. My newest paper will be published hopefully this year from Texas University Press. I will let you know when it comes out.

Do send my regards to all the members in OCSP.

Etsuko Miyata

Local Events

Exhibitions

CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland

February 15 – May 27, 2007

The exhibition conceptualizes the influence of ancient Chinese art and culture through migrations from mainland China to local communities in Southeast Asia featuring the following six independent sections under the theme of "Chinese Diaspora":

The Peranakan Legacy, an exhibition on loan from the Singapore museum is curated by David Alan Henkel.

Tsinoy Art: Chinese Mestizo Culture in Colonial Times, curated by Ambeth Ocampo, shows how the Filipino way of life has adopted the incoming Chinese culture.

Chinese Trade Ware showcases an extraordinary scale of Chinese ceramic traditions over 1000 years from kilns of Jangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Guangdong provinces, together with some wares from Thailand and Vietnam. The exhibition is a well known collection of the Roberto Villanueva curated by Rita C. Tan.

Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter features the work of this Chinese-mestizo painter.

Chinese Gaze, curated by Ditas Samson, presents the work of contemporary Filipino-Basque artist, Valeria Cavestancy, while *Evidence Bags*, curated by Rina Adapon, also shows the contemporary Filipino-Chinese heritage through the work of Claudine Sia.

Ayala Museum
Makati Avenue
Makati

International Events

Exhibition

TAKING SHAPE: Ceramics in Southeast Asia

April 1, 2007 - 2010



Approximately 200 diverse and visually striking ceramic vessels from Southeast Asia are on long-term view April 1 through the year 2010 in "Taking Shape: Ceramics in Southeast Asia." The clay pots and jars form the most enduring record of human activity in this part of the world, during the prehistoric period to the present.

Donated to the Sackler between 1996 and 2005 by brothers Osborne and Victor Hauge and their wives Gratia and Takako, these remarkable objects provide the focus for a detailed narrative of the migration of pots from their makers to their users. Included in the Hauge gift are more than 800 vessels made in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, together with Chinese bowls and jars exported to Southeast Asia.

"Taking Shape" presents the two basic types of ceramics produced in Southeast Asia—soft, porous earthenware and high-fired stoneware. Earthenware continues to be used to cool drinking water, cook rice and curries over a wood fire and heat water for reeling silk. Watertight stoneware jars store grains, transport goods for long-distance trade and brew the rice beer essential for hospitality and ceremonies.

Pieces from the Hauge collection show the regional diversity of earthenware and stoneware production throughout time. The swirling designs of red-painted earthenware pots from prehistoric Thailand and the forms of glazed and unglazed stoneware jars from 17th to 19th-century central Vietnam suggest the depth and diversity of the ceramic traditions. Spanning four millennia of invention and exchange, from the prehistoric period to the present, the objects on view were crafted for rituals, burials, domestic use and trade.

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery
Washington D.C.

Conference

TRANSFER: the Influence of China on World Ceramics

November 5 - 7, 2007

An international conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London will examine the influence of China on world ceramics from a broad perspective, incorporating issues of technology and production, design and style, as well as form and function. This is a unique opportunity to explore all aspects of this subject* with scholars, researchers and advanced students from institutions around the world.

Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art

53 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

Telephone: +44 20 7387 3909

Fax: +44 20 73835163

*The subject of this conference was inspired by a chapter of the same name in the *Science and Civilization in China* series volume on *Ceramic Technology* by Rose Kerr with Nigel Wood (Cambridge 2004).

Publication

THE WANLI SHIPWRECK AND ITS CERAMIC CARGO

By Sten Sjöstrand and Sharipah Lok Lok bt. Syed Idrus

"This publication sets new standards for the reporting and analysis of shipwreck sites in Southeast Asia. Its two most important elements are a full accounting of the archaeological excavation itself and then an inventory of the artefacts recovered. Significantly, the artefacts include a major cargo of some 37,000 pieces Chinese kraak porcelain that the authors (after thorough analysis) assign to +/- 1625. The solid archaeological context for the ceramics adds significant new data to studies of 17th century ceramics that now requires previous studies be reviewed and refined. Beside 650 illustrations, there are drawings, maps and illustrations of the site, both ceramic and non-ceramic artefacts, and ship parts and fittings..." writes Roxanna M. Brown, Director, Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, Bangkok University.

For more details, visit www.mingwrecks.com/publications.html.

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