



The Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines

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

Newsletter July 2007

A FIELD TRIP

To a Potter's Kiln at the Capatis's Farm in Batangas



Date:

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007

Speaker: PABLO CAPATI III, Contemporary Studio Potter

Topic: *CLAY AND FIRING*

Place to Meet: SAN ANTONIO CHURCH, parking lot, Forbes Park, Makati

Time to Meet: 8:00 a.m. sharp to head towards San Jose, Batangas in convoy through the South-super highway

Fee: PHP1000.00 per person inclusive of the entire program below. Please pay to Dellie Yap, Treasurer, on the day

Contacts: Yukie Sato, yukie.sato1@gmail.com; Betty Go Roxas-Chua, 0917 892 1679; or Dellie Yap, 0917 530 5650; before July 20, 2007

Let us enjoy a full-day program with leisurely activities at the Capatis' fruits, flowers, and pottery farm on a 9 hectare-stretch situated on the rolling hills of San Jose, Batangas (1½ hour drive from Makati on South-super highway exiting at Tambo). The map and other details will be sent by email to those who wish to join. You are welcome to bring your friends or family members, but please inform us in advance.

PROGRAM:

1. Welcome in the traditional *Bahay Kubo* house
2. Slide presentation by Pablo Capati III of his old and new workshops
3. Tour of the farm – with fruit trees (calamansi, mango, jackfruit, guava, lanzones, durian) and the orchid's house, etc. It will be right in time for the rambutan season
4. Proceed to the pottery workshop for Pablo's discussions on clay and firing
5. Observe his *Anagama* kiln in action
6. Lunch at the farm – authentic Batangueño cuisine with seasonal ingredients on the menu
7. Hands-on clay building, coiling, and slab making r relax/siesta in the *bahay kubo*
8. Merienda – freshly roasted coffee harvested from the farm with simple Batangas rice cakes.

PABLO K. CAPATI III

Pablo III is a potter of great promise. While he teaches pottery at his pottery class in Greenhills, at his farm he pursues his ideals in creating functional pottery to be enjoyed and utilized in daily life among ordinary folk. Pablo has been training farmers to produce simple utilitarian ware, most of which are to be sold to restaurants and farm visitors.



Pablo III, the potter

OCSP Committee Reports & Announcements Program

MEETING & LECTURE – June 2007

June 20, 2007

THE ORIGINS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

by Professor Peter Bellwood

Professor Peter Bellwood’s June lecture began with an overview of his Batanes field work. He briefly mentioned the 3 cultural layers unearthed during the dig: slate & nephrite artifacts from Taiwan, dating 2000-3000 years ago and similar to finds in Vietnam; the tall jar layer (a burial jar that is one of the oldest ever excavated in the Philippines), dating to 1500 – 2000 years ago; and pottery dating to the last 1000 years.



Dr. Bellwood

He spoke about the ancestors of non-Negrito Filipinos, the first Austronesian speakers who moved into the area about 4000 years ago in a migration from China to Taiwan, to Batanes, and on to Northern Luzon, and then kept spreading into the Pacific. He mentioned the Austronesian language family fixed to about 1500 AD, and how that language found its roots in Formosa. He told us how languages moved with their speakers, eventually forming separate languages. He painted the picture of real people in canoes, sailing thousands of years ago from one island to another, and of scientists like himself who gathered evidence of these movements from linguistics, genetics, and archaeology.

One very specific & very important statement: the Philippines was THE gateway and formed the entrance into the Pacific for this migration that moved people through thousands of years. It was fascinating to hear about farming populations that moved through China, and then had to adapt to the tropics when they entered the Philippines. In China, diets were based on rice and millet, but the migrants learned to adapt to tuber and fruit-based diets as they settled in Micronesia. The Philippines, situated as it was, was at the heart of this transformation.



Members & friends at the June, 2007 meeting

Professor Bellwood returned to his discussion about nephrite artifacts excavated in Batanes, suggesting that the people who brought this stone arrived in the Philippines from Taiwan about 4000 years ago and engaged in the nephrite trade that extended to Southern Vietnam. He talked about plain and red-slipped pottery that had been excavated at these digs, saying that decorated pottery was a hallmark of human movement. He mentioned the oldest big migration across 2000 kilometers of open sea, where the evidence is marked in identical pottery from one island location to the next.

It was a fascinating discussion, filled with facts and details that provide the foundation of what the Society hopes will be yearly updates from the Professor, as he returns to Batanes and continues to trace man's movement through time. (PMM)

MEETING & LECTURE – August 2007

Tuesday, August 21, 2007, 6:00 p.m. (Venue to be announced.)

COLLECTING ANTIQUE BLUE-AND-WHITE CERAMICS FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES
by **Angela Quila**

A collector and OCSP member, Angela Quila will tell us about her collection of Zhangzhou ware on the eve of our joint exhibition with the Yuchengco Museum, scheduled in September 2007, entitled *ZHANGZHOU (SWATOW) WARE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES*. Angela will reflect on how she started her collection, then discuss the characteristics and common sites where pieces were found in the Philippines. Many of her Zhangzhou pieces will be on view at the exhibition. (See below.)

EXHIBITION – **A MAJOR PROJECT OF THE OCSP FOR 2007**, September 2007 – January 2008
Opening scheduled on Thursday, September 20, 2007

Our Society and the Yuchengco Museum will jointly mount an exhibition entitled, ***ZHANGZHOU WARE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES: "Swatow" Export Ceramics from Fujian in the 16th – 17th century***. For several decades, the blue-and-white ware exported in big quantities from Fujian in the 16th – 17th century was known to scholars and collectors as "Swatow ware." A kiln complex in Zhangzhou district in Fujian that produced this group of ware has been discovered and excavated. It should, therefore, be called Zhangzhou ware.

Zhangzhou ware is found in profuse quantity in the Philippines and is a favorite among local collectors because of its rustic appeal. A great number of collectors from our Society are lending their pieces to the exhibition. A catalog will be published to document the exhibition pieces. It will also feature materials recovered from the San Diego and San Isidro shipwrecks, courtesy of the National Museum of the Philippines.

Hosting & Logistics

We are grateful to Mary Garlicki and Riyaz Moorani for graciously hosting our meeting in June at their lovely new home. Our co-hosts' collective enthusiasm to provide a sumptuous menu with drinks for the evening was remarkable. Our sincere gratitude goes to: Mary Garlicki, Mikio Kashiwagi, Chichi Laperal, Benito Legarda, Nening Mahahan, Pilar Martinez-Miranda, Connie Pascal, Betty Go Roxas-Chua, and Marivic Vazquez.

Membership

NEW MEMBER

SUMAIRA SAMAD (right) from Pakistan is our latest member who joined the Society in June 2007. Sumaira is a keen ceramic enthusiast who has been with us already on two of the functions this year; Prof. Peter Lam's lecture in April, and the guided tour at the Ayala Museum for the exhibition of the Roberto Villanueva Collection in May. We are very happy to have you as a member, Sumaira, and hope to see you at many of our future events.



LOST & FOUND

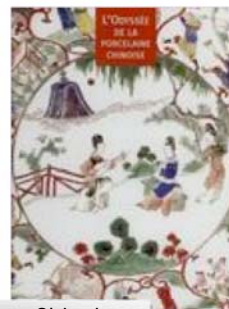
At the Alliance Française de Manille during the lecture of Prof. Peter Lam, someone left behind this small draw-string pouch (right), which probably contained a ceramic



piece for authentication by Prof. Lam. Would the owner of the pouch please contact Mary Garlicki at mary@moorani.com or call her mobile, 0917 836 1405?

Library

At our June meeting, William-Allain Mialhe de Burgh donated an exhibition catalog, *L'ODYSSÉE DE LA PORCELAINE CHINOISE: Collections du Musée Nationale de Céramique, Sèvres et du Musée National Adrien Ducouché, Limoges* (at right) to our library. The catalog also presents a variety of aspects on Chinese porcelain from the 10th to the 19th century through essays contributed by eight experts of Chinese ceramics. We are most grateful for the contribution. The details of this beautifully illustrated volume written in French will be excerpted in the next Newsletter.



L'Odyssee de la Porcelaine Chinoise

Newsletter

OCSP's Newsletters 2005, 2006, and 2007 can be accessed from the Website of the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society (SEACS) http://www.seaceramic.org.sg/foreign_news/index.html

Thank you for forwarding your contributions and comments. Please send all mail to Yukie Sato, Newsletter Editor at her new E-mail address, yukie.sato1@gmail.com. Deadline of contributions for the August issue is August 1, 2007. We look forward to hearing from you to connect ourselves to afar and close.

News from Members & Friends

Updates

SUSAN BURGHARDT, OCSP Overseas member, (2007-06-14, susanburghardt@gmail.com) Hong Kong

"These lectures sound so interesting. I heard Peter Bellwood participating in a seminar in Honolulu at the Bishop Museum last winter. The Batanes islands are a place I dearly wanted to go when we lived in Manila. Two of the women who worked for us were from there, but from different linguistic groups, so we learned a bit about the ancient rock structures from them."

DICK VAN OENEN, Author of *Thai Ceramic Art: the Three Religions*, (2007-06-20, Seaartresearch1@ntlworld.com) Surrey, U.K.

"I am full of admiration for the OCS Philippines activities. It is a pity that we cannot attend them. I am not allowed to travel anymore, but Nicol can pay you all a visit one of these days. We still have happy memories of our last visit, which, unfortunately, is now in the distant past!

I was interested to read of the book on the Pacific Route of Ceramic Trade. Could you tell me where I can get it? I am also anxious to get the full report on the Singapore symposium held last March, but had no luck at all. Would you know where they can be obtained, at my expense, of course?"

ETSUKO RODRIGUEZ, Author of "*The Pacific Route of Ceramic Trade*" (2007-06-28, etsukocarlos@yahoo.co.jp) Barcelona

"The article of Kajima Foundation of Art, No.23., in which the original report of '*Pacific Route of Ceramic Trade*' appeared in Japanese, was published in 2006. Another article with more details

will be published soon, I hope, from Texas University Press by Denver Art Museum edition. I will let you know when it comes out, if some people are interested."

Current & Forthcoming Events Abroad

TONIA NG, **Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong** (2007-06-08, ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk) Hong Kong

Exhibitions:

1) ***SPLENDOUR AND MYSTERY OF ANCIENT SHU: Cultural Relics from Shangxingdui and Jinsha*** (June 6 - September 9, 2007, Hong Kong Heritage Museum)

2) ***THE PRIDE OF CHINA: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song, and Yuan Dynasties*** (June 29 - August 11, 2007, Hong Kong Museum of Art)

3) ***CHINESE CERAMICS & MARITIME TRADE PRE-1700*** (June 16 - October 7, 2007)

The exhibition on view at the University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong University features over 100 Tang to Qing dynasties ceramics from the Museum of East Asian Art in Bath, UK. Maritime trade routes, which were vital in linking the East and West, were instrumental in the growth of Chinese export ceramics. For further information, please see www.hku.hk/hkumag, or contact +852 2241 5500.

Lecture: CHINESE TRADE-WARE CERAMICS FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES (July 28, 2007, at the University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong University) by Cynthia O. Valdes, former president of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines

Storage jars are not usually included when specialists speak of 'Trade Ware Ceramics.' They were utilized primarily as storage vessels in their port of origin, but these Chinese ceramics were treasured and converted into ritual vessels by ethnic peoples in the hinterland.

They were typically used in burial or as containers of rice wine for celebratory rituals. A type of crudely fashioned dishes made for overseas Chinese were also utilized as containers for the 'sticky rice' used in Philippine rituals marking rites of passage such as birth, courtship, marriage, and death.

DAVID REHFUSS, **Washington Oriental Ceramic Group** (2007-06-30, drehfuss@verizon.net), Washington, D.C.

Demonstrations: *The Folk Life Festival* on the Mall runs for two weeks every day except Mondays and Tuesdays until July 7th. This year Mekong Cultures are highlighted. In that section are potters and weavers from Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand working everyday.

Cambodian potter being assisted his wheel turned



Guided tour: Associated with the Folk Life Festival, on every day of the Festival, Louise Cort, curator of the Sackler Gallery, will be giving guided tours of the Hauge Collection of ceramics in Mainland Southeast Asia, **TAKING SHAPES** in the Sackler Gallery.

To see all the ceramics, learn more about their history and uses, and watch the exhibition video about making ceramics, visit the Freer and Sackler website:

www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/takingshape.htm

Symposium: September 27 – 29, 2007 are the dates for **Freer Gallery's Forbes symposium on old Asian ceramics**. Included are papers by three Cambodian archaeologists working in the Angkor Wat area. Details will be in the Freer and Sackler Galleries website above in the near future.

THE JAPAN CERAMIC SOCIETY (2007-07-05, tosetsu@j-ceramic.jp) Tokyo

Exhibition: A celebration of excellence in modern Japanese ceramics art by the **WINNERS OF THE JAPAN CERAMIC SOCIETY AWARDS 2006** (July 24 – August 1, 2007, Wako Hall, Ginza, Tokyo)



Rising from the Japanese pottery of traditional kilns, much respected contemporary potters; Kazuhiko Miwa from Hagi (vase, left), Jun Takekoshi of Kutani ware (incense burner, center), and Kiyoyuki Kato of Seto (object, right) showcase 100 Pieces of vases, sculptural objects, and functional wares as their essence of Japanese pottery today.

Local event

Exhibition

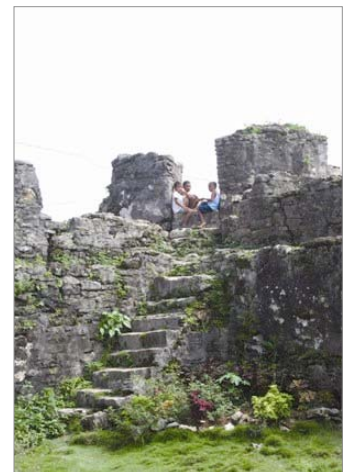
A Photo-ethnographic Exhibit

CAPUL, PALINGNGA KAW? - CAPUL, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

July 10 – October 27, 2007

Anthropologist Francisco A. Datar mounts his 6th exhibition of his photographs with some ethnographic objects used in daily activities of the Abakanon community of the island-town of Capul, Northern Samar. Strategically located at the entrance, or exit, of San Bernardino Strait, the island is the last galleon stop before sailing to the Pacific, and the first stop coming in. The name Capul, according to local oral history, is an abbreviated form of Acapulco. The exhibition shows the Abakanon people of today as influenced by three local cultures of ethno-linguistic groups - Abakanon, Agta, and Waray – and the early Spanish presence in the island. The exhibition is organized by the Filipiniana Research Center & the University of the Philippines Jorge B. Vargas Museum,

Landing Gallery, 3rd floor
Jorge B. Vargas Museum
Roxas Avenue, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
vargasmuseum@gmail.com



Fort built by the Spanish, c.1600s in Capul, Northern Samar.
© Francisco A. Datar, 2006

Ceramic Matters

Research by Etsuko Miyata Rodriguez & Ritsuko Yajima

THE PACIFIC ROUTE OF CERAMIC TRADE:

The Commercial Flow of Oriental Ceramics between Asia and Latin America (3)

This is the last article of the study on the Chinese ceramics traded through galleons via Manila to the New World (Mexico) in the 16th – 19th centuries. The research was conducted in Zócalo area, Mexico

City in 2006. Here, Etsuko M. Rodriguez gives her analysis and conclusions on the classification and chronology of the excavated pieces discussed in the previous issue of this Newsletter.

1. Jingdezhen wares from late Jiajing (1522-1566) to early Wan Li (1573-1620) dynasties,
2. Jingdezhen bowls, the third quarter of the 16th century;
3. Jingdezhen wares, the late 16th – the early 17th centuries;
4. Jingdezhen wares, 1610 – 1640s;
5. Zhangzhou wares, so called 'Swatow wares,' first half of the 17th century;
6. Jingdezhen ware, Kangxi period (1662-1722);
7. The 18th century Chinese ceramics.

ANALYSIS

Among the 7 classifications we have seen in the previous chapter, periods that were varied in types of ceramics were 2 and 3. Considering the products of Jingdezhen, the most abundant in numbers were bowls and plates from the third quarter of the 16th century until the early 17th century. The plates with eight-treasure emblems, with a phoenix in the centre, were especially numerous.

On the other hand, from the mid 17th century to the third quarter of the 17th century is a period with extreme scarcity of ceramics. Plates from the Kangxi period were scarce, and instead, there were blue- and-white tall cups found from this period.

Ceramics excavated from the Zócalo area from the 18th century are also scarce, and most of the ceramics from this period are plates of so called *Guangdong wares* or *Guancai*, which were produced in Jingdezhen without decoration and transported to Guangdong and decorated there, and cups from Dehua. Blue-and-white bowls produced in Guangdong provinces, which have thick footings and slanted walls, frequently seen among the Japanese excavation sites and Southeast Asia during the 18th century, were completely absent.

Studying these tendencies and changes of excavated ceramics in the course of time, most of the bowls typical in Asian sites from the third quarter of the 16th century gradually disappear and change into tall cups, which appear from the third quarter of the 17th century. The number of large plates of Swatow types that were common especially during the early 17th century also declines, and in the 18th century appears again as Guangdong wares, indicating a new demand of large plates in the 18th century.

CONCLUSIONS

The author has studied the ceramics excavated from the Templo Mayor site and its surrounding area called Zócalo. The interesting fact of the change of forms from bowls to tall cups corresponds to the proliferation of chocolate-drinking customs in New Spain especially when the high quality of cacao from Venezuela began to be exported in the 17th century, with much of it consumed in Mexico City. The typical bowl form was obviously inadequate for the occidental culture or New Spain where the consumers of ceramics were Spaniards.

Most of the ceramic pieces from the Templo Mayor site are dated from the third quarter of the 16th century to the early 17th century. When the Manila Galleon trade began in 1565, there was already a large marketplace in Plaza Mayor which is located in the centre of Zócalo, south of the Templo Mayor Site. These pieces are probably related to the economic activities of this market. In particular, the plates with the phoenix design in the centre referred to above, found in significant quantities, may have been dealt as merchandise in the market.

The important fact is that some of the early Manila Galleon pieces are similar to pieces or identical to those which are now kept in some important collections in Portugal. From this archaeological fact, it is important to further study the possibility of intervention by the Portuguese merchants, which played an important role in the New Spain's commercial activity especially during the 16th and 17th centuries.

At the same time, it is necessary to study the commercial activity between Macao and Manila.

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Great appreciation goes to the Kajima Foundation of Art and Museo del Templo Mayor which allowed the author to carry out this research. - Etsuko Miyata Rodriguez, etsukocarlos@yahoo.co.jp

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