



# The Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines

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

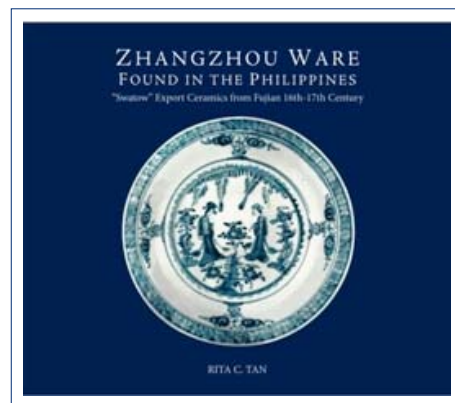
Newsletter October 2007

## Opening of the Exhibition & Launching of the Catalog

Art Post Asia Pte Ltd  
The Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines  
and The Yuchengco Museum request

all OCSP members' company  
at the inauguration of the exhibit and the book launch of

## **ZHANGZHOU WARE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES** *"Swatow" Export Ceramics from Fujian in the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Century*



On Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Yuchengco Museum.

Ground Floor, RCBC Plaza  
Ayala corner Gil J. Puyat Avenues, Makati City

RSVP: [info@yuchengcomuseum.org](mailto:info@yuchengcomuseum.org)

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# OCSP Committee Reports & Announcements

## Program

### EXHIBITION

October 11, 2007 – January 16, 2008

### **ZHANGZHOU WARE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES**

*“Swatow” Export Ceramics from Fujian in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century*

Yuchengco Museum  
RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Gil J. Puyat Avenues  
Makati City, Metro Manila



### About the Exhibition:

- o Jointly organized with the Yuchengco Museum
- o The 13 pieces from shipwreck of the San Isidro in the collection of the National Museum of the Philippines are exhibited for the first time.
- o 124 items on display are from the Villanueva collection, courtesy of the Ayala Museum, Kaisa, Heritage Center, Leandro and Cecilia Locsin, Tawalisi Inc., Ven Magbuhos, and from the collections of OCSP members and friends.
- o They represent a complete range of Zhangzhou Ware type:
  - 1) blue-and-white ware being the core;
  - 2) a few other varieties of the monochrome ware with lightly incised designs;
  - 3) monochrome ware with slip decorations; and
  - 4) polychrome ware with overglaze enamels.



### About Zhangzhou Ware:

- o In the past, scholars and collectors called Zhangzhou ware “Swatow. In the 1990s, some kilns in the Zhangzhou region in Fujian, a coastal province of southern China, were excavated. Following studies in 1994 by experts, it was concluded that the group of kilns discovered was the production site of this very ware. Thus the term, Zhangzhou ware came in to being.



### THE EXHIBITION CATALOG – October 2007

#### Contents:

- o *Preface*
- o *Introduction* – by Rita C. Tan
- o *Zhangzhou Ware Found in the Philippines - “Swatow” Export Ceramics from Fujian 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century* – by Rita C. Tan
- o *The Zhangzhou Kiln: A Review of Recent Archaeological and Research Trends in the People’s Republic of China* – by Li Jian An
- o *Catalog of 176 color illustrations*
- o *The San Diego and San Isidro Shipwrecks: Reflections on Philippine Ceramic Trade on Swatow Wares in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Century* – by Dr. Eusebio Dizon and Bobby Orillaneda
  - Size 24 x 28 cm, 192 pages, 270 color plates, 6 maps and drawings.





- Published by the Yuchengco Museum, the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines, and ArtPostAsia, Singapore.
- Hard-bound **PHP 2500.00** (USD55) and soft-bound **PHP 1900.00** (USD40), with a limited number of 10 copies (hard-bound) and 11 copies (soft-bound) remain in our stock.

**For shipment overseas**, please contact ArtPostAsia in Singapore:  
[publications@artpostasia.com](mailto:publications@artpostasia.com)

THE VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION

The guided tour of the exhibition has been deferred until further notice due to the unavailability of Rita C. Tan on the originally scheduled date, October 20, 2007.



SUMMARY OF THE LECTURE BY BARBARA DAVIS – September 2007

*The Effect of Clay Compositions & Morphology on Ceramic Firing*

Beginning with the statement, “Potters make metamorphic rocks in the kiln,” Barbara Davis laid the foundation for what would be one of the most scientifically fascinating lectures of the OCSP 2007 Program year.

Defining CLAY from the perspectives of a soil scientist, a geologist and then a potter, Barbara allowed us to see clay in a whole new light. In layman’s terms, she taught us about rocks and minerals, speaking about their structure and composition, and telling us about how they formed and how they weathered into clay. She discussed clay composition in pottery and walked us through the stages of ceramic firing, describing firing processes, techniques and methods that many of us were familiar with and could easily relate to.

Barbara Davis’s lecture allowed us to cross over from the deeply scientific “how it all began and what it all is” into the tangible, beautiful ceramic pieces from her own collection, taking us on a journey that was worthy of the time spent. Bravo, Barbara, and thank you! (PMM)



Barbara Davis & OCSP members (behind) at the Pablo Capati III’s Workshop in July, 2007

CD-ROM ON THE OCSP LECTURE – April 2007, still available

**DETECTING THE FAKES:**  
*Dating and Connoisseurship of Chinese Ceramics*

Professor Peter Lam, Director of the Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong, fascinated the audience in April 2007 with his comprehensive and analytical approaches to the subject matter. OCSP has converted Professor Lam’s entire presentation with slides into CDs.



**68 slides** with the overview on the Chinese ceramic technology - its classification, decoration, formation, and production methodology - with guiding principles to ceramic structures

and analysis.

- CD in two types:  
**Slide Show (A)** can be put on pause and reviewed individually.  
**Static Slides (B)** for manual operation, suitable for close examination.

- PHP250.00 each CD. PHP450.00 for a set of A & B. Each with the original text of the lecture summary by Professor Peter Lam.

If you are interested in purchasing the CD, please contact [Yukie Sato](mailto:yukie.sato1@gmail.com) at [yukie.sato1@gmail.com](mailto:yukie.sato1@gmail.com) and specify the CD type you wish to order.

## Hosting

[Anna Pamplona](#) was our September host who welcomed us with charming floral arrangements and the elegant live piano number. Our co-hosts contributed a lavish display of food as a gesture of welcome to a number of the young guests from the University of the Philippines Archaeological Studies Program, potters, and other guests who joined us for Barbara's most informative presentation. Our cohosts were [Angela & Tony Quila](#), [Sevrine Miaillhe](#), [Nening Manahan](#), [Pilar Martinez-Miranda](#), [Anna Pamplona](#), and [Madeleine Varkay](#). Thank you, everyone, the Society is grateful for your usual support.

## Library

ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY, London, NEWSLETTER May 2007 has arrived.

Contents:

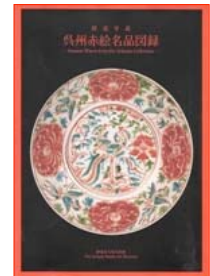
- First Excavation of Suzhou Site of the Sui and Tang Grand Canal
- A Large Porcelain Pit Discovered in Maojiawan, Beijing in July 2005
- Song and Jin Porcelain with Overglaze Enamels, Shenzhen, November 2006
- Nanjing Meeting of Chinese Ancient Ceramics Society in 2006 and Symposium on Greenwares
- Centre for Portuguese Nautical Studies Conference, Mossel Bay, South Africa. 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006
- CPNS Shipwreck Tour: 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2006
- Song Dynasty Conference at National Palace Museum, Taiwan



GOSU-AKAE MEIHIN ZUROKU - *Swatow Wares from the Seikado Collection*, An exhibition catalog, Seikado Bunko Art Museum, Tokyo, 1987

Contents:

- Introduction by Gakuji Hasebe on *Gosu-akae* (*gosu* polychrome wares).
- Color and black & white plates
- Descriptions of pieces
- Measurement of pieces
- Glossary
- Maps of major kiln sites in China
- Bibliography



The catalog is in Japanese with captions in both Japanese and English.

It is donated by the Seikado Bunko Art Museum, Tokyo. We are grateful for this valuable donation, just in time for our Zhangzhou Ware exhibition.

### THE OCSP LIBRARY

Located at the residence of Mary Garlicki (Membership Director and the Librarian), at 62 Real Street, Urdaneta Village, Makati City. Her contacts are [mary@moorani.com](mailto:mary@moorani.com); +63 2 817 3156 (home) and +63 917 836 1405 (mobile). Please inform Mary if you wish to browse through our growing library. OCSP members are welcome to borrow these publications, and return them at a future date. You will be surprised to find many interesting references on ceramics and other related subjects.

## Newsletter

We received interesting comments in response to our online reader Mr. TK Ngiam's inquiry about his collection of Zhangzhou Ware. Please see [Views & Letters](#) below.

OCSF Newsletters are uploaded every month by the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society (SEACS), Singapore, in its website: [http://www.seaceramic.org.sg/foreign\\_news/index.html](http://www.seaceramic.org.sg/foreign_news/index.html).

The closing date for contributions to the October Newsletter is October 30, 2007. Please send news and your comments to Yukie Sato, the editor, at [yukie.sato1@gmail.com](mailto:yukie.sato1@gmail.com).

## Views & Letters

### Letters to the editor:

### Comments



#### *"Have You Seen This Piece in the Philippines?"*

TK NGIAM, Hong Kong (2007-08-19, [ngiam.tk@gmail.com](mailto:ngiam.tk@gmail.com))

To this inquiry reported in our September issue of the Newsletter by TK Ngiam, Hong Kong, who requested experts' views on his recently acquired large "Swatow" dish (D-40 cm) in Indonesia, several comments have been sent to us as follows:

RITA C. TAN, The OCSF President, Manila (2007-08-22, [ritatan@pltdsl.net](mailto:ritatan@pltdsl.net))

*"No, I haven't encountered a piece similar to yours, which is indeed very unusual. But the color of the blue, dots of white slips, and even the floral design on the cavetto are seen on Zhangzhou monochromes with slip decorations. The serpent-like dragons are of Zhangzhou type though they rarely appear on monochromes. The base seems all right too. I was just thrown off by the pairs of stamped squares that look more like chops to me on the rim, something unseen before.*

*If I've a chance, I'd like to show it to Li Jian An, the archaeologist who excavated the kilns in Zhangzhou. ...the only known piece similar to this one is in the collection of the Topkapi Saray Museum in Istanbul, Turkey."*

LOUISE CORT, Curator, Freer & Sackler Art Galleries, Washington D. C. (2007-09-08, [CORTLO@si.edu](mailto:CORTLO@si.edu))



*"Just read the OCSF newsletter and look forward to your Zhangzhou exhibition. I was also happy to come across the Zhangzhou dish owned by the collector in Hong Kong. **By coincidence, the Freer recently acquired a dish of this type and size, with three-color decoration—brown and blue pigments and white slip—under a translucent blue glaze (F2006.6).***

*In addition to the two dishes of the same design in the Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul (Krahl 1986, no. 1942), two more are in unidentified private collections in Japan. The dish we acquired also had been in Japan, which was a major market for products of the Zhangzhou kilns.*

- *Saito Kikutaro. Gosu aka-e, nankin aka-e [Gosu polychrome and Nanjing polychrome]. Toji taikai vol. 45. Tokyo: Heibonsha, 1976. Color plate 15.*
- *Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum. Gosu aka-e, gosu sometsuke, mochibana-de: suwatou uea no sekai (Swatow Ware). Seto: Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, 1996. No. 40."*

SHOKO HASEGAWA, Curator, Seikado Foundation, Seikado Bunko Art Museum, Tokyo (2007-09-10, [hasegawa@seikado.or.jp](mailto:hasegawa@seikado.or.jp))



*"I saw the photo of your Swatow dish in the attachment which is a very beautiful and rare piece.*

*As it was mentioned, the similar piece is in Topkapi Saray, and **I know one in the private collection in Japan**. Here, I am forwarding you its photo. This piece was on display at the exhibition in Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum in 1996, and was recorded in their exhibition catalogue in Japanese, "Gosu aka-e, gosu sometsuke, mochibana-de, – Suwatou Uea no Sekai," (Gosu polychrome, Gosu blue & white, monochrome with white slip - The World of Swatow Wares).*

*Furthermore, there is a shard of this type of the ware known to be excavated in Shizuoka prefecture, one of the Tokugawa Shogunate castles, "Sunpu-jo", which was built in 1582, and followed by the reconstruction in 1607-8. The source of this information is the above mentioned catalogue. I hope this will be of some help for your research."*

DAVID REHFUSS, President, Washington Oriental Ceramic Group, Washington, D.C. (2007-9-18, [drehfuss@verizpn.net](mailto:drehfuss@verizpn.net))

*"Regarding Mr. Ngiam's Zhangzhou dish, the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., acquired in 2006 from an old Japanese collection a Zhangzhou piece with quite similar decorations. **This is one of the rarest types of Zhangzhou ware**. According to the Freer, four other examples have been identified - two in the Tokapi Saray Museum in Istanbul and two in Japanese collections. All of this small-class has the same decoration, a design of dragons chasing flaming pearls, ringed by tropical plants with a band of swastikas in square frames covering the everted flat rim.*

*The most popular markets for Zhangzhou wares were the Southeast Asian islands and Japan, where they were used in the Tea ceremony. No other examples of this cobalt slip-decorated monochrome ware, however, have been uncovered in Southeast Asia, as Rita Tan pointed out."*

LOUISE CORT Curator, Freer & Sackler Art Galleries, Washington D. C. (2007-10-02, [CORTLO@si.edu](mailto:CORTLO@si.edu))



*"An image of the Zhangzhou dish recently acquired by the Freer Gallery is now viewable on our web site, [www.asia.si.edu](http://www.asia.si.edu). Go to The Collections ->, scroll down to Chinese Art -> in the box at the left go to Search Collections -> F2006.6a-d.*

***I was very interested to know that your dish was said to come from Sumatra.***

*In 2004, the Sackler Gallery hosted an exhibition, "IRAQ AND CHINA: CERAMICS, TRADE, AND INNOVATION," about the technical and aesthetic exchanges between those two cultures. It was based on technical research conducted on Iraqi and Chinese ceramics. The hypothesis is that the idea for cobalt decoration on ceramics came to China from West Asia; Chinese merchants then decorated white porcelain with West Asian-style decoration (such as appear on the pieces found on the Belitung shipwreck). Meanwhile, from Chinese imported ceramics the potters in Iraq borrowed shapes and forming techniques and developed a tin-opacified lead glaze to imitate the whiteness of porcelain.*

*You can review the exhibition statement on our web site, under Exhibitions ->Past Exhibitions -> 2004."*

BLUE DISH WITH A DESIGN OF TWO DRAGONS, GOSU MOCHIBANA-DE  
17<sup>th</sup> Century, Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul. By Tsugio Mikami



*"This dish in the blue glaze with white floral motifs is called Ruri-gosu Mochibana-de in Japan. It is the same type as the dish, Kakiji hakkamon, the brown-glazed ware with a floral design applied in white slip; however, there are few dishes of this particular type. The technique of decorative applications is complex: first draw the patterns in blue-black over the blue-glazed dish, then by applying the white slip, draw the detailed patterns to create three dimensional visual effects. The center design shows the dragons in a double feature leaping towards the sun, around which the plants in peculiar abstract forms appear on the inner wall.*

*The free and unmatched design could be the expression of the cultural ambiance unique at the end of the Ming period. The broad everted rim is divided by the patterns of square frames coloured in dark blue and pale blue, each with a swastika in it. The outer side is all in blue and has no designs. There is no glaze at the inner part of the base, but has fine sand adhesions."*

*It is one of the so called "Swatow" wares which were exported from the ports in Guangdong in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Since there had been a production of similar wares in the 15<sup>th</sup>- century in Iran and Egypt (blue-glazed earthenware with white slip designs), it could have been much appreciated in West Asia." (Translation, Yukie Sato)*

SEKAI TOJI ZENSHU 14, MIN (Ming Dynasty, Ceramic Art of The World, volume 14) Ryoichi Fujioka and Gakuji Hasebe, Shogakukan, 1976 pl.128.

## Local News

### Report

#### Arroceros Forest Park Rehabilitates

One of the OCSF's founding members, Regina (Ninit) Paterno, reported in September 2005 about the archaeological excavation undertaken by the Katipunan ng Mga Arkeologist ng Pilipinas jointly with the National Museum at the Arroceros Forest Park. The excavation uncovered a four-layer structure, in which stones were set diagonally. Also recovered were some Wanli dynasty coins as well as Spanish coins, and quantities of Ming and Qing dynasty shards and earthenware shards. This was the time the Winner Foundation was battling to preserve the park. Two years later, Ninit reports:



The excavation site (above left) where ceramic shards (above right) were found in 2005.

REGINA PATERNO, President, Winner Foundation (2007-09-25)

*"Winner Foundation is currently rehabilitating the only forest park in the heart of Manila. It is located in historic Arroceros street along the banks of the Pasig River. This area was once the site of the PARIAN (The Chinese district where Chinese were confined during the Spanish era). The Spanish Conquerors had relocated the Chinese population of the city away from Intramuros, in the area which is now occupied by Mehan Gardens, the Metropolitan Theatre and the length of Arroceros Street.*



*When Winner Foundation planted the 3,500 trees in this forest on May 16, 1993, this was promptly reported to the National Museum but for lack of funds, the archaeological studies and excavation were only conducted in 2005. They unearthed more shards and Chinese coins and*

even needles made of animal bones. Underground structures were discovered. The National Museum's director Corazon Alvina, and other archaeologists recommended further studies but the city of Manila under Mayor Atienza proceeded with the construction of a building above it. Not only were hundreds of fully grown trees lost, but also a part of our historical heritage.

Fortunately, Mayor Alfredo Lim was elected in 2007 as the new chief executive of Manila, and he returned the Arroceros Forest Park to its original developers, the Winner Foundation. With the help of the incumbent mayor and many volunteers Manila will soon have its green spaces back. Tons of debris are being hauled away as volunteers from all sectors continuously clean up and replant indigenous forest trees, shrubs and ground cover. You are all invited to drop by and be part of the rehabilitation effort."

## International Event

### Korean Shipwreck - National Marine Museum Recovered about 7000 pieces.

We reported the news of a shipwreck find occasioned by the catch of an octopus off the west coast of Korea (Tae An area) in the September Newsletter. Younju Huh, who visited Seoul briefly in September, sent us an update on the progress of the excavation.

1. **Kangjin**, one of the major kiln sites of Koryo celadon
  2. **kangjin port**
  3. **Mokpo**: Mokpo Marine Museum
  4. **Shin An**: Site of another major shipwreck with ceramic cargo excavated in 1975
  5. **Tae An**, the current excavation site
- The route** of ships with ceramic cargo in the Koryo period (918 – 1392).  
Above 5, next to the arrow.  
**Kaesung**, Capital city of Koryo.



YOUNJU HUH, OCSF Speaker/June 2006, Seoul ([huhyounju@hotmail.com](mailto:huhyounju@hotmail.com), 2007-09-12)



*"The Underwater Excavation and Conservation Division of Mokpo Marine Museum (Director, Moon Whan Suk) recovered about 7000 pieces of ceramics from the Tae An area (No.5 on above map), where the current moves extremely fast. The ship probably sank there just before reaching Kaesung, the capital of Koryo. The excavation of an estimated 10,000 pieces will be continued to November 2007.*

*Unlike other shipwreck' finds, the Koryo celadon from this wreck, probably from southern Kangjin province, is of exceptional quality and is assumed to be meant for the royal family and the government. The dating of the ship is likely to be of the 12th century, and the ceramics from early and the mid-Koryo period (c.1146.), which was the peak of Koryo celadon production known not only for its quality, but also for the variety of types and decorative techniques. The recovered items include various types of design and forms; teapots, medicinal pots and bowls (above)."*

OCSF BOARD (2007-2008)	OFFICER POSITIONS	COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP
<b>Rita C. Tan</b>	President	Exhibition
<b>Yukie Sato</b>	1st Vice President	Program, Newsletter Editor
<b>Trinidad Osteria</b>	2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary	-
<b>Dellie Yap</b>	Treasurer	-
<b>Betty Go Roxas-Chua</b>	Corresponding Secretary	Logistics
<b>Mary Garlicki</b>	-	Membership, Library
<b>Connie C. Pascal</b>	-	Hosting
<b>Pilar B. Martinez-Miranda</b>	-	Ex-Officio