



The Southeast Asian Ceramic Society invites you
to a talk by Tim Clark on ZOOM
with an on-site handling session following the lecture
(for more information, see the SEACS website)

Friday, 25 November 2022
7:00 pm SGT

In praise of teapots from the sublime to the ridiculous



The teapot, like tea itself, was born in China. But its creation was more the result of evolution than invention. Nobody invented the teapot. The prototype had long existed in the form of an ewer, and this was adapted to cater for a new method of preparing tea which involved brewing.

Tim's talk will cover the origin and development of the teapot in China. Once the dedicated function of this pouring vessel was established, the potters of Yixing unleashed their creativity in expressing its myriad forms. This led to a beautiful marriage of form and function which inspired potters in England to make their own impact on this artform.

The first record of teapots arriving in Northern Europe was in 1639. They were brought in by the Dutch who muscled in on the trade in tea and tea ware from China and Japan that was initiated by the Portuguese. The British gradually took over, fuelling a fashion and appetite for tea like no other country. Not surprisingly, therefore, Britain became the world's leading producer of tea ware. Cups with handles, saucers, bone china, teapots in a myriad shapes and sizes, tea services, tea caddies, tea urns—were arguably all British innovations.

Our speaker, Tim Clark, is a Councillor of the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society, co-editor of FOM's Passage magazine as well as a docent within Singapore's National Heritage Board museums.

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