



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

“AUSPICIOUS WORDS ON SIXTEENTH CENTURY OFFICIAL PORCELAINS AND LACQUER WARES”

by Maggie C K Wan

Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2008
Venue: The Hong Kong Club
Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong
Time: 18:30 Drinks; 19:00 Presentation; 20:15 Dinner
Cost: Lecture HK\$100 for non-members
Dinner HK\$450 (members); HK\$500 (guests)

Decorative designs featuring auspicious words gained particular popularity in sixteenth century China. Official porcelains and lacquer wares of the period exhibit a variety of auspicious words, such as *fu* (Good fortune), *shou* (Longevity), *yongbao changchun* (Stay young forever), and *wanshou qingping* (Myriad longevity, pure and peaceful). This lecture will discuss such auspicious word designs through exploring their underlying ideas, cultural significance and relation to the visual culture of the Ming court. In particular, it will focus on an innovative motif (examples attached) consisting of an auspicious character in ‘organic form’, which was invented in the Jiajing reign. It will show how this motif together with other related designs were conceived as visual expressions of Heaven’s blessing. Their vogue was closely associated with the Jiajing Emperor’s pursuit of immortality and the divination practice of spirit writing.

Maggie Wan obtained her D.Phil. from the University of Oxford and is currently teaching at the Department of Fine Arts, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests are the history of Chinese ceramics and Daoist Art. She has published several articles, including ‘Jiajing Emperor and his Auspicious Words’ (*Archives of Asian Art*, Vol. 57, 2007) and ‘Motifs with an Intention: Reading the Eight Trigrams on Official Porcelain of the Jiajing Period (1522-1566)’ (*Artibus Asiae*, Vol. LXIII, 2003, no. 2), and has co-edited several books on Chinese export ceramics. Prominent among the latter are *Proceedings of the International Conference: Chinese Export Ceramics and Maritime Trade, 12th-15th Centuries* (Chung Hwa Book Co.,(H.K.) Ltd., 2005); *China Westward: Bibliography and Research Guide* (Chung Hwa Book Co.,(H.K.) Ltd., 2005); and *China Westward: Chinese Export Ceramics from 12th C. to 15th C.* (City University of Hong Kong, 2003).

Reply Slip

Members should complete and return the following Reservation Form by Thursday, 24 July 2008. You can also reserve online by emailing ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

- Please reserve ___ seat(s) for OCS member(s) to attend Dr Maggie Wan’s lecture on 29 July 2008.
- Please reserve ___ seat(s) at HK\$100 for non-members to attend Dr Maggie Wan’s lecture.
- Please reserve ___ seat(s) for members at HK\$450 each and ___ seat(s) for guests at HK\$500 each for dinner.
N.B. Due to The Hong Kong Club’s regulations, any dinner reserved will be charged for irrespective of attendance unless at least 48 hours’ notice of cancellation is given.

Name: _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Prof./Dr. Member: Yes/No

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

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*The event will be cancelled or postponed to a later date if Typhoon Signal no.8 or above is hoisted or if Black Rainstorm Warning is in force **one hour** before the event.*