



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

“IN SEARCH OF NORTHERN SONG JADES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND OTHER EVIDENCE”

by Jenny F So

Date: Wednesday, 30 January 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)

Painting, calligraphy, and ceramics have traditionally enjoyed the spotlight for the artistic achievements of the 150 or so years of the Northern Song dynasty. Its jades have often been skirted, and dating often avoided entirely, when common attributions such as "Tang-Song", "Song to Ming" or "Song or later" attached to jades that appear to be post-Tang and pre-Qing in date. Lack of securely datable archaeological examples, and traditions of perpetuating, imitating, or conscious revival of past styles, are some of the most frequently cited reasons behind our reluctance - or inability - to determine what jades might be associated with the 150 years of Northern Song history.

The overriding *rationale* is the recognition that jade artifacts of the Northern Song period is intimately related to some of its premier art forms. The subtle luminous glazes on certain Song wares were meant to evoke qualities in jade. There is also no question that jade objects ranked highest in prestige in Song society - reserved only for imperial or exceptional occasions - while ceramics, gold, and silver tend to be regarded as lesser compromises. Textual records also point to frequent gifts of jade to the Northern Song court, as well as jade articles made both for the court and literati, suggesting that supplies of this precious material was at least adequate, if not abundant. A picture of Northern Song art and culture is therefore incomplete without its jades. This lecture will look at available archaeological material and textual evidence in an attempt to identify characteristics of Northern Song jades. A controversial group of jades inscribed and dated to the reign of Huizong (1101-1125), and purportedly made in the imperial workshops of Xiuneisi, will also be considered.

Jenny F. So left Hong Kong for undergraduate and post-graduate studies in the U.S., receiving her doctorate in Chinese art-history from Harvard University. She has been involved with a variety of exhibition and catalogue projects in the art and archaeology of early China, from her graduate student days through her appointment as Senior Curator for the ancient Chinese collections at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C. She returned to the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2001, where she is currently Professor of Fine Arts and Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies.

Reply Slip

Members should complete and return the following Reservation Form by Friday, 25 January 2008. You can also reserve online by emailing ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

- Please reserve ___ seat(s) for member(s) to attend Ms Jenny So's lecture on 30 January 2008.
- Please reserve ___ seat(s) at HK\$100 for non-members to attend Ms Jenny So'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

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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.*