



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

Dear Members

31 August 2006

OCS Newsletter – Autumn 2006

Welcome back from the summer holidays. It is time to dive into the autumn programme!

This is the seventh in our new series of Newsletters. The aim is to keep you in touch with the Society and provide a handy diary of OCS events and other news at home and overseas.

Contents:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Executive Committee; | 2. Membership; |
| 3. Recent Events; | 4. Diary for September 2006; |
| 5. Diary for October 2006; | 6. Diary for November 2006; |
| 7. Forthcoming Events; | 8. Highlights; |
| 9. News from Other Societies; | 10. News from Overseas |
| 11. Library; | 12. Website; |
| 13. Enquiries. | |

Preparations are well-advanced for our exhibition “*Art and Imitation in China*” at the HKU Museum & Art Gallery, 94 Bonham Road from 14 October to 17 December 2006 (*see Highlights in Section 8 of the Newsletter*). On view will be a spectacular display of over 200 exhibits selected from the private collections of OCS members and institutional contributors, traversing a broad sweep of Chinese history from the Shang Dynasty (c.1600-1100 BC) to the present day. These include bronzes, jade, lacquer, ceramics, glass, textiles, brush and oil paintings and works of art in wood, bamboo, cloisonné and enamels.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the private opening at 6-8 pm on **Friday 13 October 2006**. Invitations will be sent separately and a complimentary copy of the catalogue will await you at the exhibition. A Symposium will be held at the HKU Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday afternoon October 14. It will include lectures by the catalogue contributors on topics relating to the exhibition and be moderated by our curator, Anthony Lin.

To whet your appetites for the exhibition, here are two senryus (seventeen syllable poems) from members of our Executive Committee:

*Art, imitation
Archaism, emulation
Inspire, enjoy*

*Preparation imitates art
Connoisseurs old and new
Wait and smile*

Senryu entries for the Winter Newsletter are warmly encouraged.

Sincerely yours

Malcolm Barnett
President

OCS NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2006

1. Executive Committee

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2. Membership

We rely on membership subscriptions and healthy attendance at OCS events. If you have any friends who share our interests and are not already members, do please **bring them along** to our next event.

Postal communications are being phased out. For ease, cost-efficiency and expedition of communication, **please supply an e-address**, if you have not already done so.

3. Recent Events

June 27: “Pre-Angkorian Art in Cambodia”. The Dr. Veronica Lam Memorial Lecture by Smitthi Siribhadra (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*)

July 06: No membership events as OCS resources were restricted to preparations for the Exhibition (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*)

August 06: OCS closed for summer holidays, apart from continuing preparations for the Exhibition (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*)

4. Diary for September 06

September 4: “Recovery and Preservation of Ancient Chinese Ceramics in Malaysian Waters”. A lecture by Mr. Sten Sjostrand at the Hong Kong Club. Drinks 6.30 pm, Lecture 7 pm, Dinner 8.15 pm (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*).

September 26: "The Dating of Kangxi Imperial Porcelain". The Dr. Ip Yee Memorial Lecture 2006 by Professor Peter Y.K. Lam, Director of The Art Museum, Institute of Chinese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, at the Hong Kong Club. Drinks 6.30 pm, Lecture 7 pm, Dinner 8.15 pm (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*).

5. **Diary for October 06**

October 6: Sotheby's Autumn auction preview and handling session with Mr. Nicolas Chow at the HK Convention Centre at 9.00 am.

October 13 - December 17: "Art and Imitation in China". The OCS Exhibition 2006 at the Hong Kong University Museum & Art Gallery, 94 Bonham Road: Opening at 6.00 pm (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*).

October 14: Symposium on "Art and Imitation in China" at the Hong Kong University Museum & Art Gallery. This symposium will include lectures by the catalogue contributors (details to be advised).

6. **Diary for November 06**

November 5-16: Egypt Tour: "Ancient Egypt & Treasures of the Nile" (*see Highlights in Section 8 below*).

November 23: "Revolutionary Period Teapots". A lecture by well-known Beijing-based historian Freda Murck at the Hong Kong Club. Freda's name is usually associated with the world of contemporary Chinese paintings, but on this occasion she will address us on one of her other "loves", Republican-era Chinese teapots. The range of motifs on these pots is astonishing, from landscapes to modern humour, revolutionary propaganda, and even brothels. Drinks 6.30 pm, Lecture 7 pm, Dinner 8.15 pm.

November 25: Christie's Autumn auction preview and handling session with Ms. Rosemary Scott at the Grand Hall (New Wing) HK Convention Centre at 9.30 am.

7. **Forthcoming Events**

December 5: OCS Annual General Meeting at the Hong Kong Club at 6.30 pm, followed at 7.00 pm by a lecture by Mr. Richard Engelhardt on "New Research at World Heritage Sites in Asia" and Dinner at 8.15 pm.

December 13: "Show and Tell – Blue and White" with Henry Howard-Sneyd and Professor Peter Y K Lam at the Hong Kong Club. Drinks 6.30 pm, Presentation 7.00 pm, Dinner 8.15 pm.

8. **Highlights**

27 June 06: The Dr. Veronica Lam Memorial Lecture: "Pre-Angkorian Art in Cambodia". This lecture was given by Smitthi Siribhadra in memory of Dr. Veronica Lam.

To a packed audience at the Hong Kong Club comprising OCS members and Peter and Cyril Lam and friends, Smitthi Siribhadra gave an enthralling, kaleidoscopic glimpse of architecture and sculpture of Pre-Angkorian sites in Cambodia, including Champasak, Angkorborei and Samborpreikuk. He also highlighted developments over this period, with a comparison of the styles of metropolitan Cambodia and the provinces.

Smitthi Siribhadra is a world-acknowledged expert in Khmer art and archaeology. He has a BA from Silapakorn University, an MA in Art and Archaeology from the Sorbonne and has been a lecturer at Silapakorn University in South East Asian and Indian Art since 1977. Since 1987 he has participated in a Thai-French research project on Thai archaeological sites and artefacts and is currently conducting further excavations at the ancient site of Nakorn Champasri in Thailand. He has also taught as a guest lecturer at the Sorbonne in Paris. As well as writing numerous articles, his previously published books include 'Lintels (a comparison between Khmer lintels in Cambodia and Thailand)'.

4 September 06: "Recovery and Preservation of Ancient Chinese Ceramics in Malaysian Waters". A lecture by Mr. Sten Sjostrand at the Hong Kong Club.

The Society is pleased to welcome Sten Sjostrand, who will give a lecture and video presentation on the fascinating subject of historical shipwrecks in Malaysian waters. This event is co-presented with the Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Mr. Sjostrand, a naval architect by profession and former long-term resident of Singapore, has been working off the waters of Malaysia searching for wrecks. His efforts to date have yielded ten wrecks, the recovery of important and datable finds of Chinese and other Asian ceramics, and new information on the maritime trade passing along the east coast of Malaysia, and the ships that carried that trade.

Many of the wrecks are in danger, if not from looting, then from destruction by drag fishing nets. It can take two years of searching the sea bed using side scan sonar to discover a historical wreck, and possibly the ceramic cargo will no longer be intact. Most wrecks are in deep water, and divers must work in complete darkness.

Shipwrecks, unlike land sites, are time capsules and the objects discovered sometimes result in the re-assessment of dating ceramics. Each wreck has its own special story.

14 Oct – 17 Dec 06: OCS Exhibition "Art and Imitation in China".

The OCS is staging a major exhibition at the Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery, 94 Bonham Road, Hong Kong from October 14 to December 17, 2006.

Entitled "Art and Imitation in China", the exhibition explores one of the most enduring and fascinating themes in Chinese art over the past 3,000 years - imitation in its broadest sense, from sincere emulation to venal deception.

The theme includes imitation as a tribute to the utopian past through recreating ancient Chinese objects and styles (*archaism*); imitation of foreign idioms and designs for purposes of religion, novelty, trade or social commentary (*transcultural influence*); and, to showcase the technical virtuosity of craftsmen, imitation of works of art in a different medium from that in which they were originally crafted (*inter-media exchange*).

On view will be a spectacular display of over 200 exhibits selected from the private collections of OCS members and institutional contributors, traversing a broad sweep of Chinese history from the Shang Dynasty (c.1600-1100 BC) to the present day. These include bronzes, jade, lacquer, ceramics, glass, textiles, brush and oil paintings and works of art in wood, bamboo, cloisonné and enamels.

The exhibition is sponsored by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.

The curator is Anthony Hua-Tien Lin. Catalogue essays are contributed by George Fan, Kao Mayching, Rosemary Scott, Paul Serfaty, Richard Stanley-Baker and Julian Thompson.

All members are cordially invited to attend the private opening at 6 to 8 pm on Friday October 13.

On Saturday afternoon October 14, the OCS will present a Symposium at the HKU Museum and Art Gallery, 94 Bonham Road. This will include lectures by the catalogue contributors on topics relating to the exhibition and be moderated by our curator Anthony Lin. Like the exhibition, it is open to the public free of charge.

5-16 November 06: Egypt Tour: “Ancient Egypt & Treasures of the Nile”.

Discovery Channel has rated Cairo and the Giza Plateau the number one destination in the world to visit for antiquities....and the next overseas OCS tour will take us there from November 5 to 16.

This is an odyssey to the land of the Pharaohs.

We will visit the Giza Plateau, its great pyramids, and the Sphynx at dawn, without the presence of other tourists, and with only the chant of the Muezzins calling to prayer in the distance, a magical moment. Then, with special permission from the Egyptian Government, we will explore with the famous archeologist Mark Lehner the newly discovered excavations of “The Village of the Workers”.

We are planning an idyllic cruise down the Nile in the newly refurbished cruise ship “Sonesta Sun Goddess”, whence we visit the various temples and tombs of the ancient Pharaohs, whilst enjoying the peaceful Egyptian country side and the magnificent sunsets. There will be excursions to Hatshepsut’s majestic funerary temple, Luxor at sunset, and Philae at dawn.

Dr. Zahi Hawass, Chairman of the Antiquities Department, will lecture us on the recent discoveries in Egypt, and famous author, astronomer and Egyptologist Robert Bauval will give us his controversial views on the “raison d’être” of the pyramids and the ancient Egyptian beliefs, while guiding us into the step pyramid at Saqqara, where we will be amongst the very few who will have ever viewed the most ancient ceramic tiles, dating back about 5000 years.

The tour is full. Any enquiries for the waiting list to our Tour Director, Jacqui Muller on 2813 9815 or by e-mail at infinite1@netvigator.com

9. News from Other Societies

The University of Hong Kong Museum Society

1. Shenzhen Trip: September 21, 9:00am-6:00pm; guided tour of Huang Binhung Exhibition at Guan Shanyue Art Museum, including nouvelle Shanghainese lunch and visit to Dafen Artist Village; enquiries to ufomail@netvigator.com.

2. Seminar: October 21; Connection of tradition and creation & Chinese ceramic art in the Yuan Dynasty presented by C.T. Yeung; Fung Ping Shan Gallery; enquiries to ufomail@netvigator.com.
3. Pre-Trip Lecture: Oct 15; Quanzhou, City of Light presented by Dr. Joseph Ting; T.T.Tsui Gallery; enquiries to ufomail@netvigator.com.
4. Quanzhou Trip with Dr. Joseph Ting; Oct 28-31;enquiries to Sef Lam at seflam@gmail.com
5. Spirit of South India Trip: Dec 1-12; tour starts in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and ends in Kochi, Kerala. Enquiries to Linda Chan at linchan2@netvigator.com

The Friends of the Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Series of 10 Lectures on Chinese Art and Culture

Speakers: 10 distinguished speakers

Date: the second Wednesday in each month starting from 13 September 2006 (see first lecture below)

Venue: Helena May, Garden Road, Central

Time: 6:30 pm drinks, 6:45 to 8:00 pm lecture

Cost of series: 10 x \$100 members, 10 x \$120 non-members (inclusive of one drink per lecture)

Payment in advance for whole series required. Refund for any lecture provided 7 days prior notice given.

Certificate of Merit awarded for attending 8 lectures or more.

See monthly Friends newsletter for details of each lecture.

This programme replaces the lecture event held each month in past years.

OCS Members are welcome.

Enquiries and Booking: Lecture Co-ordinator, Ellen Chan Tel: 2890-1432, Email: ellen1238@gmail.com

My Ancestor Xu Yingkui, the Cantonese Mandarin who was responsible for the 1997 hand-over

Speaker: Humphrey Hui

Date: Wednesday, 13 September 2006

Venue: Helena May, Garden Road, Central

Time: 6:30 pm drinks, 6:45 to 8:00 pm lecture

10. **News from Overseas**

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| 22 Aug-10 Dec: | Chinese Ceramics & The Maritime Trade Pre-1700, Museum of East Asian Art, Bath, England |
| 15-24 September: | XXIII Biennale Des Antiquaries, Grand Palais, Paris |
| 19 September: | Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art, Christie's New York |
| 25 September : | Asian Decorative Art, Bonhams & Butterfields, San Francisco |
| 29 Sept-Oct 1: | Asian & Tribal Arts Show, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium Main Street, Los Angeles |
| 29 Sept-Oct 1: | Conference on "Collecting 'China' – Objects, Materiality and Multicultural Collectors"
at the University of Delaware and Winterthur Museum |
| 5 Oct-31 Dec: | Gilded Splendour: Treasures of China's Liao Empire, Asia Society, New York |

- 20-25 October: International Art Show, The Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street
- 2-10 November: Asian Art in London: incorporating a series of exhibitions, sales, auctions and lectures
- Until 28 January: Pleasure Gardens and Garden Tombs: Courtly Art in the Mughal Empire, The Museum of Indian Art, Berlin.

11. **Library**

The ***OCS Library***, comprising the Society's collection of over 400 books, catalogues, journals and papers on oriental art and culture is now available to members at the Art Section on the tenth floor of the Central Library in Causeway Bay.

The ***OCS Library*** is a growing collection and we will be very happy to accept additions. If you have any books on any branch of oriental art and culture that you would like to donate, please send us a note of the titles by e-mail to ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk . We will check whether they are already included in our collection or the Central Library's own collection, and advise you accordingly.

Material from the ***OCS Library*** is available for lending to OCS Members on presentation of their OCS Membership card and library card and to other Central Library members for browsing only.

12. **Website**

The ***OCS Website*** has been totally re-vamped and the ***new version is now up and running***. Do have a browse on www.orientalceramics.org.hk and give us your feedback.

13. **Enquiries**

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited, GPO Box 6202, Hong Kong; please contact Tonia Ng on telephone 25270696 and e-mail ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk