



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

22 March 2007

Dear Members,

OCS Newsletter – Spring 2007

This is the ninth 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.

The members of the Executive Committee extend their best wishes to all members for a healthy and happy Year of the Pig.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Maudsley
OCS Newsletter Editor

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OCS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2007

1. Executive Committee

		Phone	Fax	Email
President	Dr. Michael R. Martin	2859 2796	2559 8432	martinmr@hkucc.hku.hk
Hon Secretary	Alisa Halkyard	2855 8825		alisahk@netvigator.com
Hon Treasurer	Chris Hall	2822 0182	2213 2182	chris.hall@asia.equitytrust.com
Ex Officio	Malcolm Barnett	2520 6948	2520 6050	mbarnett@netvigator.com
Membership	Barbara Park	2849 8490	2849 2808	bpark@plant-a-park.com
Publications & Bulletins	Chris Frape	2857 6553	2546 7676	chrisf@pacific.net.hk
Library	Dorcas Hu	2571 4871	2524 1515	Dorcas.hu@gmail.com
Newsletter	Catherine Maudsley	2522 8028	2854 2218	maudsley@netvigator.com
Exhibitions & Academic Liaison	Tina Yee-wan Pang	2241 5503	2546 9659	tywpang@hkucc.hku.hk
Special Projects, Website, IT & PR	Joseph Silva	2527 0696		
External Relationships	May Lau	2865 1005	2730 7711	maysplau@yahoo.com.hk
Committee Member	Dr. Kossen Ho	2845 6223	2877 5085	kmtho@hkurology.com
Administrator	Tonia Ng	2527 0696		ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

2. Membership

We rely on membership subscriptions and healthy attendance at OCS events. If you have not already renewed for 2007, please send a cheque, payable to “The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited”, to the OCS, GPO Box 6202, Central, Hong Kong.

If you have any friends who share our interests and are not already members, 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-mail address*, if you have not already done so.

3. Recent Events

January 10

Henry Howard-Sneyd and Peter Y. K. Lam lent their expertise for an evening of *Show and Tell – Blue & White*. This hands-on event was popular as always and attracted well over 20 members, many of whom brought along blue and white examples for handling and discussion.

January 29

Dr. Stephen Little spoke on *The Dragon's Gift: Buddhist Art from Bhutan*, describing the origins and development of this ground-breaking exhibition. The lecture was well attended, with the room filled to capacity. The exhibition will be hosted for three months by the Honolulu Academy of Art, beginning in February 2008, before traveling to eight other venues. The well-illustrated talk showed the curatorial team at work in Bhutan. The exhibition, which is organized by the Honolulu Academy of Arts and the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan, will feature some 150 objects, primarily religious and 90% of which have never been shown outside of Bhutan.

February 3

Dr. Stacey Pierson, Curator of the Percival David Foundation, London, led a one-day symposium focusing on Song and Ming ceramics. Held at the University of Hong Kong, the event attracted more than 30 participants who were led through the development of Song ceramics in the morning session, followed by lunch and then an afternoon session which concentrated on Ming ceramics. The day concluded with a handling session of Sung and Ming pieces. With a wide range of teaching experience and published papers, articles, and edited volumes, Dr. Pierson, who was in Asia to present a paper to the National Palace Museum's symposium *Founding Paradigms – The Art and Culture of the Northern Song Dynasty*, demonstrated an engaging way of communicating her expertise and participants found the symposium very fulfilling.

March 20

Dr. Matthew P. McKelway presented a well illustrated lecture on fans, entitled "*Waves of Images: Currents in the Social Lives of Japanese Fan Paintings*," which traced among other things the influence of Japanese fan painting on Chinese art and vice versa. Dr. McKelway lives in Tokyo and is currently a visiting scholar at Gakushuin University. Dr. McKelway has published articles on Japanese screen painting in English and Japanese for *Artibus Asiae*, *Oriental Art*, *Oriental Art*, *Bijutsu Forum 21* and *Nihon Kenkyu*. Most recently he authored *Traditions Unbound: Groundbreaking Painters of Eighteenth Century Kyoto* and *Capitalscapes: Folding Screens and Political Imagination in Late Medieval Kyoto*.

4. Diary for April 2007

Nicolas Chow of Sotheby's will give a guided tour of *By Heavenly Mandate: Important Historical Works of the Qianlong Reign* as well as highlights from the *Parisian Connoisseur* collection, which was assembled in France between 1970 and 1996. Qing

Imperial wares form the greater part of the porcelain in this collection, which includes a large *meiping* decorated with eight different fruiting branches, and two altar vases, in the shape of the bronze slender beaker form known as a *gu*. There is also an Imperial clock of the elaborate type which appealed so much to the Qianlong emperor. The *Heavenly Mandate* group includes a group of seven jade archer's rings, and a carved and reticulated Eastern Han (25-220 CE) jade *bi* disc, mounted in a fine hardwood stand.

Friday, April 6, 9:00 -10:00 am

Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre, New Wing Hall 2B

Limited to 20 participants (please book in advance)

Valerie C. Doran will present *Meeting at the Border between Culture and Nature: Scholar's Rocks and Scholar's Objects in the Rosenblum Collection*. Valerie C. Doran is a critic, curator, and translator specialising in the field of Chinese art, with a concentration on comparative art theory. From 1999 - 2000 Ms. Doran worked closely with the American artist and collector Richard Rosenblum, editing his book *Art of the Natural World: Resonances of Wild Nature in Chinese Sculptural Art*. Ms. Doran is a contributing editor to *Orientalism* and publishes frequently on Asian art topics. She is a founding member of the Hong Kong Independent Curators Association.

Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 pm

Hong Kong Museum of Art Lecture Hall

5. Diary for May 2007

Guided tour by Tina Pang of The Silk Road in Inner Mongolia Exhibition at the University Museum & Art Gallery.

With the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Museum, the University Museum and Art Gallery of The University of Hong Kong has organised this exhibition of eighty artefacts dating from the Tang (618-907) to the Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties, including porcelain, glass, gold and silver wares, harnesses and Nestorian Christian items. The steppe's nomads traded with people to the west and those who lived on China's central plains, establishing the "Steppe Silk Road", which led the way for extensive cultural exchanges between East and West.

Sunday, May 6, 3 pm

Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery, Fung Ping Shan Building, 1/F

Guided tour of Christie's highlights by Rosemary Scott and Pola Antebi

Saturday, May 26, 9:30 a.m.

Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre, Old Wing,

Limited to 20 participants (please book in advance)

Trip to the Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, Bangkok, Dr. Roxanna Brown, curator.

The OCS is fortunate to have Roxanna Brown spend the weekend with members in this trip to Bangkok. There will be an all-day programme of lectures and handling sessions at the Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum, which houses a collection of 2,050 pieces, mostly from Thailand, donated by Surat Osathanugrah. The museum houses pottery from as early as about 3,000 BCE and as late as the 19th century, with items produced in Thailand as well as ancient ceramic imports from neighbouring countries. The museum

collections include kiln site waste and fragments that are essential for teaching ceramics dating and identification. In addition to visiting the Museum's collection, participants will go to Chatuchak market.

Provisional date: May 19-20

6. News from Other Organisations and Societies in Hong Kong

A Compassionate Eye – an Exhibition of photographs by the Venerable Matthieu Ricard. March 19-24, 2007, The Rotunda, Exchange Square. Matthieu Ricard, the renowned scholar, scientist, photographer and Buddhist monk will be presenting his photographs documenting the people and culture of the Himalayas and include images of architecture, arts and crafts, costume and religious activities of the region. For further information about the exhibition, please contact The Robert HN Ho Family Foundation's Vivian Wong at tel 3583 3104 or Adrienne Wong at tel 3583 3101.

The University of Hong Kong Museum Society, AGM and talk and Bronze Vessels exhibition

The 19th Annual General Meeting of The University of Hong Kong Museum Society will be held on Thursday, 22 March 2007, at the Hong Kong Club, Harcourt Room. Registration is at 5:45 pm, followed by the AGM at 6:00 pm and the Drinks & Dinner at 7:30 pm. For the 2007 AGM, The Hong Kong University Museum Society is very pleased to present Gavin Menzies, author of *1421 – The Year China Discovered the World*, as the keynote speaker. His topic is *The First World Map – Zheng He: 1418*. Formerly a Royal Navy commander, cartographer and astronomer; he is now a controversial, best-selling author.

Lecture and Museum Tour: Bronze Vessels of Ancient China Treasures of the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties from Henan Province with Professor von Falkenhausen

Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen is Professor of Chinese archaeology and art history at UCLA. Participants will meet on Saturday, March 24 at the Regal Kowloon Hotel in TST East for a continental breakfast and lecture, followed by a tour of the exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History.

Please contact Yvonne Choi at tel 9132 1669 or at yvonne09@netvigator.com for more information.

The Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, AGM and talk

Angus Forsyth, a long-time member of the Oriental Ceramic Society who has published articles on Neolithic and archaic jades, will speak on *The Evolving Representation of the Human Face in Chinese Jade over 5,000 years, from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty* on 28 March 2006 at 6:15 pm. For further details, please contact the Executive Secretary of the Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Ms Priscilla Lau, at 2734 2196.

The University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery

In conjunction with the exhibition *The Silk Road in Inner Mongolia*, Dr. Roslyn Hammer is presenting a slide lecture “The Legacy of the Mongols in Material Culture and Myth”, Saturday, April, 21, 3 pm, The University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery, Fung Ping Shan Building, 1/F

Exhibitions at The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Double Beauty II: Qing Dynasty Couplets from the Lechangzai Xuan Collection

This is the second exhibition of Qing calligraphy couplets from the renowned Lechangzai Xuan Collection. In 2003 a selection from the prestigious collection was exhibited at the Art Museum, which subsequently traveled to museums in Honolulu, Hawaii and Santa Barbara, California. The present exhibition displays a selection of a further 150 couplets and runs until May 13, 2007 at The Art Museum and Institute of Chinese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

7. News from Overseas – Exhibitions on view March, April and May

Grand View: Ju Ware from the Northern Sung, Grand View: Painting and Calligraphy of the Northern Song, and Sung Dynasty Rare Books

National Palace Museum

Taipei, Taiwan

Until March 25, 2007

To celebrate its 80th anniversary, the National Palace Museum in Taipei has organised the *Grand View* exhibitions and has opened its new east wing galleries.

Grand View: Ju Ware from the Northern Sung displays Ju ceramic wares, which are renowned for the classical beauty of their warm and glossy sky-blue glaze. Surviving pieces of Ju ware are extremely rare, with less than 70 found in collections around the world. The National Palace Museum has 21, the most of any collection. To broaden the contents of the exhibit, examples of Sung dynasty Ju ware, Koryo celadons, and such archaeologically recovered objects as saggers and kiln utensils have been borrowed and brought together from the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art in England, Museum of Oriental Ceramics in Osaka, Japan, and Henan Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage in China, respectively.

Grand View: Painting and Calligraphy of the Northern Song comprises 42 paintings and 29 calligraphic works, some paintings on loan from the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Nelson – Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. Due to the fragile nature of these works, they have been divided into two groups, to be shown in rotation. Group B is on view from February 8 until March 25.

Grand View: Sung Dynasty Rare Books. With the Sung dynasty’s improved methods of manufacturing paper and ink, as well as advances in printing technology, the publishing of books flourished, but examples from the Sung dynasty have become increasingly scattered and rare.

The Emperor Looks West

Peabody Essex Museum

Salem, Massachusetts

Until 1 April 2007

This exhibition shows a wide range of objects and reveals how international influences impacted imperial art of the Qianlong era and includes an 18th century court painting – on view for the first time in the US – depicting a banquet in the Forbidden City celebrating Emperor Qianlong's military victory in a region of western China - *Victory Banquet at the West Garden*

The Silk Road and Beyond: Travel, Trade, and Transformation

The Art Institute of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Until 1 April 2007

The Art Institute will host renowned scholars, artists, and musicians, culminating in the weeklong residency of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble from April 9-15, 2007.

Mysterious Spirits, Strange Beasts, Earthly Delights: Early Chinese Art from the Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Collection

The Portland Art Museum

Portland, Oregon

Until 15 April 2007

A private collection of diverse objects, but many showing, the fundamental concern with longevity in the present life and a sustained, pleasurable life after death

Heaven or Hell: Images of Chinese Buddhist and Daoist Deities and Immortals

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

Until May 2007

An exploration of Buddhist and Daoist deities, Heaven or Hell presents paintings and prints from the ROM's collection, including never-before-seen works. Dating from the 10th to 20th century, these works express the prevailing Chinese religious and philosophical thinking of the time.

A Passion for Asia: The Rockefeller Family Collects

Asia Society and Museum

New York, New York

Part 2: Until 14 May 2007

To celebrate the 50th, anniversary of the founding of the Asia Society and Museum by John D. Rockefeller III, this exhibition and a series of related events focus on the important contributions of the Rockefeller family as collectors of Asian art. 150 works from public and private collections along with archival photographs and documents

illuminate their commitment to preserving the rich culture and artistic heritages of the diverse peoples of Asia.

8. Library

The **OCS Library**, comprising the Society's collection of over 400 books, catalogues, journals and papers on oriental art and culture is 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.

The **OCS Library** gratefully acknowledges the donation of the following publications: *China Rises: Chinese Contemporary Sculpture in Glass* from Gallery Vee, Hong Kong; *Bulletin No. 76* from the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm; the *Idemitsu Museum of Arts Bulletins No.136 and No.137*; *The World in Colours* exhibition catalogue from the OCS London; and *The Glorious Traditions of Chinese Bronze from the Anthony and Susan Hardy Collections and the Sze Yuan Tang*, donated and inscribed to the OCS by our former President, Anthony Hardy.

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.

9. Website

We are in the process of updating and enhancing our website. Please have a browse on www.orientalceramics.org.hk and send your feedback to us at: ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

10. Enquiries

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited, GPO Box 6202, Hong Kong.
Telephone 2527 0696; e-mail ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk
Ms. Tonia Ng, Administrator