

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited

President's Report 2007

The year 2007 has been a challenging and active one, with particular emphasis on scholarship as presented in our lecture series and symposia.

Thirteen lectures were held (including four listed below under "symposia"): "The Dragon's Gift: Buddhist Art from Bhutan", by Dr. Stephen Little, Director of the Honolulu Academy of Arts; "Waves of Images: Currents in the Social Lives of Japanese Fan Paintings" by Professor Matthew P. McKelway of the Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University, New York; "Meeting at the Border between Culture and Nature: Scholars' Rocks and Scholars' Objects in the Rosenblum Collection" by Valerie C. Doren, co-convenor of the Hong Kong Independent Curators Association; "Antiquarianism, Imitation, and Reference in China's Pictorial Tradition" by Professor Martin J. Powers, the Sally Michelson Davidson Professor Chinese Art and Cultures, University of Michigan; "A Further Discussion on the Dating of Juntai Ware and Northern Song Imperial Jun Ware" by Professor Chen Kelun, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Museum; "Chinese Trade Ceramics Found in the Philippines" by Cynthia Valdes, former President of the Oriental Ceramics Society of the Philippines; "The First Emperor and his Terracotta Army" by Carol Michaelson, Department of Conservation, Documentation and Science, The British Museum; "J. Pierpont Morgan (1836-1913): America's First Collector of Chinese Porcelain" by James Lally; and "Ideology and Style in Twentieth Century Chinese Painting: A Case Study" by Christina Chu, former curator of the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Two all day symposia were held as intensified learning sessions each featuring two lectures, a buffet luncheon and a handling session. The first was led by Dr. Stacey Pierson, Curator of the Percival David Foundation, who spoke on "Collecting and Connoisseurship: Chinese Ceramics in the Song and Ming Dynasties". The second was led by Rosemary Scott, International Academic Director of the Asian Art Departments at Christie's, who spoke on "Tibet, the Mongols and Chinese Art in the Yuan and Early Ming Dynasties" in the morning session and "For Japanese Patrons: Why Jingdezhen kilns made porcelain in Japanese taste in the first half of the 17th century" in the afternoon session, with Pola Antebi, Senior Vice President and Head of the Department of Ceramics and Works of Art, Christie's, leading the handling sessions which followed.

Two Appreciation Evenings were held: one on "Blue and White" led by Professor Peter Y.K. Lam, Director, the Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Henry Howard-Sneyd, Deputy Chairman, Europe and Asia, Sotheby's; and one on "Textiles and Adornment" led by noted Hong Kong collectors, Kenneth Chu, Chris Hall and Betty Lo.

Three museum exhibitions tours were held: "A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian" led by Raymond M. L. Tang, Assistant Curator (Chinese Fine

Art), the Hong Kong Museum of Art; “The Pride of China Exhibition Part II” led by Dr. Roslyn Hammers, Department of Fine Art, The University of Hong Kong; and “Ethereal Elegance: Porcelain Vases of the Imperial Qing, The Huaihaitang Collection” led by Anthony K. W. Cheung and “Feast by a Wine Table Reclining on a Couch: The Dr. S.Y. Yip Collection of Classic Chinese Furniture III” led by Dr. S.Y. Yip, both at the Art Museum, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Four auction previews were held, two at Christie’s and two at Sotheby’s.

Stemming from the generosity of ten participating members the OCS was recognized as a Bronze Sponsor at the Institute of Chinese Studies 40th Anniversary and Grand Opening of the Centre for Chinese Archaeology and Art and Archaeology Museum at the Institute of Chinese Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The event featured a Gala Dinner and tour of the exhibitions of Ming furniture, Imperial Qing ceramics and archaeological material on view in the Art and Archaeological Museum and its new wing.

I am very grateful to all who helped make these various events so successful, particularly our speakers and the leaders of our appreciation evenings, handling sessions, auction previews and museum exhibition tours, but also the OCS members themselves who had the interest and made the time to attend these events amidst all the other calls upon us during what is always a busy time in Hong Kong. I would also like to thank our Administrator Tonia Ng and the members our Executive Committee for their help and support: Chris Frape, Chris Hall, Dr. Kossen Ho, Dorcas Hu, May Lau, Catherine Maudsley, Tina Pang, Barbara Park and Joseph Silva. As Malcolm Barnett steps down from the Committee this year after completing his “ex-officio” year as past president (2005 and 2006), a special word of thanks goes to Malcolm for all his contributions to the Society, including especially his leadership in the huge exhibition *Art & Imitation in China* which the Society mounted in December 2006.

We now approach the end of the year 2007, but planning has not stopped and the year ahead looks bright. Speakers already lined up for 2008 include Professor Jenny So of the Chinese University, Ms. Lina Lin of the Palace Museum in Taipei, Professor Peter Lam of the Chinese University, Professor Liu Xinyuan of Jingdezhen (who will deliver the K.S. Lo Memorial Lecture), Mr. Simon Kwan (who will deliver the Ip Yee Lecture) and Dr. Jay Xu, of the Art Institute of Chicago. These and other distinguished speakers will enrich our lives in the months ahead. The Society also hopes to offer at least one study trip next year, in addition to appreciation evenings, symposia, auction previews and other offerings. Our OCS *Bulletin* Number 14 will be published in the next few months as well, providing a stylish, publicly accessible record of our Society’s contributions to cultural enrichment and art appreciation.

Dr. Michael R. Martin
President

19 December 2007