



Figure 1 - *Fritware Dish* in Ming Style, Iznik, Turkey, late 16th century. Blue- and White underglaze-painted, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

“Between East and West: Ceramics of the Islamic World Between China & Europe”

By Walter B. Denny, Distinguished Professor of Art History,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

As the name “China” used in English as a synonym for fine ceramic ware indicates, western ceramics have a long, complex, and fascinating relationship with the ceramics of the Far East. What we may at times overlook, however, is the way our admiration for Chinese ceramics developed, and the complex ways in which, over the centuries, the ceramic traditions of the Islamic world in the Middle East, South Asia, and the Mediterranean served as transmitters of artistic ideas. Even more interesting is the fact that this was, in terms of artistic interchange, not a one-way street from east to west, but a highway of artistic ideas with traffic in both directions.

In his talk on Monday, March 13, Professor Denny will explore the first interchanges of ceramic art and artistic ideas between the Far East and the Middle East over the so-called “Silk Road,” as well as the artistic cross-fertilization of three broad traditions: European, Middle Eastern and Far Eastern, from the tenth century of the Common Era onward. Among the phenomena to be discussed are early imitations of Chinese ceramics in Iraq, the international phenomenon of blue and white ceramics, the rise of Iznik ceramics of the Ottoman Empire as a new standard for luxury wares, and the phenomenon of Orientalism in European ceramics in the 19th century, beginning with the first great artist-potter of modern times, Joseph-Théodore Deck (1823-1891).

Walter B. Denny is Distinguished Professor of Art History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, specializing in the art of the Islamic world. Since 2007, he has served as Senior Consultant in the Department of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His College (Istanbul), Grinnell College and Oberlin College; graduate studies at Harvard and at Istanbul Technical University led to being granted a Ph.D. by Harvard. His publications cover a wide range within Islamic art, while concentrating in the Ottoman Turkish sphere, including architecture, design and painting, carpets, silk textiles and ceramics. For over 40 years he has taught, pursued research, and published on the thousand-year history of



Figure 2 - *Fritware Dish* in Iznik Style, Theodore Deck, France, late 19th century. Polychrome Underglaze-painted, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

**Sign up for
the
CCSC 2017
Seminar
see page 5!**

east-west interchange in European artistic culture. He has served as a consultant for dozens of museums around the world, and his seminar in Museum Studies has prepared many University of Massachusetts graduate students for art museum careers. He frequently gives lectures on a variety of topics in the U. S. and abroad.

CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, with tea to follow. Non-member admission is \$25. Information at 203.912.7226 or at www.ctcsc.org.

Treasure Sale Following Lecture Support the CCSC Grant and promote scholarship in ceramics!

Additions to the CCSC Directory

Please add these new members to your CCSC Directory:

Joan Anello 2 London Road, Pound Ridge, NY 10576
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203.681.2645 priscillayoung@optimum.net

Transferware Printing at Historic Deerfield

Those interested in transferware might find the following lecture on March 30 by our previous lecturer, Amanda Lange, of interest! As part of a series of lectures, "Pressing Matters: The Art of Printing at Historic Deerfield, Curatorial Department Director and Curator of Historic Interiors Amanda Lange will discuss the development and process of transfer printing on English ceramics in the mid-18th century. By the early decades of the 19th century, great quantities of transferware were produced to meet the demand for decorated table, tea, and toilet wares. Blue was initially the most popular color, but changing fashions and improvements in technology resulted in a variety of hues.

March 30, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, 37D Old Main Street, Deerfield. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. historic-deerfield.org for registration and more information.

Majolica International Society Lecture at the Bard Graduate Center

When visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, have you wondered about the origin of its decorative flourishes? On May 3, the Bard Graduate Center provides the opportunity to learn more at their lecture, "From Maiolica to Majolica: The Decoration of the Victoria and Albert Museum," by Julius Bryant, Keeper of the Word and Image Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The lecture is from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Bard Graduate Center, 38 W. 86th Street, New York. Registration is required at www.bgc.bard.edu.

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

To March 26: "Rewind: 60 Years at CAC." Exhibit: National Invitational of artists who have had studios at the Clay Art Center through the decades. Curated by CCSC member and CAC Director Emeritus, Reena Kashyap. Clay Art Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York 10573. Information: clayartcenter.org.

March 6: "Made in Americas: The New World Discovers Asia." Lecture: Dennis Carr, Carolyn and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture of the Americas, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society at 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information and reservations: email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

March 7 - June 4: "Secrets of the Sea: A Tang Shipwreck and Early Trade in Asia." Exhibit: The Asia Society presents an exhibit of 76 artifacts from the circa 1000 AD wreckage of a merchant ship discovered in 1998 in Southeast Asian waters. On view for the first time in the U. S., the ceramics, gold and silver vessels, and other luxury items that were part of the ship's cargo shed new light on the robust exchange of goods and ideas among China, Southeast Asia, and West Asia more than a millennium ago. Information: atasia.society.org.

March 13: "Between East and West: Ceramics of the Islamic World Between China & Europe." Lecture: Walter B. Denny, Distinguished Professor, Department of History of Art and Architecture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle at 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Information: 203.912.7226 or email ctcsc.org.

March 23: "Continental Influences on Japanese Ceramics, 1200-1700." Lecture: Dr. Andrew Maske, Associate Professor of Art History, University of Kentucky. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence, 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 20 North Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Information: potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com

March 23: “British Ceramics at The Mint Museum.” Lecture: Brian D. Gallagher, Curator of Decorative Arts, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina. Ceramics Study Club, 1:00 p.m. at King’s Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information: ceramicsstudyclub.org.

Now to May 24: “Carl Walters and Woodstock Ceramic Arts.” Exhibit: Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, SUNY at New Paltz, 1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz, NY. Information: www.newpaltz.edu/museum or 845.257.3844.

April 3: “Isamu Noguchi: A Modern Moment.” Lecture: Jenny Dixon, Director, The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, Long Island City, Queens, New York. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information and reservations: email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

April 10: CCSC 2017 Seminar, The Magic of Fire: The Chinese Potters Palette, by Robert D. Mowry, Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. From 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lunch included, at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information: ctcsc.org. Register with Seminar Sign-up Sheet attached.

April 20: “Importation and Imitation: Salt-glazed Stoneware in Early America.” Lecture: Suzanne Findlen Hood, Curator of Ceramics and Glass, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence, 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 20 North Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Information: potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com

April 20-21: “Winterthur Presents ‘Up Close’: Hands-on Study Days.” Winterthur, Delaware. Information and registration: winterthur.org/ceramicsupclose.

April 27: “Innovation and Tradition in Native American Southwestern Pottery.” Lecture: Merry Glosband, Consultant to Museums and Nonprofits. Ceramics Study Club, 1:00 p.m. at King’s Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information: atceramicsstudyclub.org.



One of the objects for discussion by Robert Mowry at the April 10th CCSC Seminar.
Cylindrical Zun-Form Censer, Ru ware, Palace Museum, Beijing.



CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE 2017 Seminar

The Magic of Fire: The Chinese Potter's Palette

by Robert D. Mowry

Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus,
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Monday, April 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut

LECTURES:

“From Black and Brown to Celadon: Iron Oxide and its Magic” The aesthetic foundation of blue-and-white Chinese porcelain decoration was green. The Chinese discovered iron as a ceramic coloring agent and first used it to create pale bluish-green celadon glazes. Over time, experimentation led to fine-line iron laden slip decoration, which prepared the way for blue-and-white underglaze wares.

“From Royal to Navy: Cobalt in Its Glory” Cobalt, discovered in the Tang dynasty (618-907), was first used widely to embellish porcelain in the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368) at Jingdezhen. Known as blue-and-white, cobalt decoration is a classic of the ceramic arts.

“Seeing Red: Copper Glazes from Peach Bloom to Sang de Boeuf” Copper was first used as a ceramic coloring agent in the Han dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). It reentered the potter's color vocabulary during a period of fine-line underglaze painting revival in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911).

CCSC Members \$95. Non-CCSC members \$135.

Other Ceramics Organizations' Members and Students \$110.

A Box Lunch is provided.

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Marilyn Chou, 20 Church Street, A65, Greenwich, CT 06830



Meiping Bottle and Cover, from the kilns at Jingdezhen, Jianxi province, China.

Qing dynasty, Kangxi period (1662-1722), red-and-white ware, porcelain with decoration painted in underglaze copper red.

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut.