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# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

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*Chinese Foliate Bowl with Lotus-and-Fish-Pond Décor*, Ming dynasty, Xuande period (1426 – 1435). Blue-and-white ware: porcelain with decoration painted in underglaze cobalt blue; with underglaze cobalt blue mark reading *Da Ming Xuandenian zhi*. Private Collection.

## "The Arts of the Song Dynasty (960-1279): Culminations, New Beginnings, and Newfound Antiquarianism"

By Robert D. Mowry, Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus,  
Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts

On Monday, October 14 at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Robert D. Mowry will share what the the Song dynasty (960–1279) witnessed: the culmination of the celadon tradition in all its permutations; in addition, it saw the maturation of brown- and black-glazed wares, just as it also welcomed into the canon the recently developed white porcelains. Evolving over a period of nearly a thousand years and maturing in the Song, the celadons — those ceramics with subtly hued, pale bluish-green glazes — were favored by the imperial court and stand as an enduring symbol of that cultured age, as do the naturalistic landscape paintings, which also claimed their finest hour during that era of supreme artistic refinement. As experiments with literati painting during the Song heralded the new, abstract style of painting that would come to the fore during the succeeding Yuan dynasty (1279–1368), so did the expanding Song taste for white wares foreshadow the development of blue-and-white porcelain in the Yuan. Seemingly, if coincidentally, developing in tandem, those new modes — literati painting and decorated porcelains — supplanted the Song aesthetic during the Yuan and would come to dominate the later dynastic period. The new antiquarianism exerted a profound influence on the arts of the Song, with potters imitating the forms and decorative motifs of ancient bronzes and

with painters seeking inspiration in the works of the more recent past, particularly of the Tang (AD 618–907) and Five Dynasties (907–960) periods. Thus, the arts of the Song represent a complex dynamic, seeing the culmination of long-evolving traditions while also witnessing developments that, once they took hold in the Yuan, would dominate the arts of the later dynastic era; indeed, they would forever change the course of the history of Chinese art.



*Chinese Small Bowl with Decoration of Two Quail in a Garden*, Qing dynasty, Yongzheng period (1723 – 1735). Enameled ware: porcelain with decoration painted in overglaze polychrome enamels; with underglaze cobalt blue mark reading *Da Qing Yongzhengnian zhi*. The Asia Society, New York, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection.

Named Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus on his retirement early in 2013, Robert Mowry worked at the Harvard Art Museums for more than thirty-seven years, most of that time as a senior curator. Mr. Mowry was the founding curator of the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at The Asia Society, New York (1980-1986), and, before that, as assistant curator of Oriental Art at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum (1977-1980). Following graduate work at the University of Kansas (1971-1975), he spent two years as a curatorial assistant and translator in the Department of Painting and Calligraphy at the National Palace Museum, Taipei (1975-1977), repository of many of the finest masterpieces of Chinese art. Appointed the National Museum of Korea's Senior International Fellow on his 2013 retirement from Harvard, he also served until 2016 as the senior editor of that museum's scholarly journal, *The Journal of Korean Art and Archaeology*. In September 2013, Christie's, New York, engaged Robert Mowry as a Senior Consultant on Chinese and Korean art, in which capacity he lectures, does research on important individual works of art, and writes scholarly notes and essays for catalogues.

The lecture will take place at 1:15 p.m. on October 14 at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Place, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830, with tea to follow. Guests are welcome. For more information, go to [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or call 203.912.7226.

### **Bakers Wanted!**

A wonderful feature of CCSC meetings is the tea that follows lectures. This year, with membership somewhat reduced, the CCSC joins other organizations in asking its members to contribute baked goods so that our teas continue to be a delicious culmination to meetings.

Don't be surprised, then, to receive a call from a Hospitality Committee member requesting that you bring some baked goods to the next meeting. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation!

## American Ceramic Circle Symposium, November 7-10, 2019

This year, the ACC's annual symposium will take place in Winston-Salem, North Carolina from November 7-10 within the historic town of Salem, an 18th-century Moravian community adjacent to downtown Winston-Salem. The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, which is part of Old Salem Museums & Gardens, will be the site of the symposium's welcome reception. Lectures on Friday and Saturday will be by a wide range of experts in the fields of redwares, Southern pottery, and many other far-ranging topics. The intriguing pre-symposium visit will be to Seagrove, the "Handmade Pottery Capital of the United States," and the post-symposium tour will be to Charlotte and its Mint museum, whose curator of decorative arts, Brian Gallagher, addressed the CCSC in May 2017. For registration information, visit <https://www.americanceramiccircle.org/symposium-registration.html>.

### Please Bring a Friend!

The CCSC board encourages you to bring a friend to a meeting, without charge. We need new members!

Please take advantage of this new policy by bringing a friend to introduce him/her to the CCSC -- there will be no cost for that first meeting. When your friend comes a second time, we hope they'll become new members. If not, the \$25 guest fee would apply. We look forward to seeing more new faces in our audience during the coming year. Thank you!

### Are You on Facebook?

The CCSC has a Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, we ask that you "Follow" our page and then "Like" and "Share" all new postings. In this way, news of our activities will spread more widely on the Internet.

### Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**September 19:** "Making History, Marking Time: Post World War II American Ceramic Artists and The Marks Project." Lecture by Martha Vida, Executive Director and founder, The Marks Project, Greenwich, Connecticut and Wyoming, Rhode Island. Opening Luncheon of the Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island, 11:00 a.m. at the Providence Art Club, 11 Thomas Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Contact Daisy Schnepel at [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net) for required reservation.

**September 21:** Field Trip to Warner House, Portsmouth, New Hampshire to see the exhibit: From the Mundane to the Sublime: Stoneware 1600-1775. Led by Robert Barth, exhibit curator and member, Ceramic Study Club of Boston. For information and to register, go to [chinastudentsclub.org](http://chinastudentsclub.org).

**September 24:** "Japan Imagined: Lacquerware and Kakiemon Porcelain from the Rijksmuseum." Lecture by Manno Fitski, Curator of East Asian Art, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Gardiner Museum, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., 111 Queen's

Park, Toronto, Canada. Information at [gardinermuseum.on.ca](http://gardinermuseum.on.ca).

**September 28:** Stoneware Pottery Trade Demonstration by Mark Shapiro. Historic Deerfield, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Deerfield, Massachusetts. Information at [Historic-Deerfield.org](http://Historic-Deerfield.org).

**October 4-6:** "Wined and Dined: Setting the New England Table." A forum exploring the decorative arts and culture of dining in England and early America through lectures and workshop presentations about all aspects of food preparation and consumption. Historic-Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. Information at [Historic-Deerfield.org/calendar](http://Historic-Deerfield.org/calendar).

**October 7:** "Classical Americana: The Life and Legacy of Richard Hampton Jenrette." Lecture by Peter M. Kenny, Co-President, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Reservations at [greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com).

**October 10:** "Affinities Among Friends." Discussion with Edmund de Waal and Adam Gopnik in conjunction with the special exhibition, Elective Affinities: Edmund de Waal at The Frick Collection. The Frick Collection, 10 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Information at [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org).

**October 14:** "The Arts of the Song Dynasty (960-1279): Culminations, New Beginnings, and Newfound Antiquarianism." Lecture by Robert D. Mowry, Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or at 203.912.7226.

**October 17:** Savour: Food Culture in the Age of Enlightenment. Exhibit curated by Meredith Chilton, C. M., Curator Emerita of the Gardiner Museum. Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park, Toronto, Canada. Information at [gardinermuseum.on.ca](http://gardinermuseum.on.ca).

**To September 22:** Last Chance: Essential Korea. Exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York. Information at [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org).

**To September 22:** Last chance: Masterpieces of French Faience: Selections from the Sidney R. Knafel Collection. Exhibit at The Frick Collection, 10 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Information at [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org).

**Ongoing:** Asian Decorative Arts and Adaptations. Exhibit, 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., at the Flynt Center, Historic-Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. Information at [Historic-Deerfield.org](http://Historic-Deerfield.org).

**Ongoing to November 17:** Elective Affinities: Edmund de Waal at The Frick Collection. Exhibit at The Frick Collection, 10 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Information at [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org).

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