



CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

Newsletter Volume XXVII NUMBER 7 APRIL 2017

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CCSC SEMINAR! FINAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 6.



Covered Ovoid Jar, Chinese, probably from kilns at Luoyang or Gongxian (present-day Gongyi), Henan province. Tang dynasty, first half 8th century. Monochrome blue ware: white earthenware with lead-fluxed, cobalt-blue glaze. Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Magic of Fire: The Chinese Potters Palette

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

The Seminar will delve into the fascinating story of the discovery by Chinese potters over the course of centuries of how to use various minerals to create the shimmering glazes that so entranced their customers in the Middle East first and then those in Europe.

The lectures are as follows:

"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).

Robert D. Mowry is the Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and, until his retirement, also a senior



Tripod Censer in the Form of an Archaic Bronze Ritual Liding Vessel. Chinese from the Longquan kilns, Zhejiang province. Southern Song period, 12th–13th century Longquan celadon ware. Light gray stoneware with celadon glaze. Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

lecturer on Chinese and Korean art in Harvard's Department of Art History and Architecture. Mowry's passion for Asian art and culture was sparked by his two-year service in the Peace Corps in Korea, teaching English at Seoul National University. He then returned to the University of Kansas, where he completed his graduate work, taking his degrees with honors. Fluent in Mandarin, he spent two years as a curatorial assistant and translator in the Department of Painting and Calligraphy at the National Palace Museum, Taipei, Taiwan. His career is distinguished by his many pioneering leadership roles and his ground-breaking scholarship. He was founding curator of the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection at The Asia Society, New York, and, prior to that, assistant curator of Oriental Art at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum.

Mowry is a popular speaker, consultant, organizer of exhibitions and author in his many areas of expertise.

CCSC, 9:30.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, with lunch included. CCSC Members \$95; non-members \$135; members of other ceramics organizations and students \$110. Send checks to Marilyn Chou, 20 Church Street, A65, Greenwich, CT 06830 by **APRIL 6**. Questions? Reach Marilyn at 203.863.9655.

Correction of New Member's Email Address

Please correct Susan Ferguson's email address to read sferguson1@nyc.rr.com.

Announcing Important CCSC Collection Visit on June 2

Jean Lebedeff, CCSC board member in charge of Collection Visits, is pleased to announce the second CCSC Collection Visit of the year. Last fall, a group of members had a chance to have an intimate view of the collection of exquisite Sèvres porcelain at the home of fellow board member and research chair, Natalie Robinson. Starting at 1:30 p.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 2, fellow members, Judith Schwartz, Ph.D., and Martin Schwartz, Ph.D., will open their home to CCSC members, sharing their collection, an eclectic one of clay, glass, painting, sculpture and decorative art. The collection's primary focuses are figurative ceramic sculpture, Art Deco Noritake porcelain, contemporary American studio pottery, and vintage and contemporary jewelry.

Included in the collection are works by Chuck Close, Roy De Forest, Steven DeStaebler, Kathy Butterly, Peter Voulkos, Viola Frey, Robert Arneson, Akio Takamori, Sol LeWitt, and numerous emerging national and international artists. Of particular interest to the CCSC will be the Schwartz sampling of their Noritake Art Deco Porcelain collection. Designed in NYC on west 23rd street during the roaring twenties by an international design team, then fabricated exclusively in Japan and sold throughout the United States and Europe, these porcelains constitute the first broadly disseminated art deco motifs available in America. The collection consists of more than 1200 pieces.

The CCSC board is deeply grateful to Natalie Robinson and the Schwartzes for giving them the opportunity to see these two notable collections in 2016-2017. To be part of the group on June 2, please sign up with Jean at jeankl@optonline.net or call her at 203.866.5236. Directions to reach the Schwartz home at 115 Round Hill Road in Armonk, New York, will be provided to attendees directly.

CCSC is Busy! Research Group Activities; New Members Tea

The CCSC research group is having a very active spring season. On March 23, they visited the Frick Museum where Geoffrey Ripert, Curatorial Assistant for Decorative Arts, led the group on a tour of the exhibition "Porcelain, No Simple Matter: Arlene Shechet and the

Arnhold Collection." One hundred plus items of early Meissen porcelain are displayed in conjunction with pieces created by ceramicist Arlene Shechet during her residency at the Meissen factory, creating a fascinating dialogue between the historical and the contemporary.

The next outing will be in April when they plan to visit the home of ceramic historian Robert Prescott Walker for a study and handling session on British porcelain and pottery figures from 1750-1950.

In addition to these activities, they have monthly meetings at which ceramic lovers make presentations about a specific factory or area of ceramic history. They love doing research and sharing knowledge with members of the group. If you would like to know more about the research group (they'd be delighted to have you join them!), please contact Natalie Robinson at natrobs@gmail.com.

CCSC's ten new members will enjoy a new members tea at the home of president Janice Rabinowitz on April 21, when members of the board will have a chance to get acquainted with the new members and welcome them to the organization.

Age of Empires: Chinese Art of the Qin and Han Dynasties (221 B.C.-220 A.D.), Exhibit and Symposium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, April 3 - July 16

The Metropolitan Museum has announced an exciting new exhibit of early Chinese art, with a three-part Symposium to start it off. The exhibit features more than 160 objects of ancient Chinese art, many on loan from international collections, and will explore the unprecedented role of art in creating a new and lasting Chinese cultural identity. Synthesizing new archaeological discoveries with in-depth research performed over the last 50 years, *Age of Empires* will introduce a transformational era of Chinese civilization to a global audience.

The works in the exhibition—extremely rare ceramics, metalwork, textiles, sculpture, painting, calligraphy, and architectural models—are drawn from 32 museums and archaeological institutions in the People's Republic of China, and a majority of the works have never before been seen in the West. The Symposium starts with Keynote Presentations on Thursday, April 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the topic of "Comparisons and Interactions between East and West in Antiquity."

Part 1 of the Symposium is on Friday, April 7 (10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) on "The First Emperor of China and the Wider World: Asia and the Greco-Roman World." Part 2 of the Symposium is on Sunday, April 9 (10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) on "Art, Archeology and the Han Empire."

The Keynote Presentations and Symposium are free with museum admission and registration. Find more information at metmuseum.org and register there for this unique opportunity to hear from experts in the field.

Auction Corner: Rare Works of Chinese Ceramics, Sotheby's

On April 5, Sotheby's in Hong Kong will auction four lots of rare and marvelous works of Chinese ceramics. Notable among these are three pieces: one, an exceptional Yellow-Ground Blue-and-White Gardenia Dish, mark and period Hongzhi, with an estimate of \$500,000 USD. A second is a Fish Pond Bowl, mark and period of Xuande, with superb provenance -- estimate must be requested. The third is a Blue-and-white Cup, mark and period of Chenghua, with a \$2 - 2.5 million USD estimate. Go to sothebys.com to feast your eyes...or make a bid!

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

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. For further information, call 845.257.3844 or go to www.newpaltz.edu/museum.

Now - 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 at asiasociety.org.

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. For information and reservations, email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com.

April 3, 6, 7 and 9: Age of Empires: Chinese Art of the Qin and Han Dynasties (221 BC - 220 AD) Symposium (April 6, 7 and 9) and exhibit (April 3 - July 16) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. For information and Symposium registration (free with museum admission), go to metmuseum.org.

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 at ctcsc.org or from Marylin Chou, 203.863.9655, or marylin.chou@gmail.com. Sign-up forms and checks should go to Ms. Chou at 20 Church Street, A65, Greenwich, CT 06830.

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. Email potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com for information.

April 20-21: "Winterthur Presents 'Up Close': Hands-on Study Days." Winterthur, Delaware. For information and registration, visit 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 at ceramicsstudyclub.org.

May 1: "Very Rich and Handsome: American Neo-Classical Decorative Arts." Lecture: Elizabeth Feld, Managing Director, Hirschl and Adler Galleries, New York, NY. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com for information and reservations.

May 11: "Collecting Pueblo Pottery." Lecture: Barbara Lesko, Retired Brown University Professor. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence, Annual Meeting and tea for members and Guests only. At the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 20 North Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For registration and information, email potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com.

May 25: "From Pompeii to Your Parlor: Neo-Classical Ceramics for the American Home." Lecture: Amanda Lange, Curatorial Department Director and Curator of Historic Interiors, Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, Massachusetts. Ceramics Study Club, 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.



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