

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited

President's Report 2009

The year 2009 has been another active year for the Society, with a total of seventeen events, including the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Nine *scholarly lectures* were held during the year:

- “Hongli, the Most productive Poet in History and Art Objects with Qianlong Imperial Poems” by Professor Peter Y. K. Lam, Director, the Art Museum, the Chinese University of Hong Kong;
- “Big Writing: Calligraphy and Imperial Power on Mt. Tai” by Professor Robert E. Harrist, Jane and Leopold Swergold Professor of Chinese Art History and Chairman, Department of Art History, Columbia University, New York;
- “Ceramics as used in Daily Life in the Song Period” by Rose Kerr, former Keeper of the Far Eastern Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London;
- “Communicating with the Ancients through the Appreciation of Ancient Ceramics” by Professor Chen Huasha, Palace Museum, Beijing;
- “An Archaeological Review of the Jingdezhen Transitional Ceramics Industry: recent Kiln Site Discoveries” by May Huang, Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute, Jingdezhen;
- “Central Asian Textiles found in Dunhuang Collections” by Professor Zhao Feng, Vice Director, China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou;
- “China in the new Ashmolean” by Shelagh Vainker, Curator of Chinese Art, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford;
- “Chariots, Beads, Gold and Jade: China's Interaction with Inner Asia, c. 1200 – 50 B.C”, the K.S. Lo Memorial Lecture 2009, by Professor Dame Jessica Rawson, Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology, President of Merton College and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University; and
- “Were there Antiques in Antiquity?: the Case of Chinese Archaic Bronzes” by Professor Jenny F. So, Professor of Fine Arts and Director, the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Two *all day symposia* were held, each featuring two lectures followed by a handling session:

- “Chinese Ceramics from the Neolithic Period to the Han Dynasty” and “Chinese Ceramics in the Tang and Song Periods”, by Rose Kerr, former Keeper of the Far Eastern Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum; and
- “Celadons: Greenwares from China” and “Blue and White: Cobalt blue from the Tang to the 21st Century” by Dr. Stacey Pierson, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Lecturer in Chinese Ceramics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and former Curator of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art , London.

One *museum exhibition tour* took place, led by Professor Jenny F. So, Professor of Fine Arts and Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, to see the exhibition “Ancient Chinese Bronzes from the Shouyang Studio” held at the Art Museum, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

One *study tour*, of Buddhist grottoes in Gansu and Ningxia, took place, led by Dr. Wei Wenbin, Deputy Director of the Maijishan Grottoes Art Research Institute.

Four *auction preview tours* took place, two at Sotheby’s led by Nicholas Chow and two at Christie’s led by Rosemary Scott and Pola Antebi.

In addition to the above mentioned events, our OCS *Bulletin Number Fourteen* was published, including lead articles by Li Gang, Chris Buckley, James Watt, Andrew Lee and Humphrey Hui, Peter Lam, Alfreda Murck, Richard Engelhardt and Montira Horayangura Unakul, as well as other articles and features of interest to our members and to the wider public. Preparation is already well underway for *Bulletin Number Fifteen*.

As always, I am grateful to the Society’s Executive Committee and to all who helped make the various events and activities happen so smoothly and successfully. In addition to thanking our speakers, I would like to thank the leaders of the study tour, the museum tour, previews and symposium. I would also like to thank Mr. Peter Lo and the K. S. Lo Foundation for its continued support of the K. S. Lo Memorial Lecture. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the OCS members themselves for their continued support and participation in the Society’s events and activities.

Dr. Michael R. Martin
President

3 December 2009
Amended 4 December 2009