



THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

“BUCKINGHAM CHINA: THE DISPLAY OF CHINESE PORCELAIN IN BRITISH PALACES”

BY DR. GREG M. THOMAS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Date: Thursday, 10 June 2010
Venue: The Hong Kong Club
Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong
Time: 18:30 Drinks; 19:00 Presentation; 20:15 Dinner
Cost: Lecture HK\$100 for non-members
Dinner HK\$450 (members); HK\$500 (guests)

This talk analyzes the framing and display of Chinese porcelain in three royal residences in England – Carlton House, Brighton Pavilion, and Buckingham Palace – stretching from 1783 to 1873. Using visual evidence from prints, watercolors, and period photographs (many unpublished), it shows how porcelain objects were integrated into various interior designs, paying particular attention to the mixing of Chinese, Indian, and French decorative arts, the shift from 18th-century Chinoiserie modes of display to more modern 19th-century modes, and the central role these objects continue to play in the visual rhetoric of British royal power. By tracing this history of royal collecting, the paper suggests that Chinoiserie and Chinese porcelain generally complemented rather than opposed the Neoclassicism that once dominated the visual culture of British royal identity.

Dr. Greg M. Thomas: is an Associate Professor in art history in the Department of Fine Arts at The University of Hong Kong. After obtaining his PhD from Harvard University, he taught at Purdue University in the United States before joining HKU in 1999. A specialist in 19th-century French art, he is the author of *Art and Ecology in Nineteenth-Century France: The Landscapes of Théodore Rousseau* (Princeton University Press, 2000) and *Impressionist Children: Childhood, Family, and Modern Identity in French Art* (Yale University Press, expected 2011). At the same time, Thomas has been researching artistic interactions between Europe and China, publishing two recent articles on the palace of Yuanming Yuan and an essay on Isabella Stewart Gardner’s travels in China. He is also the assistant editor of the 13-volume *Wuming (No Name) Painting Catalogue*, which has just been issued by Hong Kong University Press.

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- Please reserve ___ seat(s) at HK\$100 for non-members to attend Dr. Greg M Thomas’ lecture.
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N.B. Due to The Hong Kong Club’s regulations, any dinner reserved will be charged irrespective of attendance unless at least 48 hours’ notice of cancellation is given.

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*The event will be cancelled or postponed to a later date if Typhoon Signal no.8 or above is hoisted or if Black Rainstorm Warning is in force **one hour** before the event.*