



## THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

### “BIG WRITING: CALLIGRAPHY AND IMPERIAL POWER ON MT. TAI”

by

**PROFESSOR ROBERT E HARRIST, JR**

**Date:** Tuesday, 17 February 2009  
**Venue:** The China Club  
Old China Bank Building, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor (Library)  
Bank Street, 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)

From the base to the summit, Mt. Tai, China's Sacred Peak of the East, is emblazoned with writing carved directly into the granite surface of the mountain. Among these stone inscriptions are traces of calligraphy by rulers of China. The earliest is an inscription 13 meters high in the calligraphy of Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang dynasty. Much later examples, by the Qianlong emperor and by political leaders of modern times also appear on Mt. Tai.

This lecture explores the ways through which China's rulers used carved calligraphy to mark the sacred topography of the mountain with indelible signs of their power and their cultural achievements.

**Robert E. Harrist, Jr.**, who received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1989, is the Jane and Leopold Swergold Professor of Chinese Art History and Chairman of the Department of Art History at Columbia University in New York City. In 2007 he was the Slade Professor of Fine Art at the University of Cambridge. His publications include studies of Chinese painting, calligraphy, gardens, clothing and other topics. His most recent book, *The Landscape of Words*, appeared in 2008.

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- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) for OCS member(s) to attend Prof Robert Harrist's lecture on 17 February 2009.
- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) at HK\$100 for non-members to attend Professor Robert Harrist's lecture.
- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) for members at HK\$450 each and \_\_\_ seat(s) for guests at HK\$500 each for dinner.  
N.B. Due to The China Club's regulations, any dinner reserved will be charged irrespective of attendance unless at least 48 hours' notice of cancellation is given.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Prof./Dr.

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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.*