



## THE ORIENTAL CERAMIC SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

### DR IP YEE MEMORIAL LECTURE 2008

### “A NEW LOOK AT OLD CHINESE BASKETS”

by

**DR. SIMON S. M. KWAN**

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 November 2008  
**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)

Fine basketry was considered a luxury item in ancient China. These delicate baskets often appeared in Court paintings of the Song dynasty. Chinese baskets were greatly admired, and often copied, by the Japanese masters during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as implements for flower arrangements. Yet, the subject was relatively unknown outside China until Berthold Laufer of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago published his collection of 38 baskets acquired in China in 1925.

As a price to pay for the modernization of New China, old baskets were among the first items to disappear. Very few of these wonderful Chinese baskets have survived. Laufer's baskets, together with his notes on where he acquired them, are now becoming an important source of information on the subject.

Since the opening up of China in the 1980s, Dr. Kwan has travelled widely all over the country in search of old baskets. A collection of about 200 pieces, mostly of the Ming and Qing dynasties, was formed. This group of baskets will be a last minute record of what Chinese basketry is all about, before it is totally extinct.

In this lecture Dr. Kwan will present a ground breaking study of a new subject in Chinese Art. The talk will outline the history of Chinese basketry and will illustrate the 18 basic techniques employed by the Chinese weavers, and their applications.

**Dr. Simon Kwan** is a practicing architect, designer and Chinese art historian. After graduating in 1967, Dr. Kwan practiced as an architect and subsequently received his doctorate in fine arts from the University of Hong Kong in 1989. Major buildings designed by Dr. Kwan are the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Science Park. He has also received many awards from the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and was elected Artist of the Year by the Hong Kong Artists Guild in 1989. Dr. Kwan is the author of several books including “Rhythm of Space”, “Brush and Clay”, “Chinese Gold Ornaments”, “Early Chinese Glass”, “Chinese Portraits”, “Ming and Qing Bamboo”, “Chinese Neolithic Pottery”, “Imperial Porcelain of late Qing from The Kwan Collection”, “Chinese Silver”, “Chinese Inkstones” and “Chinese Mother-of-pearl”. Dr. Kwan is currently a Fellow of the University of Hong Kong and the Open University of Hong Kong and an Honorary Adviser of the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

## Reply Slip

---

Members should complete and return the following Reservation Form by Thursday, 13 November 2008. You can also reserve online by emailing [ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk](mailto:ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk)

- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) for OCS member(s) to attend Dr Simon Kwan's lecture on 18 November 2008.
- Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) at HK\$100 for non-members to attend Dr Simon Kwan'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 Hong Kong 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.

Member: Yes/No

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email:

Please make your cheque payable to: **The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited**, GPO Box 6202, Central, Hong Kong. For enquiries, please email or leave a voice mail message on Tel: (852) 2527 0696 or email: [ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk](mailto:ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk).

*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.*