



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

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The Highest Vase in the World!

Chinese Great Master of Arts & Crafts

CHINESE CLAYART

"Chinese Clayart" is a newsletter emailed monthly to professional ceramic artists who want to know about ceramic art in China and things related. This newsletter will be a bridge between China and Western countries for the ceramic arts. Comments and suggestions are very welcome. (Copyright 2000, The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA. All rights reserved)

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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Highest Vase in the World!

A new coil-constructed vase standing 6.68 meters (21' 9") in height has been fired in the Shui-li Snake Kiln Cultural Center in Taiwan. Three artists worked for about a half year to set a new Guinness World Record.

PROFILE

Chinese Great Master of Arts & Crafts

The title of "Chinese Great Master of Arts & Crafts" is awarded to an individual artist by the central Chinese government depending on the artist's works, background, contributions and seniority. In the Yixing area, there are only six Great Masters. Their names are Jiang Rong, Wang Yin-Xian, Xu Xiu-Tang, Xu Hang-Tang, and Tan Qian-Hai. (See related story under ACTIVITIES below.)

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OPPORTUNITIES

Jingdezhen Ceramic Festival and the Chinese Folk Art of Ceramics International Conference, Jingdezhen. Oct. 11-14, 2000

These events are hosted by the Jingdezhen Municipal Government, Beijing University - School of

Archeology, the Chinese Art Research Institute and the Jingdezhen Folk Art of Ceramics Institute. The conference will include lectures and discussions about folk art ceramics plus visits to local ceramic museums, kiln sites, exhibitions, ceramic factories, markets, and traditional ceramic workshops, among other places.

The conference committee welcomes essays about international folk art ceramics. For information about participating in the conference, please contact Editor, [Guangzhen Po Zhou](#)

The Grand Opening of the Taipei County Yingko Ceramics Museum, the Sixth Taiwan Golden Ceramics Awards, and the First Taiwan International Ceramics Symposium, Taiwan, Oct. 28-31, 2000. For details, please check [web site](#)

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ACTIVITIES

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, has invited and is pleased to announce the visit of two of the Chinese Great Masters of Arts & Crafts. Mr. Xu Xiu-Tang and Ms. Wang Ying-Xian will come to the United States and participate in the NCECA conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in March 2001. These Great Masters are available for demonstrating Yixing clay techniques at workshops during their stay in the U.S. If you are interested in hosting a workshop, please email: pozhou@email.msn.com

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EXHIBITION

Fresno Metropolitan Museum presents "Dawn of the Yellow Earth: Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Meiyintang Collection," August 11 - November 12, 2000.

The Fresno Metropolitan Museum will provide visitors with a rare opportunity to view Ancient Chinese ceramics dating back to 5000 B.G.E. This remarkable collection includes 63 works from the Meiyintang Collection, one of the most comprehensive collections of ancient China's earliest ceramics. These striking ceramics were created by the rich and varied cultures of ancient China, predating the historic Imperial Dynasties.

"Dawn of the Yellow Earth: Ancient Chinese Ceramics from the Meiyintang Collection" will feature representative works from the different regions and characteristics of the ceramic producing cultures of ancient China. The Neolithic and Bronze Age periods form the background for the ceramics in this exhibition. Works of art in their own right, they are valuable cultural artifacts that change longstanding views of the origins of Chinese civilization.

For more information please contact the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Education Department at Tel. 559-441-1444 x224, or Fax. 559-441-8607, or go to www.fresnomet.org.

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TRAVEL

Upcoming Travel Opportunity

The Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange, Sept. 30 - Oct. 19, 2000.

Oct. 1-3, Beijing. Visit the Ceramic Art Exhibition of the Academy of Art and Design, the Hap Pottery, the Palace Museum, the Great Wall, and the Summer Palace.

Oct. 4-5, Xi'an. Terra-cotta Warriors Museum and the Ban-po Museum.

Oct. 6-10, Yangzhi River. Cruise the Three Gorges.

Oct. 11-14, Jingdezhen. Participate in the Jingdezhen Ceramic Festival and the Chinese Folk Art of Ceramics International Conference.

Oct. 15, Huangshan Mountain. Visit one of most beautiful landscapes in China.

Oct. 16-17, Yixing. Five ceramic art studios, the Jun-ware Factory, and the teapot and clay tool markets.

Oct. 17, Shanghai. The Shanghai Museum, the Hanguang Ceramic Art Company, the Yu-yuan Garden, and the Zhou-Zhuang Village.

Oct. 19, Shanghai to San Francisco. Home, sweet home. For more details and fees, please check our next monthly newsletter.

Notes on the Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange, May-June 2000

Letter from the organizer and leader, Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

We are back from the Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange, 2000. Thanks to all of you who participated and supported our trip! I am proud of the quality of this trip. I care about our travelers' needs, how they feel, their safety, and their satisfaction. Our tour included an extra fee for a national tour guide. So, among the national tour guide, the local tour guide and the group leader (myself), three of us were always ready to help.

Back in the early 80's when I was mainly working on "porcelain carving" in Shanghai, I had the opportunity to visit many ceramic production areas such as Yixing, Jingdezhen, Beijing and Shandong province. Between 1994-1999 I worked for AT&T in the customer service department for five years. These experiences helped set the groundwork for my organizing and leading a group travelling to China to study ceramics. To learn more about the management of group travel, I participated in a travel group that went to Europe last year, and the international tour guide became my good friend and I learned a lot from him. Before our departure to China, I pre-arranged many details including a cell phone for use in China, and I made contact with many Chinese artists and the Mayor of Yixing. As a result of the extensive preparations, we received a great welcome by local people. A short summary of we did during the trip:

Visited eight major cities, two ceramic-related schools, fourteen museums, and a lot of ceramic factories and studios. Witnessed private demonstrations of traditional Yixing teapot techniques and traditional Shiwan figure sculpture being made. Traveled by domestic air, three overnight trains (all first-class soft coach), and private coach. Lodged in a 5-star hotel, three 4-star hotels, and four 3-star hotels. Invited by the mayors of Yixing and Dingshu for the Banquets. All this is only what we did in mainland China and does not include Hong Kong or Taiwan!

Speech prepared for the Yixing banquet by Deborah Bouchette,
the American-Canadian Ceramic Artists Delegation spokesperson

We are honored to be here among you tonight. Your beautiful city and beautiful pottery give us great inspiration. We come to you together from across the ocean, but we bring many different heritages: U.S., Canadian, Japanese, Native American, and Chinese. Each of our backgrounds gives meaning to our work. We come here to study both the rich history of Chinese ceramics and the rich contemporary production of Yixing ware.

Each of us is a ceramic artist, but, like your many different teapots and sculptures, we are different. Some of us have worked in clay for a lifetime, and some of us have studied only a few years. Some of us make very large pieces, and some of us make small cups. Some are older and some are young. Some are masters, some are teachers, but all of us are forever students. We come to study Yixing ceramics, and our study here will forever enrich our lives and our works.

Our journey will affect many others when we return home. Your friendship and hospitality have been overwhelming. We have visited many of your homes, your studios, and your factories. We drank tea together and now we share a meal. But it is your friendship and the beauty of your fine pottery that we cherish the most. We will share pictures of your beautiful work with our friends at home, and we will tell of your fine clay, your dragon kiln, and your welcome.

With great thanks we take our new knowledge and our new friendships back to our homes. Your generosity is unequalled. Thank you very much for everything. The world is "getting smaller," and we hope to meet many of you again some day.

For impressions from a participant and first-time visitor to China, please see the English Editor's [website](#),

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