

J. J. LALLY & CO.

O R I E N T A L A R T

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J.J. LALLY & CO. UPCOMING EXHIBITION

CHINESE CERAMICS IN BLACK AND WHITE

Exhibition and Sale

March 20–April 10, 2010

J. J. Lally & Co. is pleased to present an exhibition which explores the inspired use of the simplest materials by Chinese potters creating vessels for ritual, for display and for use from the Neolithic period through the 18th Century. Plain white and black clays, clear glazes and iron-based black and brown glazes are the only materials used to create these elegant vessels.

The earliest ceramics in the exhibition are products of the Longshan Neolithic culture which flourished at the end of the 3rd millennium B.C., *circa* 2400–2000 B.C. in the Northeastern part of China now designated as Shandong province. The surfaces of these vessels are embellished by burnishing and applied motifs.

Early in the Tang dynasty (618–907) sophisticated white pottery wares with clear glazes were made for use and for burial, black-glazed pottery wares were developed, and burnished black pottery vessels continued to be made. The exhibition includes a rare glazed white pottery pilgrim flask – a form introduced *via* the ‘Silk Road’ – moulded with a dancing monkey, and two burnished black pottery Buddhist ritual vessels: a *kundika* (holy water container) and a *patra* (alms bowl).

In the late 9th/10th century high-fired white porcelains were produced at the famous Xing kilns in the North China province of Hebei at the beginning of the period, and later at the Ding kilns further north at Quyang in Hebei. A Xingyao white porcelain bottle formerly owned by the famous Swedish collector of Chinese white wares, Carl Kempe (1884–1967) is one of the finest porcelains in the exhibition. A thinly potted white porcelain bowl with freely engraved lotus decoration and a small white porcelain dish moulded with floral scroll show the classic decorative styles of the Ding kilns. The moulded Dingyao bowl was previously published by James Cahill in the catalogue of *The Art of Southern Sung China*, an Asia Society Museum exhibition in 1962.

The glazed stoneware vessels made at the Cizhou kilns in the Song dynasty (960–1279) show the use of applied, stamped, moulded and incised decoration. An upright ovoid *meiping*-form bottle with carved peony blossoms on a white slip ground is a fine example of a classic pattern (peonies symbolize wealth and luxury in China) on one of the most sought-after of all vessel shapes produced in the Song dynasty.

The highly refined glazed porcelains of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties are represented by a massive imperial Ming black-glazed storage jar (*guan*) marked with two white characters *Nei Fu* “inner palace” and a tall ‘mirror black’-glazed bottle vase made in the Kangxi period (1662–1722).

A catalogue published for the exhibition will include a color photograph and detailed description of each piece, with footnotes citing comparable examples in museum and scholarly publications.

Catalogue: \$30

By mail: \$35

Overseas: \$43

The exhibition will be on view

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Monday–Saturday, 10am - 5pm