

CHINA AND THE MARITIME SILK ROAD:

Shipwrecks, ports, and products

21–23 August 2020





'Tradescant' jar, ceramic,
late Ming period.
Asian Civilisations
Museum [2012-00385]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 OPENING SPEECH

02 WELCOME ADDRESS

03 KEYNOTE

Floating Cosmopolitanism: Conceptualising
Indian Ocean Interactions beyond Silk

PANELS AND SPEAKERS' ABSTRACTS

05 PANEL 1:

Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

12 PANEL 2:

Shipwrecks and Archaeology

20 PANEL 3:

Cargoes and Commodities

27 PANEL 4:

Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology:
Challenges and Opportunities



OPENING SPEECH



Mr Kennie Ting

Director, Asian Civilisations Museum & Peranakan Museum, Group Director of Museums, NHB

Kennie Ting is the Director of the Asian Civilisations Museum and the Peranakan Museum, and concurrently Group Director, Museums at the National Heritage Board (NHB) Singapore, overseeing national museums and festivals managed by the NHB. As Director of the Asian Civilisations Museum, he has overseen the shift in the museum's curatorial approach from a geographical focus to a thematic, cross-cultural focus, and from an ethnographic focus to a focus on decorative arts. He has helmed recent exhibitions on the Arts of Myanmar, Korea, Angkor and Java, on the material culture of cosmopolitan Asian Port Cities, and on contemporary Chinese Couture. He is interested in the history of travel and the heritage of Asian port cities and is the author of the books, *The Romance of the Grand Tour – 100 Years of Travel in South East Asia* and *Singapore 1819 – A Living Legacy*.

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST, 7.10PM

WELCOME ADDRESS



Mr Teo Chee Hean
*Senior Minister and Coordinating
Minister for National Security*

Mr Teo Chee Hean is Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security. He also oversees the Smart Nation and Digital Government Group, the National Security Coordination Secretariat, the National Population and Talent Division, and the National Climate Change Secretariat under the Prime Minister's Office. He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister from April 2009 to April 2019, and had also served as Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Defence, Minister for Education, and Minister for the Environment.

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST, 7.15PM

View of the Bund with a regatta in progress, Shanghai, 1849–51. Asian Civilisations Museum [2017-01077].





Changsha bowls from the Tang Shipwreck.
Courtesy of Michael Flecker.

KEYNOTE

Floating Cosmopolitanism: Conceptualising Indian Ocean Interactions beyond Silk

Join ACM Senior Curator Stephen Murphy in conversation with Dr Tansen Sen, Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai, and Global Network Professor at New York University, as they discuss the topic of “Floating Cosmopolitanism: Conceptualising Indian Ocean Interactions beyond Silk”.

Studies dealing with the Indian Ocean world often focus on port cities, islands, and other landmasses that contributed to maritime exchanges and interactions. The maritime space itself, however, has drawn limited attention. In this conversation, Professor Sen will argue for a re-conceptualisation of the Indian Ocean world through the prism of “floating cosmopolitanism”. The idea of “floating cosmopolitanism”, which centres on the encounters taking place aboard sailing ships, not only challenges the primacy of landmasses, but also contests the use of a nation-state framework and the emphasis on a single luxury commodity to study and understand the complexities of Indian Ocean interactions.

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST, 7.30PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr Tansen Sen

*Director of the
Center for Global
Asia, NYU Shanghai*

Dr Tansen Sen is Professor of history and the Director of the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai, and Global Network Professor at New York University. Previously he was a faculty at the City University of New York and founding head of the Nalanda Sriwijaya Center at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. He is the author of *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400* (2003; 2016) and *India, China, and the World: A Connected History* (2017; 2018). He has co-authored (with Victor H. Mair) *Traditional China in Asian and World History* (2012), edited *Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Cultural and Intellectual Exchange* (2014), and co-edited (with Burkhard Schnepel) *Travelling Pasts: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World* (2019), and (with Brian Tsui) *Beyond Pan-Asianism: Connecting China and India, 1840s-1960s* (forthcoming). He is currently working on a book about Zheng He's maritime expeditions in the early fifteenth century, a monograph on Jawaharlal Nehru and China, and co-editing (with Engseng Ho) the *Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean, volume 1*.



**Blue and white dish,
Jingdezhen, China,
15th century. Asian
Civilisations Museum
[1999-00447]**



Dr Stephen A. Murphy is Senior Curator for Southeast Asia at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. He holds a PhD from the Department of History of Art and Archaeology, SOAS, University of London (2010). He specialises in the art and archaeology of early Buddhism and Hinduism in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Malaysia. He has a particular interest in the period spanning the 7th to 9th centuries AD and looks at trade and connections between Southeast Asian cultures and the wider world of Tang China, India and beyond.

PANEL 1: PORTS AND MARITIME TRADE ROUTES

This panel will present papers on the nature of the ports and maritime trade routes along the maritime silk road.

PANEL CHAIR:

Clement Onn, Senior Curator, Asian Civilisations Museum

1. Maritime trade and the transformation of the Chinese ceramics industry

Dr Andrew Chittick, Professor, Eckerd College, Florida

2. Qinglong City – Shanghai’s Maritime trade port from the Tang to Song dynasties

Dr Chen Jie, Deputy Director, Shanghai Museum (in Chinese)

3. Archaeological findings of the Nanjing Treasure Shipyard site excavation

Dr Qi Haining, Deputy Director and Research Associate, Nanjing Archaeology Institute (in Chinese)

4. Between diplomacy and commerce: The Pallavas of Kanchipuram and the Tang court

Dr Sureshkumar Muthukumaran, Postdoctoral Fellow in History, Yale-NUS College

5. Imported material culture and the hybridisation, adaptation, and cosmopolitanisation of consumption patterns in Malay port cities (10th–14th century)

Dr Derek Heng, Professor and Chair of the History Department, Northern Arizona University

**SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST,
9.30AM–12.00PM**

PANEL CHAIR

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Clement Onn

Senior Curator,
Asian Civilisations Museum

Clement Onn is the Senior Curator of Asian export art and Peranakan at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. His research interest lies in exchanges between Asia and Europe in the 16th and 18th centuries. His research focuses on trading networks and the spread of the Christian faith in Asia, particularly in the Indian Subcontinent, Japan, China, and the Philippines. He has co-curated the exhibition *Christianity in Asia: Sacred Art and Visual Splendour* (2016), contributed articles on the subject of Christian art in India, Japan, and China, and has co-edited the catalogue, *Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia 1500 – 1900* (2016). He is overseeing the Maritime Trade, Court & Company, Christian Art galleries; and is in-charge of the curatorial direction at the Peranakan Museum.

Ritual hanging, cotton and resist dyes,
India for the Southeast Asian market,
18th century. Asian Civilisations Museum
[2009-02142]



SPEAKER

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Dr Andrew Chittick

*Professor,
Eckerd College*

Maritime trade and the transformation of the Chinese ceramics industry

Changing patterns of maritime trade in the 8th century, notably the arrival of ultra long-distance trade expeditions from the Persian Gulf, had a dramatic impact on the Chinese ceramics industry, leading to the development of new styles and just-in-time production methods at far greater scales than previously known. As both shipwreck and land-based archaeology confirms, these changes outlasted the end of direct Arab trade and became a hallmark of a new period of larger-scale maritime commerce that preceded, and likely precipitated, the direct entry of Chinese shipping into the maritime theater.

Dr Andrew Chittick received his PhD in History from the University of Michigan in 1997 and is the E. Leslie Peter Professor of East Asian Humanities and History at Eckerd College, Florida. He researches the history of the Jiankang Empire, also known as the Chinese Southern Dynasties.

SPEAKER

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Dr Chen Jie
*Deputy Director,
Shanghai Museum
(in Chinese)*

Qinglong City – Shanghai’s maritime trade port from the Tang to Song dynasties 青龙镇 — 上海唐宋时期的对外贸易港口

The Qinglong City archaeological site is situated in Shanghai Qingpu district. According to literary records, it was an important trading port during the Tang and Song dynasties. Between 2010 and 2019, the Shanghai Museum Archaeology Department undertook long-term archaeological excavations. Archaeologists discovered the foundations of a pagoda, building foundations, casting workshops, wells, and other important historical remains. A large quantity of porcelain, construction materials and historical artefacts were also excavated. This supports the assertion that Qinglong City was an important trading port along the Maritime Silk Road during the Tang and Song dynasties.

青龙镇遗址位于上海市青浦区，文献记载是唐宋时期重要的对外贸易港口。从2010—2019年，上海博物馆考古研究部对该遗址进行了长期的考古勘探和发掘工作。本馆的考古研究部发现了佛塔塔基、建筑基址、铸造作坊、水井等重要遗迹。此外，历年考古发掘发现了大量的贸易陶瓷及相关遗迹，确证了青龙镇是唐宋时期海上丝绸之路的重要港口之一。

Dr Chen Jie is the Deputy Director of Shanghai Museum, the Director of China’s Archaeology Society, Deputy Director of Shanghai Society of Anthropology, and Director of the Committee for Technological Analysis of Cultural Treasures at the China Association for Preservation Technology of Cultural Relics. He was named an “outstanding expert” of the Ministry of Culture of the People’s Republic of China and is also a recipient of the Shanghai May First Labour Day Medal.

陈杰是上海博物馆副馆长，中国考古学会理事，上海市人类学会副会长，中国文物保护技术协会文物分析检测技术专委会主任。他被中国文化部评为优秀专家，也是上海市五一劳动奖章获得者。

SPEAKER

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Dr Qi Haining
*Deputy Director and
Research Associate,
Nanjing Archaeology
Institute (in Chinese)*

Archaeological findings of the Nanjing Treasure Shipyard site excavation 南京明代宝船厂遗址考古发掘与相关认识

In northwest Nanjing sits the Nanjing Treasure Shipyard site – a large-scale shipyard that is said to have been specially built by the Ming dynasty government to support the construction of shipping vessels for Zheng He's official voyages to the South Seas. From August 2003 to July 2004, archaeologists from Nanjing undertook a systematic archaeological excavation of Dock Number 6 in the Treasure Shipyard Relic site to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Zheng He's voyage. These archaeological findings demonstrated that the site could support large-scale shipbuilding activities, and was the main shipyard used during the Ming dynasty.

位于南京市西北部的宝船厂遗址，是明朝政府为郑和下西洋活动专门创办的大型官营造船基地，是郑和下西洋的真正起点。从2003年8月至2004年7月，为迎接郑和下西洋600周年的到来，南京市考古工作者对宝船厂遗址中的第六号船坞（六作塘）进行了一次全面系统的考古发掘。考古发现证实了该遗址是能够建造大型海船的明代造船基地。

Dr Qi Haining is currently Deputy Director and Research Associate at the Nanjing Archaeology Institute. He has been involved in many archaeological excavations and research projects in Nanjing since 1995. His main area of research is the archaeology of Ming Dynasty Nanjing. He has led several major archaeological excavations such as the Nanjing Treasure Shipyard Site (2003—2004), General Mu Ying's family burial site in Jiangning district (2005—2012), and the Great Bao'en Temple Site in Nanjing (2008—2014).

祁海宁是南京市考古研究院副院长，研究员。自1995年，他长期在南京从事考古发掘与研究，主要研究方向为明代南京的考古与研究。他曾主持的考古发掘工作包括：南京明代宝船厂遗址的考古发掘工作（2003—2004），江宁区将军山明代黔宁王沐英家族墓地的发掘工作（2005—2012）和明代大报恩寺遗址的发掘工作（2008—2014）。

SPEAKER

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Dr Sureshkumar Muthukumaran

*Postdoctoral Fellow
in History, Yale-NUS
College, Singapore*

Between diplomacy and commerce: The Pallavas of Kanchipuram and the Tang court

With at least three major ports along the Coromandel coast functioning as vital nodes in trans-Eurasian transport and trade networks, the Pallavas of Kanchipuram were well-placed to engage in long-distance diplomatic and commercial enterprises between the 6th and 9th century. The Pallavas engaged in direct diplomatic contact with the Tang court up till the 8th century. This paper will propose that the pattern of interaction between Tang China and the Pallavas established a prototype for the better-known interactions of the succeeding Chola dynasty (9th–12th century) with both Southeast Asia and China.

Dr Sureshkumar Muthukumaran is a Postdoctoral Fellow in History at Yale-NUS College. He specialises in the history of connectivity in ancient Eurasia, with a particular focus on its biological aspect i.e. the anthropogenic spread of flora, fauna, pests, commensals and microbial pathogenic organisms. He completed his MSt in Greek and Roman History at the University of Oxford (2011-2012) and his PhD in History at University College London (2012-2016).

SPEAKER

Panel 1: Ports and Maritime Trade Routes

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST | 9.30AM–12.00PM



Dr Derek Heng
*Professor and
Chair of the History
Department,
Northern Arizona
University*

Imported material culture and the hybridisation, adaptation, and cosmopolitanisation of consumption patterns in Malay port cities (10th–14th century)

This paper seeks to explore how patterns of demand and supply, once regularised over a prolonged period, resulted in the adaptation, hybridisation, and cosmopolitanisation of the culture of material usage and consumption patterns in Malay port cities. This paper will draw from archaeological and textual data of the 10th to 14th century, with specific reference to China's manufacturing economy during this period, and will explore three port-cities – South Kedah, Kota Cina, and Singapore – as case examples of this economic and cultural process.

Dr Derek Heng is Professor and Chair of the History Department at Northern Arizona University. He specialises in the pre-modern trans-regional history of Maritime Southeast Asia and the South China Sea, utilising textual and archaeological data to study the interactions between Southeast Asia and China, and their impact on the state formation process in coastal Southeast Asia.

PANEL 2: SHIPWRECKS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

This panel will present papers on some of the most significant maritime archaeological discoveries from the past two to three decades.

PANEL CHAIR:

Dr John Miksic, Emeritus Professor, Southeast Asian Studies Department, NUS, Singapore

1. **Origins reconsidered – Belitung and Phanom-Surin**

Dr Tom Vosmer, Research Associate, Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Museum, Adjunct professor, University of Western Australia

2. **The Phanom-Surin ship: old remains, new information**

Abhirada Komoot, PhD candidate, University of Western Australia

3. **The Chau Tan Shipwreck: An 8th- or 9th-century Southeast Asian trading vessel**

Dr Jun Kimura, Assistant Professor, Tokai University, Japan

4. **New stories from old cargo: Updates on the 12th- or 13th-century Java Sea Shipwreck**

Dr Lisa C. Niziolek, Research Scientist and Gary M. Feinman, MacArthur Curator of Anthropology, Field Museum, Chicago

5. **Song dynasty shipwreck archaeology: The Nanhai One Wreck**

Mr. Sun Jian, National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, Beijing (in Chinese)

6. **An investigation of the porcelains of Ensenada Shipwreck and some reflections on the Manila Galleon Trade**

Dr Weng Yanjun, Deputy Director, Jingdezhen Institute of Ceramic Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM

PANEL CHAIR

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



Dr John Miksic

*Emeritus Professor,
Southeast Asian Studies Department,
NUS, Singapore*

Dr John N. Miksic received his PhD from Cornell University based on archaeological fieldwork in Sumatra. He joined the National University of Singapore, where he is emeritus professor in the Southeast Asian Studies Department. He founded the Archaeology Unit at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. He has received awards from the government of Singapore, and the court of Surakarta (Indonesia). His book *Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea* won the inaugural award for best book on Singapore history in 2018. His specialties include historical archaeology of Southeast Asia, urbanisation, trade, Buddhism, and ceramics.

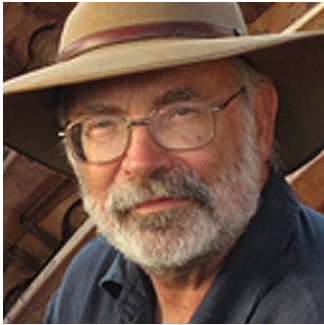


Ceramics from the Tang Shipwreck.
Courtesy of Michael Flecker.

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



Dr Tom Vosmer
*Research Associate,
Department of
Maritime Archaeology,
Western Australian
Museum, Adjunct
Professor, University
of Western Australia*

Origins reconsidered – Belitung and Phanom-Surin

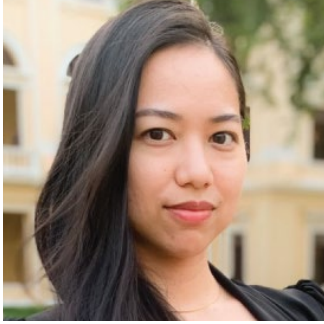
When discovered in Indonesia, the Belitung shipwreck (aka The Tang Shipwreck), with its sewn-plank construction so typical of shipbuilding further to the west in the Indian Ocean, was a startling and unique find. Due to some of the shipbuilding materials identified, the methodology of joinery and fastenings, some items among the artefact collection on board, and the stark differences in design and construction from Southeast Asian ship construction of the time, the speculation was that the vessel was not a local creation, but probably originated in the western Indian Ocean. The recent discovery in Thailand of a similar vessel – the Phanom-Surin ship – has confirmed that the Belitung ship was not a unique construction but represents an established ship-building tradition heretofore unrecognised.

Tom Vosmer is a Research Associate at the Western Australian Museum and adjunct professor at the University of Western Australia. Tom is a maritime archaeologist specialising in medieval Indian Ocean shipping. He has long experience researching, documenting and reconstructing ancient and primitive watercraft, being involved in the construction and sailing of two medieval sewn-plank boats, and reconstructions of a 15th-century BCE Egyptian vessel, a 1300 BCE Greek rowing galley, a 3rd millennium reed-built vessel, and the ‘Ark before Noah’ based on a description from an ancient clay tablet. Tom has done maritime archaeological and ethnographic research and excavation in Egypt, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Oman, the Emirates, Qatar, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia.

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



Abhirada Komoot

*PhD candidate,
University of
Western Australia*

The Phanom-Surin ship: old remains, new information

The discovery of the 9th century Phanom-Surin site (PNS) in Thailand sparked international interest to re-examine our ancient nautical knowledge and history of the Indian Ocean in the early centuries. The PNS site assemblage has a range of materials from organic to inorganic. These materials reveal diverse origins. The PNS ship exhibits sewn-plank construction, resembling the Arabian Sea region tradition and that of the Belitung ship. Interestingly, its structural materials, such as ship timbers and sewing cordage, have been identified as Southeast Asia. Not all the archaeological evidence from the PNS aligns with our prior knowledge. This paper discusses issues regarding the PNS ship's origin based on this information.

Abhirada Komoot is a PhD candidate at the University of Western Australia. Her current research focuses on the Phanom-Surin shipwreck site in Thailand. She aims at analysis of the ship structure and site assemblage in an attempt to draw inferences about the ancient maritime network in the first millennium CE.

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



The Chau Tan Shipwreck: An 8th- or 9th-century Southeast Asian trading vessel

In this presentation, the archaeological study of the hull of a shipwreck from Southeast Asia will be discussed, namely the remnants of the 8th- or 9th-century Chau Tan Shipwreck, salvaged off the coast of Quang Ngai province in central Vietnam. This discovery relates to the cross-regional shipping of merchandise from China to Southeast Asia.

Dr Jun Kimura is a Maritime Archaeologist and a faculty member of the Dept. of Maritime Civilizations at Tokai University. He received his PhD in Maritime Archaeology at Flinders University in South Australia in 2011. He was a Research Fellow of the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch University from 2012-2014 and at the Field Museum in Chicago from 2014-2015. He has been a member of the national advisory committee for the investigation and protection of underwater archaeological sites under Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs and a member of ICOMOS-ICUCH.

Dr Jun Kimura
*Assistant Professor,
Tokai University,
Japan*

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



New stories from old cargo: Updates on the 12th- or 13th-century Java Sea Shipwreck

Around 1200, a Southeast Asian-built trading vessel laden with thousands of ceramic pieces and 200 tons of iron foundered in the waters between Sumatra and Java. The remains of this ship, now referred to as the Java Sea Shipwreck, and its cargo were discovered in the 1980s and recovered in the 1990s. Detailed analyses of its cargo are enabling us to more accurately reconstruct the trade networks in which the Java Sea Shipwreck's merchants participated, and document socio-economic change at varying scales and in various contexts.

Dr Lisa Niziolek is the Boone Research Scientist in Asian Anthropology at the Field Museum, Chicago. She received her PhD in 2011 from the University of Illinois at Chicago (Anthropology/Archaeology). Her research focuses on the museum's 12th or 13th century Java Sea Shipwreck collection, which, along with other archaeological and historical materials, she is using to investigate maritime trade networks in East and Southeast Asia. Dr Niziolek also looks at the production and distribution of ceramics using compositional analysis.

Dr Lisa C. Niziolek

*Research Scientist
joint presentation with
Gary M. Feinman,
MacArthur Curator of
Anthropology, Field
Museum, Chicago*

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



Mr Sun Jian

*National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, Beijing
(in Chinese)*

Song dynasty shipwreck archaeology: The Nanhai One Wreck “南海一号”宋代沉船考古

From the late 1980s, the Nanhai One ship and its artefacts were completely dredged from underwater and placed in the Maritime Silk Route Museum in Yangjiang, Guangdong province. The ship structure of the Nanhai One had fundamentally remained intact beneath the seabed and was a fully loaded Song dynasty merchant vessel. The discovery provides evidence for the advanced commercial economy and international trade networks that existed during the Song dynasty.

从上世纪八十年代末期发现开始，后经整体打捞移入海上丝绸之路博物馆内，“南海 I 号”船体结构基本保存于海泥之下，是一条曾在南宋时期满载货物的外贸商船。“南海 I 号”的发现显示出宋代高度发达的商品经济以及海外贸易网络的存在。

Sun Jian has been based at the National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, China since 2014. He has dedicated his career to the preservation of underwater cultural heritage and has participated in several key projects such as the Nanhai One Excavation Project, the Wanjiao One Excavation Project and the Nan Ao One Excavation Project.

自2014年，孙键任职于国家文物局水下文化遗产保护中心。他致力于中国水下文化遗产保护事业，曾多次参加中国水下考古项目，主要成果包括：南海一号发掘项目、碗礁一号发掘项目、南澳一号发掘项目。

SPEAKER

Panel 2: Shipwrecks and Archaeology

SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM



An investigation of the porcelains of Ensenada Shipwreck and some reflections on the Manila Galleon Trade

Based on our field investigation of the Ensenada Shipwreck in Mexico, this paper presents a typology of the Chinese porcelain cargo and its relevant statistical information. It will discuss the chronology of the porcelain production and the shipwreck date in the context of the late 16th-century Manila Galleon Trade across the Pacific. It will further argue that the shipwreck represents one of the early efforts to explore the New World market at the threshold of early global trade.

Dr Weng Yanjun is Deputy Director of Jingdezhen Institute of Ceramic Archaeology. He received his PhD in archaeology from Peking University, and was a postdoctoral visiting scholar at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He has led several archaeological investigations such as the Jingdezhen Luomaqiao site and the Liujiayao site.

Dr Weng Yanjun

*Deputy Director,
Jingdezhen
Institute of Ceramic
Archaeology*

PANEL 3: CARGOES AND COMMODITIES

This panel discusses the cargoes and commodities that circulated along the Maritime Silk Road.

PANEL CHAIR:

Dr Sujatha Arundathi Meegama, Assistant Professor, NTU, Singapore

1. Metals across the seas: Ceremonial and display

Dr Himanshu Prabha Ray, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

2. Islamic inscriptions on the Belitung bowls: Ninth-century Changsha designs for the Abbasid market

Dr Amanda Respass, Assistant Professor of Premodern World History, Ohio State-Marion

3. Black-glazed porcelain found on the Sinan Shipwreck

Dr Kim Youngmi, National Museum of Korea (in Chinese)

4. Kraak porcelain and the Maritime Silk Road

Dr Cao Jianwen, Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute (in Chinese)

5. Circulations in Bombyx silk in the western Indian Ocean in the 19th century

Dr Sarah Fee, Senior Curator, Eastern Hemisphere Textiles & Costume, Royal Ontario Museum

**SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST,
9.30AM–12.00PM**

PANEL CHAIR

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

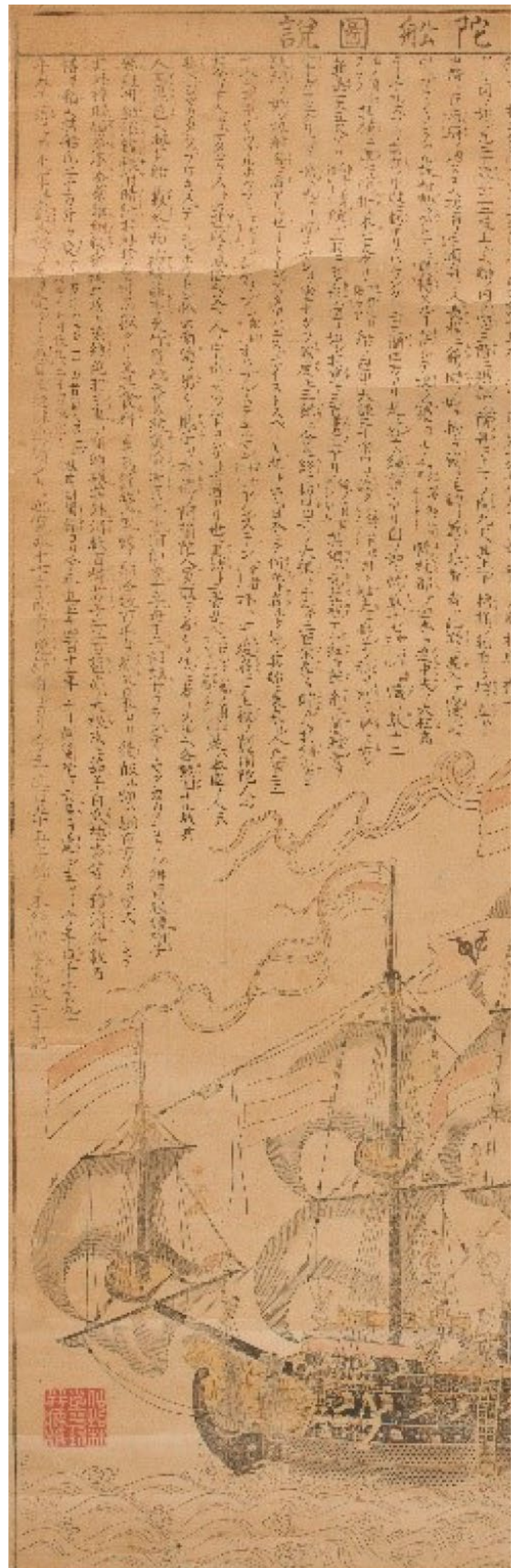
SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Dr Sujatha Arundathi Meegama

Assistant Professor,
NTU, Singapore

Dr Sujatha Arundathi Meegama is Assistant Professor of art history at Nanyang Technological University. She is the editor of *Sri Lanka: Connected Art Histories* (Mumbai, India: Marg Foundation, 2017) and has published in *Artibus Asiae* Vol. LXX, No. 1 (2010) as well as in *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History* (London: UCL Press, 2017). She is completing a book manuscript on the patronage and production of Buddhist and Hindu temples in Sri Lanka.



Japanese print of a Dutch ship, 1738-1793.
Asian Civilisations Museum [2015-00208]

SPEAKER

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Metals across the seas: Ceremonial and display

Archaeological excavations at Ban Don Ta Phet close to the rich tin belt of western Thailand and at Khao Sam Kaeo on the east coast of the Kra Isthmus have shown that dynamic regional and trans-oceanic exchange networks with the Indian subcontinent had already been established by the 4th to 2nd century BCE. An issue that interests this paper relates to the production and consumption of bronzes along the east coast of India in the period from the 4th century CE to the 10th century CE. What were the transformations in the consumption pattern over time and how did this impact maritime networks?

Dr Himanshu Prabha Ray is a Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford and was Anneliese Maier fellow, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich from 2014 to 2019. She is former Chairperson of the National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, India, and former Professor in the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Her research interests include Maritime History and Archaeology of the Indian Ocean, the History of Archaeology in South and Southeast Asia and the Archaeology of Religion in Asia.

Dr Himanshu Prabha Ray
Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

SPEAKER

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Dr Amanda Respass

*Assistant Professor
of Premodern
World History, Ohio
State-Marion*

Islamic inscriptions on the Belitung bowls: Ninth-century Changsha designs for the Abbasid market

Changsha wares recovered from the 9th-century Belitung Shipwreck (Tang Shipwreck) are the largest grouping of Tang dynasty ceramics ever found. This paper presents a re-evaluation of the designs on the Changsha bowls in light of their production for the Abbasid market. An analysis of repeated Islamic motifs and inscriptions on the bowls reveals sophisticated, hybrid meanings designed for the Abbasid appetite for objects that induced intellectual and spiritual wonder. Straddling the line between legibility and pseudo-script, the Changsha bowls represent a cosmopolitan, Tang twist on Near Eastern design traditions in the form of calligrams, Quranic references, and invocations to the Prophet. This study invites a reconsideration of Muslim cultural production in 9th-century China and the materiality of religion along the trade routes.

Dr Amanda Respass recently took up the position of Assistant Professor of Premodern World History at the University of Ohio State-Marion. Her PhD, awarded in 2020, in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan uses shipwreck artefacts from the Maritime Silk Road to understand medical and cultural exchange between medieval China and Iran.

SPEAKER

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Dr Kim Youngmi
National Museum of Korea (in Chinese)

Black-glazed porcelain found on the Sinan Shipwreck 新安沉船发现黑釉瓷的考察

The Sinan Shipwreck became known to the world when a fisherman fortuitously dredged up a blue-and-white porcelain bottle off the west coast of Korea in 1975. Between 1976 and 1984, underwater expeditions discovered a total of 24,000 artefacts, of which over 20,000 were ceramics. Among those ceramics, there were 830 black-glazed porcelains. This paper seeks to propose a system of classification based on a selection of significant black-glazed porcelain vessels of varying types, and will discuss some of the key characteristics and features of each specific type. This paper also seeks to propose possible production sites in China, and dating for black-glazed porcelain.

1975年有一个渔夫偶然打捞了一件青瓷花瓶，从此新安海底沉船为世人所知。从1976年到1984年，总共有两万四千件文物通过水中勘探所发现，其中瓷器占两万多件。在瓷器当中，有830多件黑釉瓷。本文将对黑釉瓷当中占大部分比重且具有文化价值的器皿进行，又按照各自类型考察其特征。同时根据中国陶瓷产地等资料来推断黑釉瓷的制作时期及产地。

Dr Kim Youngmi received her master's and doctoral degrees from the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University in 1998 and 2002 respectively. Since 2002, she has been a researcher at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul. She curated the special exhibition titled Discoveries from the Sunken Ship of Sinan held in 2016 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the shipwreck.

金英美分别于1998年及2002年获得北京大学考古文博学院硕士学位及博士学位。自2002年，她任职于韩国国立中央博物馆学艺研究士。2016年，她负责策划新安沉船发掘40周年新安沉船发现的纪念特别展。

SPEAKER

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Dr Cao Jianwen
*Jingdezhen Ceramic
Institute (in Chinese)*

Kraak porcelain and the Maritime Silk Road 海上丝绸之路与克拉克瓷器

Kraak porcelain exported from Jingdezhen was the most important product traded along the Maritime Silk Road during the 16th and 17th centuries. Based on the analysis of the historical background behind the development of the Maritime Silk Road in the 16th century, this paper seeks to expound on the origins of the unique decorative style of kraak porcelain, as well as the reasons behind the growth and prosperity of this unique decorative style.

“克拉克瓷器”是16—17世纪海上丝绸之路上最重要的贸易货物和景德镇外销瓷器。本文通过分析16世纪海上丝绸之路发展的历史背景，深入阐述“克拉克瓷器”独特装饰风格的起源与兴盛的原因。

Dr Cao Jianwen received his PhD from the Southeast University School of the Arts, China and has 30 years of experience in the study of ancient ceramics. He is currently a Professor at the Art and Archaeology School, Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute and the Director of the Chinese Ceramic Culture Research Institute. He is also the Vice President of the Oriental Ceramic Society, Jingdezhen and the Chairperson of the Jingdezhen Qingbai Porcelain Research Society.

曹建文于中国东南大学艺术学院获得博士学位，从事古陶瓷研究有三十年的经验。他现为景德镇陶瓷大学艺术文博学院教授、博士生导师，中国陶瓷文化研究所陶瓷与考古研究中心主任，兼任景德镇东方古陶瓷研究会副会长、景德镇青白瓷研究会执行会长等职。

SPEAKER

Panel 3: Cargoes and Commodities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 9.30AM–12:00PM



Circulations in Bombyx silk in the western Indian Ocean in the 19th century

Cotton as a textile fibre has received extraordinary attention in recent decades. And certainly, cotton cloth was the mainstay of textile trades in the western Indian Ocean, circulating between western India, Oman, Yemen, and eastern Africa and its offshore islands. This paper examines the importance – and many directions – of Bombyx silk circulations (sericulture, floss, finished cloth) in the western Indian Ocean from around 1770 to 1900. It also discusses the difficulty of tracing the movements of silk if relying purely on the written record.

Dr Sarah Fee is Senior Curator of Fashion & Textiles at the Royal Ontario Museum, and affiliated faculty at the University of Toronto's Department of Art. She holds degrees in Anthropology and African Studies from Oxford University and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris. For over thirty years she has carried out multi-disciplinary research on hand-weaving and dress in Madagascar, and the western Indian Ocean rim. She has lectured and published numerous works on these topics; in 2018 she was awarded the 2018 Pasold Foundation Textile History Essay Prize.

Dr Sarah Fee

*Senior Curator,
Eastern Hemisphere
Textiles & Costume,
Royal Ontario
Museum*

PANEL 4: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This panel will discuss the latest issues, challenges, and opportunities regarding the development and capacity building of heritage professionals – specifically in the field of archaeology – in an Asian context.

PANEL CHAIR:

Mr Yeo Kirk Siang, Director, Heritage Research & Assessment, National Heritage Board, Singapore

1. Challenges in Singapore archaeology

Mr Lim Chen Sian, Associate Fellow, Archaeology Unit, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

2. Can locally managed tourism help in the protection of historic shipwrecks?

Ms. Zainab Tahir, Head of Section of Shipwrecks Management, Directorate of Marine Services, Directorate General of Marine Spatial Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

3. Underwater archaeology in China: A thirty-year history

Dr Xin Guangcan, National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, Beijing (in Chinese)

4. Opportunities and challenges in capacity-building for Underwater Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia

Dr Noel Hidalgo Tan, Senior Specialist in Archaeology, SEAMEO-SPAFA, Bangkok

5. Capacity Building in the Time of COVID-19: The case of HMAS Perth (I)

Dr Natali Pearson, Curriculum Coordinator, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10.00PM

PANEL CHAIR

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Mr Yeo Kirk Siang

*Director, Heritage Research & Assessment,
National Heritage Board, Singapore*

Yeo Kirk Siang is currently the Director of the Heritage Research and Assessment Division (HRA) at the National Heritage Board (NHB) of Singapore. The division focuses on the research, documentation and promotion of Singapore's archaeology, tangible heritage and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, in partnership with non-government organisations and public agencies. He is also the coordinator for the "Our SG Heritage Plan", which outlines the broad strategies for Singapore's heritage sector from 2018 to 2022.



Changsha bowls from the Tang Shipwreck.
Courtesy of Michael Flecker.

SPEAKER

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Mr Lim Chen Sian

*Associate Fellow,
Archaeology Unit,
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak
Institute, Singapore*

Challenges in Singapore archaeology

Archaeology, as a young discipline in Singapore, is inevitably confronted with many challenges as it seeks a role and relevance within society. While archaeological methods and theory have evolved considerably over the past two centuries, the challenges confronting archaeologists in Singapore over time have remained relatively unchanged. This presentation explores the issues and trials opposing the archaeological discipline over the years.

Lim Chen Sian is an Associate Fellow at the Archaeology Unit, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. He is a historical archaeologist interested in the transitional period between pre-and-post European contact in Southeast Asia and the development of port settlements, military fortifications, and the material culture of trade. He has been involved in Singapore archaeology since 2002. As of 2006 he has led archaeological investigations in the country and works extensively on lobbying for legislative changes pertaining to the necessity for impact assessments, protection of archaeological sites, and artefact ownership.

SPEAKER

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Ms Zainab Tahir
*Head of Section of
Shipwrecks
Management,
Directorate of Marine
Services, Directorate
General of Marine
Spatial Management,
Ministry of Marine
Affairs and Fisheries,
Indonesia*

Can locally managed tourism help in the protection of historic shipwrecks?

In the last few years in Indonesia, shipwrecks have increasingly been considered important marine resources. Along with the shifting maritime development visions of the new government, submerged sites are indirectly being dragged into the light to play a role in elevating the ambition to be "the global maritime axis". For instance, the government has tried to encourage the community to locally manage 18th-century shipwrecks in the western Java Sea; subsidies provided facilities, including an information centre, a boat, diving equipment, and a local guide training program. The purpose of this talk is to review the existing framework of the intervention and local institutional arrangement in managing the site, and to provide a conceptual overview to promote strategic planning for further shipwreck tourism development.

Zainab Tahir graduated from Hasanuddin University in South Sulawesi, majoring in Archaeology and the School of Earth and Environmental Science, James Cook University, Australia, focusing on Marine Protected Area Management. She works as a Heritage Analyst for the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and her current position is Head of Section for the Shipwrecks Management Unit. Her major responsibilities include conducting assessments on underwater site management and overseeing collections and supervising the operational activities of the Marine Heritage Gallery, under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

SPEAKER

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Dr Xin Guangcan
*National Center of
Underwater Cultural
Heritage, Beijing
(in Chinese)*

Underwater archaeology in China: A thirty-year history 中国水下考古三十年

Over the last thirty years, as the Nanhai One Shipwreck has continued to be excavated, the archaeological industry in China has gone through rapid institutional, mechanical, and talent improvements. This paper will revisit and introduce to the audience the course of development of Chinese underwater archaeology across its thirty-over years of history.

在过去的三十年里，由“南海一号”沉船发现开始，到今天沉船的发掘接近尾声，中国水下考古事业经历了迅速发展。无论机构、装备、人才等基础建设，还是沉船发现、水下考古理论方法等学科建设均取得了显著进步。本文将主要回顾并介绍中国水下考古三十多年来的发展历程。

Dr Xin Guangcan is currently employed at the National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, China. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Archaeology and Museology at Peking University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. In 2016, she received a doctoral degree from the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. Her main areas of specialisation are Southeast Asia, ceramic archaeology and underwater archaeology.

辛光灿现职于国家文物局水下文化遗产保护中心水下考古所。她分别于2005年及2008年获得北京大学考古文博学院学士及硕士学位。2016年于新加坡国立大学东南亚研究系获得博士学位。她的专业领域为东南亚研究、陶瓷考古、水下考古等。

SPEAKER

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Dr Noel Hidalgo Tan

*Senior Specialist in
Archaeology,
SEAMEO-SPAFA,
Bangkok*

Opportunities and challenges in capacity-building for Underwater Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia

Since the 1970s, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) has been instrumental in developing capacity for underwater archaeology in Southeast Asia through skills training, consultative meetings, and knowledge-sharing. Because of this long history of promoting cooperation in the region, SEAMEO SPAFA has a unique perspective on the current challenges and future development for the field of underwater archaeology, which will be discussed in this presentation.

Dr Noel Hidalgo Tan is the Senior Specialist in Archaeology at the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) in Bangkok, Thailand. Noel works across the region and oversees the centre's archaeology programmes such as training courses, seminars and the SPAFA Journal. Born in Singapore, he obtained his PhD at the Australian National University and has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.

SPEAKER

Panel 4: Capacity Development in Asian Archaeology: Challenges and Opportunities

SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST, 7.30PM–10:00PM



Capacity Building in the Time of COVID-19: The case of HMAS Perth (I)

International capacity building projects have been seriously affected by the combination of travel restrictions, reduced budgets and health considerations associated with the pandemic. While some projects lend themselves to being conducted online, many others have been forced to re-evaluate their feasibility entirely. This paper focuses on Australia's maritime capacity building initiative for the wreck of HMAS Perth (I) in Banten Bay, Indonesia, and the challenges and opportunities of advancing this project in the time of COVID-19.

Dr Natali Pearson is Curriculum Coordinator at the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney, where she is affiliated with the School of Literature, Art and Media. Her research focuses on the protection, management and interpretation of underwater cultural heritage in Southeast Asia. Natali is co-editor of *Perspectives on the Past* at *New Mandala* (<https://www.newmandala.org/seasiapasts/>) and a regular contributor to *The Conversation*. Natali has completed a PhD on underwater cultural heritage in Indonesia (2019, USYD). She has worked at the Asia Society's galleries in New York and Hong Kong, and as a consultant to the Asia Society Arts & Museum Summit.

Dr Natali Pearson

*Curriculum
Coordinator, Sydney
Southeast Asia
Centre, University
of Sydney*

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