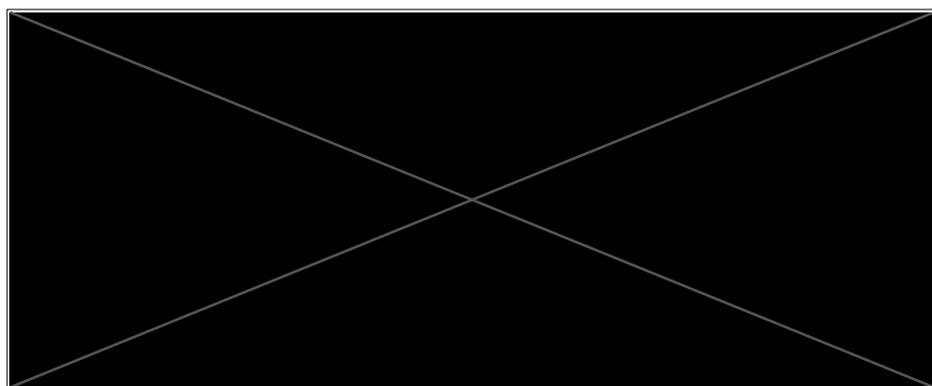


THE  
MARY AND CHENEY COWLES  
COLLECTION OF  
CHINESE CERAMICS

ZETTERQUIST GALLERIES

THE MARY AND CHENEY COWLES COLLECTION OF CHINESE CERAMICS

ERIC J. ZETTERQUIST



**THE  
MARY AND CHENEY COWLES  
COLLECTION OF  
CHINESE CERAMICS**

**EXHIBITION DATES**

**March 16th - 24th**

**2023**

**ZETTERQUIST GALLERIES**

**3 EAST 66TH STREET #2B**

**NEW YORK, NY 10065**

TEL. (212) 751-0650 Email: [inquiries@ZETTERQUIST.com](mailto:inquiries@ZETTERQUIST.com)

[www.ZETTERQUIST.com](http://www.ZETTERQUIST.com)

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Mary and Cheney Cowles Collection of Chinese Ceramics has been quietly and judiciously assembled over the last fifty years. It was purchased from many of the world's finest dealers and auctions, with a discerning eye for artistic beauty and excellent quality. Their achievement illustrates the true spirit of collecting; not for profit or fame, but as an expression of intellectual rigor and the sheer delight of beauty.

The fifty-six pieces on offer span one thousand years, from the 4th through 14th centuries. They include concentrations in white and sancai Sui-Tang Dynasty earthen wares, as well as Yue, Yaozhou, Ding, Qingbai, Jun, and Cizhou kiln type wares, with black and brown kilns from Northern and Southern China represented. Several of the works have illustrious early 20th century provenance, including Cunliffe, Hellner, Bernat, Falk, Yamanaka, Eskenazi and Lally.

Some standout examples include a large and intact Yueyao storage jar, a Junyao brush washer from the Hellner Collection, a rare carved Yaozhou yuhuchun-ping, a large carved Qingbai lidded meiping, and a lioness and cubs shaped Cizhou pillow from the Cunliffe Collection.

It has been my pleasure to know and work with Mr. and Mrs. Cowles for over 30 years, and I am honored to be entrusted with the sale of their spectacular collection. This exhibition offers a brief opportunity to view a collection only seen by a handful of visiting scholars, and rarely in its entirety.

**Eric J. Zetterquist**  
**March 2023**

1. **Yue Frog Shaped Jar**

Jin Dynasty (368-581 A.D.), China  
Diameter: 11.5 cm

A small stoneware jar in the form of a frog with compressed round body and frog's head, legs and tail applied in high relief. The sides are adorned with incised gills and top with four abstracted sprigs surrounding the tall neck with rounded lip. The piece is covered with a pale olive green proto-celadon glaze, which ends just above the slightly concave foot, revealing a grey clay body fired to a buff color. Minor scratching and glaze matt from burial. Another example of similar form is published in "Zhejiang Chronological Porcelain" Wenwu, Beijing 2000. no. 8.

Provenance: Kaikodo, Japan, 1991

2. **A Yue "Hu" Form Vase**

Jin Dynasty (368-581 A.D.), China  
Height: 8.24 cm

A small Yue-type stoneware jar of "Hu" form with squat ovoid body with short neck and cupped rim. The body is decorated with four low-relief masks and rings, and a band of crisply impressed stars at the base of the neck, diamond forms around the shoulders, and another band of stars above inverted triangles at the center of the body. The entire piece is covered with an ideally realized translucent olive green proto-celadon glaze. The foot rim and center of the foot well is unglazed revealing a light gray stoneware body fired to buff and russet colors.

A similar piece can be seen in "Zhejiang Chronological Porcelain" Wenwu, Beijing 2000. no. 57

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 1994

3. **Small Yue Bird Shaped Ewer**

Jin Dynasty (368-581 A.D.), China  
Length 14.8 cm

A small round ewer in the form of a bird, with chicken-headed spout and opposed projecting tail. The shoulders are surmounted by two loop handles and decorated with incised sprays within incised bands. The short neck is topped with a stepped lid. It is covered with an olive green glaze. The flattened "Bi" shaped foot rim has five spur marks and a shallow foot-well. Some grinding to the mouth rim and small hairline crack.

Provenance: Betty V. Gewald Collection until 1995



4. **Whiteware Bottle Vase**

Sui - early Tang Dynasty, 6th-7th c. AD, China

Height: 25.6 cm

A white-ware bottle vase of exquisite form and proportions. The ovoid body sits on a solid, splayed foot and is surmounted by an elongated neck with trumpet mouth-rim. Decorated only by a raised ridge at the join of the neck and body, this piece faithfully represents silver vessels of Persian-Sasanian origins. It is covered to just above the foot, in a translucent glaze fired to a pale off-white color, now slightly degraded in places. See similar examples in "Tang Pottery and Porcelain" Nezu Museum, 1988. pl. 12. Another piece of identical form can be found in Rizzoli's 1984 "Tang and Liao Ceramics" by William Watson. Pg. 96, pl. 62. Also, for another identical example, see "Appreciating China" Minneapolis Institute of Art 2002.

Provenance: Alvin Lo Oriental Art Ltd. 2004

5. **Whiteware Bowl**

Sui Dynasty, 581-618 AD, China

Diameter: 12.1 cm

A large white-ware cup of inverted bell-form sitting on a solid foot-rim of splayed form. It is covered with a crackled, very pale greenish glaze which pools in interior and at the bottom of the exterior coating, which ends above the foot. This form is a faithful representation of Persian Sasanian silver examples which traveled over the Silk Road over the preceding five hundred years.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co. 1998



6. **Xing Ruyi-Form Cosmetic Box and Cover with Molded Duck and Knot Design**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China

Length: 11 cm

A ruyi-form Xing-yao white-ware box with flat bottom and slightly domed lid. The lid has a molded depiction of knotted ribbon with two mandarin ducks facing each other. The exterior is decorated with bright green highlights on the lid and splashes on the sides and bottom, then covered overall with a translucent glaze.

A similar piece with Sancai glazed decoration sold at Christie's Hong Kong (November 2016) while another is published in Xi'an Institute of Cultural Relics Preservation, "Xing Kiln of China", Beijing, 2012, p. 342.

Provenance: William Chak, Hong Kong, 1997

7. **Small Sancai Eagle-Head Ewer**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China

Height: 16.5 cm

A small sancai glazed pottery ewer with eagle head atop a long, thin neck, decorated with three raised bands in the center. The body is bulbous and sits on a tall, splayed, solid foot. A curved handle of four piece calyx-form connects the shoulder and mouth. The piece is covered to mid-body with a mottled sancai glaze, which ends in an undulating line, revealing a light buff pottery body. T.L. tested by Oxford Authentication.

Provenance: Berwald Oriental Art, 2005



**8. Tang Whiteware Lidded Jar**  
Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China  
Height: 30 cm

A large ovoid jar with domed lid surmounted by a lotus bud finial. The finely formed ovoid body has a short, flared mouth-rim and a slightly flared base with flat foot. The piece is covered in a translucent, finely crackled glaze down to its foot, which has fired to a mottled tan color.

Provenance: Chinese Porcelain Company, New York  
Private New York Collection  
Christie's, 2008



9. **Tang Whiteware Tripod Jar with Medallions**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China

Height: 15 cm Diameter: 24 cm

A compressed globular formed jar of white earthenware standing on three claw-foot legs. It has four applied relief medallions of leaping mythical beasts separated by eight smaller floral and fig-leaf medallions. These applied features are covered with amber and green sancai glaze. Two areas of old rim restorations. A similar piece is illustrated from excavation photos in "Tang Pottery and Porcelain: Nezu Museum 1988. Pg. 133. pl. 37. Another with identical appliques and form, but with green background, and attributed to the Gonxian kilns in Henan, can be found in the Chinese Ceramics from the MeiYinTang Collection, vol. 3, pl. 1286. This piece came out of an old Japanese collection and is accompanied by a fitted wooden and inscribed box from the Taisho period, early 20th c. Japan.

Provenance: Private Japanese Collection  
Private American collection  
Zetterquist Galleries, New York 2014

10. **Sancai Tripod Plate**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 A.D., China

Diameter: 24 cm (9.35 inches)

A flat-bottomed plate with gently curved cavetto and broad, flat rim with raised edge. The inside is decorated with a Persian inspired floral medallion surrounded by six lotus depictions in profile and six closed buds between them. The decoration is incised, then colored with blue, green and amber glazes that adhere well to the pattern. The rest of the plate is white and covered with a translucent, finely cracked glaze, now slightly degraded in some areas, that continues on the back to the flattened bottom. The entire piece sits on three legs of stylized lion's paw form.

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 2001



**11. Rare Solid Blue Glazed Jar**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China  
Height: 14 cm

An ovoid pottery jar with high shoulders and flaring neck. The outside body is covered in a cobalt blue glaze, which pools away near the foot-rim to reveal areas of white clay body. The inside is covered with a yellow glaze. Some rim repair and small glaze flake repairs. In fitted box with inscription: "Blue Tang Mannenko Jar".

Solid cobalt blue glazed vessels are extremely rare as the cobalt used to produce the glaze was necessarily imported from Persia during this period. This piece has a particularly lavish coating of the glaze, which has fired to an ideal sapphire blue.

Provenance: Private Japanese Collection  
Zetterquist Galleries, 1995

**12. Rare Solid Blue Tripod Plate**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China  
Diameter: 23.5 cm

A round pottery flat bottomed plate with a shallow, curved cavetto ending in a flattened mouth rim. The interior is molded with an incised floral medallion under monochrome blue glaze. The bottom is raised on three loop feet, also glazed, with one foot repaired. The bottom center is unglazed, revealing a white pottery body. Areas of glaze silvering front and back.

As with the previous lot, solid cobalt blue vessels are amongst the most rare in the Tang Dynasty, as the cobalt was necessarily imported from Persia.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1999



**13. Changsha Lamp**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China  
Height: 22.2 cm

A stoneware Changsha jug-form lamp with slightly lobed body and short narrow neck, small cut-out area just above unglazed base, with two loop handles at shoulder above two large applied leaf-form bosses molded with grapevines. The shoulder and neck also have applied high relief of a seated lion and bird tail. The neck, shoulder and body have streaks of amber and green, all under pale tan glaze.

Provenance: Kaikodo, 1992

**14. Sancai Amphora with Dragon Handles**

Tang Dynasty, 618-907 AD, China  
Height: 33 cm

A sancai glazed pottery amphora with high shouldered body surmounted with a tall flared neck ending in a cup mouth. The two handles are in the form of over-arching dragons rising up from the shoulders and biting down on the mouth-rim. It is covered with a mottled sancai glaze of green and amber, which stops below the shoulders, revealing a grey clay body covered in slip. The foot is slightly concave. Some minor areas of burial adhesions. TL tested by Oxford Authentication.

Provenance: Berwald Oriental Art, 1997



15. **Black-Glazed Lion Figure**  
Late Tang Dynasty, 9th c. AD, China  
Height: 26 cm

A stoneware sculpture of a lion standing on a round pedestal base. The entire piece is covered with an opaque blackish brown glaze. The glaze stops about one inch short of the rolled foot rim, revealing a coarse buff clay body. One ear tip repaired. TL tested by Oxford Authentication.

This piece was likely designed to set into an alter pedestal. Similar examples of this form are published in R.L. Hobson's "Eumorfopolis Collection", Earnest Benn, London, 1925 Vol.1, nos. 434, 471.

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 2005

16. **Black Jar with Bluish White Phosphatic Splashes**  
Late Tang Dynasty, 9th c. AD, China  
Height: 28 cm

A large jar of ovoid form on short straight foot-rim. It has a short neck with flared rim, and is covered with dark brownish-black glaze running just short of foot, punctuated with large phosphatic splashes of light blue and white on its shoulders and running in streaks down sides. The domed lid is surmounted by a lotus bud knob, and similarly splashed. With small glaze flaws, and a short firing scar on one side.

For a similar example, see "Hare's Fur, Tortoiseshell, and Partridge Feathers" by Robert D. Mowry. Harvard University Art Museums, 1995. pl. 11

Provenance: Sotheby's, 2015



**17. Changsha Ewer with Bird Painting**

Late Tang Dynasty, 9th c. AD, China

Height: 20.2 cm

A Changsha ewer of high-shouldered form delineated by four lobes and surmounted by a wide, flaring mouth-rim. A grooved strap handle connects the body to the neck on one side, with short faceted spout atop the shoulder on the other. The exterior and interior is covered with a thin yellowish celadon glaze which ends short of the flat, stained bottom. The body is decorated with a depiction of a bird and flower-heads outlined in brown with green highlights. Repaired footrim chips.

Provenance: Nankai Tokyo, 2012

**18. Small Changsha Ewer Bird-Form Ewer**

Late Tang Dynasty, 9th c. AD, China

Length: 9.7 cm

A small Changsha bird-shaped ewer with compressed melon form body decorated with wings, tail and bird head in relief. The form sits on a short, straight foot and is surmounted by a stepped lid with bud finial. The pale, yellowish celadon glaze is highlighted with green and brown splashes. The foot is unglazed, revealing a grey stoneware body fired to a buff color. TL tested.

Provenance: Littleton and Hennessey, 2017

**19. Changsha Bowl with Floral Decoration**

Late Tang Dynasty, 9th c. AD, China

Diameter: 15.25 cm

A round, shallow stoneware bowl with ridged, everted rim and slightly flared, thickly potted foot. The dark stoneware body is covered in slip with, the exception of the underfoot, revealing a dark grey stoneware body. The edges have been dipped in brown on four sides, forming a central diamond shaped cartouche, which is decorated with a flower, freely drawn in brown and green glaze.

Provenance: Nankai Tokyo, 2017



20. **Rare and Large Yue Jar**  
Five Dynasties, 10th c. AD, China  
Height: 38 cm

A large Yueyao stoneware jar of elongated ovoid form rising from a short straight foot and with four loop handles and two rectangular flanges pierced with holes at shoulder. It is covered with pale olive toned glaze, with evident dipping lines. The flat foot is unglazed and fired gray and brown, with evidence of 12 firing spurs. Some elongated glaze and hairline body cracks.

Complete Yue-ware pieces of this scale are extremely rare. A similar fragmented piece was excavated in Suzhou, Jiangsu (Liu 1981), datable to 900-960, and published in "New Light on Chinese Yue and Longquan Wares", University of Hong Kong, 1994. pg. 343, pl. F. Another is published in "Masterpieces of Oriental Ceramics" The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, 1999. pl. 12

Provenance: Private American Collection  
Christie's, 2001



21. **Northern White-ware Double-Gourd Ewer with Guan Mark**  
Liao or Five Dynasties, 10th c. A.D., China  
Height: 21.6 cm

A porcelaineous stoneware ewer covered with a translucent ivory colored glaze that stops just short of its finely potted foot rim. The piece is formed of two spheres conjoined by a narrow connection giving it the appearance of a double gourd. The bottom section has a slightly flattened and ridged spout formed for pouring sideways. (old repair at tip.) A wide, flattened looped handle joins the top and bottom sections, and has a molded floral decoration. The unglazed under-foot has an incised "guan" character, incised after firing. A piece of similar form, but with double strand handle, appears in *Xing Kiln of China*, Beijing, 2012, pl. 97.

Provenance: Private American Collection  
Zetterquist Galleries, 2014



22. **Xing Barbed-Rim Plate**  
Five Dynasties, 10th c. AD, China  
Diameter: 16.5 cm

A white porcelain shallow bowl with four points and four petal shaped lobes each. Finely potted of thin porcelaineous stoneware, it is covered in a translucent glaze, and sits on a straight collar foot rim. There are two areas of staining on exterior and two minute rim chips.

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 2001



23. **Ding Bowl with Carved Lotus Design**

Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127 AD, China  
Diameter: 22.2 cm

A finely potted and exquisitely carved Dingyao porcelain stoneware bowl with foliate form rim divided by six notches. The deep interior is decorated a masterfully incised lotus depiction, with the main flower rising above the center well and scrolling lotus along the bottom two-thirds of the cavetto. The exterior is plain with the exception of faint turning lines and glaze pools to a viscous color typical of Northern Song Ding pieces. There is a small rim chip, slight hairline crack to the interior.

Myron and Pauline Falk collected Chinese antiquities since their honeymoon in China in the 1930's. With an exquisite eye (and impeccable timing) they were able to amass an important collection, which they generously shared with students, scholars, and collectors in their Park Avenue apartment through the decades.

Provenance: Pauline and Myron Falk Jr. Collection, New York  
Christie's, 2001

Published: "Chinese Art: Symbols and Images, Wellesley College Museum of Art", 1967, pl. 24.

Exhibited: "Chinese Art: Symbols and Images", Wellesley College Museum of Art, 1967



24. **Ding Plate with Carved Ducks**  
Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 19.7 cm

A porcelaineous plate with flattened bottom and broad flaring cavetto. The interior is decorated with a beautifully incised depiction of two ducks in water amongst waves and water foliage. (With five small firing bubbles.) The underside is plain and has a finely formed short foot, which is glazed. (With two burst firing bubbles on one side.)

Provenance: Yamanaka and Co., 1963  
Private American Collection



25. **A Rare Carved Yaozhou Yuhuchun-ping**

Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127 AD, China  
Height: 25.5 cm

An extremely rare Yaozhou stoneware bottle vase with a pear-shaped body and elongated neck with flared mouth and slightly rolled mouth-rim. The body is decorated with masterfully and deeply carved peonies and scrolling leaves. There is a band of overlapping lotus petals above the foot, and two bands of elongated petals, one facing up and the other down, around the neck. The entire piece is covered with a translucent, ideally colored olive green glaze, down to mid-foot, where it reveals a light gray stoneware body fired to a russet brown color. The underfoot has some thin glaze and firing grit. TL tested by Chinese University of Hong Kong, test number 01560.

See "Ceramic Finds from Henan", Hong Kong University, 1997, for a ewer with similar carving and mouth-rim excavated at Qingliangsi Kiln Site pl. 38

Another related example is published in "Mayuyama - Seventy Years" Tokyo, 1976, pl. 342 and "Masterpieces of Yaozhou Ware" Museum of Oriental Ceramics Osaka, 1998, pl. 75

Provenance: James Freeman, Japan, 1998

26. **Yaozhou Bowl with Carved Exterior**

Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127 AD, China  
Diameter: 16.5 cm

A deep stoneware bowl with lightly incised sprays and spiral in the interior and an exterior deeply carved with scrolling peonies. It is covered with a translucent olive green glaze, which ends at the foot, revealing a gray stoneware body fired to a russet brown color. The underfoot has a smattering of degraded glaze around the perimeter, with the center unglazed and buff in color. Some minor crazing to the glaze near the rim and in the interior.

Provenance: Ancient Chinese Antiques, Hong Kong, 1992



**27. Pair of Yaozhou Octagonal Plates**

Jin Dynasty, 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 12.6 cm

A pair of small Yaozhou octagonal plates with cyma-curved edges and corresponding lobes in the cavetto. The flat interior bottoms are decorated with deeply carved lotus flower depictions. The entire piece is covered with a dark olive green glaze that stops short of the slightly concave foot with shallow round recess, and dark brown staining.

Provenance: Chak's Gallery, Hong Kong 1991

**28. Yaozhou Plate with Carved Lotus Design**

Jin Dynasty, 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 19 cm

A stoneware dish with a masterfully carved lotus flower and leaf depiction on the interior. The mouth-rim is ridged on the outside and the cavetto is unadorned. The entire piece is covered in an ideally colored, translucent, crackled celadon glaze, which pools in the troughs of the carving to a deeper green. The short, straight foot is partially glazed, and reveals a gray clay body fired to brownish tones.

A nearly identical piece from the Tokyo National Museum is published in "Masterpieces of Yaozhou Ware" Museum of Oriental Ceramics Osaka, 1998, pl. 94

Provenance: Carter Oriental Arts, Ltd. 1996

**29. Small Yaozhou Bowl with Carved Overlapping Petal Design**

Song Dynasty, 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 11.5 cm

A small deep stoneware bowl with slightly curved sides, small foot and slightly flared rim. The interior is molded with tightly packed spiraling petals around the cavetto, and a central flower in the interior bottom. The exterior is decorated with knife-cut line radiating from the foot. The entire piece is covered with a fine olive green glaze which pools at the foot, and reveals a gray clay body fired to shades of brown.

Provenance: Eskenazi Ltd., 1973



**30. Small Yaozhou Conical Bowl**  
Five Dynasties, 10th c. AD, China  
Diameter: 14.1 cm

A small conical stoneware bowl with a finely formed unglazed foot rim and thinly glaze underfoot fired to a pale buff color. The underfoot has an original firing "star crack". The bowl is covered with a sweet pale green glaze that thins at the rim. Although reminiscent of later "moon white" glazes, this piece is representative of tenth century examples.

A piece of the same type with steeper walls is published in "Masterpieces of Yaozhou Ceramics", Osaka Museum of Oriental Ceramics, 1997. Pl. 18.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1994

**31. Large Yaozhou Bowl with Carved Lotus**  
Jin Dynasty 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 22.7 cm

A large Yaozhou bowl of light gray stoneware body and rounded mouth rim with concentric ridge on the exterior. The interior has a deeply carved lotus spray, including two views of lotus flower heads, and top-down depiction of a curled leaf and associated scrolling foliage, all under a plain band just below the mouth rim. The entire piece is covered in an ideal translucent green glaze that crackles on the unadorned exterior. The unglazed foot-rim and underfoot reveal a gray clay body fired to a dark buff color. One hairline crack at rim and evidence of minor polishing.

Provenance: Ancient Chinese Antiques, Hong Kong, 1991



32. **Yaozhou Bowl with Carved Peonies**  
Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127 AD, China  
Diameter: 22.7 cm

A thinly potted, high-fired stoneware bowl with three carved and combed peonies and leaf sprays in the interior, confined by a plain band below the mouth-rim. The exterior is decorated with knife-cut loosely depicted clouds or leaves. The entire piece is covered with an evenly applied olive toned celadon glaze. The short, straight foot rim is unglazed with a circular glaze application in the center of the foot well. The unglazed areas have fired to a brown color.

Provenance: William Chak, Hong Kong, 1997



**33. Baofeng Jun-Yao Bowl**

Northern Song Dynasty, 960-1127 AD, China  
Diameter: 19.2 cm

A broad, shallow stoneware bowl with a constricted straight-collar mouth-rim giving the appearance of a bulging sides. The interior and exterior of the body is covered with an opaque, ideally colored robins egg pale blue glaze, slightly mat in texture with burst air bubbles on the exterior. The glaze pools thickly at the flattened bottom around three evenly spaced spur marks, typical of early Junyao pieces from the Baofeng kilns in Henan. The mouth-rim is covered in a crisply delineated buff, mushroom color, giving the appearance of banding. There is a hairline crack at the rim and a glaze chip around one of the spur marks, probably occurring when the piece was removed from the kiln.

This form likely started as a brush washer, and was also produced in the Yue Kilns, a 10th century example of which is illustrated in "A Collection of Ancient Chinese Porcelain Treasures" by Li Zi Yan and Chan Liang Zhu, Woods Publishing, Hong Kong 1988. Pl. 31. Another identical Junyao piece can be seen in "Ceramic Finds from Henan, Hong Kong University 1997, excavated at the Juntai Kiln Site Yuzhou in 1974. pl. 58.

Provenance: J. Hellner Collection, Sweden (from the early 20th c.)  
Eskenazi Ltd., London  
J.J. Lally & Co. 1996.

Publications: Kina Och Norden: Chinese and Scandinavian Ceramics from the Hellner Collection, Ostasiatiska Museets, Stockholm, 1970  
Cover Illustration



34. **Qingbai Pedestal Bowl**  
Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 12 cm

A finely potted Qingbai porcelain bowl with foliate notched mouth-rim and sitting on a pedestal foot of blunted conical form. The piece is covered with an exquisite qingbai glaze that pools around the bottom of the foot. The deep footwell interior is unglazed, revealing a white clay body. The fine quality of this piece is consistent with examples from the Hutien kilns in Jingdezhen. There is a small hairline crack at the rim.

Provenance: Susan Chen, Hong Kong, 1989

35. **Qingbai Bowl with Frolicking Babies**  
Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 21 cm

A porcelain bowl with a carved scene of two boys frolicking amongst foliage, (peonies of pomegranate type). The masterful carving is done both with pointed and wedged instruments. The entire bowl is covered in an idyllic pale blue translucent glaze, leaving only the underfoot unglazed, revealing a white porcelain body with shadow of the cylindrical kiln support on which it was fired. There is a small hairline crack at the rim. See similar examples in Shanghai People's Press "Compendium of Chinese Ceramics" vol. 16, Song-Yuan Qingbai, pl. 103. Also, Jan Virgin's 1970 publication "Sung Ceramic Designs" with an identical example. Pl. 19. Another is illustrated in "Sekai Touji Zenshu" Shogakukan, 1977. Vol. 12, pls. 162-163.

Provenance: Susan Chen, Hong Kong 1989



36. **Qingbai Cup on Stand**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China

Stand Diameter: 16.2 cm - Cup Diameter: 10.2 cm

A finely potted porcelain pedestal cup with flared, foliate-form bowl and flared pedestal foot, all covered with a translucent blue-green glaze. The bowl sits on a stand with a flattened foliate-form rim and raised, beveled interior receptacle, with reticulated cloud formations for each petal. Also covered in a fine Qingbai glaze, the bottom of the interior foot-well has an unglazed ring, revealing a fine, white porcelaneous clay body, the center of which is cut out to allow air into the receptacle under-cavity.

Some rim fritting and minute chips to cup rim.

See a similar example and its Song silver prototype in "Song Through 21st Century Eyes - Yaozhou and Qingbai Ceramics" by Rose Kerr. Meijering Art Books 2009. Fig. 3-47 and 48.

Another can be seen in "Qingbai Jingpin Jianshang" JXfinearts 2012. pg. 125.

Provenance: James Freeman, Japan, 1985



37. **Rare and Exquisite Qingbai Rice Measure**  
Southern Song - Yuan Dynasty, 13th - 14th c. AD, China  
Height: 12.5 cm

A large deep bowl in the form of a rice measure with a rounded body deeply carved with overlapping lotus petals under a band of chatters and raised bosses which are glazed in iron oxide brown. The tall, wide neck is slightly flared at the mouth, and is covered in a dense incised cash pattern. The interior and exterior are covered in a jewel-like translucent light turquoise blue Qingbai glaze, which stops short of the gently rounded bottom, revealing a white porcelaneous clay body with a circular band of brown where it sat on a cylindrical kiln support. Three small hairline cracks on mouth-rim. Such large and refined examples of this form are extremely rare, and likely produced for ceremonial purposes.

Provenance: Sotheby's, 1988

38. **Qingbai Miniature Elephant Sculpture**  
Southern Song Dynasty, 1127-1279 AD, China  
Length: 5.7 cm

A small molded porcelain model of a recumbent elephant figure on a stepped rectangular pedestal, (possibly a brush rest). The elephant has a slightly under-curved trunk with four tusks and a tail which wraps around its rear haunch, all in relief. The exterior is covered in a pale blue Qingbai glaze, with the hollowed interior of the pedestal unglazed to reveal a white porcelaneous body fired to a russet-buff color.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1993



**39. Qingbai Octagonal Ewer and a Water Dropper in the form of an Octagonal Ewer**

Southern Song Dynasty, 1127-1279 AD, China

Heights: 6.5 cm and 5.4 cm

A small Qingbai porcelaineous stoneware ewer with an octagonal body and lid, with small loop handle and curved spout, all covered in a translucent pale blue glaze. The flat octagonal foot is unglazed and has two brown oxidation spots at the site of its kiln supports.

Provenance: Shogado, Japan, 1986

Together with:

A Qingbai water dropper with octagonal body in the form of a miniature ewer with loop handle and short curved spout below a false lid with air hole in one side. The entire piece is covered with a translucent pale blue glaze. The foot has a shallow octagonal recess and brown spots from kiln oxidation.

Provenance: JJ Lally and Co., 1989

**40. Qingbai Octagonal Ewer with Molded Decoration**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China

Height: 9.5cm

An octagonal porcelain ewer with molded relief decorations of flowers, birds and animals adorning the upper half of each facet, and a band of petals at the base of the neck. The lid is molded with chrysanthemum petals, and the short spout and double strap handle are unadorned. The entire piece is covered with a pale translucent blue Qingbai glaze, which ends at its flat base, revealing a pale greyish-white clay body fired to a buff color.

A similar piece is published in "Compendium of Chinese Ceramics; Song-Yuan Dynasty Qingbai Wares" Kyoto 1984. Vol. 16, pl. 115.

Provenance: Kaikodo Japan, 1989



**41. Carved Qingbai Meiping Jar with Lid**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China

Height: 32 cm

A tall Meiping jar of high-shouldered tapering form and short neck with slightly inverted ridged mouth-rim, fitted with a cylindrical cup lid. The body is decorated over all with deftly incised scrolling tendrils in the manner of “guri” lacquer ware, confined between double border lines. The entire piece is covered with a translucent pale blue glaze of ideal color that ends in a deeper opalescent blue pool about one centimeter above the beveled foot-rim. The inset underfoot has a smattering of glaze and kiln grit, but it otherwise reveals a white porcelainous clay body with brownish oxidation marks from firing.

TL tested by Oxford Authentication, certificate number P122k73.

Although such large and exquisite examples of this form with a lid are quite rare, a similar piece is published in “A Compendium of Chinese Ceramics; Song-Yuan Dynasty Qingbai Wares” Kyoto 1984. Vol. 16, pl. 70 and 101. Another can be seen in “A Collection of Ancient Chinese Porcelain Treasures” by Li Zi Yan and Chan Liang Zhu, Woods Publishing, Hong Kong 1988. Pl. 53.

Provenance: Sotheby's, 2004



42. **Small Conical Porcelain Bowl with Molded Prunus and Moon**  
**Design**

Yuan Dynasty 1271-1368 AD, China  
Diameter: 14.2 cm

A porcelain bowl of shallow conical form sitting on a small round foot rim. The interior is decorated with a molded plum branch and a crescent moon amongst clouds on the opposing side, all below a molded key-fret band well below the rim. The entire piece is covered in a clear glaze that pools to a very pale blue color near the foot.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1987

43. **Qingbai Bowl with Molded Floral Exterior**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 14 cm

A deep round bowl with steep sides and slightly flared foliate-form rim, delineated with by five notches. The exterior walls are decorated with a finely carved scrolling floral pattern. The entire piece is covered in a thin, pale blue Qingbai glaze, that ends in the interior of the tall foot, revealing a white porcelaineous clay body. With small chips and fritting to the foot-rim.

A similar example can be seen in "Qingbai Jingpin Jianshang" JXfinearts 2012. pg. 167.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1987



44. **Qingbai Circular Box with Pedestal Foot and Fitted Interior**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China

Diameter: 13.2 cm

A round box of compressed form on high tapering foot with an incised design of babies amongst foliage contained by a band of overlapping petals on the beveled edge of its slightly domed lid. The interior is fitted with three foliate-form cups and stems with floral medallions in relief. The entire piece, with the exception of the lid interior and sections of the foot-well interior, is covered in a pale blue Qingbai glaze with craquelure on the lid. There is a brown ring on bottom of the inner foot-well where the piece was fired on a cylindrical kiln support.

A similar example published in "Voids in Clay" by Rose Kerr, 3Mer Books 2021. Pl. 35. Two others can be seen in "Qingbai Jingpin Jianshang" JXfinearts 2012. pgs. 112-113.

Provenance: Ancient Chinese Antiques, Hong Kong, 1996



45. **Large Qingbai Jar**  
Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368 AD, China  
Height: 29.8 cm

A large porcelaneous jar of baluster form body with high shoulders surmounted by a short, wide neck that tapers up to a thick rolled mouth-rim. The bottom half of the jar is has deeply carved overlapping lotus petals confined by raised borders. The upper half of the body has deeply and masterfully carved scrolling peonies and foliage, all under a lappet of lotus petals around the base of the neck. The entire piece is covered with a brilliant translucent and finely crackled turquoise blue glaze that ends just above the foot. The foot rim and center of the flat foot-well are unglazed, revealing a white porcelaneous stoneware body fired to a light buff color. A more elongated Meiping version with identical carving is published in "Inaugural Exhibition, Vol. 1, Chinese Ceramics" from the Museum of East Asian Art, Bath, 1993. Pl. 131.

TL tested by Oxford Authentication Sample #P122k74

Provenance: J.J .Lally and Co., 1988



46. **Qingbai “Southern Ding” Molded Bowl**  
Southern Song Dynasty 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 18.2 cm

A porcelaneous stoneware bowl with slightly curved sides and raised on small foot. The interior is molded with a design of water plants, insects, two small fish and ribbons. The slipped body has a clear glaze with tiny black spots, imitating ting ware.

Similar pieces noted as Raozhou Ware, but with differing decoration, are published in “Song Ceramics from the Kwan Collection”, Hong Kong Museum of Art, 1994. pls. 128 -130.

Provenance: Chak’s Gallery, Hong Kong, 1991

47. **Small Longquan Celadon Brush Washer**  
Southern Song Dynasty 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 13 cm

A small stoneware brush washer with straight sides tapering up to an everted mouth-rim. The piece is covered in a finely realized celadon glaze a bluish-green tones, which ends at the bottom of the short, uneven foot-rim, where the pale gray stoneware body has fired to a russet brown in places. The under-foot well is also glazed.



**48. Cizhou Stoneware Box with Lotus Painting**

Jin Dynasty 1127-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 11.2 cm

A circular box of buff colored stoneware covered in white slip. The bottom half is undecorated and sits on a slightly raised foot-rim with recessed underfoot. The interior of the bottom is glazed and has an inset mouth-rim (with long chip), onto which the lid fits snugly. The lid, which has a slightly domed top, has a masterfully painted lotus depiction in brown and rust colored iron oxide.

An identical piece is illustrated in "Jin Shines and Jin Memory: The Glory of Sanjin Kiln Flame" Wenwu, 2013. Part 5, no. 8.

Provenance: Chak's Gallery, Hong Kong 1990

**49. Globular Cizhou Bowl with Dragonfly Design**

Yuan Dynasty 1271-1368 AD, China  
Height: 9.9 cm

A deep globular bowl with slightly incurved sides sitting on a tall, straight unglazed foot. The piece is covered in slip and has three evenly spaced iron oxide blackish brown dragonflies in flight painted on the top half of the body, all under a painted rim. (Small crack to rim.) The translucent glaze and slip layer ends just above the foot, which is unglazed revealing a dark brown stoneware body fired to a light brown color. There are five spur marks around the foot-rim.

A similar piece, but with butterflies, is published Jan Wirgin's "Sung Ceramic Design", Stockholm, 1970. Pl. 45 fig. b.

TL tested by Oxford Authentication.

Provenance: Carter Oriental Arts Ltd., 1996



50. **Cizhou Pillow with Lioness and Cubs**

Jin Dynasty 1127-1279 AD, China  
Height: 13.3 cm x Length: 21.6 cm

A Cizhou pillow of dark stoneware with a layer of cream colored slip and translucent glaze. The body is in the form of a recumbent lioness with two intertwined cubs at her side, one biting the others haunch, and the other biting the mother's ear. The canopy, which raises out of the figure's back, is of quadrofoil form with one side flattened, and canting backwards from the front of the figural group. It is deeply incised with a large peony spray over a ring-matte ground, and contained by a double-lined border. Small chips to extremities. The flat base is unglazed and fired to a dark brown.

Provenance: Cunliffe Collection  
Bluett and Son's, London  
J.J. Lally & Co., 1995

Exhibited: Oriental Ceramic Society, London, 1960



51. **Henan Bowl with Persimmon Splashes and Oil Spots**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Diameter: 19.7 cm

A stoutly potted round stoneware bowl with a blackish brown glaze punctuated with silvery persimmon oil spots and splashes on the interior. Below a persimmon-colored rim, the exterior is similarly oil spotted black that gives away to a layer of persimmon glaze which ends in an undulating line well above the straight collar, thickly formed foot. The shallow foot-well is also unglazed, revealing a buff-colored body.

Provenance: Sotheby's

52. **Ribbed Henan Jar**

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD, China  
Height: 18.7 cm

A ribbed Henan jar with wide base and curved sides that taper inward to its straight collar neck. The body is decorated with parallel raised white ribs against a black glaze. The two impressed strap handles connect the neck to the shoulder, below which there are raised white ribs forming elongated X motifs. The glaze stops well above the short, beveled foot-rim, revealing a buff stoneware body. Several large chips repaired on the neck.

Provenance: Ancient Chinese Antiques, Hong Kong, 1990



53. **Jizhou Conical Tea Bowl with Paper-cut Phoenix Decoration**

Southern Song Dynasty, 1127-1279 AD, China

Diameter: 15.2 cm

A finely potted conical tea bowl from the Jizhou Kilns in Jiangxi Province. The straight walls of the interior ascend from a tiny circular well in the bottom, and are decorated with “paper-cut” reserve decoration of two phoenix in flight and three plum blossoms, appearing blackish brown against a variegated background of buff and amber tones under a streaked rim. The exterior has a tortoiseshell decoration against a solid blackish brown and persimmon background, all ending just above knife cut shallow foot-rim beveled in from a horizontal ridge and unglazed, revealing a buff stoneware body. Some rim chips repaired. For a similar example, see “Hare’s Fur, Tortoiseshell, and Partridge Feathers” by Robert D. Mowry. Harvard University Art Museums, 1995. pl. 97. Also see “Song Ceramics from the Kwan Collection”, Hong Kong Museum of Art, 1994. pl. 172.

Provenance: Sotheby’s, 2015

54. **A Large Jian-Yao Hare’s Fur Bowl**

Southern Song Dynasty, 1127-1279 A.D., China

Diameter: 18.5 cm

A large conical stoneware bowl with elegantly flared mouth-rim. The entire piece is covered with a thick shiny black glaze streaked with persimmon colored glaze in the Hare’s Fur style. The glaze stops in thick drips just short of the carved foot-rim revealing a dark brown stoneware clay body. For a similar example, see “Hare’s Fur, Tortoiseshell, and Partridge Feathers” by Robert D. Mowry. Harvard University Art Museums, 1995. pl. 81.

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 2011



55. **Large Cizhou Cut-Glaze Jar**  
Jin - Yuan Dynasty, 13th - 14th c. AD, China  
Height: 25.4 cm

A large stoneware jar with wide shoulders that constrict to a narrow, flared bottle mouth. The top of the shoulder has a narrow band of scrolling leaf pattern, and the body a wide band of floral designs carved into the black glaze, revealing a slip-covered clay body. The foot rim is flat, unglazed, and fired to a buff color. The underfoot is glazed in black. There are minor surface scratches and small area with original kiln grit on shoulder.

Provenance: Zetterquist Galleries, 2003

56. **Cizhou Meiping with Incised Waves and Lotus Decoration**  
Jin - Yuan Dynasty, 13th - 14th c. AD, China  
Height: 35cm

A stoneware meiping of high-shouldered form with short neck and tall carinated mouth. The body is covered with an even light brown glaze with sgraffiato decoration of lotus amongst waves on the upper body, confined by a stylized cloud band above and double lines below.

A similar piece is featured in "Black Porcelain from the Mr. and Mrs. Yueng Wing Tak Collection" and noted as Cizhou ware from Hebei. no 20.

TL tested by Chinese University of Hong Kong and Oxford Authentication.

Provenance: J.J. Lally and Co., 1993





