

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2013
The Culture and Arts of China: From the Song Dynasty to Contemporary
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China in the World—500 Years Ago
The Global Ming Dynasty
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China has rarely been separated from the rest of the world. Despite the old truism that it hid behind the Great Wall and declined to interact with the rest of the world, the later dynasties—Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644), and Qing (1644-1911)—engaged extensively in diplomacy and trade. During these dynasties, many people traveled, many commodities were traded, and many ideas were exchanged. Ceramics provide some of the most vivid traces of Ming China's global presence, traces that are still visible today, in this Museum among other locations.

Before getting to ceramics, the talk will begin with a series of incidents that happened in Canton and Beijing between 1514 and 1521—almost exactly 500 years ago, when Portuguese traders arrived and like bulls in a china shop upset an extremely delicate internal policy debate about whether the Ming court should tax foreign trade. Things turned out very badly, as we shall see.

Outline:

- (1) Separate Worlds?
- (2) A Series of Incidents 500 Years Ago
- (3) China and the World before 1513: The Persian Connection
- (4) China and the World after 1567: The American Connection
- (5) Converging Worlds?

People who will be mentioned in the talk:

Chen Boxian, Assistant Administration Commissioner of Guangdong
Wu Tingju, Administration Commissioner of Guangdong
Fernão Peres, Portuguese captain
Simão d'Andrade, his brother, also a Portuguese captain
Qiu Dalong, capital censor, former magistrate of Shunde county, Guangdong
He Ao, capital censor
Duarte Coelho, Portuguese captain
Martim Affonso, Portuguese captain

Emperors who will be mentioned in the talk:

Hongwu, r. 1368-98
Yongle, r. 1402-24
Zhengde, r. 1506-21

Jiajing, r. 1521-66

Objects in the Asian Art Museum that will be included among the images shown:

B68P8	Pilgrim flask, Iran, 1100-1300
B60P89	Pilgrim flask, 1736-95
B69P3L	Porcelain incense burner, 1300-68
B69P4I	Vase in shape of ancient bronze vessel, 1300-1368
B60P1928	Glazed fritware jug, Iran, 1100-1300
B60P1995	Long-necked fritware jug, Iran, 1200-1400
B60P74	Blue-and-white bottle vase, 1573-1619
B60P1952	Dish with turban-clad youth, Tabriz?, 1550-1650
2007.32	Fritware dish with eight-pointed star design, 1640-70
B60P33+	Ablution basin with Eight Treasures, 1403-24
B60P85	Handled ewer with spout, 1403-35
B60P265	Plate with pomegranates, Japan, 1650-1700
B60P265	Plate with pomegranates, Japan, 1650-1700
2000.31	Concretion of ceramics from the Hôi An shipwreck, Vietnam, 1450-50
2010.492	Stoneware with underglaze decoration, Vietnam, 1450-1550
B60D78	Namban screen depicting arrival of a Portuguese ship, 1620-40
B60P974	Plate with monogram of the Dutch East India Company, 1660-80
1989.23.3	Plate with coats-of-arms of Caulfield and Talbot families, 1800-1850
1989.23.5	Plate with flowers and coat of arms of Archer of Umberslade, c. 1775

Recommended reading:

- Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2008), esp. chs. 4, 6.
- Timothy Brook, *The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties* (Harvard University Press, 2010), ch. 9.
- Li Zhiyan, Virginia Bower, and He Li, *Chinese Ceramics: From the Paleolithic Period through the Qing Dynasty* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010), ch. 10
- T'ien-Tsê Chang, *Sino-Portuguese Trade from 1514-1644: A Synthesis of Portuguese and Chinese Sources* (Leiden: Brill, 1933)
- Robert Finlay, *The Pilgrim Art: Cultures of Porcelain in World History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010).
- Tonio Andrade, *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011).