

Stylistic transformations of ceramics of Tang and Sung dynasties of China

Summary

The article offers a brief overview of the analysis that focuses on the main traditions and tendencies of the ceramic art during the rule of the Tang and Sung dynasties. Even though the ceramic ware excavated in Henan and Gansu provinces dates back to the Neolithic era, the aesthetic uniqueness and subtlety of ceramics manifested itself during the rule of the Tang dynasty due to the rapid development of new ceramic production technologies and flourishing of various styles of the ceramic art. Still, the discovery of porcelain and development of its production was one of the most significant contributions to global ceramic art sphere. This art achieved an extraordinary level of refinement and became an important segment of Chinese export during the time of flourishing of this civilization, i.e. during the rule of the Sung dynasty when production of porcelain ware spread throughout the country.

The prevailing cult of traditionalism and a special, sacred connection to nature shaped the main aesthetic principles of Chinese ceramics producers during the

rule of the Tang and Sung dynasties; these principles were conveyed by the composed surface and refined forms of the ceramic ware. Another essential feature of the Chinese ceramic art during the given period is the perfect technical production and exceptional skill thanks to which the ceramic ware became an important part of Chinese export to various countries. Even though since the age of Antiquity the Chinese ceramic products have been transported via the Silk Road to India, Persia, the Roman and Byzantine empires and, later on, to the Arabian-Muslim and Western civilization worlds, the export grew exceptionally during the rule of the Tang and Sung dynasties when the aesthetic refinement and stylistic diversity of Chinese porcelain art lavishly flourished. The article presents a comparative analysis of the main ceramic trends and the most characteristic styles during the Tang and Sung epochs, while focusing on celadon and other types of porcelain as well as the aesthetic principles that prevailed in the various ceramic workshops of the period.

Keywords: Chinese Traditional Ceramics, Porcelain, Celadon, Tang Dynasty Ceramics, Sung Dynasty Ceramics, Yue, Wuzhou, Xing, Ru, Guan, Ge, Jun, Ding Kilns, Sancai, Chinese Traditional Aesthetics.