

香港亞洲藝術週
Asia Week HK

22 - 29/5/2013

Opening Hours: 10 am - 7 pm
May 26 (Sunday): 10 am - 6 pm

邢
窯
勝
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Like Snow, Like Silver:
The Luminous Xing Wares

邢窯勝雪

Like Snow, Like Silver: *The Luminous Xing Wares*

位於河北省的邢窯是中國和世界上最早的瓷器製造窯場，以生產不滲水薄胎的白瓷稱著。文獻資料顯示邢窯在唐代（618-907），已為人頌讚，其中包括八世紀的茶道專家陸羽。陸氏讚揚邢瓷「類銀類雪」。邢瓷風行海內海外，不單作為皇室用器，還大量遠銷至伊朗、福斯塔特（現今埃及的開羅）和伊拉克的薩馬拉。

根據考古調查，邢窯位於河北省內丘縣和臨城縣，即現今的邢台市內。除燒製白瓷外，還生產黑、黃、綠、三彩等窯器。邢窯的歷史可上溯至北朝（386-581）。陶工們把釉中的鐵份減少，燒成還不是太成熟帶淡青色的白瓷。這類早期白瓷需要在釉下加上化粧土，使釉色更白。至隋代（581-618），邢窯工已能生產一些薄胎的白瓷。這類白瓷雖然只是曇花一現和數量稀少，但其透明程度高，遮光而視，可見器內液體或物體的影子。西方人認為這種透光特質是判斷真正瓷器的標準之一。隋代透影白瓷非常罕有，簡直是鳳毛麟角。這展覽中就有一件借自香港收藏家的一只高足杯。至唐代，邢窯工人已能用高質和精製的材料在高溫下成功燒成精美的白瓷。

在邢窯瓷器中，部份有帶款字如“盈”，“翰林”，“官”等。在西安唐代大明宮和一間與皇室有關係的寺廟內曾出土帶款字的瓷器，可證這類帶款瓷器是送給皇室的珍貴貢品。

“盈”字款代表“大盈庫”，帶“盈”字款的瓷器表示這類瓷器是專為皇宮內大盈庫燒製的貢器。“翰林”是指“翰林院”，位於大明宮內的西城。帶“翰林”款的白瓷是專供“翰林院”使用的貢器。唐代邢窯帶“官”字的器物甚少。從前，學者會把這類器物定為定窯的產品。但自從在2003年在邢窯窯址發現了一批帶“官”字的碗和盤的殘件後，人們才知道邢



唐 邢窯 淡綠釉渣斗

A Light Green glazed Leys Jar, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty
h 9.8 x 15.5 cm

窯也有生產帶“官”字的器物。“官”字器物可能是造給皇宮使用的物品，亦有可能是在皇宮以外的貴族們定燒的家用瓷器。

這次為配合香港亞洲藝術週舉辦的展覽，集合了43件罕有和精美的隋唐五代邢窯瓷器。其中一件是絕無僅有、在腳上刻有“官”字的五代白瓷執壺。在國內一個收藏中有類似一件，著錄在《千年邢窯》（北京文物出版社，2007年10月，139頁）裡面，但書上未有說明是否帶有“官”字。另一件罐帶稀有的“瀚林”款。特別之處是在常見的“翰”字旁加上三點水的偏旁，非常罕見。此外，這展覽還展示15件底上帶“盈”字款的瓷器，其中14件是白瓷，1件是黃釉瓷。這展覽旨在增加對這類甚少研究但是非常重要的類型的認識，同時展示它們互古及今之美。

繼遠美術 吳繼遠

2013年5月



隋 邢窯白瓷透光高足杯

A White Porcelain 'Light-Transmitting' Stem Cup,
Xing Ware, Sui Dynasty

h 6.2 x 6 cm

香港私人收藏
Hong Kong Private Collection



As one of the earliest true porcelain makers in China and the world, the Xing kilns from Hebei province are most renowned for their impermeable, thin-bodied white wares. Many literary sources recorded their praises for the luminous Xing white porcelains in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), including the eighth-century tea-master Lu Yu who described them as “white as snow and bright as silver.” Their beauty was widely appreciated, and they were extensively exported to Iran, Fostat (present day Cairo in Egypt) and Samarra in Iraq.

Archaeological surveys reveal that the Xing kilns were located in the Neiqiu and Linc heng counties within the present day Xingtai city in Hebei province. In addition to their famous white wares, Xing potters also produced green, yellow, black and *sancai* [three-colour] wares. The history of Xing white wares can be traced back to the Northern Dynasties (386-581) when primitive greenish white wares were made by reducing the amount of iron in the glaze. These early white wares required a slip to enhance their whiteness. In the Sui Dynasty (581-618), the Xing potters were able to produce some thin-walled white porcelains, albeit for a very short time and in very small quantity. These porcelains were so translucent that either liquid or objects inside the vessel was visible when seen from outside. Pieces with this property, considered by Westerners to be one of

the criteria for the definition of true porcelain, are exceedingly rare from this period, with only a few known. A stem cup of this rare type from a Hong Kong collector is included in this exhibition. Xing potters finally perfected the production of fine white porcelains during the Tang Dynasty by using high quality and highly refined raw materials fired at a high temperature.

A number of Tang Dynasty Xing white wares had marks, such as “*ying*”, “*hanlin*” and “*guan*”. The excavation of marked wares in Xi’an from the sites of the Daming Palace and from a Buddhist temple with imperial connections confirmed they were once precious court tributes. The mark “*ying*” refers to “*Da ying ku*” meaning The Repository of Great Abundance. The pieces bearing the “*ying*” mark were made as tributes destined for the said repository inside the palace. “*Hanlin*” stands for the “Hanlin Academy”, which was located in the West City inside the Daming Palace. Those pieces marked “*hanlin*” were tributes destined for the Hanlin Academy. It is extremely rare to find Tang Dynasty Xing wares bearing the “*guan*” character. In the past, academics would attribute pieces with “*guan*” character to Ding ware. However, with the discovery of a group of bowl and dish fragments with such a mark at the Xing kiln site in 2003, people from then on realized that Xing kiln also produced pieces with “*guan*” character. The “*guan*” [official] character identifies products which were probably destined for the court. It may also have been used on pieces commissioned by dignitaries outside the palace proper.

The current display for Asia Week Hong Kong is an extraordinary assemblage of forty-three good and rare Xing Wares produced in the Sui, Tang and Five Dynasties. Amongst them is a unique Five Dynasties white glazed ewer with a “*guan*” mark inscribed on the foot, which is similar to the piece in a collection in China illustrated in *One Thousand Years of Xing Wares* (Wenwu Publication, Beijing, October 2007, p. 139). It is not known whether that ewer has a “*guan*” mark on it or not as it was not indicated in the book. Another piece, which is a jar, bears the rare “*hanlin*” mark. This mark is particularly unusual as it has a “water” radical on the left hand side of the usual “*han*” character. In addition, there are fifteen pieces with a “*ying*” character on the base, fourteen being white and one being yellow. This exhibition is presented with the hope of illuminating their timeless beauty and broadening the understanding of this little-studied but important genre.

K.Y. Ng
K.Y. Fine Art
May 2013



唐 邢窯黃釉罐
A Yellow Glazed Jar, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty
h 19.6 x 19 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷 “盈”字蓋罐

A Fine White Porcelain Jar and Cover,
Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed
“*yíng*” character on base

h 20 x 15 cm

香港私人收藏
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唐 邢窯白瓷瓜楞三足蓋罐

A White Porcelain Lobed-shaped Covered Jar with Three Feet,
Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty

h 13 x 14 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷蓋盒

A White Porcelain Box and Cover, Xing Ware,
Tang Dynasty

h 12.8 x 15.6 cm



唐 邢窯綠釉三足小盂

A Green glazed Porcelain Jar with Three Feet,
Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty

h 7 x 8.5 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷“盈”字玉璧腳碗

A Fine White Porcelain Bowl with Jade-Bi Shaped Ring Foot, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed “*ying*” character on base

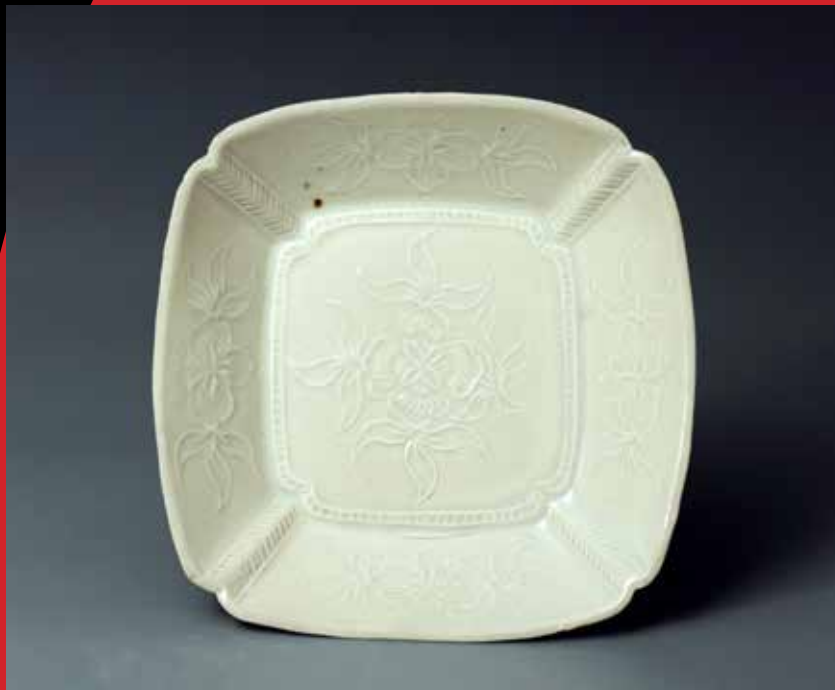
h 4 x 15 cm



唐 邢窯 白瓷獅子

A White Porcelain Lion, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty

h 8.6 x 5.5 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷“盈”字花卉紋委角方碟

A Fine White Porcelain Square Dish with Indented Corners and Floral Design, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed with “*ying*” character on base

h 2.3 x 12 x 12 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷“盈”字花卉紋小托碟

A Fine Small White Porcelain Saucer Dish of Rhombus Shape with Floral Design, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed with “*ying*” character on base

h 2 x 12.3 x 9 cm





唐 邢窯白瓷“盈”字蓋罐

A Large White Porcelain Jar and Cover, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed “ying” character on base

h 26.5 x 20 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷花口鉢

A White Porcelain Bowl with Undulating Rim, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty

h 9 x 15 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷斂口茶盃

A Fine White Porcelain Tea Bowl, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty

h 7.6 x 12.7 cm

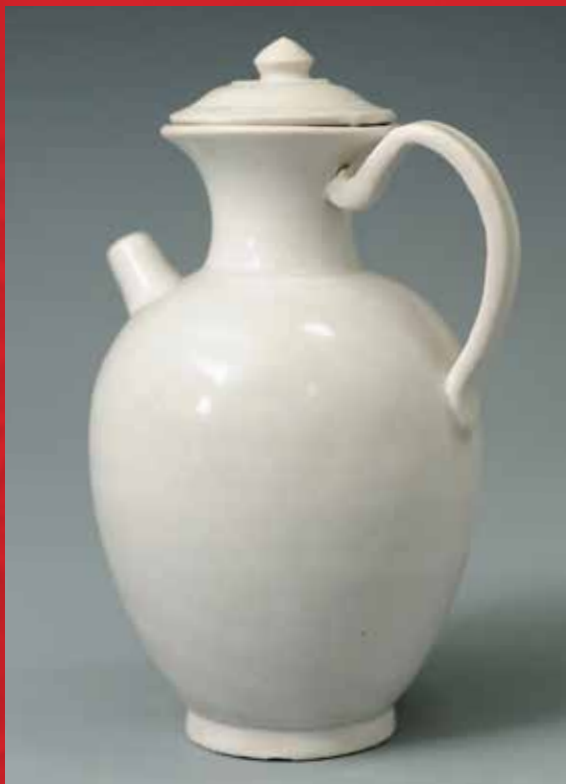


唐 邢窯白瓷“瀚林”銘蓋罐

A Large White Porcelain Jar and Cover, Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty,
inscribed "*hanlin*" mark on base

h 20 x 16.3 cm

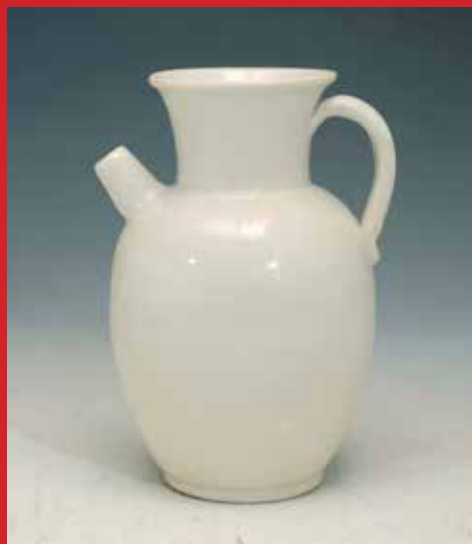




唐 邢窯白瓷“盈”字帶蓋執壺

A White Porcelain Ewer and Cover,
Xing Ware, Tang Dynasty, inscribed
“ying” character on base

h 13.2 x 9 cm



唐 邢窯白瓷執壺

A White Porcelain Ewer, Xing Ware,
Tang Dynasty

h 16.7 x 12.2 cm



五代 邢白瓷 “官” 字龍流執壺

A White Porcelain Ewer with Dragon Spout,
Xing Ware, Five Dynasties (907-960), inscribed
“guan” character on the foot

h 24.5 x 14.6 cm



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