



Khmer Ceramics & Bronzes

KHMER CERAMICS & BRONZES REVIVAL CENTER NEWSLETTER

Number 8

April - June 2008



KCBC Newsletters.

Many things append in 3 month at the KCBC but due of so many works to sustain our project; we inform you only quarterly only. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter.

Lost wax bronzes:

As from the 1st. of September, our valuable visitors will have the opportunity to discover our bronze casting foundry! Bronze smelting and casting has much in common with the making and firing of ceramics. Visitors can see and experience the whole process demonstrated on site; the wax carving; the fabrication of the lost ceramic mold; the firing of the mold; the bronze smelting and pouring; and the finishing and patination. As we understand current research, there is a probability that ancient Khmer bronzes foundries was closely linked with ceramics kiln sites but more research is needed to be definitive about this.



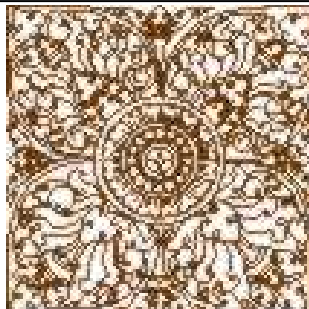
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Editor : KCBC	
Correction-redaction : Ian Brookes	

Workshops for our visitors:



We are now offering a variety of workshop programs for our visitors. The Khmer Traditional workshop is already very successful. It is a 3 hours workshop; during the first hour people make pots helped by our trainees; the second hour we dry the pots and undertake a guided tour of the centre and in the third hour we fire the pots at 1000°C. Visitors leave with their pots. It appears that many tourists want to find activities such as this to add to their enjoyment of Siem Reap and the Angkor Temples during their stay in Siem Reap. After all, there is more to the Siem Reap area than just temples and by staying an extra day or two there is far more for you to see and do and to enjoy. By staying an extra day or so you greatly help the country to recover from its terrible and turbulent past and the revival of traditional crafts and the training and employment prospects of the young and their ability to earn a “living wage”, unlike at present.



Ancient Khmer kiln resized and firing:

The first Khmer ancient kiln that we reconstruct was at same size as the ancient one from Along Thom. This huge size doesn't allow us to fire the kiln due of the large amount of wood needed and the lack of external funding. Actually we finish the construction of the roof of a new smaller Ancient Khmer Kiln and hope to fire it in 3 weeks regarding our treasury.



All details after firing will be published on our website. This firing will be the first of a series aiming the studies of ancient Khmer bodies and glazes in original conditions. The first firing can't be exactly scheduled; we do it by our own means without external funding; so it will append when all good conditions are gathered for us (greenware, wood, weather and reliable helpers for the ~4 days firing).

New products:



NCKCR develops new products. We develop tiles 6X6 cm and also frieze for bathrooms and around of doors. We take a new trainee, Meck, who will be specialized in the setup of carved products. Road will be long be we have already very nice results. Meck is extremely motivated by his opportunity of new life in the NCKCR crew.



Jake Allee as new member:



Jake Allee, contact us to offer a piece for our contemporary collection. Our contemporary collection grows slowly. The collection is used to explain and demonstrate to Khmer potters the possibilities of what they can do with the skills that we teach. All those pieces offered to our contemporary collection will certainly have an influence on the birth of the contemporary ceramic art in Cambodia. We always aim to open our definitive museum in 2010; this delay is just dictating by our treasury. We really hope to welcome Jake for a residency during next summer; Jake is now a part of our "family". You can have an overview about Jake works at: http://www.artaxis.org/ceramics/allee_jake/jake_allee.html

Residency for archaeologists:

Luke Benbow from Australia participates to a residency for archeologist organized by the NCKCR. The program includes the discovering of: basic techniques (paddle and anvil, potter wheel, shaping,...); clay works technology; glazing principle and technology; wood kilns principle construction and firing. The residency includes also the construction of a kiln following Khmer ancient techniques and the firing of kilns and the ancient Khmer kiln. Aim of this residency is to offer the opportunity for scholars to have more information about ceramics techniques and especially Khmer ancient techniques.



Full information is available at:

http://www.khmerceramics.com/residencies/index_residencies_uk.htm

Dr Roxanna M. Brown

Dr. Roxanna Brown passed out the 14th May 2008 in Seattle. We remember her involvement and participation in our activity – The revival of ancient ceramics technique; - TO FIGHT AGAINST ANCIENT ARTIFACT TRADE - We was in quiet contact with her to prepare 2008 conferences; we were in contact with her few days before she die; we are very affected by this.

We lost, for sure a highly skilled scholar, but also a real friend. She always takes time to meet us; she was aware about the necessity of a deep connection between potters and scholars. She forecasted to present her paper during 2008 conference in quiet connection with us. So many thinks to say; but only one fact; I will miss her. All our sympathy to her family.



Preparation of 2008 Festival and conferences



The 2008 International Khmer Ceramics Festival is well on the way. It will be held from 11th. to 29th. December and in conjunction with the 2008 International Khmer Ceramics Conferences at Wat Damak from 10th. to 13th. December 2008 in collaboration with the Center for Khmer Studies. We are seeking the participation of potters from all around the world, so please contact us if you believe you can contribute to the Festival and to the Conference as your participation is most welcome. The outline Agenda for

the Conference is now posted on our website and will soon be posted on the website of the Center for Khmer Studies.

Further information is available on our website:

http://www.khmerceramics.com/IKCF/2008/index_2008.htm



Conferences program during IKCF 2008

Ancient Khmer and Southeast Asian Ceramics: New Archaeological Findings, Production and the Revival of Techniques

A collaboration between the Center for Khmer Studies,
National Center for Khmer Ceramics Revival
and Heritage Watch
and part of the International Khmer Ceramics Festival, December 11-29, 2008

CKS Conference Hall, Wat Damnak, Siem Reap, Cambodia

December 10-12, 2008

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

This conference aims to bring together Cambodian and international scholars specialized in ancient Khmer and mainland South East Asian ceramics, with contemporary potters and craftspeople working to revive ancient production techniques. In light of illicit trading in antiquities, the objective is to raise awareness of the archaeological importance of ancient Cambodian and mainland South East Asian ceramics, and to highlight the new opportunities for sustainable economic development in the region through contemporary ceramic technology.

Scholars based in Southeast Asia are especially encouraged to participate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Dr. Janet Mansfield, Chair
Dr. Dawn Rooney, Mr. Chhay Rachna, Dr Philippe Peycam,
Dr. Dougald O'Reilly, Mr. Serge Rega, Miss Suzanne Freilich.



Panels Include:

Part I

New Perspectives in our Understanding of Ancient Ceramics

Economics of ceramics in ancient Khmer Empire.
Conservation of Khmer Ancients Ceramics.
Ancient and Contemporary Khmer Kilns sites.

Part II

Revitalization of ceramic production in Cambodia:

A way to combat the illicit trade of antiquities, and to generate economic growth.
Revitalization of ceramic production in Cambodia.
Contemporary ceramic production and slowing the illicit trade of antiquities.

AGENDA

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

13:30 Visit of Tani kiln site.

19:00 Optional pre-conference activities at the Grand d'Angkor Hotel:

Happy Hour at Elephant Bar

Dinner, International and Asian Food – Apsara Terrace inside hotel.

Khmer Cultural Performance – Apsara Terrace

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Thursday, December 11, 2008

8:00 Registration in front of conference hall

8:30 Opening of the Conference

Philippe Peycam, CKS Director, & Mr. Serge Rega, NCKCR

Part I New Perspectives in our Understanding of Ancient Ceramics

Panel 1: Economics of ceramics in ancient Khmer Empire.

10:00 Tea Break

Panel 2: Conservation of Khmer Ancients Ceramics.

12:00 Buffet Lunch

Panel 3: Ancient and Contemporary Khmer Kilns sites.

15:30 Tea Break

Part II Revitalization of ceramic production in Cambodia: A way to combat the illicit trade of antiquities, and to generate economic growth

Panel 4: Revitalization of ceramic production in Cambodia.

17:55 Discussion on prospective collaborations. Moderator: Dr. Philippe Peycam, director, CKS.

Optional Dinner

Friday, December 12, 2008

8:30 Beginning of second day Conference

Panel 5: Contemporary ceramic production and slowing the illicit trade of antiquities.

10:00 Tea Break

10:30 Discussion on prospective collaborations. Moderator: Dr. Philippe Peycam, director, CKS.

11:30 Closing by Dr. Philippe Peycam, CKS.

13:00 Visit to the ceramics workshop and ancient kiln reconstruction at the National Center for Khmer Ceramics Revival.

19:00 Optional Post-conference Exhibition (contemporary ceramics) reception and drinks at the Victoria Angkor and Resort Hotel.

If you wish to participate, please fill in the short attendance form available on our website

http://www.khmerceramics.com/IKCF/conferences_uk.htm , and email it no later than November 20, 2007 to conference@khmerstudies.org .

Reviving Lost Skills – Khmer Ceramics and Bronzes.

The **Khmer Ceramics and Bronzes Revival Center– KCBC**,



cordially invites you to visit, free of charge, our ceramic and bronzes revival training centre, workshops, foundry and kilns, as we assist present and future generations of young Cambodians to revive the rich ceramic heritage of the Khmer Empire – 802 to 1432. The Khmer ceramic heritage is unique and very different from the ceramic traditions of China, Vietnam, Champa and later Siam.



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You will be fascinated by the many activities taking place, and we encouraged you to try your hand at the potter's wheel! The KCBC and its young Khmer students are passionate about bringing about a full revival of the ancient skills and recreating traditional, high quality, Khmer ceramics and bronzes for the benefit of future generations. We wish to share this passion with you – it's infectious!



Our trainees will give you a fully guided tour with explanations and demonstrations of all stages and processes involved in turning raw clay in to a full finished, fired and glazed Khmer ceramic of beauty and utility. And also the process to transform a wax sculpture in a plenty beautiful Khmer Bronze. After which we invite you to browse in our show room and relax in the beautiful tropical garden setting. Our several kilns and our foundry are all faithful reconstructions of ancient traditional Khmer Kiln types based on proven archaeological discoveries, and are of great interest and fascination to most people; especially



so if your visit coincides with the regular firing of one of the kilns or the bronze pouring. These kilns operate at very high temperatures, between 1,000 °C to 1,400 °C (1,800 F to 2,550 F). Please join in and help us “fire” a kiln or to pour bronze – an impressive and awe inspiring activity and highly photogenic!

Visiting the NCKCR is a “must” whilst in the Angkor region as it brings you closer to the true Khmer spirit and gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Khmer ceramic arts and heritage, so sadly lost, but now making a slow renaissance through our work and research.

Opening hours are: 8 am to 6 pm daily.

