
THE OLD POTTER'S ALMANACK

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

I am very pleased to introduce the June issue of *The Old Potter's Almanack* containing a review of the last fifty years of work of the History of Ceramics Laboratory in Moscow, a revision of guidelines for the study of ceramics, and two articles on contrasting archaeological assemblages.

The article by Sophia Lahlil, Weidong Li and Ji Ming Xu, on Chinese Guan ware of the Song and Yuan Dynasties, focuses on a non-destructive method of image processing to examine for the first time the morphology of crack patterns in the glaze. The paper not only gives an insight into the highly skilled potters manufacturing glazed ware for the Imperial court, but it also shows this analytical technique to be an important tool for curators and conservators.

Irina Zhushchikhovskaya's paper on "нарядный" or *naryadn'iy* fine ware, in the Far Eastern Russian Yankovskaya and Krounovskaya cultures, focuses on the technological differences in the manufacture of this high-quality red-slipped or black-smudged ware, probably produced for display, and which might represent evidence for increased social complexity in the 1st millennium BC.

Yuri Tsetlin's review marks the 50th anniversary of the Ceramics Laboratory of the Russian Academy of Sciences and offers an insight on many years of archaeological, ethnoarchaeological and experimental research on ceramic objects from across Eurasia, and other areas in Africa and Central America. Tsetlin explains the theoretical framework underpinning the research on prehistoric, protostoric, and medieval pottery, and provides an important list of publications by members of the Laboratory.

David Knight, Jane Evans and Duncan Brown offer a supplement to existing guidelines for ceramic studies and their standardisation, suggesting a list of recommendations for the future. This supplement can be seen as a discussion document, and the authors would welcome comments, ideas and offers of help from interested readers.

Michela Spataro

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