

PRESS RELEASE

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‘New and Revised Handbook of Marks on Chinese Ceramics’ from Gerald Davison

This month sees Chinese mark specialist Gerald Davison publish a new and substantially revised edition of his ‘Handbook of Marks on Chinese Ceramics’. Building on the success of his earlier unique publications this new work represents a further 15 years of research into this dimension of oriental art and contains detailed information on nearly 3,400 marks spread over 310 pages - twice the content of the original ‘Handbook’ published in 1994.

Inscriptions and marks of varying types appeared on Chinese pottery and porcelain with increasing frequency from the Tang Dynasty (618 - 906 CE) through to the Republic in the early years of the 20th century.

From imperial marks to the many "hall" and auspicious marks used by scholars, collectors, potters and artists this is the essential book for all professional buyers, collectors and antique and art dealers with an interest in Chinese ceramics. Written in a way that will appeal to the beginner as well as the experienced professional, the introduction contains colour illustrations from the Sotheby's library of a varied range of objects together with their marks.

Still the only reference work in any language to deal so exhaustively with the entire range of these very diverse marks. This time all of the 3,400 individual marks are beautifully reproduced in colour and still compiled in sections and groupings to make recognition of such unfamiliar shapes as easy as possible. All of the marks are translated into English together with the *pinyin* Romanisation. The range of marks includes not only those in the regular *kaishu* script but also some 500 marks redrawn in the classical *zhuan* seal script form together with a range of pictorial symbols. Finally the very detailed 70 page Directory section then provides a wide range of historical, mythological and dating information, where available for each mark, as well as identifying the type of ware on which they are found. /continued page 2

A detailed cyclical table is included for translating the *jiazi* dating system often included in commemorative marks.

Two versions of the book are available, the standard version with a UK RRP of £45.00 and a slip cased, signed and numbered limited edition of 100 with a RRP of £80.00.

Biographical note

A native of London, Gerald Davison (67) became a dealer in Chinese ceramics in the early 1960's studying under the legendary, late Margaret Medley then curator of the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art. This led to a 50 year involvement in the field of marks as applied to Chinese pottery and porcelain. Mr Davison was elected a Fellow of the RSA in 2002 and has been a member of the Oriental Ceramic Society, London since the early 1970's and now lectures on Asian art, history and culture throughout the world, often appearing as a guest lecturer on Far East cruise ships.

Technical specification:-

ISBN 978-0-9564518-0-4.

Printed on high quality, 115 gsm silk coated art paper and hard bound in red 'Balacron' *faux* leather with gold blocking, coloured end papers, silk headers and marker ribbon. 310 pages, 235 x 156 mm. Weight approx. 850 g.

Limited and numbered edition of 100 with unique signed frontispiece and supplied in matching embossed Balacron slip case.

Books available direct from publisher – contact gerald.davison@lineone.net

More information available at www.chinesemarks.com

Or contact Gerald Davison Ltd on 01963 351603