



TK Asian Antiquities

NEWS

Summer, 2007

Volume 17

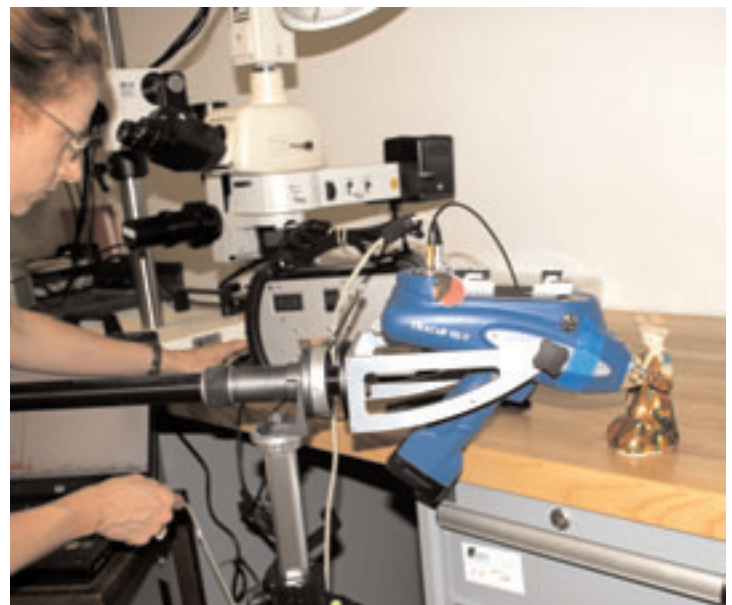
New tools, new opportunities

We are pleased to announce that TK has expanded its analytical capabilities with the addition of an X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. While we will continue to use the Oxford Materials Characterization Service (Oxford University) for electron microprobe analysis, the XRF unit gives us the ability to do qualitative and semi-quantitative analysis on site in a matter of minutes! All of this can now be done with a non-destructive technique.

For many years, we shied away from XRF; bench-top models could only hold small samples, and handheld models were less accurate and required extensive re-working to suit our purposes. Dramatic improvements in technology have changed all that.

The TRACeR III-V is a handheld, fully portable unit that was specifically designed for museum and conservation applications. Dr. Kaiser, Chief Science Officer of KTI/ Bruker, a leading and innovative technology company, trained Melanie Roy, our Director of Research, in May on the latest XRF unit's capabilities.

The XRF analyzer can be used on metal, pigment, wood, leather and more; essentially everything we would expect to



Melanie Roy using the XRF to analyze the minerals in the blue glaze on this Tang Dynasty seated beauty, far right.

encounter in the fields of art and archaeology. The applications are numerous. For example, the equipment can help us determine the appropriate conservation techniques to use on artifacts; assist in matching pieces of pottery to the correct artifact for restoration and even identify many forgeries, thus saving us time and costs as well as being non-invasive. On almost all of material, the XRF is useful in identifying materials from prior restorations.

UPCOMING TK PUBLICATION

FOCUS IS ON YUNNAN BURLWOOD & CHINESE ART DECO FURNITURE



This beautiful square altar table is one of the very few known 17th Century Yunnan burlwood tables with the original base. Tabletop detail, right.



Our new book on Yunnan burlwood furniture and Chinese art deco furniture is scheduled for publication in January 2008. As with our past publications, we here at TK will make every effort to insure the information included is as accurate as possible, especially the science.

We have long felt that the "accepted" identifications of Asian woods appeared to be inaccurate, contradictory or just too general in

nature. We hope to lessen these pitfalls using microscopic wood analysis to determine different varieties. Determining species in burl is perhaps the most difficult of all wood identification tasks.

To assist us in our efforts, TK retained Dr. Harry Alden, a very highly regarded authority in botany and microscopy, with a specialty in wood science and identification, to analyze the rare burlwoods to be

illustrated in our new publication.

Dr. Alden has said "this has been a fascinating project. These burls are not only exquisite in the figures that they present due to the intricate detail of the arrangement of cells, but they (the burlwood panels) are extremely large (approximately 27"- 42" square and 2-3" thick)."



SICHUAN LECTURE

For the first time ever, Michael will present a lecture at the Baltimore Summer Antiques Show—

"Smiling Sichuan" Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 CE)

*Saturday September 1st, 2007 1:00 pm
Baltimore Convention Center (during show)*



TK's Preview

Baltimore Summer Antiques Fair

The Baltimore Summer Antiques Fair is now being managed by the Palm Beach Group who also manage the Palm Beach Jewelry & Antique Show, one of the nation's finest and most successful shows. Baltimore has long been one of the largest antique shows in the US and has offered a very wide selection of artifacts for sale. The Palm Beach Group has maintained the size and variety of the show, while adding a number of the country's more prominent dealers in a more upscale atmosphere.

MEET THE TK STAFF

You may recognize Bob "J.B." Connors as the tall, quiet one at our exhibitions around the country. In the five years that that he has been at TK, he has become an important part of our show team. When not traveling J.B., has become a valuable part of our day-to-day operations; he shows a natural talent for the custom and complex framing of ancient paintings, textiles and many other unusual artifacts. He is also being trained in the conservation of paper and textiles, and has made admirable strides. You can see the fruits of his efforts at many of our shows!



UPCOMING SHOWS

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

Baltimore Summer
Antiques Show
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, MD

SEPTEMBER 17 - 24, 2007

Fall Asia Week Show
TK New York Gallery
New York, NY

OCTOBER 12 - 15, 2007

Chicago International
Antiques Fair
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 4, 2008

Miami Beach Antique Show
Miami Beach
Convention Center
Miami Beach, FL

FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Palm Beach Jewelry &
Antique Show
Palm Beach
Convention Center
Palm Beach, FL

NEW SHOW ADDED

A new show has been added
to our schedule, the inaugural Fall
International Antiques Fair
at the Merchandise Mart in
Chicago. The show will run
October 12th thru the 15th.
We look forward to seeing
our Midwest clients
twice a year now!



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