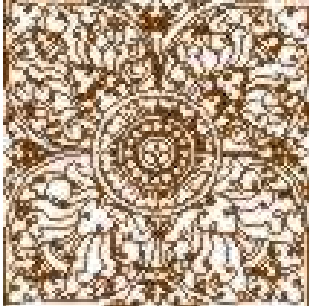




NATIONAL CENTER FOR KHMER CERAMICS REVIVAL NEWSLETTER

Number 7

January - March 2008



NCKCR Newsletters.

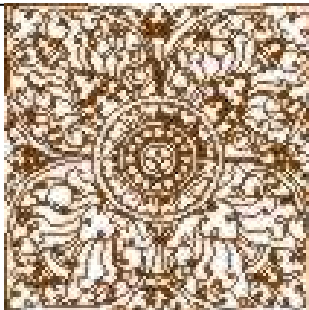
Dear supporters of the NCKCR,

This is a short newsletter to keep us all in touch as not much has been posted to our Internet site lately, as all of our efforts are going in to the production and marketing of ceramics to generate a cash flow and to ensure the sustainability of the center. From now on, NCKCR Newsletters will be produced every three months.

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Editor : NCKCR	
Correction-redaction : Ian Brookes	

NCKCR
Phum Thnorl
Khum Srour Ngea
Siem Reap
Kingdom of Cambodia



Collaboration between Alan Lacowetsky and Chhay Rachna

Instigated by the IKCF 2007, Alan Lacowetsky produced a complete technical file on the ancient Khmer Along Thom potteries and kiln site. This will help our understanding of the ancient techniques used in Khmer era. Alan is also deeply involved in the organization of the 2008 International Khmer Ceramics Festival.



The document redacted by Alan is available on our website; please follow this link:

[Khmer Ceramics Report](#)

New ceramics collection



We have developed a new collection of functional ceramics dedicated to the hotel and restaurant markets. The marketing of these items will help us to be more viable and sustainable during the low tourist season. Our items

comprise flasks for oils and soap, boxes, oil burners and soon bowls and plates



Ancient Khmer glaze researches

Using all of the minerals commonly available in the Angkor region, we made a large blend of trial glazes. These tests allow us to understand the composition of Kulen sandstone; it seems to be feldspatic sandstone.

The next step of our research is the construction of a small ancient kiln to fire those glazes under original kiln conditions. This new small kiln will have to be built at the start of the dry season as we are not able to build it under cover at this stage.



Lolei Kiln excavation by Mr. Chhay Rachna

We recently had the opportunity to see the excavation lead by Mr. Chhay Rachna at the Lolei kiln site. Unfortunately, we do not yet have any data of the excavated kiln. Lolei is an ancient kiln site that once comprised very many ancient kilns, most of which have very recently been destroyed by land developers, and the few remaining ancient kilns are seriously threatened by the rapid urbanization of the area. On one kiln site excavated by Rachna, only the firebox of the kiln remains, as the remainder of the kiln has been destroyed and removed as land fill!



Residencies for artists and archeologists



We are proposing “An Artist in Residence Programme” and we are also developing an “Archeologist in Residence” programme to help examine these ancient Khmer Kiln sites. Several ceramic artists have already booked for residencies in 2008 and 2009 and we encourage you to do the same if working in the Angkor area interests you. Each Artist in Residence closes his/her tenure here with a public exhibition of their works and achievements during the residency.

Full information is available at:

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

Raku workshops for visitors

The NCKCR is preparing a raku workshop of 3 hours duration for its visitors. Our visitors can make pots by hand or on the potter's wheel with raku clay. This clay accepts a fast drying without cracks. Pots are fired during the time our guests visit the center and finally unloaded, refreshed and clean. After the workshop, our guests can take their glazed pots back home with them.

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:

Ms. Janet Mansfield, Chair
Dr Dawn Rooney, Mr. Chhay Rachna, Dr Philippe Peycam,
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.

The **National Centre for Khmer Ceramic Revival – NCKCR,**



cordially invites you to visit, free of charge, our ceramic revival training centre, workshops 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 NCKCR and its young Khmer students are passionate about bringing about a full revival of the ancient skills and recreating traditional, high quality, Khmer ceramics 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. After which we invite you to browse in our show room and relax in the beautiful tropical garden setting. Our several kilns 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. 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 – 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.

