

The Story of Chigusa (Online workshop, 20–21 Mar 11)

<http://smithsonianconference.org/teajar>, Mar 20–21, 2011

Nancy Micklewright, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution

The Story of Chigusa

A Japanese Tea Jar's 700-Year History

The Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

invite you to participate in a free online workshop.

Sunday 20 March, 9 - 10:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Monday 21 March, 10 - 11:30 AM Japan Time (JST)

To register go to <http://smithsonianconference.org/teajar>.

What can a single jar tell us about how objects acquired history and meaning within Japanese tea culture? When the Freer Gallery of Art recently acquired a tea-leaf storage jar named Chigusa, the museum became yet another participant in a seven-century-long story, in which a Chinese jar came to Japan and was transformed into a famous and much-admired container for tea leaves, even acquiring a personal name. Tea masters' diaries and connoisseurs' handbooks described and ranked the jar; successive owners endowed it with Chinese brocades, silk cords, inscriptions, documents, and multiple boxes. Chigusa has been described as a "time capsule" - an embodiment of the fascinating and complex process by which tea-related objects accrued meaning and value.

Only a few hundred such jars with comparable pedigrees survive in Japan, and few are as extensively documented.

Four scholars gathered in Washington recently-in Chigusa's inspiring presence-to consider aspects of the jar's story. In this free online workshop, they will share their thoughts and discoveries, and then engage in discussion with participants.

Presenters

Louise Allison Cort, Curator for Ceramics, Smithsonian's Freer |Sackler
How a Chinese jar became Chigusa; why Chigusa came to the Freer

Takeuchi Jun'ichi, Director, Hosokawa Collection-Eisei Bunko
How did tea men look at Chigusa 400 years ago?

Andrew Watsky, Professor, Department of Art and Architecture, Princeton University

Chigusa's name(s)

Oka Yoshiko, Professor, Faculty of Cultural and Historical Studies, Otemae University

Who owned Chigusa?

More information

A press release about Chigusa can be found in the Freer|Sackler press room, <http://www.asia.si.edu/press/past/prTea>.

Sponsors

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Jay and Toshiko Tompkins have supported a forthcoming publication on Chigusa.

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