

Silk Road Culture and Architecture Lecture Series # 06

Ceramics and Tiles of the Silk Road

Date : October 14 (Saturday), 2017, 13:00~
Venue : The Industry Club of Japan Hall (Tokyo, Japan)
Lecturers : Prof. Tomoko MASUYA (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo)
Prof. Tomohiko OKANO (Adjunct Lecturer, Aoyama Gakuin University)
Performer : Mr. Masato TANI (Santoor Player)
Mr. Junzō TATEIWA (Tompak and Daf Player)

The 6th lecture in the *Silk Road Culture and Architecture* series sponsored by Mukogawa Women's University Department of Architecture and Graduate Architecture Major was held on Saturday, October 14, at the Industry Club of Japan Hall in Marunouchi, Tokyo, with the Tokyo Center as co-host. The lecture, entitled *Ceramics and Tiles of the Silk Road*, was given by Prof. Tomoko MASUYA (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo) and Prof. Tomohiko OKANO (adjunct lecturer, Aoyama Gakuin University). Masato TANI (santoor player and Associate Professor, Faculty of Human Development, Kobe University) and Junzō TATEIWA (tompak and daf player) were also invited to give a performance of Iranian music.

The lecture began with a duet by Mr. Tani and Mr. Tateiwa. The traditional melodies of Iran number in the hundreds, and develop mainly within one of 12 modes. Accompanied by Mr. Tateiwa on tompak, Mr. Tani performed one such melody, which he interwove with an improvisation fitting the atmosphere of the lecture hall. The santoor, which is a struck-string instrument from Iran, consists of metal strings strung across the top of a trapezoidal resonator, which are struck by both hands with light mallets to produce sound. Mr. Tani explained the modes and microtones of Iranian music by performing them on the santoor.

Prof. Tomoko MASUYA gave a lecture entitled *Tile Decoration in Islamic Architecture*. After explaining the basics of tiling, she showed photographs of various buildings and the tiles used in them to describe how tiles have been used to beautify Islamic architecture throughout the ages since the time of Ancient Persia. She also discussed the distinctive features of tiling in Spain, Morocco, and Turkey since the 12th century, in relation to those of Islamic Iran.

Prof. Tomohiko OKANO gave a lecture entitled *The History of Islamic Ceramics: The Beauty and Creation of Lusterware*. Lusterware was named after the golden luster (shine) it creates when light hits it. Ceramic production was born in the Middle East as an industry during the Umayyad dynasty in the 8th century, and the advent of lusterware came about with its further development during the Abbasid dynasty in the 9th century. Prof. Okano discussed lusterware excavated in Iraq, Iran, and Egypt while showing us shards of the actual lusterware.



Opening address by Professor Okazaki, Head of the Department of Architecture



Music performance by Mr. Tani and Mr. Tateiwa



Lecture by Prof. Tomoko MASUYA



Lecture by Prof. Tomohiko OKANO

Silk Road Culture and Architecture Lecture Series #07

Origin of the Silk Road: Dreams and Gods of the Persian Empire

Date : January 20 (Saturday), 2018, 13:00~
Venue : The Industry Club of Japan Hall (Tokyo, Japan)
Lecturers : Prof. Kazuya YAMAUCHI (Research Institute of Cultural Properties,
Teikyo University)
Prof. Kōsaku MAEDA (Guest Professor, Tokyo University of the Arts)
Performer : Ms. Keiku (Setar and Tanbur Player)
Mr. Junzō TATEIWA (Tompak and Daf Player)
Mr. Amin CHOUGHADI (Singer)

The 7th lecture in the *Silk Road Culture and Architecture* series sponsored by Mukogawa Women's University Department of Architecture and Graduate Architecture Major was held on Saturday, January 20, at the Industry Club of Japan Hall in Marunouchi, Tokyo, with the Tokyo Center as co-host. The lecture, entitled *Origin of the Silk Road: Dreams and Gods of the Persian Empire*, was given by Prof. Kazuya YAMAUCHI (Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Teikyo University) and Prof. Kōsaku MAEDA (Director, Institute of Studies on the Culture of Afghanistan; Guest Professor, Tokyo University of the Arts). Keiku (setar and tanbur player), Junzō TATEIWA (tompak and daf player), and Amin CHOUGHADI (singer) were also invited to give performances of Persian instrumental and vocal music.

The lecture began with a performance by Keiku. The tanbur is a plucked string instrument with a bowl-shaped sound box and a long, narrow neck. She was accompanied by Mr. Tateiwa, on percussion as before, and Mr. Choghadi on vocals. The 25-minute performance was performed in Segah, a popular mode of Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The steps of this mode's scale create a wondrous atmosphere with feelings of sadness, loneliness, confusion, hope, and happiness. The song the trio performed in this Segah mode was about a love story.

Prof. Kazuya YAMAUCHI gave a lecture entitled The Glory of Persia. He began with some basic information about Iran to give context for understanding Persia before explaining the history of Achaemenid and Sassanid Persia, as well as the shahs who built the kingdom and their remains. He then went on to discuss how Persia was influenced by its neighbor, Rome; Zoroastrianism, the religion of Persia; and the relationship between Persia and the Imperial Treasures of Shōsō-in Temple, which came to Japan through the Silk Road.

Prof. Kōsaku MAEDA gave a lecture entitled Zoroaster and Mithraism. Mithra was a heroic deity in Iranian mythology whose followers spanned a wide region from Persia and West Asia all the way to Greece and Rome. While he was the god of contracts in ancient times, he had a devout popular following from the Middle Ages onward as the god of friendship and the sun. Prof. Maeda gave a detailed explanation of Mithra iconography discovered in various places, and also discussed the spread of Mithraism and its effect on later religions.



Opening address by Professor Okazaki, Head of the Department of Architecture



Music performance by Ms. Keiku, Mr. Tateiwa and Mr. Choghadi



Lecture by Prof. Kazuya YAMAUCHI



Lecture by Prof. Kōsaku MAEDA