



LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART

NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2016



Museum Hours

Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 Christmas Eve: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 New Year's Eve: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day,
 Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

Admission

\$5.00 Adults, \$4.00 Senior Citizens
 \$3.00 Students & Teenagers
 \$2.00 Children 7 to 12 yrs.
 Free for children under 7 yrs.
 Friday is a Free day.
 Members of the Lizzadro Museum and
 active members of the Armed Forces are
 admitted free of charge on any day the
 Museum is open to the public.

Group Tours

Tours can be arranged for groups
 with special interests or needs.
 Reservations are necessary for
 guided tours.



The Museum has facilities
 to provide access for physically
 disabled visitors.

Visit us and Shop online at:
lizzadromuseum.org



Volunteer forms are available.



Smithsonian Institution
 Affiliations Program



The Cong jade 琮 cōng

By Ying Zhang



Cong Top View



Nephrite Jade Cong, Corner View

Cong jade, 琮 in simplified Chinese, is usually manufactured as a squared tube with a top-to-bottom hollow cylinder in the middle. From numerous excavated cases, Cong jades differ in size, height, color, and decorative patterns. Some are tall even with twelve levels or short, and some are thin or thick. It is said that some Cong jades, for instance which are dated to be made in prehistoric times, are simple without complex engravings, whereas animal-mask, cloud-mask, or other various patterns became increasingly prevalent later.

When Zhouli (Rites of Zhou), the classical text for ritual performance in the Zhou dynasty, introduces Cong, it is considered as a sacrificial object to Earth. However, one might say, it is hard to find corresponding evidences of such sacrificial service in later excavations. In addition to originally sacrificial function, Cong could also be used as ceremonial objects during various sorts of rituals.

The Cong piece the Lizzadro Museum presents is typical Cong fashion, which is a hollow tube in the middle and framed by four rectangular corners on the outside. As a whole, its visual effects balance both the circle inside and the rectangle outside. The animal masks repeatedly carved on the exterior rectangles are similar in every corner. On the surface of the cylinder are cloud-mask patterns that we can easily detect. It is also noteworthy that the color of this middle-size cylinder is dark umber.

New Museum Tour Video

Thanks to the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we are pleased to present a new Museum Introductory video. The video delves into the fascinating history and symbolism of several Museum pieces, as well as providing a brief introduction into earth science. At the Museum, the video is available on the lower level touch screen, as well as by request for groups, schools, and scout visitors. See the video on-line and through social media.

The Cong stand 琮座 cōng zuò

By Ying Zhang



The wooden base of the Cong contains an inscription.

The inscription engraved on the bottom of the stand should be read as follows, shown in simplified Chinese:

水一壺
花千朵
心清妙香來
我座章

I would like to offer a possible translation of the passage. If you can read Chinese, please read from the right to the left/from up to down, according to the rule of Classical Chinese writing.

The first sentence: 水一壺
(Here it is) a jug of water.

The second: 華千朵
There are a thousand flowers.

The third: 心清妙香來
Here comes the pure and wonderful scent into your heart.

The forth: 我座／章
(This is) my stand. /the place of the individual's seal.

The square stand, made of wooden materials, is used to support the Cong jade so that the main body of Cong can hold up steadily. Engraved is the poetic passage we read, which is orderly distributed in the inner sphere of the concentric circles. We are currently investigating on the time period of the piece, and it could be argued that the style of calligraphy, technically speaking, might help us date the stand to the Qing dynasty or later.

The writings inscribed on jades or ancillary pieces generally represent the owner's life story, court career, or individual personality. In this case, one might say that the inscription conveys a sense of the owner's endeavor seeking moral sophistication by the metaphorical image of "the pure and wonderful scent coming into the heart." In other words, the meaning of these writings might give us an imagination of the master that he or she may be a refined scholar, a literati, or a member of the gentry class in ancient China, who are striving for a lasting reputation of integrity and rectitude.



Museum intern, Ying Zhang, is a graduate student of Religious Studies specializing in Taoist philosophy at the University of Chicago. She is researching pieces in the Museum's Chinese collection through December 2016.

The nephrite jade Cong, and stand was collected by Museum founder, Joseph Lizzadro and has been in the collection for over 50 years. It was never interpreted until now. The Cong and stand are currently on display at the Museum.

Museum Shop Annual Holiday Sale
November 19 through December 4, 2016
Become a Museum Member and receive 20% off purchases.
Shop online at: www.lizzadromuseum.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2016



SPECIAL EXHIBIT “Fabergé Style Carvings”

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016
TO FEBRUARY 5, 2017

This exhibit features replicas of Fabergé’s original hard stone carving designs including flower studies, figurines and animals made in Idar-Oberstein, Germany.



OCTOBER 15

“Working in Silver”

Silversmithing combines the techniques of lost wax casting, soldering, fabricating, polishing and stone setting to create a finished piece of jewelry. Visiting Artist, Don Cronauer will demonstrate the techniques of silversmithing to create rings, pendants and earrings. Reservations are recommended. Demonstration - Teenagers to Adult 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes \$5.00 per person, Museum Members Free. Reservations Recommended: (630) 833-1616



OCTOBER 22

“Uncovering the Tully”

The Illinois State Fossil the “Tully Monster” remained a problematic unclassified fossil since its discovery in 1958. New research and testing have revealed the mystery of the “Tully”. Paul Mayer, Fossil Invertebrate Collections Manager from the Field Museum will present the recent conclusive findings of this 300 million year old enigmatic fossil found exclusively in Illinois. Lecture - Youth to Adult 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes \$5.00 per person Museum Members Free. Reservations Recommended: (630) 833-1616



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630-833-1616

We would like to hear from you.
Please direct questions or comments
to: info@lizzadromuseum.org



NOVEMBER 19
“Lapidary Day”

See demonstrations by artists from the West Suburban Lapidary Club including: beading, silversmithing, cabochon cutting, wire wrapping and faceting. Free hands-on activities and jewelry cleaning. The event is great way to see the Museum and learn more about lapidary art. Saturday Demonstrations & Activities: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Ages - Free Admission



DECEMBER 3

“Create A Gem Tree”

Lapidaries Bill and Lois Zima of the DesPlaines Valley Geological Society teach how to create a small tree using gemstones and wire. These beautiful trees never need water and make a great gift. Activity - Ages 9 yrs. to Adult 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Fee: \$25.00 per person Museum Members: \$20.00 Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

DECEMBER 10

“Olympic Rocks”

Geared for middle and high school students competing in Science Olympiad tournaments, this class delves into the world of rocks and minerals. Hand samples will be available, covering most of the S.O. specimen list. Topics include quick ID tips, Bowen’s Reaction Series, and general rock information. Students are encouraged to sign up as a team or as an individual. Please bring all your questions for this informal practice session! Activity - 75 minutes - 1:30 p.m. Ages 10 to 18 yrs. Fee: \$5.00 per person Museum Members \$3.00 Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

“Rockin’ Jewelry for Kids”

This beginner’s class allows children to make their own gemstone jewelry to keep. Choose two different types of jewelry to make with stones from the Museum Shop and learn how to work with jeweler’s tools. Great for Girl Scout Jewelry Badge, parties of 10 or more are encouraged to schedule a private class. Email: educator@lizzadromuseum.org Classes: Oct. 8 at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 at 10:30 a.m. 75 minutes - Ages 8 to 16 years Fee: \$10.00 per person Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616