



Art of Old Cathay



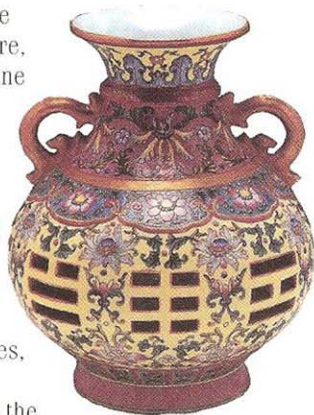
Treasures of China, the latest exhibition at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas Sofía Imber, displays dozens of bronze, porcelain, jade and terra-cotta artifacts representing five thousand years of China's remarkable artistic history.

Objects in this collection on loan from various museums in China span the Neolithic period (3,000-2,000 BC) and six dynasties vital to the region's cultural growth. Highlights of this showing include several animal-shaped bronze vessels, a full-body suit made of jade pieces sewn together with gold thread, and four warriors from Qin Shi Huang's terra-cotta army.

The Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, discovered accidentally in 1974 by farmers searching for water, had been entombed for some 2,000 years.

The exhibit also includes 60 elaborately costumed figurines that reproduce characters from the Peking Opera. Traditional opera is one of China's most important artistic events, and storytelling at the Peking Opera blends literature, music, dance, martial arts, fine arts and symbols that spectators must decipher to follow the tale.

Although small, the showing nicely demonstrates the dominant artistic achievements of Chinese culture over the past five millennia. Several conferences, workshops, short films, and midday activities accompany the exposition, which runs through May. For more information, call (212) 573-8289/0075.



Bacchus Beckons

Wine lovers can indulge their passion for the grape with kindred spirits at Club Pomar's exclusive courses, seminars, dinners and tastings. The club arranges a variety of events each month designed to amuse and educate those who appreciate one of life's great pleasures.

Three introductory courses into the world of wine take place June 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12 from 6-9 p.m. at Bodegas Pomar in Los Ruices. Wine: The Root of Culture gives an overview of the cultivation of vineyards and tropical viniculture, and explains how red and white wines are made. A number of wines will be sampled during this two-day course.

The Art of Wine Tasting teaches how to properly savor enological attributes and defects, and demystifies the language and techniques of tasting. In this two-day course, a selection of young and mature wines will be sampled to help observers learn basic aromas and tastes.

The final course on champagne lasts one evening and illuminates the history, cultivation and elaboration of this perennial party favorite, and includes several champagnes and sparkling wines for tasting. The price for these three courses is Bs.100,000 for members, and Bs.160,000 for the general public.

For those unable to commit to 15 hours of class time, Club Pomar also has a tasting of New World wines planned for May 27, which includes premium red and white wines from Australia, the United States and Chile. A Denomination of Origin seminar offered May 29 discusses the importance of understanding wine labels and corks—valuable knowledge when it comes time to try out a new wine. The New World wine tasting costs Bs.30,000 for members, Bs.42,000 for the general public. The geographical origin seminar is Bs.25,000 for members, Bs.30,000 for everyone else.

Club Pomar members receive special discounts on a select group of national and imported wines, as well as on various club activities. They also enjoy a free wine tasting the first week of every month, have priority status for event reservations, can order wines by phone for home delivery, and much more. Membership costs Bs.50,000; for sign-up information, contact clubpomar@empresas-polar.com, or call (212) 202-8908/8911.

