

# Application and Development of Chinese Character Element Decoration in Modern and Contemporary Ceramics

Kun Zhang

Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute  
Jingdezhen, China 333000

**Abstract**—This paper firstly introduces the contemporary aesthetic development of Chinese characters and ceramic art from life beauty and form beauty, summarizes characteristics of Chinese character elements and ceramic art in terms of humanities, technology and society, and then elaborates on the communication measures of Chinese characters and ceramic art on the basis of education, society and media.

**Keywords**—ceramics; Chinese character; decoration; development

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ceramic is a representative artwork in China, while Chinese characters are the language of China, which also bears the history and culture of China. Over the course of history, there is a very close relationship between the development of ceramics and Chinese characters. A lot of Chinese characters are used in ceramic art decoration, which is the same as the function of traditional Chinese painting and ink and wash painting in ceramic art decoration. Its purpose is to enhance the artistic sense of ceramics and beautify the appearance of ceramics. Chinese characters have always played a very important role in the development of ceramic decoration arts. Chinese characters have expanded the development scope of ceramic decoration art, presenting the life and cultural background of different periods. As a unique Chinese language, strokes and structures of Chinese characters on ceramics can also present the beauty of special artistic conception, which is a unique form of culture and art in China.

## II. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT OF CERAMIC ART AND CHINESE CHARACTERS

Chinese characters are common in our daily life. They are often seen in books, newspapers and other media. They are an important part of people's daily life. With the gradual deepening of people's cognition of the beauty of Chinese characters, a lot of artworks with Chinese characters as elements are also gradually increasing. Many people like to hang a piece of calligraphy of masters at home to present the beauty of Chinese characters with different styles. Ceramics also originated in China. Up to now, people's perception of

ceramics has gradually deepened. Many people also place some ceramic art at home as a decoration. These two figures often appear in people's life, which shows a kind of life aesthetics.

In essence, there are six forms of Chinese characters, namely pictograph, associative compound character, phonogram, self-explanatory character, mutually explanatory character and phonetic loan character. Its specific styles include cursive script, running script, regular script, official script and seal script. These different forms of Chinese characters have their own form of beauty. For example, cursive script has beautiful lines, rapid wielding, turbulent strokes and frantic modality. All of these are the beauty of the form of Chinese characters. Ceramics also have their own unique forms, such as the most common vase, as well as bowls and cups. They all have their own form of beauty, including great and slender ceramic vases, and small and exquisite ceramic teacups. Coupled with the charm of Chinese characters, ceramics present more cultural ambience, which reflects the formal aesthetics of ceramics and Chinese characters art.

From the analysis of the above two paragraphs, it is found that Chinese characters and ceramics have a certain comprehensive beauty. Chinese characters can be displayed on such carriers as cloth and Chinese art paper, thus becoming a kind of artwork with unique beauty. Different writing styles can present different artistic flavor and connotation. Ceramic art decoration can not only use a variety of techniques and materials, and different techniques and materials can also present various different styles of ceramic, but also can use Chinese characters. Both of them can be used comprehensively, and also be integrated with each other to form a unique integrated beauty of art.

With the continuous development of social economy, the national economy is also rising rapidly. After material satisfaction, people begin to pursue spiritual satisfaction and, satisfy their spiritual needs through the appreciation of various artworks. As a kind of art crafts, ceramics present the unique characteristics of humanities, science and technology through the combination with Chinese characters in the current social development.

Ceramic is a kind of artificial article, which can objectively reflect different cultural backgrounds in different historical periods and can express people's ideas, imagination and emotions. Ceramic art decoration expresses the humanistic thought of harmony and unity between man and nature since ancient times. Ceramic decoration in different times has the landscapes, fishes and birds in nature. Chinese language can directly reflect the connotation and ideas. The decoration of different styles and forms of Chinese characters on porcelain can show people's inner feelings and richness. Writing different contents in Chinese characters reflects the humanistic spirit and shows people's artistic pursuit for a better life and real things, which is the humanistic characteristic of Chinese characters and ceramic art.

With the development of science and technology, the techniques and technologies used in ceramic creation are more advanced. In the past, ceramic production was basically carried out manually, which could be roughly divided into four stages: raw material production, molding, glaze application and firing. The current ceramic production process is involved with various machines and tools, which makes the current ceramics more scientific and technological. Currently, ceramic decoration techniques are more diversified. Glaze decoration reflects the beauty of glazing color, and carving decoration shows the beauty of sculpture, and blue and white, ancient color, famille rose and other decorations reflect the beauty of color materials. Chinese characters can be integrated into these techniques as a decorative language. After being carved and glazed, it can achieve the artistic effect of possessing both color and calligraphy. The decoration and processing of ceramics by using this special technique can make ceramics with Chinese characters more scientific and technological.

Chinese characters have the function of culture carrying and are also necessary tools in people's communication. They are of great significance to people's life and social development. As a kind of art craft, ceramic can not only be used to hold things, but also to decorate the environment. Ceramic has its unique decorative and practical functions both in personal room and public occasions. Chinese characters are used in the art decoration of ceramics. For example, jars with "Xi" character that have been used since ancient times are mostly used for weddings, and special uses give them special decorative effects. Another example is the Tian Shu created by Xu Bing, a contemporary artist. Although Xu Bing used a variant of Chinese characters that no one could recognize, his Chinese character creating techniques that subverted the tradition not only endowed the meaning of these Chinese characters, but also led the audience to rethink and displayed contemporary characteristics. The same techniques can also be used in ceramic creation. This is a functional feature of the fusion of Chinese characters and ceramics. The "platform" of ceramics can also highlight the beauty of the form of Chinese characters, so that different styles and forms of characters can be displayed on the surface of ceramics and people can feel the beauty of characters when appreciating ceramics.

### III. THE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY DISSEMINATION OF CERAMIC ART AND CHINESE CHARACTERS

With the continuous development of the national economy, people love ceramics more deeply. In the history of China, people never stop their pursuit of artistic beauty. As the carrier of Chinese traditional culture, Chinese characters are the unique language and culture of China, and as a representative handicraft in China, ceramics also bear the history and culture of China, and in terms of production technology and decoration, they bear the cultural and humanistic background in different historical periods. With China's continuous development and globalization, today it is more necessary to carry forward and inherit Chinese own culture and art, so the dissemination of Chinese characters and ceramic art are carried out in the three aspects of education, media and society, to make China's traditional culture long stand.

With the continuously-deepened quality education, it is not enough for teachers to only inculcate teaching material knowledge to students, but also to cultivate students' comprehensive quality through various extracurricular activities or reading materials. The students all are the young generation of the motherland, who shoulder the obligation of carrying forward and inheriting the traditional culture. Therefore, it is necessary to expand the cognitive scope of students in the field of education when disseminating Chinese characters and ceramic art. In the process of teaching, it is necessary to comprehensively explain the history and characteristics of Chinese characters for students, and explain how to use them in the creation of ceramic art through examples, and guide students to make design and creation in combination with the modern and contemporary social and cultural background. In addition to spreading ceramic culture in China, the overseas communication of Chinese characters and ceramic culture also should be strengthened. Now, globalization is an important feature of the times in the development. Chinese culture takes an important place in the world from ancient times to the present, and it can be said that the "Silk Road" has affected the society, history and living in the countries in Asia and Africa and Europe. Today, "The Belt and Road Initiative" is proposed, the comprehensive national strength gets strong, and as the two elements of Chinese culture, Chinese characters and ceramic art has both the specificity of material culture and the social nature of material culture; in the dissemination of the two, Chinese culture will be spread together, to achieve the integration of spiritual and material aspects. In this way, other countries will understand Chinese culture more deeply, and the two after combination will play a role in education and reference for other countries. The exploration and grasp of the deep-seated reasons, ways, approaches, mechanisms, possibilities and prospects of human civilization exchange, is proposed to carry forward and disseminate Chinese ceramic culture, leading and promoting the cultural exchange between China and foreign countries in ceramic culture.

As the main body of social structure, human beings promote the development of society and accelerate the progress of human civilization at a certain extent. The

dissemination of ceramics should not be limited in the campus, but should go to the society. Today, the appreciation of ceramic art is de-massified, but people's pursuit of spirit and art is more in-depth with the development of society. In this case, it is necessary to spread the comprehensive art of Chinese characters and ceramics in society, and transform ceramic culture from the minority to the public. The dissemination of ceramic and Chinese culture should not only be limited in Chinese society, but also in all countries. In ancient times, China's ceramic culture spread to the west through the maritime Silk Road; in the current society, due to the convenience of transportation and communication, the contact between different countries is faster and more convenient, so it is more convenient and efficient to spread abroad ceramic and Chinese culture. With the rise of domestic tourism industry, the people from many countries come to China for tourism, by which China can open ceramic manufacturing factories to foreign friends, so that they can visit the factories, and make these foreign tourists understand the ceramic production process, during which translators in professional ceramic can also be arranged to detailedly introduce ceramic culture and stories for foreign friends, to spread ceramic and Chinese culture to foreign society. In this process, an international ceramic design competition can also be held, so that people all over the world who like Chinese ceramic culture can participate in the competition and more people can learn about Chinese ceramic culture through the competition. In addition, the domestic ceramic market should be regulated, so that foreign tourists can truly feel the artistic charm of ceramics.

To make more people come into contact with the comprehensive culture of Chinese characters and ceramics, the effective ways of dissemination are necessary. China has entered the information age, people can read information and news in different ways, which is no more limited to the traditional paper carrier, but in some videos or mobile terminals anytime and anywhere to watch relevant information. Therefore, the comprehensive culture of Chinese characters and ceramics should be disseminated in a way that people like, for example, in the media way of TV programs and Internet, some TV or movies about the comprehensive art of Chinese characters and ceramics can also be produced. The films with good story ideas and excellent pictures all are also likely to spread abroad, and participate in some foreign film awards, so as to spread abroad the domestic ceramic and Chinese culture through the way of films. In addition to the dissemination by the domestic media, the documentary films about ceramics can also be shot specially, provided with subtitles in many languages, and shared on more international websites, so as to attract the young generation of foreign people to understand the Chinese ceramics and Chinese character culture on the video media.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Chinese characters and ceramics are both unique cultures in China. The use of Chinese characters in ceramic art decoration not only makes ceramic art have more development space, but also makes the charm of Chinese

characters presented diversely. Professor Li Bo, a Doctor of Literature in Nanjing Normal University, believes that the traditional culture carried by Chinese characters has the following practical significance: "China and its nation stand firm after thousands of years of trials and hardships, which is not by accident or by luck, but because of the traditional cultural system of containing the universe and all things." It is not accidental that Chinese characters and ceramic art develop in such a cultural system and integrate with each other. Nowadays, Chinese characters and ceramic art are spread through education, society and media; so that more people understand the artistic charm and Chinese traditional culture can be effectively carried forward and inherited.

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