## **Chinese Porcelains** At Lanier Library

Lanier Library now has on display in the Dwight Marvin Exhibit case a lovely collection of Chinese porcelains which Miss M. Mellanay Delhom, Curator of the Delhom Gallery and Institute of the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte has studied and provided fascinating background information about. They range in age from a crude, partially glazed jar of the Han Dynasty (206 BC — 220 AD) to modern overglaze enamel pieces.

Among the porcelains of the Sung Dynasty (960—1279) most familiar to the eyes of Western collectors are the soft colored Chinese celadons. There are two unpainted pure white porcelain in the collection. Celadon is a Western term for the glaze color, derived from a stage production in which a shepherd named Celadon wore soft grey-green ribbons. You will have to see for yourself how lovely these vases are with their elusive shadings of grey, green and blue, poetically described in Chinese as the color of the sky after a spring rain, green as the distant hills, like a wet mossy bank, etc.

A medieval belief that celadon could detect the presence of poison in food resulted in great demand and early exportation. Understandably a high price was craftsmanship of bygone ages. willingly paid for such protection in an age of much violence and intrigue. To meet this demand celadon began to be farmed out for manufacture outside the empire — a rare occurence indeed. Korea was one of those spots.

Three of the pieces are Ch'ing Pai procelains, a vague color designation comprising appealing shadow blues, greys and neutral tints. They are grenular to the touch. There is a covered jar of the twelfth century at the greyest extreme; a small dish decorated with two carp, lotus and other flowers; and a small

the longest.

century pieces: a miniature Flambe' Mei P'ing (Beautiful Lady) Vase named for its form which suggests feminine charm with its sensuous curves, an excellent example of oxblood red glaze with flambe' transmutations; a miniature yellow vase with lotus blossoms among foliage arabesques, an example of vitreous enamel porcelain; a pair of ellipse-like procelain flower containers, turquoise inside with lotus meander outside, made with modern overglaze enamels; and a modern white sauce dish or wine cup representing a style culminating in 1916 which emphasizes the surface. The piece is painted with calligraphy.

There are also two beautifully carved carnelian jade pieces vaguely described as figures. What do they look like to you flying fish, fighting cocks or

Most of the pieces sit on tiny. intricately carved wooden pedes tals as smooth as silk. Beside each piece you will find a card of explantation to add to your enjoyment in viewing these utterly delightful pieces which reflect the colorful charm interesting customs and skilled

The Lanier Library Board of Directors has announced that these pieces are available for purchase in order to strengthen the library fund for capital expenditures. Details are available at the Administrator's desk. Reporter

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