

Of course, although currently I am busy with preparations for two MAGNT ceramic exhibitions due to open in March and May respectively, I intend to try and get to the bottom of the matter of this intriguing object by continuing research, through ceramic publications and professional contacts, after completing these other current commitments.

As an alternative, you may like to consider the possibility of donating this object to MAGNT in which case I would be happy to include ThL dating of this jar as part of the MAGNT Southeast Asian research schedule for June 1999 - 2000. In such a case any display of the object for exhibition or publication purposes would automatically include public acknowledgement of yourself as the donor.

In terms of its monetary value I am unable to give an estimate, though without any firm confirmation of age/provenance I would think that it would be difficult to arrive at any definite value. Even with a definite confirmation of its age/provenance such objects need not necessarily fetch a competitive market price.

I just thought I'd give you this update on where matters stand at the moment regarding the jar. I greatly appreciate your bringing this ceramic to our notice as it is certainly intriguing and may raise further evidence to suggest that the Portuguese were early visitors to this continent. As a catastrophic earthquake in Lisbon in the 18th century destroyed most early archive records such as maps and shiplogs of Portuguese journeys, we are left looking for any tangible archaeological evidence that might turn-up on Australia soil regarding this fascinating question.

Thanks again and will be in contact,

Yours sincerely,

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