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fig. 48
Archaic bronze owl-form *hu*
Eastern Zhou period,
4th century BC
height 46 cm
Private collection

fig. 49
Glazed earthenware horse
Tang Dynasty (618–907)
height 68 cm, length 76.3 cm
Private collection

fig. 50
His Majesty King Gustaf VI Adolf of
Sweden (1882–1973) with Giuseppe at a
private viewing on 18 October 1972

fig. 51
Blue-and-white porcelain
'dragon' dice bowl
Ming Dynasty, Xuande mark and
period (1426–35)
diameter 26.4 cm
Östasiatiska Museet, Stockholm

through Christie's, it became apparent that Hatvány had instructed his solicitors that the *hu* should be offered to Giuseppe with clear guidelines of how this was to be done: Giuseppe was to put in writing the amount he would be prepared to pay and, if his offer price exceeded Christie's sale estimate, he should be allowed to buy the bronze. Giuseppe duly acquired the vessel in August 1978, which he sold to the Fund a month later. When auctioned in London in 1989, it made over four times its estimate.

The item from the Fund that made news headlines was lot 56 in the same London sale – a Tang Dynasty *sancai*-glazed pottery figure of a caparisoned Ferghana horse (fig. 49). Giuseppe had bought it from a private European collection and sold it for £125,000 in 1978, after much argument with the Pension Fund's board, which almost turned it down. In 1989, it was to be the highlight of the London sale with a pre-sale estimate of £1 million. A month before the auction, on a tour of the Far East, the horse was stolen from the shipper's warehouse in Hong Kong, where it had been on show, and was held to ransom. Giuseppe offered to pay the ransom on behalf of Sotheby's so that the horse would not be harmed. Fortunately, after an intensive undercover operation by the Hong Kong police,

the thieves were tracked down and the horse rescued unscathed, in time for the London sale. Including buyer's premium it fetched £3.74 million – a price that astonished the auctioneer, Julian Thompson (1941–2011), the Fund managers and almost everyone apart from the Japanese buyer who was interviewed immediately after the sale and declared: 'I've never seen such a beautiful thing. It is still a cheap price and I would have paid many millions more.'³⁷ The 'British Rail Horse' may well be the finest example of its kind in existence; certainly no other horse of comparable quality has ever been offered for sale at auction. It may well also have produced the highest return, to this date, on a publicly verifiable investment in Chinese art.

The Second Eskenazi Exhibition: Visit of His Majesty King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden and the Hongwu Underglaze-Red Ewer

The director of the Östasiatiska Museet, Stockholm, Dr Bo Gyllensvärd, was always a great supporter of Giuseppe and, in 1972, introduced him to a frequent visitor to London, His Majesty King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden (fig. 50). The king made a close inspection of the items to be exhibited in June that year. He had travelled to China as a young man and had been particularly fascinated by the Han and Tang ceramics being unearthed by Swedish engineers as unsolicited by-products of the construction of the railway system there. He became a keen connoisseur of Chinese art, eventually donating his superb collection to the Östasiatiska Museet. Over the years, under the directorship of both Bo Gyllensvärd and his successor Dr Jan Wirgin, the museum acquired a number of pieces from Giuseppe, including a rare Xuande blue-and-white 'dragon' dice bowl (fig. 51).

The prize piece in the June 1973 exhibition was a Hongwu period (1368–98) porcelain ewer painted in underglaze copper-red (fig. 52), formerly in the collection of Mr and Mrs Paul E. Manheim of New York. Manheim, a partner at Lehman Brothers between 1944 and 1970, was a well-known collector of Asian art. He served on the board of trustees at the Brooklyn Museum and for decades was a key contributor to the museum. Thanks to the Manheims' generosity, the Hongwu ewer had been on loan at the Brooklyn Museum for a number of years. However, it was not to remain there, as an article in *The Times* relates:

A Chinese ewer teased out of the Brooklyn Museum, New York, by an Italian dealer living in London, is likely to be sold for £250,000 when Eskenazi's summer exhibition opens on June 13. Its most probable



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pl. 6
Archaic bronze *ding*
Shang period, 12th–11th century BC
height 16.2 cm
Private collection

pl. 7
Double-sided bronze pole finial
Shang period, 12th–11th century BC
height 12.7 cm
Idemitsu Museum of Arts, Tokyo

pl. 8
Archaic bronze *you*
Shang period, 12th–11th century BC
height 40.5 cm
Private collection



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pl. 9
Archaic bronze *you*
Late Shang or early Western Zhou
period, 11th–10th century BC
height 28.3 cm
Private collection

pl. 10
Archaic bronze *you*
Shang period, 11th century BC
height 17.2 cm
Meiyintang collection



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pl. 54
Bronze, gold and silver tortoise
Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220)
length 11.3 cm
Miho Museum, Shigaraki

pl. 55
Gilt and silvered bronze and turquoise
garment-hook (*daigou*)
Eastern Zhou period, 4th–3rd
century BC
length 13.5 cm
Miho Museum, Shigaraki



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pl. 53
Bronze and gold hare
Western Han period,
2nd–1st century BC
length 14.0 cm
Private collection



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pl. 51
Pair of bronze, gold and silver
chariot fittings
Eastern Zhou period,
4th–3rd century BC
length 26 cm
Private collection



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52

pl. 52
Pair of bronze, gold and silver weights
Western Han period,
2nd–1st century BC
height 4.8 cm, diameter 6.7 cm
Miho Museum, Shigaraki



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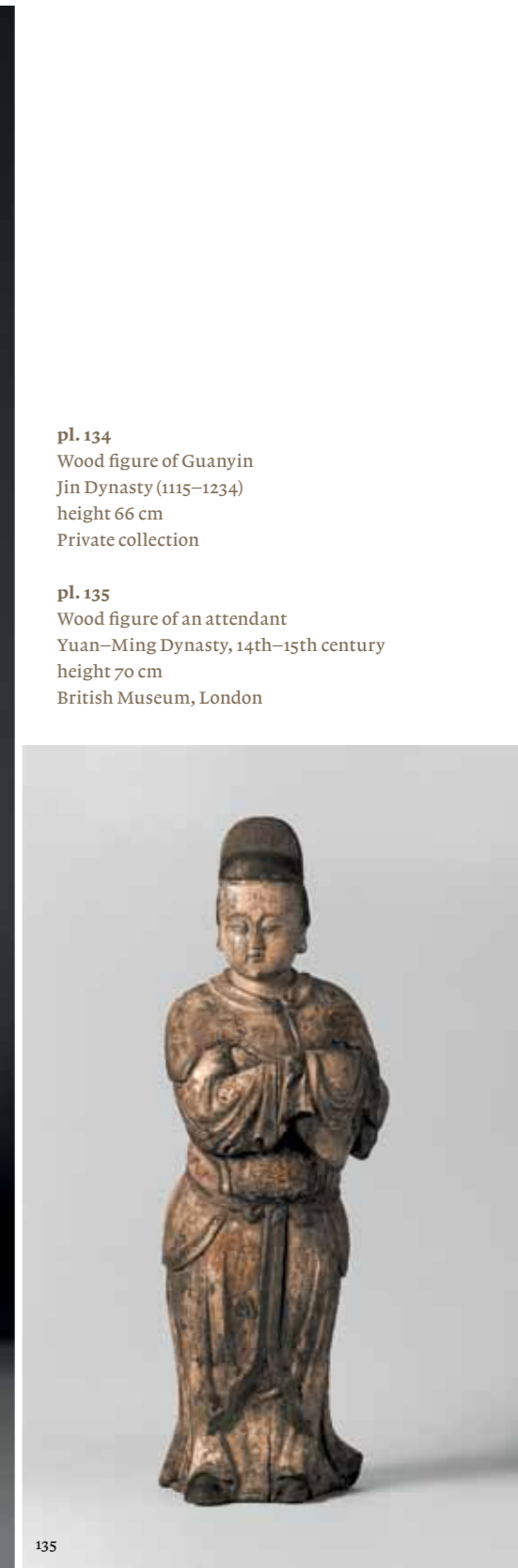
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134



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pl. 134
Wood figure of Guanyin
Jin Dynasty (1115–1234)
height 66 cm
Private collection

pl. 135
Wood figure of an attendant
Yuan–Ming Dynasty, 14th–15th century
height 70 cm
British Museum, London

pl. 130
Wood figure of a Bodhisattva
Song or Jin Dynasty,
12th–13th century
height 145 cm
Private collection

pl. 131
Wood figure of a Bodhisattva
Song or Jin Dynasty,
12th–13th century
height 142 cm
Private collection

pl. 132
Stucco head of Buddha
Western Xia Dynasty (1032–1227)
height 52 cm
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe,
Hamburg

pl. 133
Wood figure of Guanyin
Song Dynasty (960–1279)
height 172.6 cm
Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst,
Cologne (on loan)



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pl. 262
Guanyao *hu*-form vase
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
height 26 cm
Private collection

pl. 263
Guanyao mallow-form dish
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
diameter 14.6 cm
Private collection

pl. 264
Guanyao flower-form bowl
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
diameter 11.7 cm
Private collection

pl. 265
Guanyao bottle vase of
octagonal section
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
height 23 cm
Private collection

pl. 266
Guanyao washer
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
diameter 8.5 cm
Private collection

pl. 267
Guanyao square cup
Southern Song Dynasty,
12th–13th century
height 3.9 cm
Private collection



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375

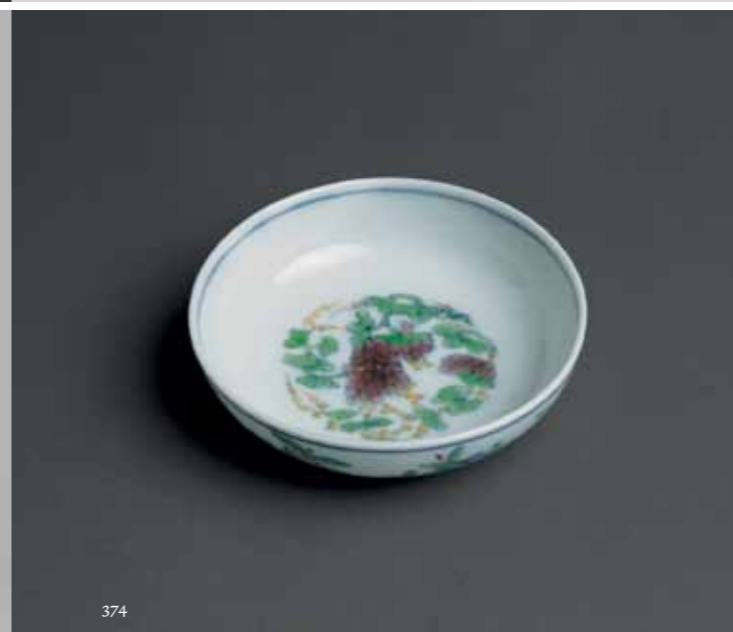
pl. 370
Blue-and-white porcelain
'dragon' dish
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua mark
and period (1465–87)
diameter 19.4 cm
Private collection

pl. 371
Blue-and-white porcelain
'sea-creature' dish
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua period
(1465–87)
diameter 20.5 cm
Meiyintang collection

pl. 372
Doucai porcelain 'Tian' jar
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua period
(1465–87)
height 11.1 cm
Private collection



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pl. 373
Doucai porcelain 'Tian' jar
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua period
(1465–87)
height 13.5 cm
Private collection

pl. 374
Doucai porcelain 'grape' dish
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua mark and
period (1465–87)
diameter 8.3 cm
Meiyintang collection

pl. 375
Doucai porcelain stemcup
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua mark and
period (1465–87)
height 7.8 cm
Meiyintang collection

pl. 376
Underglaze-blue and green enamel
decorated porcelain 'dragon' dish
Ming Dynasty, Chenghua period
(1465–87)
diameter 22 cm
Private collection



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pl. 395
Yellow-ground famille-rose porcelain 'lotus' winecup
Qing Dynasty, Kangxi *yuzhi* mark and period (1662–1722)
height 4.8 cm
Private collection

pl. 396
Coral-ground famille-rose porcelain bowl with flower decoration
Qing Dynasty, Yongzheng mark and period (1723–35)
diameter 14.9 cm
Private collection

pl. 397
Ruby-ground famille-verte porcelain bowl with flower decoration
Qing Dynasty, Kangxi *yuzhi* mark and period (1662–1722)
diameter 12.1 cm
Private collection

pl. 398
Yellow-ground famille-rose porcelain bowl with flower decoration
Qing Dynasty, Kangxi *yuzhi* mark and period (1662–1722)
diameter 14.2 cm
Private collection

pl. 399
Blue-ground famille-rose porcelain bowl with flower decoration
Qing Dynasty, Kangxi *yuzhi* mark and period (1662–1722)
diameter 14.5 cm
Private collection



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400

pl. 400
Famille-verte porcelain charger with court scene
Qing Dynasty, Kangxi period (1662–1722)
diameter 52 cm
Private collection