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**OCCA September
2008 Newsletter
Highlights:**

- Mid-Autumn Celebration
- Oct 16th Culture Night
Dinner Event Updates
- Event Sponsorship Info.
- OCCA Garage Sales
Dates and Location
- OCCA Campfire Night
- Thank You Note from an
earthquake victim
- Chinese Artist—Prof. Xu

中秋佳节人月两团圆

Celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival

每年农历八月十五日，是传统的中秋节，又称“团圆节”。

农历八月十五日是一年秋季的中期，所以被称为中秋。这天晚上的月亮比其他几个月的满月更圆、更明亮。

此夜，家人团聚，大家仰望天空如玉如盘的朗朗明月，品尝着月饼，而远在他乡的游子，也借此寄托自己对故乡和亲人的思念之情。

The date of Mid-autumn Festival also known as Chinese Moon Festival is on the 15th moon day of 8th Chinese lunar month. Since the new moon day is the first day of a Chinese Lunar Month, the Moon Festival this year is on 14 September 2008. On this day, the moon is at its roundest and brightest.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the two most important holidays in the Chinese calendar (the other being the Chinese Lunar New Year). Farmers celebrate the end of the summer harvesting season on this date. Traditionally, on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes together to symbolize family unity, closeness and good fortune.



看月亮

圓月依山起
空林伴鳥息
愁河波波碎
鄉思片片离

There are many private Mid-Autumn parties around Omaha/Council Bluffs area to celebrate the holiday. Unlike Chinese New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a much low-key holiday - peace and elegance. OCCA also has a small gathering at the Grand Fortune Chinese Restaurant in Omaha to celebrate the holiday.

Around 100 people from Omaha United Chinese School kids/parents and ConAgra Foods' Asian Network participated in the Sept 13th Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration at Lake Zorinsky. Funding for the Mooncakes were provided by the ConAgra Foods.

Omaha Chinese Culture Night Dinner Event Updates

10/16/2008, Thursday

**(Please view the Corporate Sponsorship information on page 6
and News Release on page 7 for the complete story)**

**Project Leader: LiQin Kephart - Any question, please contact
LiQin at (402) 214-6816 or Ping Ye (402) 850 - 6060**

好好学习
天天向上

Education/Kids Activities:

- American Mathematics Contest 8 - The AMC 8 is for students in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade; accelerated fourth and fifth grade students also take part. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple choice contest with no penalty for guessing. You can register online at: <http://www.math.unl.edu/~amc/registration/start8.php>
- Confucius Institute Chinese Classes at UNO: <http://confuciusinstitute.unl.edu>
If you need more information on these events, please contact Linda Steele at omahachinese@gmail.com
- To families with children from China: Chinese Cultural Exchange & Homeland Tours will help families with children from China to send back pictures to the orphanages where the children were adopted. If you wish to send your child's picture to an orphanage in China, please contact Director Ming Hua He at (850)-523-9797 or www.Mingschin.com
- UNL CI and OCCA welcomes famous Chinese artist to Lincoln and Bellevue
If you are interested in a school field trip to see the famous Chinese artist, please contact OCCA for detail information. You can read about Prof. Xu's bibliography and his sample art work on page 8, 9 & 10.
- USA Math Talent Search is now available at www.usamts.org.
- The Omaha Chess Community meet on Wednesday (6-9 p.m.) at Lewis and Clark Middle School. Free and open to public.



Kid's Homework

王原幽默漫画

Support local businesses:

Hsiang (John) Yao — Realtor
Century Real Estate
(402) 677-1558

John has lived in Omaha for over 20 years, know the area well, and able to speak Chinese. Would like the chance to earn your business.

Fall is coming and the temperatures are getting cooler now. One of my pastimes is to work in my garden during this time of the year. This year, I have gotten so busy with OCCA event planning that I have had no time to attend to my garden. So, instead of watching the weeds growing out of the control, I'm going to pass some of my garden tips and experiences on to you. This makes me feel like I have done something for my garden, which is sorely lacking for attention..

In the past few years, I have been collecting deeply discounted perennials and trees during the hot summer months. This is when nurseries try to close out the seasonal items. I then keep the plants in their original pots in my shade garden and don't plant them until the early September. This is when the temperatures are cool enough for the new plants and transplants. This is also a great season for dividing overgrown perennials and digging up hard to find summer bulbs.

Over the years, I also like to save seeds from my favorite flowers. It is very easy and rewarding. To me, nothing beats watching tiny seeds grow into huge flowers. If you have never saved seeds before, I would suggest trying some easy plants, such as nasturtiums, marigolds, sunflowers, zinnias for flowers. You need to allow the seeds to reach full maturity before collecting them.

Vegetables can be a bit more complicated. If, for example, you want to save heirloom tomato seeds, you need to wait till the fruit ripens past the point you would if you were going to eat it. You need to purée the tomato and pour the contents into a container. Cover the container and let it sit for 3 days at room temperature, stirring it occasionally. The seeds that sink are the viable ones. Strain and dry these seeds. Make sure to dry all the seeds you collected for one to two weeks before storing them in a glass jar or a zip-lock bag. Label and date it. Store the seeds in a cool, dry place. When the next spring comes, you can spread your saved seeds into your garden and watch them grow.

Happy gardening,

Linda

for me...



2008 OCCA Campfire Night - at Vala's Pumpkin Patch

<http://www.valaspumpkinpatch.com/>



OCCA Campfire Night
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When: Sept 27th, 2008 (Saturday)

Where: Vala's Pumpkin Patch (12102 South 180th St. Gretna)

Time: 5:00 pm - 10 pm

(We will meet at the campfire site first and then take a tour together. The group tours will start every 30 minutes or every hour based on the numbers of people joined)

Reserved By Sept 20th (Saturday) to OCCA by email
<mailto:omahachinese@gmail.com>

Call Julie Zhu at (402)709 - 1625 or Ben Zhang (402) 359-1239 if you have any question. We have reserved two campsites and the sites can only hold about 100 people.

Cost: General Admission price **+\$2.00** per person for hot dog/Marshmallow/bottle water

Ask for the OCCA campfire site location and the map of the field at the ticket office.

Some companies in Omaha offer discount price for the Vala's Pumpkin Patch's tickets. Suggest to check with your company for any discounts. You can also go to <http://www.valaspumpkinpatch.com/index.html> site for ticket price and coupon information.

Food: Bring a dish to share. We will provide Hot dog/Marshmallow/Chips/Water at the campsite for \$2.00per person. Kids and adults can roast their own hot dogs and marshmallow.

Bring a flashlight, extra jacket for the cool night, blankets, camera, and a dish to share. **If you have any hot dog/marshmallow roasting forks, please bring them.** We only have very limited supplies.

Simple Life: Cooking 粗茶淡飯

秋季养生：美颜瘦身的南瓜饼 (张静) - Sweet Rice Pumpkin Cake

秋季养生多吃南瓜，有强身健体、美容瘦身的功效。南瓜营养丰富全面，对肠胃和血管都有很好的保护作用。南瓜的吃法多种多样，蒸炒炖煮烤，都别具风味。在家制作香甜软糯的南瓜饼一点不难，只需南瓜、糯米粉、白芝麻、豆沙馅，就可做出Q感十足南瓜糯米饼。

原料：南瓜、糯米粉、红豆馅、白芝麻、食用油

做法：

- 1、南瓜洗净，去皮去瓤，切薄片，用微波炉高火加热10分钟左右（可用筷子戳一下来判断南瓜是否熟透）。如果没有微波炉，就用蒸锅来蒸。将南瓜切小块，放入蒸锅蒸屉上隔水蒸熟后取出；
- 2、南瓜趁热用勺子撵成南瓜泥，加入糯米粉（加入的糯米粉的量以面团不粘手为宜，不必另外加水）揉搓成团，然后加入一小勺食用油，揉均匀后盖上保鲜膜放置一旁醒发15分钟；
- 3、取鸡蛋大小的面团，搓圆后按扁，包入适量红豆馅，收口捏紧轻轻搓圆后按扁，做成小圆饼。如此反复，将所有面皮和馅料用完；
- 4、将做好的南瓜饼两面沾裹白芝麻；
- 5、平底锅中倒少许油，烧热后将南瓜饼放入，中小火煎至两面金黄即可。



Anyone interested in submitting articles about China/local Chinese/business, event information, or ideas to our monthly newsletter, please submit them [here](#) or email to omahachinese@gmail.com

Thanks!

Upcoming Events/Around Omaha:

- **International Night featuring China:**
Sept 19th (Friday): 6-8 p.m. Cultural Presentation, ethnic food tasting; Confluence Bookstore; 505 Cornhusker Road, Suite 107, Bellevue, NE; (402) 502-0906
- **Mark your calendar: UNL CI and OCCA welcomes famous Chinese artist to Lincoln and Bellevue**

Prof. Yinsen Xu---An art master of Chinese Seal-cutting, Calligraphy and Painting will present a special exhibit at Confluence Bookstore on Nov 17 and Nov 18; 505 Cornhusker Road, Suite 107, Bellevue, NE; Contact OCCA for more details.

The Bellevue exhibit is co-host by OCCA, Bellevue University, and Confluence Bookstore; Check out the page 8, 9 & 10 for the event details. If you will like to arrange a school field trip to the exhibit, please contact OCCA at omahachinese@gmail.com

- **Asian Show at the Stir Cove of Harrah's Casino**
Sunday, Nov 16 <http://tircove.frontgatetickets.com/>
- **New Website:**
Creighton CSSA website:
<http://www2.creighton.edu/groups/cssa/index.php>

September Garage Sale

OCCA will held a garage sale to raise money to be used for our operational costs. We need your help to make the event successful. **Please come and check out those unique Chinese crafts.**

It is a huge multi-family garage sale with Collectable Chinese crafts and paintings, Baby items, Toys, Clothing, Furniture, PC games, Electronics, Comp. Hardware/software, House ware and much more.

Thurs -Sat(18, 19 & 20); 9:00am -5:00pm;

[15210 Pepperwood, Omaha NE 68154](#); (click the address to see the map)

NO early birds

Item donations and event helpers needed by Sept 17th.

Contact:

Julie Zhu 709-1625; LiSuang Guan 276-4933; Linlin Song 384-9690

Helpers Wanted:

October Dinner Event

We need volunteers to help us contacting the companies that are interested in supporting our dinner event and working with Omaha Chinese Groups.

If you would like to be part of this exciting team that help to communicate our fundraising goals to your company, please contact us. We will provide sponsorship information and the helps you need.

Contacts: Ping Ye 850 - 6060
Liqin Kephart 214 - 6816
Linda Steele 515 - 4491

or email to omahachinese@gmail.com

Walk for Inclusion

There were about 40 people from OCCA participated in the 2008 Walk for Inclusion on 8/31 at the Heartland Park in downtown Omaha. Sarah Wu and Jessie Zhang performed the KungFu before the walk started. The event was featured on Channel 7.

You can click on the following link to view pictures.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/OmahaChinese/8312008WalkForInclusion#slideshow>



感谢大家对
OCCA的帮助
与支持!

Thank you
For your
support!!

If you are
interested
in receiving
our
newsletter,
[click here.](#)

OCCA Mission: The mission of the Omaha Chinese Culture Association (OCCA) is to promote Chinese culture and to provide educational services to its members and to the greater Omaha community. It aims to promote cultural diversity, friendship, and enrichment in the local community through cultural and educational events.

Email: omahachinese@gmail.com

*On behalf of the Julie's family, we say thank you to the ones to have helped her and her family through this tragic time. Thank you for your generosity.
Your kindness will always be remembered.*

As you are aware, on May 12, 2008, a cataclysmic earthquake struck the Sichuan province of China, resulting in 70,000 deaths, and 370,000 injuries. Monetary losses have reached USD\$146 billion. One of our friends', Julie Verebely, lost her cousin, her cousin's husband and the couple's only baby during the disaster. Her own sister's house was destroyed by the earthquake. Some of the her friends and colleagues donated money and materials to help her sister and her family to rebuild their lives in China.

The following letter is a thank you letter from her nephew TaoTao in Sichuan.

Together, we can help ... one family at a time...

Subject: RE:谢谢 Date: Wed, 27 Aug 2008
17:57:25 +0800

亲爱的小姨:

在这里我代表你的家人和你的家乡人对你和那些所有给予我们帮助的人说真诚的谢谢。谢谢他们的关爱和帮助,让我们在这漫长和艰辛的日子里感到温暖.收到了你的支票,

大姨说将在九月中旬才可以兑换成人民币。

本来我们是等待着政府的通知,前段时间里政提到将帮助我们修建房子,但是现在也没有消息。所以我们不知道要等多久。所以二叔叔说了,等他的艺术学校九月分开课了,他将有时间来计划为我们重新建房子。他也将负担一切费用。你的钱我们将用来购置家具和家用品。目前,我们住在临时的我们自己刚刚用旧砖旧瓦砌的临时房子里那样 每当下雨时至少我们可以不受雨淋

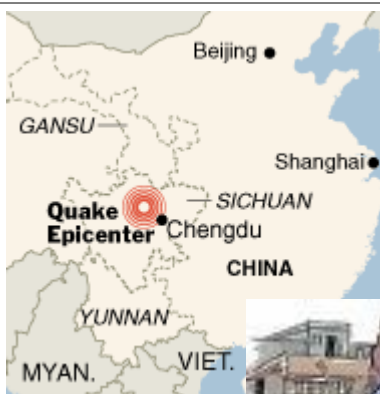
小姨: 我们知道你的同事,你的朋友还有哪些你身边热心的人给我们的帮助。看到你的那些募捐的照片真的很感人同时也觉的很欣慰有那么多的人爱我们的国家。我们知道无论你在哪里,你都是依然关爱你的家人。还有,你赞助的那个扬洋今年考上了大学,我知道她已写信告诉你了。

好了小姨: 希望你自己多保重. 希望我们真的明年在相见。
对了, 你的卡我都给了你的那个老师。

向吉姆叔叔问好, 他说好了的明年回来啊。

我也开始学好英文了等他来了, 我可以不是哑巴了啊。

你的侄儿涛涛



A story of a starfish

Once a man was walking along a beach. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. Off in the distance he could see a person going back and forth between the surf's edge and the beach. Back and forth this person went. As the man approached he could see that there were hundreds of starfish stranded on the sand as the result of the natural action of the tide.

The man was stuck by the apparent futility of the task. There were far too many starfish. Many of them were sure to perish. As he approached the person continued the task of picking up starfish one by one and throwing them into the surf.

As he came up to the person he said, "You must be crazy. There are thousands of miles of beach covered with starfish. You can't possibly make a difference." The person looked at the man. He then stooped down and pick up one more starfish and threw it back into the ocean. He turned back to the man and said, **"It sure made a difference to that one!"**
<http://www.cedu.niu.edu/~fulmer/starfish.htm>

OCCA Oct 16 fundraising event has received a tremendous amount of attention and support from both the Chinese community as well as businesses in Omaha. Our current corporate sponsors include: Regency Marriot Hotel, Valmont Industries Inc., HDR, AHL Consulting, Talon Asset Management, TD Ameritrade, Performance Toyota, Wiese Research Associates, Cox Communications, Werner Enterprises, Alegent Health, LIU & DB Enterprises, Inc., Borsheim, D & B Residential Construction, LLC, P.F. Chang's, China Palace, BoBo China and other local businesses. For next two issues, we will like to feature each and everyone of our sponsors in our monthly newsletter and thank them for their supports.



Editor's Note: Valmont Industries, Inc is our **Platinum Sponsor** for the event. They have donated **\$5,000** towards our fundraising goals. On behalf of all the OCCA committee members and supports, we thank you !

Valmont Industries, Inc. (NYSE: VMI) is a global leader in designing and manufacturing poles, towers and structures for lighting and traffic, wireless communication and utility markets, and a provider of protective coating services. Valmont also leads the world in mechanized irrigation equipment for agriculture, enhancing food production while conserving and protecting natural water resources. In addition, Valmont produces a wide variety of tubing for commercial and industrial applications.

Valmont currently operates from 43 facilities located in fourteen countries around the world. The Company is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, and employs over 5,600 highly trained personnel worldwide, with approximately 1,500 located in Nebraska.

Throughout its long manufacturing history, Valmont has consistently sought the best ways to apply advancing technology to products and processes alike. "We will remain focused on what we do best," said Mogens C. Bay, Valmont's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "We see ample opportunities to expand our businesses globally and in North America and, over time, we expect our investments around the world to further accelerate our growth. Our performance is the direct result of the skills, dedication and hard work of each member of the Valmont team.

Wherever you live, whatever you do, chances are Valmont is part of your life. Lighting and traffic poles guide your way. Utility poles bring power to your home and business. Communication poles and towers enable your wireless communications. Irrigation equipment brings much-needed water to cropland while conserving fresh water resources. And our long-lasting finishes improve products around the world every day.



HDR is an employee-owned architectural, engineering and consulting firm that helps clients manage complex projects and make sound decisions. As an integrated firm, HDR provides a total spectrum of services for our clients. Our staff professionals represent hundreds of disciplines and partner on blended teams throughout North America and abroad to provide solutions beyond the scope of traditional A/E/C firms.

HDR has more than 7,500 professionals and more than 165 locations worldwide. It was founded in 1917 by H.H. Henningson



In 2000, Dr. Angelina Li founded AHL Consulting, Inc., a premier market research and business strategy consultancy that helps companies make decisive improvements in their strategic process and operational performance. AHL has earned a reputation for providing relevant, objective and highly actionable management advice, in projects ranging from demand forecasting to customer satisfaction measurement to competitive analysis. AHL Consulting clientele varies from Fortune 500 firms to entrepreneurial teams, here and overseas. AHL projects in diverse industries have involved telecommunications, financial services, health care, insurance, fitness clubs, jewelry, TV networks, security systems, manufacturing, advertising agencies, urban planners, educational software, university, and trade associations. Angelina is fluent in both English and Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin).



Omaha Chinese Culture Association



奥马哈中华文化协会

P.O. Box 24247 Omaha, NE 68124 omahachinese@gmail.com http://omahachinese.net

Contact: Linda Steele '3/1(404 , 3380

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O-N-A 13136 N M 57013

9omahachinese@gmail.com

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News Release

Chinese Culture Night & Fundraising Dinner Event

OMAHA, NEBRASKA – 9/15/2008 – On May 12, 2008, a cataclysmic earthquake struck the Sichuan province of China, resulting in 70,000 deaths, and 370,000 injuries. Monetary losses have reached USD\$146 billion. The Omaha Chinese Culture Association (OCCA), in conjunction with the Chinese Students and Scholars Associations (CSSAs) at UNO, UNMC, and Creighton University are working hard to raise money for the earthquake relief efforts. Together, we have hosted several fundraising events in the past two months including the Chinese Culture Summer Family Night on June 27.

Cosponsors, OCCA and CSSA, are proud to present a Chinese Culture Night Fundraising Dinner, which will be held at the Regency Marriott hotel (10220 Regency Cir., Omaha, NE 68114) on Thursday, October 16, 2008, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. A formal Chinese dinner will be served, followed by Chinese cultural performances.

Our goal is to raise money for China's Earthquake rebuilding efforts and the Iowa/Nebraska Disaster Relief efforts, in addition to promoting culture exchange and international community in Omaha. All donations will be directed to the American Red Cross. Eighty percent (80%) of the donations will go to the China Red Cross Earthquake Relief Fund and twenty percent (20%) of the donations will go to the Iowa and Nebraska Disaster Relief Fund.

The fundraising event has received a tremendous amount of attention and support from both the Chinese community as well as businesses in Omaha. Our current corporate sponsors include: Regency Marriot Hotel, Valmont Industries Inc., HDR, AHL Consulting, Talon Asset Management, TD Ameritrade, Performance Toyota, Wiese Research Associates, Cox Communications, Werner Enterprises, Alegent Health, LIU & DB Enterprises, Inc., Borsheim, P.F. Chang, China Palace and other local businesses. We are expecting 200 prominent community members at the event.

Testimonials by Father Schlegel, President of Creighton University & Barb Angelillo, CFIC Executive Director

We should welcome new cultural experiences as we adapt and grow in a changing world. It is fortunate that we live in a diverse world where we can learn from each other. Attending this fundraising event offers the unique opportunity to experience Chinese culture, while at the same time making a contribution to the rebuilding efforts after the earthquake which struck China in May. Your gifts will also help to support emergency relief efforts for the victims of recent flooding and tornadoes in Nebraska and Iowa. I am proud of OCCA and CSSAs for their commitment to helping those in need and I am honored to help with this effort.

(Fr. Schlegel, President of Creighton University)

*The Conference For Inclusive Communities, CFIC, "strongly supports the efforts of the OCCA to raise critical funds for the victims of the recent earthquake in China," said **Barb Angelillo, CFIC Executive Director**. Mother Teresa once said, "If there is no peace in the world, it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other." Angelillo adds, "We cannot afford to forget that we belong to the people of China, and those around the world who often suffer in isolation and silence. We must come together as a community to bring hope and comfort to those in need by supporting and attending the upcoming Chinese Culture Night Fundraising Dinner Event."*

The Omaha Chinese Culture Association (OCCA) is a non-profit organization founded to promote Chinese culture and to provide educational services to its members and to the greater Omaha community.

The Omaha Chinese Students and Scholars Associations (CSSAs) are officially registered student organizations under Creighton University, UNMC and UNO. The mission of CSSA is to serve as a platform to fulfill the needs of our members, promote Chinese culture, facilitate communication within the Chinese community both on and off campus, and facilitate communication between the Chinese community and the Omaha community.

奥马哈中华文化协会

Mark your Calendar!!!

**An art master of Chinese Seal-cutting, Calligraphy and Painting—
Prof. Yinsen Xu will visit UNL CI and Bellevue in November 2008**

Confluence Bookstore

Nov 17 - Nov 18, 2008
505 Cornhusker Road, Suite 107
Bellevue, NE
(402) 502-0906



徐银森



The exhibit at Bellevue is co-host by OCCA, Bellevue University, and Confluence Bookstore

Yinsen Xu is a prominent seal-cutting artist in China. Seal cutting is a unique form of traditional art, which was once listed along with calligraphy, painting and poetry as one of the four essential skills required of an ancient scholar. Xu typifies as a modern scholar, and is considered as an influential artist in contemporary China.

Xu was born in 1937 in Zhejiang, China. He acquired the special skill and technique of seal cutting by studying under the renowned Grand Master Changshuo Wu, and is acclaimed as the second generation of seal-cutting Master of the modern times. Xu also studied Chinese painting and calligraphy under Master Tianshou Pan and Master Leshan Zhu. He excels in bird and flower paintings, especially in plum blossoms (Mei) and orchids. The exquisiteness of his works lies in his subtle way of depicting such universal themes as life and love through his profound rooting in the basic skills of painting. His works at once represent a return to the tranquil, peaceful setting of the natural world, while possessing a strong vitality of life. His calligraphy is well known for his unique style. He is proficient in five categories of Chinese scripts: the seal script (zhuan), the official script (li), the regular script (kai), the cursive hand (cao) and the running hand (xing). Xu has won many awards in national competitions and his works have been published in many collections of seal cutting, calligraphy and painting in China, and all over the world. He held individual exhibitions in Hong Kong and Paris, and conducted a lengthy study-tour all over Europe and Far East. His exquisite art works have a high reputation in the art circle, and have been favored and sought after by international and local collectors.

Xu has been a professor over 30 years at the renowned National Academy of Fine Arts in China, and has authored and edited many books on seal cutting and Chinese paintings. He is a member of several prestigious art organizations, including the Chinese Calligrapher Association, the Chinese Xi-ling Seal Cutting Society, and the Chinese Association of Flower-and-Bird Painters. Currently he is a professor emeritus of the China Academy of Fine Arts, and the honorary president of Zhejiang Yet-Sen Painting and Calligraphy Institute.

Being a versatile artist, he is also skilled at drama and opera. For his liberal disposition, he is often inspired to write poetry and music. Meanwhile he is a connoisseur and has a keen eye for Chinese antiques, often as a consultant and expert appraiser for various collector groups, including the popular CCTV (China Central TV) antique appraisal shows.

梅雪爭春未肯降，騷人閣筆費評章。梅須遜雪三分白，雪卻輸梅一段香。有梅
無雪不精神，有雪無詩俗了人。日暮詩成天又雪，東風梅柳正爭春。己丑銀森



錦雲

庚子銀森



銀森

