

DISCOVER HONG KONG

發現 香港

At Tuck Chong Sum Kee
Lam Ying-hung crafts
bamboo steamers the
old-fashioned way with
a few simple hand tools

德昌森記的林應鴻採用
傳統方法及簡單工具
製造竹蒸籠





代代相傳

Survival skills

Modern Hong Kong may be a fast-paced city of commerce, but a handful of long-standing businesses are keeping old traditions alive

香港雖然是一個步伐急促的商業城市，但仍有少數老店堅持以傳統工藝製作產品





AT SAI YING PUN district's Tuck Chong Sum Kee workshop, Raymond Lam Ying-hung moves like a concert violinist as he uses a bow-shaped hand-drill to put the finishing touches on a large bamboo steamer. He's the company's fifth-generation manager, and also one of the few remaining traditional craftsmen in the city. In the three decades he's been in the business, Lam has experienced countless changes, from the brief onslaught of metal steamers in the 1980s, to the plastic-led trend of recent years.

The bamboo steamer has outlasted these developments for one simple reason: demand. Bamboo's moisture absorption and heat circulation properties make it ideal for dim sum and other Chinese dishes, which is why it's still so popular with restaurateurs. While most steamers are now mass-produced in

Mainland China, Lam continues to assemble custom orders by hand at his store. "Bamboo is a natural material," he says. "Each piece has a different tensile strength. It takes experienced hands to shape and bend a piece of bamboo without breaking it."

Lam is not the only one who values doing things the old-fashioned way. When it comes to metalwork, Luk Shu-choi of Bing Kee in Yau Ma Tei district prefers a hammer and anvil over high-tech equipment. "With machines, you have all sorts of constraints. Making things by hand means we can do exactly what our customer wants," he says, motioning to the copper pots, kettles and herbal-tea tanks in his shop.

Luk is one of the last coppersmiths in Hong Kong, along with his brother, Luk Keung-choi, and one other craftsman. It's a labour-intensive occupation but it's also become a familiar way of life for the 79-year-old. "The three of us continue our craft because we still have energy. Having inherited this business from my father, it would be a shame to just end it."

Similarly, Joseph Tso has dedicated his career to maintaining the legacy of Yuet Tung China Works



Luk Keung-choi (above) and his brother make most copper pieces by hand at Bing Kee (above left). Similarly, the craftsmen at Tuck Chong Sum Kee (above right) are among the last in the city who still produce traditional bamboo wares

炳記銅器的陸強才(上圖)及他的哥哥在店內以人手打造銅器(左上圖); 德昌森記(右上圖)是香港少數以傳統方法織造竹器的店舖之一



西營盤 德昌森記蒸籠店內，林應鴻拉動弓型手鑽為一個竹製大蒸籠做最後工序，動作恍若音樂會上的小提琴家。他是德昌森記第五代傳人，也是城中僅餘的傳統手藝工匠之一。他從事此行業30年，歷經無數轉變：從80年代不鏽鋼蒸籠的短暫衝擊，以至近年興起的塑膠蒸籠潮流。

竹製蒸籠多年來面對不同挑戰卻能屹立不倒，原因非常簡單：市場需求。竹籠可以吸收水蒸氣，傳熱均勻，最宜用來蒸點心及其他中式菜餚，因此一直受到食肆歡迎。雖然現時大部分蒸籠在中國內地大量生產，但林應鴻仍收到顧客訂單，按求以人手製造蒸籠，他說：「竹是天然物料，每一根的軟硬厚薄都不同，必須以純熟手藝將竹條彎曲成形，而不會折斷。」

林應鴻並非唯一珍視傳統手藝的工匠。設於油麻地區的炳記銅器店內，陸樹才在製造金屬器皿時，寧取鐵鏈和鐵砧而捨棄高科技工具。他指著店內打磨光亮的銅壺、水煲及涼茶缸說：「使用機械製作銅器有諸多限制，手工製的話，可以百分百按客人的要求製造。」

陸師傅與弟弟陸強才及店內另一位師傅，是香港現時僅存的寥寥數位打銅工匠之一。儘管工作辛勞，對於這位79歲的老師傅來說，已成為日常生活的一部分。他說：「我們三人延續這門手藝，因為我們現在還有精力繼續做。我從父親手上繼承了這門生意，如果結業實在很可惜。」

相同原因令曹志雄堅持經營位於九龍灣的粵東磁廠。這間製作手繪瓷器的公司由他祖父於1928年創辦，而這門手藝始於景德鎮，於清代（1644至1911年）外商貿易興起時在廣州蓬勃發展（故稱為廣彩）。於20世紀上半葉，許多製作這些精緻瓷器的工匠移居香港，而1950及60年代美國對中國實施貿易禁運，令這門工藝在香港進一步發展。

雖然隨著瓷器生產基地重回內地，出口生意已見萎縮，但曹志雄表示廣彩近年再次引起人們興趣，尤其是年

TIMELESS BUSINESS 不朽老店

**TUCK CHONG SUM KEE
BAMBOO STEAMER CO.**

德昌森記蒸籠

12 Western Street, Sai Ying Pun
西營盤西邊街12號
+852 2548 8201 / 2540 4386

**YUET TUNG
CHINA WORKS**

粵東磁廠

Units 1-3, 3/F, Kowloon Bay
Industrial Centre, 15 Wang Hoi
Road, Kowloon Bay
九龍灣宏開道15號九龍灣工業中心
3樓1-3室
+852 2796 1125

BING KEE COPPER WARE

炳記銅器

1 Hamilton Street, Yau Ma Tei
油麻地咸美頓街1號
+852 2384 4838

LEUNG SO KEE

梁蘇記

Unit 629, 6/F, Dragon Centre,
37K Yen Chow Street,
Sham Shui Po
深水埗欽州街37K西九龍中心
6樓629室
+852 2386 5629

in Kowloon Bay district, which his grandfather founded in 1928. The company specialises in hand-painted porcelain – a craft that originated in Jingdezhen and flourished in Guangzhou (where it became known as *guangcai*) during the rise of foreign trade in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Many of the craftsmen behind these intricately decorated ceramics made their way to Hong Kong during the first half of the 20th century, and the local industry received another boost as a result of the United States' trade embargo on China in the 1950s and '60s.

Although export business dwindled following the shift of production industries back to Mainland China, Tso notes a renewed interest in *guangcai* in recent years, especially from the younger generation. "This art requires patience and a steady hand," he says. "It's very difficult to learn as a skill to make a living, but we welcome anyone who's interested to see how our artisans work and learn about the craft."

Keeping the public's interest in an ever-changing city like Hong Kong is difficult, but it's a necessity, says Leung Mang-shing, the fourth-generation owner of umbrella-makers Leung So Kee in Sham Shui Po district. "Consumer needs used to be simple: umbrellas were either black or blue and the main requirement was that it was durable," he says. "Nowadays, customers want more options."



SHOP WITH Q-MARK 購買「Q嘜」產品



The Q-Mark Product Scheme was established to help consumers identify quality goods produced in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macau. Many of the licensed companies started off as small family businesses and have grown into large organisations with international repute. Keep an eye out for Q-Mark certification as a sign of quality assurance, such as for these brands.

香港「Q嘜」優質產品計劃讓消費者可以辨識香港、中國內地及澳門的優質產品。獲認證的公司創立時大多以家庭式小作坊經營，逐漸發展成國際知名企業。只要找到「Q嘜」標誌便可確保購買產品具有優良品質，例如下列品牌：

LEE KUM KEE

李錦記

Established in 1888, this family-owned condiments brand is best known for its world-famous oyster and soy sauces.

創辦於1888年的李錦記是家族經營的醬料調味品品牌，以蠔油及豉油享譽國際。

www.lkk.com

NIN JIOM

京都念慈菴

The Nin Jiom series of products inherit the wisdom of traditional Chinese medicine. Pei Pa Koa, its most famous product, relieves coughs and sore throats.

京都念慈菴的產品系列承傳傳統中醫智慧，當中川貝枇杷膏有助舒緩咳嗽及喉嚨不適。

www.ninjiom.com

TUNG CHUN

同珍

This popular Hong Kong brand was founded in 1876. It produces high-quality oyster sauces, soy sauces and vinegars.

同珍始創於1876年，是本地著名品牌，並出產高品質蠔油、豉油和醋。

www.tungchun.hk

WING WAH

榮華

Wing Wah started off as a humble restaurant and cake shop in Yuen Long in the 1950s. Must-tries include mooncakes, Chinese preserved sausages and wife cakes.

香港榮華於1950年在元朗開業，經營酒樓及中式餅食等業務，必試產品有月餅、臘腸及老婆餅等。

www.wingwah.com



Leung So Kee (top) and Yuet Tung China Works (far left) have evolved with the times but a love for tradition and exquisite craftsmanship still drives artisans such as Yuet Tung's Joseph Tso (left), who holds a bowl adorned with the tale of the 13 factories of Canton

梁蘇記 (最上圖) 及粵東磁廠 (最左圖) 與時並進，然而對傳統精湛工藝的熱愛，促使手藝工匠如曹志雄 (左圖) 不斷努力。曹手中的瓷碗繪有廣東十三行的故事

Founded in 1885, the company maintains its core traditions – such as providing lifetime warranties for its steel frames – but now also offers custom-made umbrellas with myriad handles and fabrics.

The company has also built a strong relationship with its customers through popular culture. Not only was it the subject of Clifton Ko's 1995 movie *The Umbrella Story*, but it also made prop umbrellas for films such as *Once Upon a Time in China*. Last year, Leung's daughter set up Facebook and Instagram accounts for the company with the hope of attracting a new generation of clients. "If society changes, we change," says Leung. "We have to evolve with the times."

It's a dedication to age-old artistry that fuels these craftsmen, allowing traditions to be maintained and shared across generations. As Tso puts it: "Everyone should do what they love. If I didn't love my job, I wouldn't have done it for so many years."

輕一代。他說：「做這門手藝必須有耐性，手要穩。要學習這門工藝來謀生很困難，但我們歡迎任何有興趣人士來看看我們的師傅如何工作，加深對廣彩的認識。」

位於深水埗區的梁蘇記遮廠，其第四代傳人梁孟誠亦同意，在瞬息萬變的香港，要持續吸引公眾關注並不容易，但卻是必要的。他指出：「顧客以前的需求很簡單：雨傘不是黑色便是藍色，最重要是夠耐用。今天，消費者要有更多選擇。」梁蘇記創辦於1885年，一直保留核心傳統——永久包修鋼骨，但同時也與時並進，提供度身訂做的雨傘，而手柄及布料的選擇亦愈來愈多。

梁蘇記也通過流行文化與顧客保持緊密的關係。在高志森於1995年執導的電影《人間有情》中，梁蘇記成為了電影的題材，遮廠亦曾為《黃飛鴻》等電影製造道具雨傘。梁孟誠的女兒去年為公司開設Facebook及Instagram戶口，希望可以吸引新一代顧客。他說：「社會在變，我們也要變，我們不能墨守成規。」

歸根究底，這些師傅秉持對古老手工藝的熱誠，致力保留傳統，代代承傳。正如曹志雄說：「每個人都要敬業樂業。若我不喜歡自己的工作，我不會幹了那麼多年。」■