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China under Foreign Domination: Liao, Jin, Yuan Dynasties

Study guide

Overview

I. Arts of the Non-Han Regimes of the Liao (907-1125), Jin (1115-1234), and Yuan (1279-1368):

Sino-centric view of the arts of the Liao/Jin/Yuan dynasties; cultural hybridity; mobility and creativity; multiple trade routes across the borders.

- II. Architecture: Multiple capitals; roads and canals; temples and palaces.
 III. Painting:
 - Literati paintings; Zen paintings; Buddhist paintings from Khara-Khoto.
- IV. Archaism in crafts: Bronzes; jade-carvings; ceramics.
- V. Tomb burials: Theatrical performances and *feng shui* geomancy in tombs.
- VI. Reproduction of Buddhist scriptures: Religion and power; preservation of the Law.
- VII. Transnational trade: Tributary system; textiles; export wares, especially celadon and blue-and white.

Collections and archaeological sites

Tomb of Princess Chen and consort Xiao Shaoju. 陳國公主與駙馬蕭紹矩合葬墓

A royal tomb (dated 1018) found in Naiman Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It belonged to the Princess of Chen State of the Liao, and her consort Xiao Shaoju. The princess, who died at the age of seventeen, was the granddaughter of the Liao emperor Jingzong (r. 969-82).

Tomb of Yelü Yuzhi and wife Chonggun. 耶律羽之與重袞合葬墓

A high-ranking Liao tomb (dated 942) discovered in Ar Horqin Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It is a joint burial belonging to Yelü Yuzhi and his wife Chonggun. Yelü Yuzhi was a multilingual military strategist and cousin of the first Liao emperor, Abaoji (r. 907-26). The tomb was looted before excavation.

Yunjusi (Cloud-Dwelling Temple).

雲居寺

A Buddhist temple site in Fangshan, some 70 kilometers outside of Beijing. It is home to about 15,000 pieces of stone sutra created during the Sui, Tang and Liao dynasties.

Shijiafoshelita (Śākyamuni's Śarīra Pagoda) or Baita (White Pagoda).

釋迦佛舍利塔 (或白塔)

A Buddhist pagoda in Baarin Right Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Built in 1047-1049 during the Liao dynasty, the pagoda contains a deposit of Buddhist relics and scriptures inside its top structure *cha*.

Jin-dynasty tombs in Houma, Taiyuan, Jishan, and Pingyang in Shanxi province. 山西侯馬、太原、稷山、平陽金墓

Clusters of Jin-dynasty brick tombs were found in many parts of Shanxi province. Among them, those found in Houma, Taiyuan, Jishan, and Pingyang are especially noted for the brick-carvings that decorated the interiors of these tombs.

Khara-khoto or Heishuicheng

哈拉浩特 (或黑水城)

A Xixia-Yuan habitation site in Eijin Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Discovered in the early 20th century by Russian explorers. Principal finds include woodblock prints, manuscripts, and Buddhist paintings. All of the excavated objects are held in the state collections in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Ji'ninglu treasure hoard 集寧路窖藏

A treasure hoard (datable to the14th century) discovered at the site of a market town in modern-day Chahar Right Front Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A majority of the buried goods are fine ceramic utensils manufactured in south China.

Dadu (or Xanadu)

大都

The capital of the Yuan dynasty; modern-day Beijing. Under the name Zhongdu (literally "central capital"), the city had earlier served as the capital of the Jin dynasty, but was burned down in 1215 by Mongol forces. In 1264, Kublai Khan rebuilt this city as his new capital. After the establishment of the Yuan dynasty in 1271, Kubilai Khan renamed the city Dadu (literally "great capital") in 1272 and it officially became the capital of Yuan.

Topkapi Sarayi

A royal palace compound in Istanbul, Turkey, that was the primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans from 1465 to 1856. It holds a large collection of fine Chinese ceramics datable mainly from the 13th to the 17th centuries.

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