

## **The Lives of Famous Buddhist Images**

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***The Auspicious Image of the Sandalwood Buddha***, ink rubbing of a stone stele, Jiufang Monastery, Beijing, 1597 (Rubbing from the collection of the Field Museum, Chicago)  
Copies and prints of the Sandalwood Buddha from China and Mongolia.

**Stories of the history of Buddhism in China**, Dunhuang Cave 323, Early Tang dynasty  
North wall: Zhang Qian heads to the Western Regions on behalf of Han Emperor Wu, r. 140-87 BCE; Emperor Wu receives two standing images of the Buddha from Huo Qubing.  
South wall: Two stone Buddhas float to shore (story dates to 313 CE); Buddha-image is found in Yangzhou (326 CE; part of the mural is now in the Sackler Gallery, Harvard)

**Famous Images**, Dunhuang Cave 17 (Library Cave), painting on silk (fragments in the Stein Collections, New Delhi and London).

**List of Famous Images**—*The Guardians of Khotan*, Dunhuang Cave 17 (Stein Collection, British Library)

**Liu Sahe and the Fanhe Buddha**—various paintings from Dunhuang Cave 17 and 72, Tang dynasty.

“**New Mode Mañjuśrī**”, Dunhuang Caves 220 and 17, Tang dynasty and after.

**Avalokiteśvara—The Luck of Yunnan**: examples in the Asian Art Museum and San Diego Museum, record in the *Nanzhao tu* (Illustrated History of the Nanzhao Kingdom, Fuji Yurinkan, Japan) and the *Long Roll of Buddhist Images* (National Palace Museum, Taiwan).

**Arya (Phagpa) Lokeśvara**—hundreds of examples in collections worldwide. Based on a story of the conversion of Tibet to Buddhism at the behest of King Songsten Gampo.

**Mahābodhi Temple and its Buddha-Image**—copies and models in China, Mongolia, Tibet, and Southeast Asia. *Zhenrong* (true visage) vs. *Ruixiang* (auspicious image)

### **Suggested reading:**

Martha L. Carter, *The Mystery of the Udayana Buddha* (Napoli: Istituto Universitario Orientale, 1992).

Alexander Soper, “Representations of Famous Images at Dunhuang,” *Artibus Asiae* 27, no. 4 (1964-65): 349-364.

Wu Hung, “Rethinking Liu Sahe: The Creation of a Buddhist Saint and the Invention of a ‘Miraculous Images’,”

*Orientalism* (November, 1996): 32-43.

Helen Chapin, *A Long Roll of Buddhist Images*, revised by Alexander Soper (Ascona, Switzerland: Artibus Asiae, 1972).

Ian Alsop, “Phagpa Lokeśvara of the Potala,” *Orientalism* (April 1990).

Janet Gyatso, “Down with the Demoness: Reflections on a Feminine Ground in Tibet,” *The Tibet Journal* 12, no. 4 (Winter 1987): 38-53.

John Guy, “The Mahābodhi Temple: Pilgrim Souvenirs of Buddhist India,” *The Burlington Magazine* 133, no. 1059 (June 1991): 356-367.

Sun-ah Choi, “*Zhenrong* to *Ruixiang*: The Medieval Chinese Reception of the Mahābodhi Buddha Statue,” *Art Bulletin* XCVII, no. 4 (December 2015): 364-387.