

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014  
The Arts of the Islamic World  
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**'Seek Knowledge Even as Far as China':  
East-West Cultural Transmissions in post-Mongol Iran**  
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**Key Names, Dates, and Terms**

Sasanian Empire (224–651)

Mongol Empire

- Chinggis Khan (r. 1206–1227)
- Successors
  - Ögödei (r. 1229–1241)
  - Güyük (r. 1246–1248)
  - Möngke (r. 1251–1259)
  - Qubilai (r. 1260–1271)

Yuan dynasty (1271–1368)

Ilkhanid dynasty (1256–1353)

- Hülagü Khan (r. 1217–1265)
- Abaqa Khan (r. 1265–1282)
- Ghazan Khan (r. 1295–1304)
- Öljeitü (r. 1304–1316)
- Abu Sa'īd (1316–1335)

Other Ilkhanid patrons

- Rashid al-Din (vizier) (d. 1318)
- Ghiyath al-Din (d. 1336)
- Al-Nizami family
  - Rukn al-Din (d. 1331/2)
  - Shams al-Din (d. 1365)

*Pax Mongolica*

Cathay (referring to northern China and the abstract Far East during the Mongol period)

*khitā'ī* or *khatā'ī* (Persian, meaning “Cathayan” or of/from Cathay)

*nasīj* (“cloth of gold and silk”)

*Shāhnāma* or *Shāhnāmeḥ* (“Book of Kings”) of Firdawsi (d. 1020), ca. 1010

*lājvardīna*

*mīnā'ī* (“enameled”) or *haft rangī* (“seven-colored”)

*sīmurgh* or *feng-huang* (phoenix)

*kitābkhāna* or *kitābkhaneh* (lit. “bookhouse”, Persian for library-atelier)

**Key Works Shown**

Sites

- Takht-i Sulayman (“Throne of Solomon”), ca. 1270s
- Sultaniyya, funerary complex of Sultan Öljeitü, 1307–14
- Yazd, Rukniyya funerary complex (Sayyid Rukn al-Din), 1325
- Yazd, Shamsiyya funerary complex (Sayyid Shams al-Din), ca. 1335

## Objects

- *Jamīʿ al-Tavarikh* (“Compendium of Chronicles”), Rashid al-Din
- Great Mongol *Shahnama*, Iran, probably Tabriz, ca. 1318–35

## Further Reading

Allsen, Thomas T. *Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire: A Cultural History of Islamic Textiles*. *Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Komaroff, Linda, and Stefano Carboni. *The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256–1353*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002.

Raby, Julian, and Teresa Fitzherbert, eds. *The Court of the Il-Khāns: 1290–1340*. *Oxford Studies in Islamic Art* 12. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press for the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University, 1996.

Watt, James C. Y., and Anne E. Wardwell. *When Silk Was Gold: Central Asian and Chinese Textiles*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art in cooperation with The Cleveland Museum of Art, 1997.