

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2017  
Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part I  
*Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art*

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## **Fashion and Anxiety in Tang China (618-907 CE)**

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Systems of fashion reflect social norms. This lecture will discuss what Tang dynasty historical documents say about clothing, and explain what these texts imply about the beliefs and values of the authors. The lecture will investigate conflicts about clothing revealed by the documents and identify the anxieties about hierarchy, gender, and ethnicity these conflicts expose. The talk will include specific examples of conflicts over fashion in the context of Tang society and culture, illustrated with examples from the art and archaeological record of the period.

### Dates, Places, Texts, Terms, and Objects

Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 CE)

An Lushan Rebellion (755 – 756)

Chang'an

The Silk Roads

“Treatise on Vehicles and Clothing” in the “Old Tang History” and “New Tang History”

“Illustrations to the Three Ritual Classics”

Omen Texts

Tang Law Code

Tang Poetry

*Hufu* 胡服 (Barbarian Dress)

*Yufu* 輦服 (Vehicles and Clothing)

Tang funerary goods, ceramic and metal, from the Asian Art Museum collection

### Bibliography

Charles Benn, *China's Golden Age: Everyday Life in the Tang Dynasty*: Oxford, 2002

Edward Schafer, *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand*: UC, 1963

Valerie Steele and John Major, *China Chic*: Yale, 1999

Denis Twitchett, ed. *Cambridge History of China, Volume 3: Sui and Tang China, 589 – 906*: Cambridge, 1979

Dorothy Wong, *China and Beyond in the Medieval Period: Cultural Crossings and Interregional Connections*: Cambria, 2014