

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2016
Patronage in Asian Art: Monarchs, Merchants, and Devotees
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

“Plum Blossoms and Parakeets: Rationales for Imperial Collecting in the Song Dynasty”
Alfreda Murck 12 February 2016

DYNASTIES

Tang (618-906)

Five Dynasties and Ten States (907-960)

Northern Song (960-1127)

Southern Song (1127-1272)

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

Sima Qian (145?-86? BCE), the Grand Historian, author of an admired early history

Du Fu (712-770), official for brief time, often called China’s greatest poet

Ouyang Xiu (1007-1072), leading intellectual of his era, civil official, mentor to Su Shi
and Huang Tingjian

Su Shi (Su Dongpo) (1037-1101), from Sichuan, civil official, poet, essayist, calligrapher

Huang Tingjian (1045-1105), civil official, poet, calligrapher

KEY SONG DYNASTY EMPERORS and CONSORTS

Taizu (927-976), dynasty’s founder, reigned 960-976

Taizong (939-997), reigned 976-997

Zhenzong (968-1022), reigned 997-1022

consort **Empress Liu** (969-1033)

Huizong (1082-1135) reigned 1100-1125

Gaozong (1107-1187), reigned 1127-1162

Ningzong (1168-1224), reigned 1194-1224

consort **Yang Meizi (1162 or 1172 – 1233)**

SELECTED PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHERS

Wang Xizhi, *Preface to the Lanting Pavilion Gathering*, 353 CE, extant in ink rubbings

Yan Zhenqing (709-785), upright official whose regular script calligraphy is a model even today

Fan Kuan, *Travelling among Streams and Mountains*, datable to about 1000. National Palace
Museum, Taipei

Zhang Zeduan (attr.), *Going up the River on Qing Ming Festival*, handscroll, late 11th century.
Palace Museum, Beijing

Gu Hongzhong, attributed, *The Night Revels of Han Xizai*, 12th century, handscroll. Palace
Museum, Beijing

Emperor Huizong (reigned 1100-1125), *Five-colored Parakeet*, handscroll. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Ma Hezhi (active 2nd half of 12th century), official and court painter, best known for his illustrations of the earliest poetry anthology, the *Book of Odes*.

Ma Yuan (court painter from about 1190-1230). *Twelve Scenes of Water*, Palace Museum, Beijing; *Attending the Banquet by Lantern Light*, National Palace Museum, Taipei

Ma Lin (active about 1215-1256), son of Ma Yuan, court painter. *Fragrant Spring after Rain*, National Palace Museum, Taipei; *Layer upon Layer of Icy Tips*, Palace Museum, Beijing

READINGS **

Maggie Bickford. "Huizong's Paintings: Art and the Art of Emperorship," in *Emperor Huizong and Late Northern Song China: The Politics of Culture and the Culture of Politics*, ed. Patricia Buckley Ebrey and Maggie Bickford, Harvard East Asian Monographs 266 (Cambridge, MA, and London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2006), 452–513.

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Accumulating Culture: The Collections of Emperor Huizong*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2008.

Lothar Ledderose, "Some Observations on the Imperial Art Collections in China." *Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society*, 1978–79, no. 43: 38–46.

Hui-shu Lee. *Empresses, Art, & Agency in Song Dynasty China*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2010.

Julia K. Murray, "A Southern Sung Painting Regains Its Memory: Welcoming the Imperial Carriage (*Ying-luan t'u*) and Its Colophon." *Journal of Sung-Yuan Studies* 22 (1990–92): 109–24.

Peter C. Sturman, "Cranes Above Kaifeng: The Auspicious Image at the Court of Huizong." *Ars Orientalis* 20 (1990): 33–68.

** If you have time to read only one or two items, read Ledderose and Sturman.