East Meets West under the Mongols
Sheila Blair, Boston College
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People

Travelers: Geoffrey of Langley
Marco Polo
William of Rubruck
Rabban Sauma
Ibn Battuta

Yuan: Khubilai (r. 1260-94) and his wife Chabi
Ilkhanids: Rashid al-Din (vizier and editor/author of the Compendium of Chronicles)
Hulagu (r. 1256-65)
Uljaytu (r. 1304-16)
Abu Saʿid (r. 1317-35)

Places

Herat
Tabriz
Mosul
Karakorum
Jingdezhen
Ardabil
Kashan (Qamsar)
Takht-i Sulayman
Sultaniyya

Commodities

lampas: a complex weave with supplementary wefts; likely invented in the 11th century, this sturdy yet pliable surface could be woven with patterns with metallic threads, more colors, and —most importantly—faster.
nasij: the Arabic term for such cloth of gold; the Persian is nakh; the Italian panni tartarici ("Tartar cloth")
boghtaq: a tall Mongol lady’s headdress with a hollow bark core covered with a silk cloth and extended at the top with feathers
paiza: safe-conduct pass
cloud collar: design with curving sides used to decorate the necks of robes but then applied to other media

Motifs

dragon
Further readings:


Komaroff, Linda and Stefano Carboni (eds), *The Legacy of Genghis Khan. Courtly Art and Culture in West Asia, 1256–1353* (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2002). Exhibition catalog with superb illustrations of the arts of the Ilkhanids.


Quette, Béatrice, ed., *Cloisonné: Chinese Enamels from the Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties* (Bard Graduate Center, 2011). Latest exhibition of cloisonné redating some objects to the Yuan period.
