

Golden Crowns and Buddhist Monuments: Arts of the Paekche Kingdom

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Prof. Stiller uses primarily McCune-Reischauer romanization; in the following study guide revised romanization is provided in square brackets.

Chronology of statelets/confederations/kingdoms/regions

- ❖ Samhan 三韓 (Three Han) statelets/confederations, 108 BCE – early fourth century CE
- ❖ Lelang 樂浪 (Korean: Nangnang) (108 BCE – 313 CE), Chinese Han Dynasty (202 BCE – 220 CE) commandery established in former area of Wiman Chosŏn
- ❖ Xiongnu (proto-Turkic) nomads in Central Asia, ca. 3rd century BCE – 1st century CE
- ❖ Murong Xianbei 慕容鮮卑 (Turkic and Mongolic groups), ca. 2nd century – 3rd century CE

- ❖ Samguk 三國 (Three Kingdoms) period:
 - ❖ Paekche 百濟 [Baekje], trad. 18 BCE – 660 CE
 - Ŭirye 慰禮 [Wirye] period (Seoul): trad. 18 BCE – 475 CE (390 – 475 CE)
 - Ungjin 百濟 [Eungjin] period (Kongju) [Gongju]: 475 – 538 CE => Paekche gold
 - Sabi 泗泚 (= Puyŏ) [Buyeo] period: 538 – 660 CE => Buddhist artifacts
 - Yŏngsan 榮山 [Yeongsan] river region: semi-independent area southwest of Kwangju [Gwangju], Chŏlla [Jeolla] Province

 - ❖ Silla 新羅 [Silla], trad. 57 BCE – 935 CE
 - ❖ Koguryŏ 高句麗 [Goguryeo], 37 BCE – 668 CE
 - ❖ Kaya 伽倻 [Gaya], 42 CE – 562 CE

- ❖ Wa 倭, ca. 2nd – 7th century CE, ancient kingdoms in Japanese archipelago
- ❖ Eastern Wei 東魏, 534 – 550 CE
- ❖ Liang 梁, 502 – 557 CE

Historical accounts

- Samguk sagi 三國史記 (History of the Three Kingdoms): Koryŏ dynasty (918 – 1392 CE) Korean historical record written by Kim Pusik 金富軾 (1075 – 1151 CE) and others, published in 1145 CE

- Liangshu 梁書 (Book of Liang): official dynastic history of the Chinese Liang dynasty (502-557 CE); compiled under Yao Silian 姚思廉 (557 – 637 CE) and completed in 635 CE
- Nanshi 南史 (History of the South): official history of the Chinese Southern Dynasties (420-589CE), completed between 643 – 659 CE

Kings of Paekche

- King Muryŏng [Muryeong] 武寧, 461/462 – 523 CE, r. 501 – 523 CE
- King Sŏng [Seong] 聖, ? – 554 CE, r. 523 – 554 CE
- King Ch’ang [Chang] 昌 (posthumous name: King Widök 威德 [Wideok], 525 – 598, r. 554 – 598 CE
- King Mu 武, 580 – 641 CE, r. 600 – 641 CE

Buddhist temples in Paekche

- Wanghŭngsa [Wangheungsa] 王興寺: founded by King Ch’ang (Widök) in 577 CE in today’s Puyŏ [Buyeo], South Ch’ungch’ŏng Province
- Mirŭksa [Mireuksa] 彌勒寺: founded by King Mu in 602 CE in today’s Iksan, North Chŏlla Province
- Nŭngsa [Neungsa] 陵寺: built in Puyŏ to pray for post-mortem benefits for King Sŏng

Buddhist terms

- Śarīra: relics; remains of eminent masters before or after cremation
- Cakravartin: wheel-turning emperor; a monarch who rules his subjects in accordance with the Buddhist teachings
- Sukhāvātī: blissful; pure land of Amitābha Buddha
- Ketumati: worldly paradise, pure land of Maitreya Buddha

Names of Buddhist divinities

- Bodhisattva Maitreya: abides in Tuṣita Heaven, awaiting time for his proper rebirth
- Buddha Maitreya: name of the Future Buddha; lives in Ketumati (name of his Pure Land), which he establishes on earth; teaches the dharma (Buddhist teachings) in three so-called dragon-flower assemblies
- Amitābha Buddha: Buddha of Limitless Light; Buddha of the Western Pure Land of Sukhāvati

Further literature:

- *Journal of Korean Art and Archaeology*, vol. 16 (2022), special issue on Paekche/Baekje available online for free download: https://www.museum.go.kr/site/eng/archive/periodical/article_18354
- Kang Hyunsook, “Art and Artifacts of Three Kingdoms Tombs,” and Kim Sunkyung, “Sculptures of Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla” In: *A Companion to Korean Art*, edited by J.P. Park, Burglind Jungmann, and Juhyung Rhi, pp. 57-85 and 107-132. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2020.