

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2017
Women, Real and Imagined, In Asian Art
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

The Mother of All Buddhas: The Perfection of Wisdom in Asian Art
Jeffrey Durham, Asian Art Museum
3/24/2017

Key Elements

1. Perfection of Wisdom (=prajna / wisdom // paramita / perfection) = “PP”
2. Max Muller
3. Heart Sutra
4. AAMSF Standing Avalokiteshvara (B60S122+)
5. Five Heaps
6. Shunyata
7. AAMSF Heart Sutra Box (1997.10)
8. Six Perfections
9. AAMSF Vairochana Thangka (1991.1)
10. Kharoshthi Manuscripts
11. Gilgit Manuscripts
12. Gilgit PP Sculptures
13. AAMSF Pala Tara (B60S93+)
14. AAMSF Pala Ashta Leaves (F2009.24.2-.3)
15. Nalanda PP
16. Balaputra Copper Plate
17. AAMSF PP Java (2006.37)
18. AAMSF PP Triad SEA (B60S397)
19. AAMSF Gilded 100K PP Cover (B60M35+)
20. AAMSF Yongle 100K PP Cover (2007.16.a-.b)
21. 100K PP Manuscript China
22. 100K PP Manuscript Khara Khoto
23. AAMSF Diamond Sutra Manuscript (F1998.17.4) – to Tara as PP metaphor for “emptiness”
24. AAMSF Standing Green Tara (B60S93+)
25. AAMSF Tangut Green Tara (1992.59)
26. AAMSF Naga-Protected Tara Triad (B60S397)
27. AAMSF Seated White Tara (B60S22+)
28. AAMSF Seated Green Tara (B60B160)
29. AAMSF Vimalakirti Stela (B62S2+) – to Manjushri, gender as “empty”

30. AAMSF Mongolian Manjushri Manuscript Cover (B72D62)
31. AAMSF Tsongkhapa as Manjushri (B62D33)
32. AAMSF Manjushri Manuscript (B86D5)

Key Dates

1. Composition of PP: ca. Year Zero CE
2. First PP Manuscripts: Kharoshthi Manuscripts, ca. 100CE
3. First PP imagery: Gilgit ca. 650
4. Efflorescence of PP imagery in SEA: ca. 850
5. Appearance of PP imagery in SA: ca. 850
6. Efflorescence of PP manuscripts at Nalanda: ca. 1000
7. Appearance of Tara in SEA at Kalasan ca. 800
8. Efflorescence of Tara in SA from Nalanda ca. 800
9. Dissemination of Tara to Himalayas ca. 1000

Key Resources

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Ghosh, M. *Development of the Buddhist Iconography of Eastern India*. Delhi: Munshiram, 1980.

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