

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2017
Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part I
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**Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission:
The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770**

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Study Guide:

International Buddhist Art Style
cosmopolitanism

Buddhist kingship

utopia of a Buddhist state

cakravartin (universal monarch)

King Aśoka

Avatamsaka doctrine (translated as Flower Ornament; Ch. Huayan 華嚴; J. Kegon) as state ideology in China and Japan; based on the *Avatamsaka Sūtra*, or *Flower Ornament Sūtra*)

Three important Buddhist pilgrim-monks

Xuanzang 玄奘 (ca. 602–64), 16-year pilgrimage to India via the land route to visit sacred Buddhist sites, 628–45

Dōji 道慈 (d. 744), traveled to China from 702 to 718

Jianzhen 鑑真 (688–763; known in Japan as Ganjin), master of Buddhist precepts and who finally reached Japan in late 753, on his sixth attempt to cross the East China Sea

Important locales

Bodhgayā, in Bihar, eastern India; Mahābodhi Temple, pilgrimage site

Chang'an: Tang capital

Luoyang: eastern capital of the Tang; as Divine Capital (Shendu 神都) during the reign of Wu Zetian

Heijōkyō (Nara): capital of Japan during the Late Nara period; modelled after Chang'an

Important rulers and reign dates

China:

Emperor Taizong 太宗 (r. 626–49)

Gaozong 高宗 (r. 649–83)

Wu Zhao 武曩 (a.k.a. Wu Zetian 武則天), consort of Emperor Gaozong; founded the Zhou 周 dynasty (690–705)

Zhongzhong 中宗 (r. 684, 705–10)

Emperor Ruizhong 睿宗 (r. 684–90, 710–12)

Japan:

Shōmu tennō 聖武天皇 (r. 724–49)

Kōmyō 光明 (701–60), Shōmu's queen consort

Kōken-Shōtoku tennō 孝謙–稱徳天皇 (r. 749–58, 765–70), Shōmu's daughter

Great Buddhist monasteries and complexes

Bodhgaya: Mahābodhi Temple; Nālandā Monastery nearby

Chang'an: Ci'en Monastery 慈恩寺 with its Dayanta 大雁塔 (Large Wild Goose Pagoda); Ximingsi 西明寺; Dayunjing Monastery 大雲經寺 (also Dayun Monastery 大雲寺) as head of state monasteries system

Luoyang: Celestial Hall (*tiantang* 天堂), Bright Hall (*mingtang* 明堂), and the Palace Chapel (*neidaochang* 內道場) inside the Imperial Palace; Da Foshoujisi 大佛授記寺 (also Jing'aiji 敬愛寺); Da Fuxiansi 大福先寺; Longmen 龍門 cave-temple nearby

Heijōkyō (Nara): Daianji 大安寺; Tōdaiji 東大寺 (Great Eastern Monastery, as headquarters of the *kokubunji* 国分寺 state monastery system, its Daibutsuden, or Great Buddha Hall, house a colossal statue of Vairocana); Hokkeji 法華寺 (headquarters of the *kokubunniji* 国分尼寺 state nunnery system); Tōshōdaiji 唐招提寺

Buddhist sūtras central to state Buddhism:

Lotus Sūtra

Golden Light Sūtra

Great Perfection of Wisdom Sūtra

Flower Ornament Sūtra

Buddhist art themes and image types

dharma-śarīra (the worship of the Buddha's teachings as relics) practice

Bodhgayā image: the seated Buddha with his right hand in the earth-touching gesture (*bhūmisparśa mudrā*), a symbolic gesture signaling Siddhartha Gautama's calling upon the earth goddess to witness his victory over Māra, the Lord of Evil

bejeweled and crowned Buddha

bejeweled Buddha in earth-touching gesture

Vairocana Buddha (Buddha of Great Illumination, principal Buddha of Avatamsaka Buddhism; Ch. Lushenafu 盧舍那佛)

Avatamsaka art

Avalokiteśvara (Bodhisattva of Compassion; Ch. Guanin 觀音; J. Kannon)

transformed Avalokiteśvara: Eleven-Headed Avalokiteśvara, Amoghapāśa, Thousand-Armed Avalokiteśvara

esoteric deities as protectors of the state

Buddha's Assembly on Vulture Peak

Four Heavenly Kings (Ch. Sitianwang 四天王) as protectors of the country

Kichijōten 吉祥天 (Ch. Jixiangtian; Skt. Śrīmahādevī or Śrī Lakṣmī), the goddess of good fortune

relic/stūpa worship

vinaya (precepts)
ordination platforms

An Lushan 安祿山 Rebellion (755–63)