

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2012
The Culture and Arts of China: From the Neolithic Age Through the Tang Dynasty
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

Introduction to Chinese Buddhism

Stan Abe, Duke University

October 19, 2012

Recommended Reading:

- Stanley K. Abe, *Ordinary Images* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), Chapter 3.
- Donald S. Lopez, Jr., "Introduction." in *Buddhism in Practice*, ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) 3–36.
- Robert H. Sharf, *Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002), Introduction, 1–27.
- Donna Strahan, "Piece-Mold Casting: A Chinese Tradition for Fourth- and Fifth-Century Bronze Buddha Images," *Metropolitan Museum Studies in Art, Science, and Technology* 1 (2010): 133–53.
- Roderick Whitfield, "Early Buddha Images from Hebei," *Artibus Asiae* 65, 1 (2005): 87–98.

Multiple Buddhisms (see Lopez and Sharf)

Sakyamuni Buddha, traditional date of death 483 BCE, now revised to 411–400 BCE
rebirth, suffering, karma, nirvana
Mahayana, Hinayana, vinaya

Buddhism and Imagery in India and Central Asia (see Abe)

what does image making have to do with Buddhism?
lay vs. clerical; ordinary vs. elite
stupa, Emperor Asoka (269-232 BCE)
circumambulation, relics
bodhisattva, *ushnisha*, *urna*, *mudra*, *abhaya*, *dhyana*
Maitreya, Tushita Heaven
pure lands, Buddha fields

Earliest Buddhist Images (see Whitfield and Strahan)

gilt bronze images, Hebei Province
Winthrop Buddha (Harvard), AAM Seated Buddha dated 338 CE

Cave Temples: India, Central Asia, China

Ajanta, Kizil, Dunhuang

Votive Stupa (see Abe)

Northern Liang (北凉) dynasty (397–439, to 441 in Turfan)
pagoda (*ta* 塔)
Pratītyasamutpādasūtra (*Zeng yi a han jing* 增一阿含經)
trigrams (*bagua* 八卦)