

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2014  
The Culture and Arts of Japan  
*Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art*

The Yamato-e Tradition:  
Japanese Picture Scrolls and Famous-Place Paintings

Laura W. Allen, Curator of Japanese Art  
Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

January 24, 2014

New Terms:

Emaki 絵巻, emakimono 絵巻物

Picture scrolls, narrative handscrolls

Monogatari 物語

Tale, story, or legend

Gunki 軍記

Battle tales

Kōsōden 高僧伝

Stories of the lives of eminent Buddhist monks, biographies of high priests

Engi 縁起

Stories of the founding of temples and shrines, and the lives and miraculous powers of Buddhist monks

Meisho 名所, meisho-e 名所絵

Famous places, pictures of famous places

Key works shown:

**Mayahana Sutra of Questions of a Virtuous Woman** (*Utanokyo shomon daijōkyo*), approx. 1100-1200. Handscroll, gold and silver on blue paper. Asian Art Museum, B60 D116

**Illustrated Sutra of Cause and Effect** (E inga kyo), 8<sup>th</sup> century. Handscroll; ink and colors on paper. Nara National Museum

**Hell scroll** (Jigoku zōshi), late 12<sup>th</sup> century. Handscroll; ink and colors on paper. Tokyo National Museum (Anjū'in scroll)

**Frolicking Animals Scroll** (Chōjū giga), 12<sup>th</sup> century. Handscroll; ink on paper. Kōzanji, Kyoto and private and museum collections.

**"Night Attack on the Sanjō Palace,"** from Illustrated Tale of the Heiji Insurrection (Heiji monogatari emaki), 13<sup>th</sup> century. From a set of 3 handscrolls, ink and color on paper. Shown: section owned by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. For interactive viewer, see: <http://learn.bowdoin.edu/heijiscroll/viewer.html>

**Life of the Great Master Kōbō of Mt. Kōya** (Kōyadaishi Gyōjō-zue), Volume 4, 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Handscroll; ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, B67D17.

**Legends of Kitano Tenjin** (Kitano Tenjin engi), 1277. Section of a handscroll, mounted as a hanging scroll; ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, B60D36+

**Jinnōji Engi** (Legends of the founding of Jinnōji Temple), approx. 1325-1375. Section of a handscroll, mounted as a hanging scroll; ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, B66D3.

**Legends of the Shinto deity Hachiman** (Hachiman engi), 1389. Handscroll; ink and colors on paper. Asian Art Museum, B64D6

**The Miraculous Origins of Mount Shigi** (Shigisan engi emaki). approx. 1157-1180. Set of 3 handscrolls; ink and color on paper. Chōgōsonshiji, Nara prefecture.

**Illustrated Life of the Monk Ippen** (*Ippen hijiri-e*), 1299. By En'i. Set of twelve handscrolls; ink and colors on silk. Kankikōji, Kyoto and Tokyo National Museum (Scroll7). For interactive viewer, see:

[http://www.emuseum.jp/detail/100156?d\\_lang=en&s\\_lang=ko&word=&class=&title=&c\\_e=&region=&era=&cptype=&owner=&pos=9&num=7&mode=detail&century=](http://www.emuseum.jp/detail/100156?d_lang=en&s_lang=ko&word=&class=&title=&c_e=&region=&era=&cptype=&owner=&pos=9&num=7&mode=detail&century=)

**Landscape screen**, from Tōji (Tōji senzui byōbu), 11<sup>th</sup> century. Six panel folding screen; ink and colors on silk. Kyoto National Museum.

Further reading:

Miyeko Murase, *Emaki: Narrative Scrolls from Japan* (New York: Asia Society, 1983).

Miyeko Murase, "The "Taiheiki Emaki": The Use of the Past," *Artibus Asiae*, 53:1/2 (1993), 262-289.

Miyeko Murase, *Tales of Japan: scrolls and prints from the New York Public Library* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986).

Mimi H. Yiengpruksawan, "Monkey Magic: How the Animals Scroll Makes Mischief with Art Historians," *Orientalia* 31:3 (March, 2000), 74-83.

Masako Watanabe, *Storytelling in Japanese Art* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011).

Virginia Skord Waters, "Sex, Lies, and the Illustrated Scroll: The Dōjōji Engi Emaki," *Monumenta Nipponica* 52:1 (Spring 1997), 59-84.