

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

Silk Road Exchanges in Action:
The Japanese monk Ennin's Travels in China, 838-847
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Ennin (793–864) A Japanese monk who traveled from his home monastery of Enryaku-ji on Mt. Hiei outside of Kyoto, Japan, to China between 838 and 847 to obtain original Buddhist texts.

Four Heavenly Kings, guardians of the four directions, whose statues appear in all Buddhist monasteries.

Kannon (Chinese: Guanyin; Sanskrit Avalokiteśvara/Avalokiteshvara), bodhisattva of compassion who often helps those in shipwrecks or stranded at sea.

Silk Routes Overland routes through Central Asia connecting China and India, as well as the sea routes around Southeast Asia, along which were transmitted teachings, technologies, and languages.

Mount Wutai (Five Platform Mountain), Shanxi, China. A pilgrimage center for Buddhists from all over Asia in the Tang dynasty and today as well.

Mañjuśrī (Manjushri). The bodhisattva of wisdom associated with Mount Wutai, who sometimes makes miraculous appearances to Buddhist believers.

Chang'an (modern Xi'an), the capital to ten different dynasties, including the Tang Dynasty (618-907). A planned city on a grid pattern that provided a model layout for other Asian capitals, particularly in Japan.

The lecture will refer these objects in the museum's collection:

Tang Buddha Shakyamuni B60S495; Guardian king B67S1; Fugen bosatsu B66D2; head of Kuan-yin (Guanyin) B60S494; Head of Buddha B60S556; Baekje standing monk 2000. 12; Ritual bell B60B357.b; Standing lion B60B750; Tea bowl: B60P1718; Iconographic drawing of seated Manjushri 1991.55.

Suggested readings:

Valerie Hansen, *The Silk Road: A New History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), Introduction (pp. 3-24), Chang'an chapter (pp. 141-166), Conclusion (pp. 235-242).

Edwin O. Reischauer, trans., *Ennin's Diary: The Record of a Pilgrimage to China in Search of the Law* (New York: The Ronald Press, 1955).

Edwin O. Reischauer, *Ennin's Travels in Tang China* (New York: Ronald Press, 1955).

Doug Fuqua, "The Japanese Missions to Tang China, 7th-9th centuries," at:

http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/content.cfm/the_japanese_missions_to_tang_china_7th-9th_centuries

