

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2013
The Culture and Arts of Korea and Early Japan
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

Sunkyung Kim, University of Southern California
September 6, 2013

Imaging a Buddha Land: Monuments and Sculptures of Unified Silla

Unified Silla 668 (676) - 935 C.E.
Koryŏ 918-1392 C.E.

Amitābha (K. Amit'a)
Brahma & Indra
Kim Chisŏng
Kim Taesŏng
King Kyŏngdŏk (r. 742-765)
King Munmu (r. 661-681)
King Pŏphŭng (r. 514-540)
Maitreya (K. Mirŭk)
Namsan (Mount Nam)
Śakyamuni (K. Sŏkka)
stupa
Vairocana (K. Birojana)

1. Mount Nam. Kyŏngju, North Kyŏngsang Province

- (1) Posŏkchŏng (Abalone Stone Pavilion). granite. L. 22 m. Unified Silla. Historic Site No. 1
- (2) Stupa Valley Buddha Assembly. granite. H. 9 m. 7th century. Unified Silla. Treasure No. 201
- (3) Yongjang-gok Stupa. granite. H. 4.8 m. Unified Silla. Treasure No. 186
- (4) Sangsŏn-am Buddha. granite. H. 5.3 m. Unified Silla
- (5) Buddha Valley Buddha. granite. H. 1.4 m. 7th century. Unified Silla. Treasure No. 198
- (6) Yongjang-sa Buddha. granite. H. 4.5 m. Unified Silla. Treasure No. 187
- (7) Ch'ilburam Buddha Assembly. granite. H. 2.7 m. early 8th century. Unified Silla. National Treasure No. 312

1. Buddha Triad. gilt bronze plaque. H. 27 cm, late 7th century. Unified Silla. excavated from An'apchi (first constructed in 674). Kyŏngju. North Kyŏngsang Province. National Museum of Korea, Kyŏngju. Treasure No. 1475
2. Kamsan-sa Bodhisattva (Maitreya). granite. 719. Unified Silla. H. 2.73 m. National Museum of Korea, Seoul. National Treasure No. 81
3. Kamsan-sa Buddha (Amitābha) granite. 719. Unified Silla. H. 2.9 m. National Treasure No. 82
4. Standing Buddha. gilt bronze. 8th century. Unified Silla. H. 47.2 cm. The Avery Brundage Collection, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.
5. Sŏkkuram. granite. mid-late 8th century (from 751). Unified Silla. H. 3.45 m (main Buddha). Mt. T'oham, Kyŏngju, North Kyŏngsang Province. National Treasure No. 24

6. Pulguk-sa Temple. 8th century. Unified Silla. Kyōngju. North Kyōngsang Province. Historic Site No. 502
- (1) Sōkka tap (Sakyamuni Stupa). 8th century. Unified Silla. H. 10. 4 m. National Treasure No. 21
 * *Great Dharani Sutra of Immaculate and Pure Light*. woodblock print excavated from Sōkka tap. 8th century. Unified Silla (or later added during Koryō) H. 8 cm, L. 6.2 m. Buddhist Central Museum, Seoul. National Treasure No. 126-6
- (2) Tabo tap (Many Treasures Buddha Stupa). 8th century. Unified Silla. H. 10. 4 m. National Treasure No. 20
 * Pusōk-sa Temple. late 7th century. Unified Silla. Yōngju. North Kyōngsang Province
- (3) Vairocana Buddha. gilt bronze. 8th century. Unified Silla. H. 1.77 m. National Treasure No. 26
- (4) Amitābha Buddha. gilt bronze. 8th century. Unified Silla. H. 1.66 m. National Treasure No. 27

Suggested Reading

General

Kim, Lena. 'Unified Silla,' "Tradition and Transformation in Korean Buddhist Sculpture," *Arts of Korea*, Chung Yang-mo et al (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1998), 270-283.

Kim, Lena. "Buddhist Sculptures of the Unified Silla Dynasty," *Buddhist Sculpture of Korea* (Hollym and the Korea Foundation, 2007), 57-102.

Portal, Jane. *Korea: Art and Archaeology* (London: British Museum, 2000), Ch. 2, 68-77.

Specific Topic

Kang, Woo-bang. "The Art of Avataṃsaka *Sūtra* in the Unified Silla Period: The Sanctuary of Sōkkuram and *Hwaōm-kyōng Pyōnsangdo* (Narrative Portrayal in the *Avataṃsaka Sūtra*)," *Transmitting the Forms of Divinity: Early Buddhist Art from Korea and Japan*. ed. Washizuka Hiromitsu, Park Youngbok and Kang Woo-bang (New York: Japan Society, 2003): 168-177.

Kim, Kumja Paik. *The Art of Korea: Highlights from the Collection of San Francisco's Asian Art Museum* (Asian Art Museum-Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture, 2006): 86, 244.

Kim, Lena. "Early Korean Buddhist Sculptures and Related Japanese Examples: Iconographic and Stylistic Comparisons," *Transmitting the Forms of Divinity*: 69-83 (focusing on 78-82).

Kim, Sunkyung. "Contesting the Lost Land, New Land, and Pure Land: Buddhist Steles of Seventh-Century Korea," *Archives of Asian Art*, vol. 59 (2009), 105-133.

Kim, Sunkyung. "Awakened, Awaiting, or Meditating?: Readdressing the Seated Image of Silla Korea at the Buddha Valley on Mount Nam." *The Journal of Korean Studies* 16 no. 1 (Spring, 2011): 119-150.