

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2015
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The 338 Buddha, April 24, 2015

Michael Knight, Curator Emeritus of Chinese Art

Names, places and terms

was Dharmarakṣa (Zhu Fahu), the most eminent translator during the Western Jin period whose ancestors had lived in Dunhuang for generations. When he was young, Dharmarakṣa traveled with his teacher to many countries in the Western Regions and learned Central Asian languages and scripts and then returned to China with a large number of Buddhist texts. In 266 he traveled from Dunhuang to Chang'an and Luoyang, then crossed the Yangtze River. He translated 154 Hīnayāna and Mahāyāna sūtras virtually covering all important texts circulating in the Western Regions.

dhyāna (meditating) Buddha

Fotudeng (ca. 231-349)

Former Zhao (319-329)

Jie (or Lijie): identified by their high noses and full beards they were of Indo-Iranian background, members of the Xiongnu confederacy and the founders of the Later Zhao dynasty.

Jiankang (present-day Nanjing)

Jin Dynasty (265-420)

Western Jin (265-316)

Eastern Jin (317-420)

Kashmir

Kanishka (accession to Kushan throne probably between 78 and 144 CE, with c.128 being the most likely specific date)

Kucha, a state established by the Tokharians on the northern edge of the Tarim Basin

Kushan Empire (approx. 2nd century BCE-3rd century CE)

Later Zhao (319-351)

Lokakṣema (Zhi Loujiachan, sometimes abbreviated to Zhi Chan), Buddhist translator during the Later Han period. He arrived at Luoyang in the late years of the Emperor Han Huandi's reign and between 178 and 179 CE translated more than ten Buddhist sūtras from Central Asian languages into Chinese, the most noteworthy is Prajñā-pāramitā

Luoyang, Henan province

Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra: "the Perfection of (Transcendent) Wisdom." Prajñāpāramitā is a central concept in Mahāyāna Buddhism and its practice and understanding are taken to be indispensable elements of the Bodhisattva Path.

There are a number of sūtras associated with the concept, the best known are the Heart and Diamond Sūtras. The first translation of a Prajñāpāramitā sūtra into Chinese occurred in the 2nd century CE.

Shi Hu (295-349)

Shi Le (274-333)

Sogdians: were centered on the main city of Samarkand, north of Bactria, east of Khwarezm, and southeast of Kangju between the Oxus (Amu Darya) and the Jaxartes (Syr Darya). According to many, the Sogdians dominated the means of trade along the Silk Road. Their main religion was Zoroastrianism.

Xianbei: Asian nomadic people, speaking an Altaic language. Competitors of the Xiongnu.

Xiangguo (modern Xingtai, Hebei), first capital of Later Zhao dynasty

Xiangrui: portents, often in the shape of mythical beasts signaling the approval of heaven

Xi Wang Mu: Queen Mother of the West

Xiongnu: a Eurasian nomadic people who formed a state or confederation centered in modern Mongolia. Throughout the Eastern Han period, the Xiongnu were divided into two groups: the southern Xiongnu and the northern

Xiongnu.

Ye (or Yecheng, modern Handan, Hebei), second capital of Later Zhao dynasty

Suggested Readings

Bonnie Cheng, "The Space Between: Locating "Culture" in Artistic Exchange," *Ars Orientalis*, 38 (2010), pp. 81-93.

Annette L. Juliano: Buddhist Art in Northwest China in *Monks and Merchants: Silk Road Treasures from Northwest China*, New York, 2001, 119-

Michael Knight: "The 338 Buddha Revisited," *Lotus Leaves*, Spring 2013, Volume 15, Number 2, pp. 1-10

Lai Guolong, "Use of the Human Figure in Early Chinese Art," *Chinese Bronzes, Selected Articles from Orientations 1983-2000*, pp. 326-332

Judith A. Lerner: "The Merchant Empire of the Sogdians," in *Monks and Merchants: Silk Road Treasures from Northwest China*, New York, 2001, pp. 221-.

Marilyn Rhie, *Early Buddhist Art of China and Central Asia*, (Brill, Leiden, Boston, Köln, 2002), Vol. 2, pp. 246-361.

Donna Strahan, "Piece-Mold Casting: A Chinese Tradition for Fourth- and Fifth-Century Bronze Buddha Images," *Metropolitan Museum Studies in Art, Science and Technology*, 2010.

Arthur Frederick Wright, "Fo-Tu-Teng, A Biography," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Volume 11, December 1948, p. 320.

Xu, Wenkan, "The Tokharians and Buddhism" online.

S.Y. Yang: "The Jie and the formation of the Later Zhao empire," online