

The Dawn of East Asian International Buddhist Art and Architecture

Hōryū-ji, Temple of the Exalted Law, in its Contexts

Saturday, 1 October 2005

10 am – 6 pm

Campbell Hall 153
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

- 10:00 Introduction
- 10:15 Dr. J. Edward Kidder, Jr.
*Reviving the Burning Question:
the Hōryū-ji Fires and its Reconstruction*
- 11:15 Recess
- 11:30 Dr. Huang Yunsheng
Mr. Eric Field
*Computer Reconstruction
of the Five-storied Pagoda of Hōryū-ji*
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:00 Dr. Michael Como
The Cult of Prince Shōtoku
- 3:00 Dr. Nancy S. Steinhardt
Hōryū-ji Through Chinese Eyes
- 4:00 Recess
- 4:15 Dr. Dorothy C. Wong
*East Asian Buddhist Art in the Times
of Hōryū-ji*
- 5:15 Dr. Paul Groner
Discussant
- 5:40 Open discussion
- 6–7 Reception at the University Art Museum

Sponsors:
University of Virginia Art Museum
Ellen Bayard Weedon Foundation
Lindner Center for Art History of the McIntire Department of Art
East Asia Center

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Hōryū-ji—Temple of the Exalted Law—in its Contexts

About the Symposium. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993, the Hōryū-ji temple complex includes some of the oldest and largest surviving wooden buildings in the world. The original Hōryū-ji temple was built between 601 and 607 by Prince Regent Shōtoku (573?–622), one of Japan's most prominent cultural heroes. After a fire in 670 that destroyed the site, the temple was subsequently rebuilt and enlarged. Hōryū-ji became one of Japan's leading centers of Buddhist scholarship as well as a focus of the cult of its founder. Over the centuries numerous buildings were added and the temple has become a repository of a large quantity of Buddhist artworks. Many of the temple's buildings are now listed as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties. Four of them, which date to the first rebuilding of the temple during the late seventh and early eighth centuries, are among the oldest wooden buildings of East Asia. Masterpieces of wooden architecture, they illustrate Japan's adaptation of Chinese Buddhist architecture and temple layout, which subsequently gave rise to the development of a distinct indigenous style. The construction of the temple also marked the introduction of Buddhism to Japan, from China by way of the Korean peninsula, promoted by Prince Shōtoku. This symposium brings together archaeologists, architecture historians, art historians, and religious historians to examine the Hōryū-ji in broad cultural contexts. It examines not only the founding and reconstruction of the temple and the legacy of its founder, but also explores the larger, cross-cultural perspective of placing the Hōryū-ji at the threshold of an international Buddhist art and architecture in East Asia.

The symposium is free and open to the public.

Conference speakers

Dr. Michael Como, Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Columbia University, has focused his study on the cult of Prince Shōtoku. His research explores the cultural interactions of China, Korea, and Japan in the formation of Japanese religions during the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries, including the important role played by Korean immigrants in the creation of the Shōtoku cult. He is currently preparing a book-length manuscript on this topic.

Mr. Eric M. Field is Lecturer in the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and Senior Systems Engineer in Information Technology at the School of Architecture, University of Virginia. Mr. Field's research and the courses he develops examine the crossover of information-driven technologies and culture with the construction of the human environment at the architectural, industrial, and urban scales. He and Dr. Huang will present a three-dimensional computer analysis examining the structural system of the five-storied pagoda of Hōryū-ji.

Dr. Paul Groner is Professor of Japanese and Chinese Buddhism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. His research focuses on the Japanese Tendai tradition, exploring how precepts and practice affected doctrine, and the relationship between monastic and lay Buddhism in medieval Japan. He has published book-length studies of *Saichō: the Establishment of the Japanese Tendai School* (1984), and *Ryōgen and Mount Hiei: Japanese Tendai in the Tenth Century* (2002), and has translated Akira Hirakawa's *History of Early Indian Buddhism* (1990) into English.

Dr. Yunsheng Huang is Associate Professor in Asian Architecture in the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. His research interests focus on the cross-cultural issues in architecture and architectural interactions between the East and the West. Mr. Huang's courses include a survey of World Buddhist architecture, a seminar on urban development in East Asia since World War II, East-West architecture, and Sacred Architecture of Asia. He also directs the University's Beijing China summer program.

Dr. J. Edward Kidder, Jr., Professor Emeritus of International Christian University (ICU), Tokyo, is a renowned scholar of Japanese art and archaeology. A prolific scholar, he has published many books: *Jomon Pottery of Japan* (1957), *Japan Before Buddhism* (1959), *Masterpieces of Japanese Sculpture* (1961), *Japanese Temples* (1964), *Early Japanese Art* (1964), *The Birth of Japanese Art* (1965), *Prehistoric Japanese Arts: Jomon Pottery* (1971), *Early Buddhist Japan* (1972), *Ancient Japan* (1977), *The Art of Japan* (1985), and *The Lucky Seventh: Early Hōryū-ji and its Time* (1999). As an archaeologist, Dr. Kidder directed fifteen excavations for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government between 1972 and 1993. In addition to several honorary doctoral degrees, he has also been awarded many honors, including the *Japanese Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon*, (1992).

Dr. Nancy S. Steinhardt is Professor of East Asian Art in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Curator of Chinese Art at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania. Professor Steinhardt's research has focused on East Asian architecture and urban planning, with particular interest in the 2nd through 14th centuries, but her broader research interests include problems that result from the interaction between Chinese art and that of peoples at China's borders, particularly to China's North, Northeast, and Northwest. Author of *Chinese Traditional Architecture* (1984), *Chinese Imperial City Planning* (1990), *Liao Architecture* (1997), she is also editor of volumes on Chinese architecture and culture.

Dr. Dorothy Wong is Associate Professor of East Asian Art in the Lindner Center for Art History of the McIntire Department of Art at the University of Virginia. Specializing in Buddhist art of medieval China, her research addresses topics of art in relation to religion and society. In addition to her recent book, *Chinese Steles: Pre-Buddhist and Buddhist Use of a Symbolic Form* (2004), she has authored articles that range in topics from pilgrims' maps to devotional arts, deity cults, pure land paintings, gender and ethnicity issues in Buddhist patronage, cults of saints in Asian traditions, and images of Buddhist cosmographies.

Contact

If you have any questions concerning the symposium, please contact Ms. Sylvia New Strawn in the McIntire Department of Art via telephone, 434.924.6122, or email, sns@virginia.edu. Further information about the symposium can be found on the Museum's website: <http://www.virginia.edu/artmuseum/horyuji.html>

Lunch

A boxed lunch can be reserved by contacting Ms. Strawn by September 16, Friday. Please note any dietary restrictions when making the reservation.

Hotel Information

The following are some of the hotels in the Charlottesville area:

Best Western Cavalier Inn	105 N. Emmett St. 434.296.8111 800.528.1234
Boar's Head Inn	Route 250 West 434.296.2181 800.476.1988
Courtyard by Marriott University Medical Center	1201 West Main St. 434.977.1700 800.321.2211
Hampton Inn	900 West Main St. 434.923.8600 800.426.7866
Red Roof Inn	1309 West Main St. 434.295.4333 800.843.7663