Artist: Anonymous
Formerly attrib. to: Wang Jianji 王兼濟 (early to mid-11th century)
Title: Ajita, the Fifteenth Venerable Luohan
《阿氏多尊者像》
Ashiduo zunzhe xiang
Dynasty/Date: Yuan, 1345
Format: Hanging scroll
Medium: Ink and color on silk
Dimensions: 127.0 x 62.4 cm (50 x 24-9/16 in)
Credit line: Gift of Charles Lang Freer
Accession no.: F1917.334
Provenance: Seaouke Yue (You Xiaoqi 游篠溪), Shanghai

Painting subject: Portrait of a luohan, identifiable as Ajita, the Fifteenth Luohan, seated…
The painting is fifteenth in a set of eighteen portraits of luohan, four (or maybe five) others of
which are in the Freer collection.¹

Object description: Cloth wrapper, with one (1) label. One (1) outside label. One (1) inside
label. One (1) dated inscription. Six (6) collector seals

Wrapper label: Anonymous (early 20th century); same as both labels below
Ink on silk. Mounted on fitted brocade wrapper.

¹ column, standard script
Buddhist figure, by Wang Jianji of the Song dynasty

**Outside label:** Anonymous (19th/20th century); same as above and below
Ink on paper.

1 column, standard script

Buddhist figure, by Wang Jianji of the Song dynasty

**Inside label:** Anonymous (19th/20th century), same as both above  
Ink on paper. On mounting, upper right.

1 column, standard script

Buddhist figure, by Wang Jianji of the Song dynasty

**Painting description:** The painting is comprised of two sections of silk, joined vertically.²

Dimensions: (right): W: 15.2 cm

(Left): W: 47.2 cm

A series of painted black dash strokes (probably workshop measurements) run along the right edge of the painting, top to bottom.³

Top left section of silk has been replaced; top portion of inscription is missing.
**Inscription:** Anonymous.

Ink on silk. Upper left.

2 columns, standard script. Top portion missing.

…the venerable [Ajita, or Asita, the Fifteenth Luohan], who resides with one thousand five hundred followers on the mountain of Gridhrakuta [Vulture Peak].

**Signature:** none

**Date:**

…on auspicious jiaxu, the nineteenth day of the second lunar month, with jimao as its first day, in yiyou [March 23, 1345],…

**Seals:** none

**Collector seals:** (6)

1. Song imperial seal – (1) – spurious
Double dragon seal (circle relief) – painting, lower right

2. Zhao Mengfu 趙孟頫 (1254–1322) – (2) – spurious

Songxuezhai 『松雪齋』 (rectangle relief) – painting, upper right

Zhao Mengfu yin 『趙孟頫印』 (square relief) – painting, lower right

3. Unidentified – (3)

Chang 『昌』 (square relief) – painting, upper left

Chuan jia zhibao 『傳家之寶』 (square relief) – painting, lower right

Chong □『崇□』 (tripod relief) – painting, lower left

Traditional Chinese catalogues: none

Bibliography


Related works

Seven other paintings from the set are known. Each is closely similar to the six Freer works in dimensions, materials, painting style, and compositional detail. Each also has an
inscription similar to those found on four of the Freer paintings (Luohans #1, #10, #15, #17), bearing the same 1345 date and providing the identity of the particular luohan portrayed:


Notes

1 Other Freer paintings from the same set include: Pindola-Bharadvaja, the First Luohan (F1992.41); Panthaka, the Tenth Luohan (F1919.163); The Great, or Seventeenth, Luohan (F1918.6); Luohan Meditating in a Grotto (F2002.4); and perhaps, Seated Luohan (F1919.107).

2 A similar vertical join, averaging around 13.5 cm from the right edge, can also be found on: F1918.6, F1919.163, F1992.41, and F2002.4. In addition, F1919.107 has a similar vertical join with the narrower width of silk on the left side, instead of the right..

3 Similar black dash strokes are found on: F1918.6, F1919.107, F1919.163, F1992.41, and F2002.4.
The missing portion of the date in column one can be surmised from intact inscriptions on other paintings in the set, such as F1918.6: 「大元至正五年…」 (dated the fifth year of the Zhizheng reign period in the Great Yuan dynasty [1345]). For similar reconstructions of the date, see F1919.163 and F1992.41.

Although the name section is missing from column two, the depicted luohan can be identified as Ajita, or Asita, the Fifteenth Luohan, by the remaining text that gives his habitation as Gridhrakuta [Vulture Peak] and the number of his followers.