Artist: Anonymous
Formerly attrib. to: Guanxiu 貫休 (832–912)
Title: *The Great Luohan, the Venerable Seventeenth*

《大阿羅漢尊者像》
*Da’e luohan zunzhe xiang*

Dynasty/Date: Yuan, 1345
Format: Hanging scroll
Medium: Ink and color on silk
Dimensions: 125.8 x 63 cm (49-1/2 x 24-13/16 in)
Credit line: Gift of Charles Lang Freer
Accession no.: F1918.6
Provenance: K.T. Wong, Shanghai

**Painting subject:** Portrait of the seventeenth luohan, known as the Great Luohan. The painting is seventeenth 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 two (2) labels. One (1) outside label. One (1) inside label. One (1) dated inscription, unsigned. No collector seals.

**Wrapper labels:** (2) – One (1) label slip and one (1) end label
Label slip: Anonymous (early 20th century)
Ink on silk. Mounted on fitted cloth wrapper (butterflies and orchids on grey ground)
1 column, standard script
唐僧貫休《羅漢圖》真蹟

*Picture of Luohan*, a genuine work by the Tang dynasty monk Guanxiu

**End label**: Anonymous (early 20th century)

Ink on silk. Mounted on end of wrapper.

  Standard script.

僧貫休《羅漢圖》

*Picture of Luohan*, by the monk Guanxiu

**Outside label**: Anonymous (early 20th century)

Ink on paper.

  1 column, standard script

唐僧貫休《羅漢》真蹟，元僧溥光題

*Luohan*, a genuine work by the Tang dynasty monk Guanxiu. Inscribed by the Yuan dynasty monk Puguang.

**Inside label**: Anonymous.

Ink on paper. On mounting, upper right.

  1 column, clerical script and standard script

唐僧貫休《羅漢》真蹟，元僧溥光題

*Luohan*, a genuine work by the Tang dynasty monk Guanxiu. Inscribed by the Yuan dynasty monk Puguang.
**Painting description:** The painting is comprised of two sections of silk, joined vertically.²

Dimensions: (right): W: 14.2 cm
(left): W: 48.8 cm

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

**Inscription:** Anonymous — spuriously attributed in labels to Puguang 濟光 (14th century)

Ink on silk. Upper right.
3 columns, standard script

第十七大阿羅漢，與五百眷屬住南嶽車轍靈川方廣聖寺。豈大元至正五年乙酉歲二月己卯
朔十九日甲戌吉。

The seventeenth Great Luohan, who resides with five hundred disciples at Fangguangsheng Temple on the Jucheling River at [Mount] Nanyue.⁴ Dated on auspicious jiaxu, the nineteenth day of the second lunar-month, with jimao as its first day, in the cyclical year yiyou, fifth year in the Zhizheng reign period of the Great Yuan dynasty [March 23, 1345].

Signature: none
Date: 嶽大元至正五年乙酉歲二月己卯朔十九日甲戌吉
Dated on auspicious jiaxu, the nineteenth day of the second lunar month, with jimao as its first day, in the cyclical year yiyou, fifth year in the Zhizheng reign period of the Great Yuan dynasty [March 23, 1345].

Seals: none

Collector seals: none

Traditional Chinese catalogues: none

Bibliography


Related works

Seven other paintings from the set are known. Each is closely simliar 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:

#3. Kanaka Bharadvaja 迦諾跋釐堕闍. Dated 1345. 124.5 x 61.0 cm (49 x 24 in). See Sotheby’s,


Unpublished.


#18. Nandimitra 慶有. Dated 1345. 127.3 x 62.8 cm. Shanghai Museum of Art. See Zhongguo meishu quanji bianji weiyuanhui 中國美術全集編輯委員會, Zhongguo meishu quanji, huihua bian


Notes

1 Other Freer paintings from the same set include: Pindola-Bharadvaja, the First Luohan (F1992.41); Panthaka, the Tenth Luohan (F1919.163); Ajita (or Asita), the Fifteenth Luohan (F1917.334); 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: F1917.334, 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.


4 Fangguangsheng Temple 方廣聖寺 is located in Hunan Province at the base of Lianhuafeng 蓮花峯 (Lotus Blossom Peak) on Hengshan 衡山 (also known as Nanyue 南嶽), one of the five sacred mountains of ancient Chinese tradition, and an important Buddhist center as