Artist: Anonymous

Title: Three Horses

《三馬圖》
Sanma tu

Dynasty/Date: Yuan, 13th–14th century

Format: Album leaf

Medium: Ink and color on silk

Dimensions: 26.6 x 21.8 cm (10-1/2 x 8-9/16 in)

Credit line: Purchase

Accession no.: F1944.50

Provenance: Tonying and Company, New York

**Description:** Silk rectangle separately mounted as album leaf on folded cardboard.¹ One (1) outside label. No artist signature or seal. No collector seals.

**Outside Label:** Anonymous (20th century)²

Mounted on outside backing. Ink on cream paper.

3 columns, running-standard.

Erroneous attribution to Zhao Mengfu 趙孟頫 (1254–1322)
Zhao Mengfu of the Yuan dynasty, with the courtesy name Zi’ang and sobriquet Pinesnow Daoist, was a native of Huzhou [Wuxing, Zhejiang Province]. He reached the official rank of Hanlin Academician Recipient of Edicts, and [was awarded] the posthumous appellation Wenmin [Cultured and Intelligent]. He was famous throughout the world for his calligraphy, while his paintings of landscape, flowers and bamboo, and horses and grooms were especially marvelous and refined. — From his biography in the History of the Yuan Dynasty.³

**Painting:** No signature or seals.

**Collector’s seals:** none

**Traditional Chinese catalogues:** none

**Selected Bibliography:**


Cahill, James F. Chinese Album Leaves in the Freer Gallery of Art. Washington, DC:


Notes

1 The unusual dimensions of this album leaf (taller than it is wide) suggests that it might have been cut from a larger work such as a handscroll. Prior to acquisition by the museum in 1944 from Tonying Company New York, this leaf together with three others in the Freer collection (F1944.51, .52, and .53) were evidently part of an album of seventeen disparate leaves, presumably all attributed to early artists, belonging to one —Ch‘eng Chang-chul (Cheng Zhangzhu?). By 1949, one leaf was in the collection of the Seattle Art Museum, four were in the Freer, and twelve were in the collection of H. L. Hsieh (New York). See Sherman Lee, —A Probable Sung Buffalo Painting, in Artibus Asiae 12 (1949): 294, note 3.

2 The calligraphy of this outside label is by the same hand as similar labels on F1944.51 and F1944.52, published elsewhere in this website, as well as F1944.53, which is not included.
For these strung together excerpts from Zhao Mengfu’s biography composed by his pupil Yang Zai 楊載 (1271–1323), see: Song Lian 宋濂 (1310–1381) et al., comps., *Yuan shi 元史* (History of the Yuan Dynasty), 172:5a–11b, in WSKQS.