Trad. attrib. to: Tan Zhirui 檀芝瑞 (late 13th–early 14th century)

Title: Bamboo in Snow

Dynasty/Date: Yuan, late 13th–early 14th century

Format: Album leaf

Medium: Ink on paper

Dimensions: 31.5 x 20.6 cm (12-3/8 x 8-1/8 in)

Credit line: Purchase

Accession no.: F1956.22

Provenance: Howard Hollis & Company, Cleveland

Object description: Album leaf. Ink on paper. Artist signature and one (1) seal. Two boxes: one inscribed with text and one (1) seal, one (1) box with text, one (1) signed inscription with one (1) seal.

Outside box: Wood, with black shellac (?). Inscribed lid and two affixed paper labels, each inscribed, and with one (1) seal.

Lid: Attributed to Fujimura Yōken 藤村庸軒 (1613–1699)

Writing in gold

Bamboo in Snow. Painted by Tan Zhirui, encomium by Ning Yishan (Yishan Yining, see below).
End label: Anonymous. Ink on paper

Bamboo in Snow, by Tan Zhirui. Encomium by Ning Yishan.

Side label: Anonymous. Ink on paper; lower right. With one (1) seal.

Outer box added (?). 33 (written over seal).

Seal: (1)

Matsushita-ken『松下軒』(rectangle relief)

Inside box: Plain wood with leather ties. Anonymous inscription on lid.

Ink on wood

Bamboo in Snow. Painted by Tan Zhirui, encomium by Yishan Yining.

Painting description: No artist inscription or seal. One other inscription, with signature and one (1) seal.

Other Inscription: (1) – Yishan Yining 一山一寧 (1247–1317) Painting, upper right
5 columns, cursive script. Poem (4x4).

凍雪希希，萬玉森森，歳寒一節，照映蘆林。
一山。

Freezing snowflakes scant and few,
Thick grove of ten-thousand jades;
Throughout the winter of the year,
The dense stand glistens brightly.\(^4\)
Yishan

Signature: 一山
Yishan

Date: none

Seals: (1)
Yiweng『一翁』(square relief)

Selected Bibliography


Itō Takuji 伊東卓治. “Zoku Nei Issan bokuseki” 續寧一山墨跡. In *Bijutsu kenkyū* 美術研究
169 (1952.4): 186.


Notes

1 Acquired by the Freer Gallery of Art in July 1956 as a hanging scroll, this small painting was remounted in August 1956 as a separate album leaf.

2 In his brief discussion of Bamboo in Snow, Itō Takuji 伊東卓治 states that the unsigned inscription on the outer box (hokuga 箱書) was written by the famous seventeenth-century tea master Fujimura Yōken 藤村庸軒 (1613–1699). See Itō Takuji, “Zoku Nei Issan bokuseki” 續寧一山墨跡, in Bijutsu kenkyū 美術研究 169 (1952.4): 186. On Fujimura Yōken, see Hayashiya Tatsusaburō 林屋辰三郎, comp., 2 vols., Kadokawa chadō daijiten 角川茶道大事典 (Tokyo, Kadokawa Shoten, 1990), vol. 1, 1182–83.

3 In 1952, Itō Takuji noted that Bamboo in Snow had appeared in the February 1933 catalogue of the Nagoya Art Club 名古屋美術俱樂部 advertising the auction of works from the Matsushitaken 松下軒 collection of the Sekido 關戶 family. According to Itō, the painting had been purchased at that time by someone in the Masuda 益田 family, but was subsequently acquired by an American and taken abroad. See Itō Takuji, “Zoku Nei Issan bokuseki,” 186.

4 In line two, the term “ten-thousand jades” (wanyu 萬玉) may refer to a congregation or community of wise and worthy gentlemen, such as monks; however, it most frequently serves as
a poetic description for a grove or stand of bamboo. Aside from its literal meaning, the “dense stand” (conglin 穂林) in line four is also a common term for a Buddhist monastery.