

Artist: Mao Yi 毛益 (active 1160–1175)
Title: *Swallows and Willow Tree*
《柳燕圖》
Liuyan tu
Dynasty/Date: Southern Song, late 12th century
Format: Oval fan mounted as album leaf
Medium: Ink on silk
Dimensions: 25 x 24.9 cm (9-13/16 x 9-13/16 in)
Credit line: Purchase
Accession no.: F1944.51
Provenance: Tonying and Company, New York

Description: Oval silk fan separately mounted as album leaf on folded cardboard.¹ Two (2) outside labels. Artist signature, with no seal. Two (2) collector seals.

Outside label 1: Anonymous

Mounted on outside of cardboard. Ink on brown paper slip

Two characters (one damaged), standard script

[王]詵

Wang Shen

Outside label 2: Anonymous (20th century)²

Mounted on outside of cardboard. Ink on cream paper.



4 columns, running-standard script.

Erroneous attribution to Wang Shen 王詵 (ca. 1048–1103)

宋，王詵，字晉卿，太原人。能詩善畫，尚英宗女蜀國公主，為利州防禦使。山水學李成，清潤可愛，又作著色山水，師唐李將軍。不古不今，自成一家。畫墨竹，師文湖州。圖繪寶鑑。

Wang Shen of the Song dynasty, with the courtesy name Jinqing, was a native of Taiyuan [Shanxi Province]. A capable poet and skilled painter, he married the Princess of Shu, a daughter of Emperor Yingzong [reigned 1064–67], and was made the Defense Commissioner of Lizhou. For landscape, he studied [the pure-ink style of] Li Cheng, and [his works] were clean and fluid and quite lovely, but he also painted landscapes in color, for which he took General Li of the Tang dynasty as his master.³ Neither antique nor modern, he created a [landscape] style of his own. For painting bamboo in ink, he took Wen [Tong] of Huzhou as his master.⁴ — [Quoted] from the *Tuhui Baojian* [Precious Mirror of Painting].⁵

Painting: Artist signature, lower right.⁶

Signature: 毛益

Mao Yi

Collector seals: (2) – Unidentified

Shanqing 『善慶』 (square relief) – painting, upper left

Lai- X 『賽□』 (connected square relief) – painting, mid right

Traditional Chinese catalogues: none

Selected Bibliography:

Lee, Sherman. *Buddhist Art*. Detroit: Detroit Institute of Arts, 1942. Pp. 33 and 58.

Yamato Bunka 大和文華 26 (June 1958): 64.

Cahill, James F. *Chinese Album Leaves at the Freer Gallery of Art*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1961. Cover plate and p. 9.

Freer Gallery of Art. *Freer Gallery of Art, China I*. Tokyo: Kodansha, 1972. Plate 40 and p. 158.

Suzuki Kei 鈴木敬, ed. *Chūgoku kaiga sōgō zuroku* 中國繪畫總合圖錄 (Comprehensive Illustrated Catalogue of Chinese Paintings). 5 vols. Tokyo: University of Tokyo, 1982–83. Vol. 1, 239 (A21–126).

Guoli gugong bowuyuan 國立故宮博物院, eds. *Haiwai yizhen: huihua xu* 海外遺珍：繪畫續 (Chinese Art in Overseas Collections: Paintings 2). Taipei: Gugong bowuyuan, 1988. P. 41.

Haiwai cang Zhongguo lidai minghua bianji weiyuanhui 海外藏中國歷代名畫編輯委員會, eds. *Haiwai cang Zhongguo lidai minghua* 海外藏中國歷代名畫. 8 vols. Changsha: Hunan meishu chubanshe, 1998. Vol. 3, 171 (no. 123).

Notes

¹ A vertical crease in the center of the painting indicates its early mounting on a frame and use as hand fan. Prior to acquisition by the museum in 1944 from Tonying Company New York, this leaf together with three others in the Freer collection (F1944.50, .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-chull (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 F1944.50 and F1944.52, published elsewhere in this website, as well as F1944.53, which is not included.

³ Li Cheng 李成 (919–967) is considered the founder of a major style of Chinese landscape painting that largely, if not entirely, favored the use of ink, while the earlier Li Sixun 李思訓 (651–716), who was a member of the imperial family of the Tang dynasty and held the military rank of general, is considered the founder of a painting tradition



that preferred heavy color (particularly blue and green) and sometimes gold, to render landscapes.

⁴ Wen Tong 文同 (1019–1079) was a seminal eleventh-century painter of ink-bamboo, who once served as magistrate of Huzhou 湖州 (Wuxing, Zhejiang Province).

⁵ As indicated, this text is largely an excerpt from Xia Wenyan 夏文彥 (14th century), *Tuhui baojian* 圖繪寶鑑 (preface 1365), 3:10b, in *WSKQS*. However, it also combines information and wording from Wang Cheng 王稱 (died ca. 1200), *Dongdu shilüe* 東都事略 (1186), 20:11b, in *WSKQS*.

⁶ This is the only known genuine signature of the artist.