

# China

## Five Dynasties to Yuan Dynasty



## Han Dynasty

206 BCE – CE 220



## Six Dynasties

220- 586



## Sui Dynasty

581- 618



## T'ang Dynasty

618-906



## Five Dynasties 907- 960

China enters a period of civil war and anarchy, 15 dynasties rise and fall

Buddhism experiences a sharp decline

A distinctive style of painting called "monumental ink landscape" develops

Porcelain technique continues to develop, introduce whiteware (Ding ware)



Fan Kuan, *Travelers amid Mountains  
and Streams*, about 990-1030

National Palace Museum, Taipei,  
Taiwan



Barbed-rimmed Bowls, Ding ware (porcelaneous stoneware) with clear glaze,  
2001.155.3.1



Porcelaneous stoneware with molded décor under clear glaze, 99.66.6





## Liao Dynasty 907-1125





Liao Dynasty, Funerary Mask, gilt bronze



Liao Dynasty, Harness Trappings, gilt bronze 2000.34.1





## Song Dynasty 960-1279

Considered the third Chinese golden age, this period was divided into Northern (960 – 1126) and Southern (1127 – 1279) dynasties.

A flourishing merchant class and four cities with a million inhabitants develops.

The civil service examinations are expanded and regularized, more than half of the positions are filled by scholars—literati.

Chan Buddhism best survives the persecutions of 9th century; it expresses the importance of discipline and self-reliance

The Song dynasty is known for refined taste and intellectual grandeur.



Fan Kuan, *Travelers amid Mountains  
and Streams*, about 990-1030

National Palace Museum, Taipei,  
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Attributed to Ma Lin, Visiting a Recluse with a  
Qin, 13th century, ink and colors on silk, 2013.34.1



Finch on a Citrus Branch, about 1300 ink and colors on silk, 93.5.2





Ma Yuan, Enjoying the Sun  
Beneath Pines Trees, ink and  
colors on silk, about 1190-1225,  
2002.73



Boy Leading an Ox Along the Farm Path, ink and colors on silk, 97.83.1







River Landscape, Southern Sung, late 13<sup>th</sup>-early 14<sup>th</sup> century, ink on silk, 84.82



The Bodhisattva Kuan-yin and Flying Apsaras, colors on plaster, 50.41.1,2,3







## Flying Apsaras



The Bodhisattva Kuan-yin, late  
11<sup>th</sup>-early 12<sup>th</sup> century, wood,  
gesso, mineral pigment and gold













Seated Guanyin, 12th century, wood,  
gesso and polychrome, 99.24.2





Almsbowl, lacquer on wood core, about 1100



Round Covered Box, carved red and yellow lacquer



Shallow Bowl with Double Fish Motif, Longquan/Lung-Ch'uan  
ware, porcelainous stoneware with celadon glaze, 43.1







Bowl, Yaozhou ware,  
stoneware with carved  
décor under celadon  
glaze, 97.50.2

Bowl, Yaozhou ware,  
stoneware with carved  
design under celadon glaze  
11th century, 2001.135.4



Small Bowl, 11th century,  
Qing bai ware celadon  
98.212.2

Celadon Vases, Guan/Kuan ware, stoneware with blue-green glaze and induced crackle, 2000.210.1,2





Tortoiseshell Tea Bowl,  
Jizhou/Chi-chou ware,  
stoneware with dark-  
brown and splashed-  
amber glazes,

98.108.12



Tea Bowl, Jizhou/Chi-  
chou ware, buff colored  
stoneware with brown  
glaze and papercut  
decoration reserved in  
dark brown glaze,

2000.209.3



Tea Bowl with Leaf  
Décor, Jizhou/Chi-chou  
ware, stoneware with  
brown glaze 98.74

Dish, Cizhou/Tz'u-chou ware, stoneware with painted polychrome enamel design over a white slip and clear glaze, 97.50.5





Jin Dynasty 1115-1234



Bowl with White Rim, Cizhou/Tz'u-chou type ware, stoneware with brown glaze and markings over white slip, 2000.34.4

CHINA DURING SOUTHERN SONG, 1142 A.D.



Drawn by Yu Ninjie.



Head of a Crowned Bodhisattva,  
Jin-early Yuan dynasty,  
12th-13th century, 2000.86.1



## Yuan Dynasty 1280-1365

Yuan Dynasty is a dynasty of foreign rule, the Mongolians, a nomadic people from the Steppelands, north of China.

Silk Road was reopened and trade increased in the west creating an international atmosphere at court.

The dynasty, under the Kahn family demonstrated military genius, personal courage, administrative ability, and sensitivity to the arts.

The Yuan exported the first blue-and-white porcelain.

Artists regarded painting as a medium for self-expression.



Kublai Khan







Udhyana Buddha, 14th century, gilt bronze, 59.5





Attributed to Gao Kegong,  
Landscape in the Style of Mi Fu,  
ink on paper, 2001.7.3

Plate, early 14<sup>th</sup> century, Ching-te-chen ware, porcelain with molded and underglaze blue décor,







Pear-shaped Vase (Ping), porcelaneous stoneware with underglaze cobalt blue décor,  
early 14<sup>th</sup> century 84.116.5







Square Tray, carved red lacquer





Small Circular Box, carved black lacquer with red and yellow layers



Belt Case, iron with gold inlay, 96.49.1a,b

