



[Project overview](#)

[Table of contents](#)

[View images](#)

Artist: Anonymous
Formerly attrib. to: Wu Daozi 吳道子 (active ca. 710–760)
Title: *Luohan Holding a Fly Whisk, with Attendant*
《拂塵羅漢像》
Fuchen luohan xiang
Dynasty/Date: Yuan, 14th century
Format: Hanging scroll mounted on panel
Medium: Ink and color on silk
Dimensions: 148.4 x 76.6 cm (58 7/16 x 30 3/16 in)
Credit line: Gift of Charles Lang Freer
Accession no.: F1916.521
Provenance: Pang Yuanji 龐元濟 (1864–1949), Shanghai

Object description: No artist signature or seals. One (1) outside label. Nine (9) collector seals.

Outside label: Anonymous

1 column, clerical script

唐吳道玄《釋迦佛像》，希世之寶。

Portrait of Shakyamuni Buddha, by Wu Daoxuan of the Tang dynasty; a rare treasure.¹

Collector seals: (9) – 8 spurious



1. Northern Song and Jin imperial seals – (3) – all spurious

Zhao Ji, Emperor Huizong of the Northern Song dynasty 宋徽宗趙佶 (reigned 1101–25) – (2)

Double-dragon seal (circle relief) – painting, upper left

Xuanhe dianbao 『宣和殿寶』 (square relief) – painting, top center

Wanyan Jing, Emperor Zhangzong of the Jin dynasty 金章宗完顏璟 (reigned 1190–1208)

Yufu baohui 『御府寶繪』 (square relief) – painting, upper right

2. Xiang Yuanbian 項元汴 (1525–1590) – (5) – all spurious

Xiang Zijing jia zhencang 『項子京家珍藏』 (rectangle relief) – painting, lower right

Xiang Molin jianshang fashu minghua 『項墨林鑑賞法書名畫』 (rectangle intaglio) – painting,
lower right

Molinzi 『墨林子』 (rectangle intaglio) – painting, lower left

Zijing zhenmi 『子京珍秘』 (square relief) – painting, lower left

Xiang Molin jianshang zhang 『項墨林鑑賞章』 (square intaglio) – painting, lower left

3. Pang Yuanji 龐元濟 (1864–1949) – (1)

Xuzhai shending mingji 『虛齋審定名蹟』 (square relief) – painting, lower left

Traditional Chinese catalogues: none

Selected Bibliography:

Pang Yuanji 龐元濟 (1864–1949). *Tang Wudai Song Yuan minghua 唐五代宋元名畫* (Antique famous Chinese paintings collected by P'ang Lai Ch'en). Shanghai: Privately published, 1916. Vol. 1, plate 2.

Sirén, Osvald (1879–1966). *Chinese Paintings in American Collections*. Paris and Brussels: G. van Oest, 1928. Part 4, 76–77, plate 145.

Cohn, William (1880–1961). *Chinese Painting*. London: Phaidon Press: New York, Oxford University Press, 1948. Pl. 168.

Lawton, Thomas. *Chinese Figure Painting*. Washington DC: David R. Godine, in association with Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1973. Pp. 116–19.

Suzuki Kei 鈴木敬 (1920–2007), 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, 250 (A21–206).

Notes

¹ The identification of the figure as Shakyamuni is manifestly incorrect, and was probably concocted at the same time that the phony attribution to Wu Daozi was manufactured; which is to say, not long before the scroll was acquired by Charles Lang Freer in 1916. Instead, the main figure may be the seventh luohan, Kalika 迦理迦, whose common name is Fuchen luohan 拂塵



羅漢, the luohan with the fly-whisk or duster, with which he swats away the tribulations of mankind.

A second known version of this composition can be found in the slightly smaller painting: *Luohan Holding a Fly Whisk, with a Monk* (hanging scroll mounted as panel; ink, color, and gold on silk, 138.5 x 74.8 cm), in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (acc. no. 14.72). Both paintings may derive from the same now-lost original. See Wu Tung, *Tales from the Land of Dragons: 1000 Years of Chinese Painting* (Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1997), 230–31 (no. 144).