

Lothar Ledderose

2005 Balzan Prize for the History of the Art of Asia

For his outstanding work on the history of Chinese and Japanese art and innovative ideas, contributing to a new interpretation of the art of these countries, as well as to the creation of a modern vision of its role in global art.

1. Heidelberg Colloquies in East Asian Art History

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

2. Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in China

Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Dmitry O. Shvidkovsky

With the second part of the Balzan Prize, Lothar Ledderose has financed two international colloquies for students who were writing their Ph.D. theses in the field of East Asian Art (Heidelberg Colloquies in East Asian Art History) as well as a research project on methods of digitizing and visualizing unique stone inscriptions (entitled Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in China).

1. *Heidelberg Colloquies in East Asian Art History*. One third of the funding was devoted to colloquies held at The Institute of East Asian Art History at Heidelberg University (Institut für Kunstgeschichte Ostasiens an der Universität Heidelberg). About thirty researchers who were writing their theses in the field of East Asian Art gave their speeches. The purpose was to give them a forum where they could present their work in progress, to offer them an opportunity to learn about each others' topics and methods and to establish international standards in the field. Applications were solicited from Europe, America and East Asia. Based on written thesis proposals, the selection was made by a committee of three professors from more than one country. In addition, one senior specialist was invited to each colloquy to give a lecture. Selected theses have been published. One young researcher took charge of the preparatory work for the colloquies, which were called *Heidelberg Colloquies in East Asian Art History*.

The First Heidelberg international Colloquy on East Asian Art History took place from September 14 to 17, 2006. 16 Ph.D. students from ten countries were selected from 53 applicants. The young researchers were: Xin Chen (University of Oxford); Youn-mi

Kim, (Harvard University); Anton Schweizer (Universität Heidelberg); Ya-Chen Ma (Stanford University); Pietro de Laurentis, (Università di Napoli L'Orientale); Li-Wei Chen (Columbia University); Pik Ki Peggy Ho (National Taiwan University); Massimo Carrante (Universität Heidelberg); Fei Bi (China Academy of Art, Hangzhou); Jong Phil Park (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Hui Guo (Leiden University); Mari Takamatsu (New York University); Rosina Buckland (New York University); Walter B. Davis (Ohio State University); Yu-chin Huang (SOAS, University of London); and Christof Büttner (Universität Heidelberg).

The Second Heidelberg international Colloquy on East Asian Art History took place from July 10 to 13, 2008. Chairpersons: Professor Lothar Ledderose (Universität Heidelberg), Professor Dame Jessica Rawson (University of Oxford), Professor Craig Clunas (University of Oxford), Professor John Carpenter (SOAS, University of London). Speakers: Jie Shi (University of Chicago); Su-chin Wang (National Taiwan University); Sheri A. Lullo (University of Pittsburgh); Lei Xue (Columbia University); Minku Kim (University of California, Los Angeles); Li-Kuei Chien (SOAS, University of London); Nobushiro Takahashi (SOAS, University of London); Yu Ping Luk (University of Oxford); Annette Bügener (Universität Heidelberg); Lingting Chiu (National Taiwan University); Yi Gu (Brown University); Ken Yoshida (University of California, Irvine); Jie Dong (China Academy of Art, Hangzhou); Yu-jen Liu (University of Oxford); Mio Wakita (Universität Heidelberg); and Kim Gyewon (McGill University). Discussants: Shinya Maezaki (SOAS, University of London), Lidu Yi (University of Toronto), Akiko of Mikasa (University of Oxford), Ning Yao (Universität Heidelberg).

2. *Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in China*. The research project is carried out in collaboration with the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften – HAW). This institution supports long term research on Buddhist inscriptions engraved in stone in China. The research project's principal aim is to fully document these inscriptions.

The Ledderose-Balzan research project is exploring methods of presenting the inscriptions to the scholarly community, and how to make them known and intelligible to a wider audience. This involves developing new methods of digitizing the inscriptions and presenting them visually. One of the aims of the project is a scholarly catalogue for a public exhibition of these materials.

A recent outcome of this research project is the exhibit "Herz der Erleuchtung. Buddhistische Kunst in China 550-600 / The Heart of Enlightenment. Buddhist Art in China 550-600" organized for the centenary of the Museum of East Asian Art of Co-

logne (Germany). The catalogue contains a Preface by Adele Schlombs and essays by Lothar Ledderose, Claudia Wenzel and Suey-ling Tsai (Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities), Liqun He (Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing) and Petra Rösch (Museum of East Asian Art Cologne).

Publications:

- Museum of East Asian Art Cologne and the research project Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in China of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Editors), *Herz der Erleuchtung. Buddhistische Kunst in China 550-600 / The Heart of Enlightenment. Buddhist Art in China 550-600*. Museum of East Asian Art Cologne, 2009.
- Hwang Yin, *The Age of Enlightenment: Global perspectives on the history of East Asian Art. An interview with Lothar Ledderose and Adele Schlombs*, "Orientations", Nov./Dec. 2009.

Statements by the Prizewinner and by Adele Schlombs:

Die Balzan-Stiftung versteht es offensichtlich, gute Entscheidungen zu treffen. Es ist eine sinnvolle Entscheidung, jedes Jahr vier neue Felder zu benennen, in denen die Preise verliehen werden. Das erlaubt es der Stiftung, Akzente zu setzen und vielversprechende Forschung zu fördern. Lothar Ledderose (Berne, 11.11.2005)

The award of the International Balzan Prize allowed, from 2005, a more vigorous pursuit of the project, in which many young researchers are involved. Adele Schlombs (Foreword to *The Heart of Enlightenment*, 2009)