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Welcome

Japanese Art History
ARTH 2071
Chapter Two: Imperial Models

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The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art






1 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Politics 552 – 794
 - Emperor's court was semi-nomadic in 552
 - Emperor head of warrior clan leaders; no land, no revenues, weak, but the Shinto religious leader
 - Emperor learned of the Chinese system of government with tax revenue and bureaucracy. It was very attractive.
 - It took one century, until 645, for the emperor to change to the Chinese system of government
 - The emperor now had money and power.

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Politics 552 – 794
 - Two reformers, a prince and a commoner
 - New government rigidly organized in 645:
 - Department of Worship
 - Department of State
 - Provincial organization
 - Officials trained at a university – in Chinese with Confucian curriculum
 - New bureaucracy needed a home, permanent capitals established in 710 - Hakuho Period.

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Religion 552 – 794
 - The native religion of Japan is Shintoism, polytheistic, connected to nature
 - Buddhism introduced to Japan in 552 by Korean diplomatic mission from Paekche Kingdom
 - Buddhism was long established in China, wealthy monasteries supported the emperor
 - By 680 Buddhism was well established in Yamato Dynasty
 - Wealthy courtiers established temples and monasteries
 - Official residences had to have Buddhist altars and sutras
 - Buddhist institutions established in all provinces

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Economics
 - At the beginning of this period, wealth was in the hands of the clan leaders and the merchants
 - By the end of the period, the emperor also had wealth based on new tax revenues and income from his own lands
 - The imperial court and aristocrats were great patrons of the visual and performing arts
 - Buddhist temples were great patrons of the arts

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Social 552 – 794
 - Once the capital of Nara was established in 710, a vibrant metropolitan culture developed
 - The interests and activities of the court dominated the city
 - There was only one major city; 60,000 people served the 1,000 aristocrats
 - The majority of the population lived in small rural communities governed by a local clan leader
 - The Japanese adopted the Chinese system of writing - the beginning of record keeping and recording traditional oral literature.

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Chapter Two Introduction

- Artistic 552 – 794
 - There were great achievements in literature, painting, sculpture and decorative arts
 - The imperial family and aristocrats were artists as well as patrons, especially in calligraphy and poetry
 - This was the beginning of the iemoto system, a master directs a workshop of assistants and trains a successor
 - The iemoto system continues into the 21st century for traditional fine arts and crafts.

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Chapter Two Introduction

- International 552 – 794
 - After 552 there were many exchanges between Japan and China – people and ideas:
 - Diplomatic
 - Trade
 - Religious
 - Artistic
 - The social, political and artistic life were all influenced by the Chinese Tang Dynasty
 - The Tang International Style influenced all Japanese artists
 - The new capital cities, first Fujiwara, then Nara and Heian, were built on the Chinese model

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Chapter Two Introduction

- The Asuka/Hakuho Period (552 – 710) started with the first trade mission from Korea and continued through the Taiko reforms to government, following the Chinese system.
- The Nara Period (710 – 794) began with the establishment of the imperial capital at Nara.
- To understand these two periods in Japan, it is important to understand the culture of China at that time.

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China - Japan's Early International Influence

- First great dynasty was the Shang 1500 – 1100 BC
- Writing developed about 1500 BC
- The Tang Dynasty was established in 618 AD and collapsed in 907
- The Tang built their empire on the wealth of the Silk Road. Trade goods included silk, metalwork, jade, slaves and religious goods.
- The Tang International Style of realism and three-dimensionality developed from influences of India and Central Asia that spread to Japan.

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Ancient China

Fangyi
(Ceremonial Wine Vessel)
12th century BC
Cast Bronze
Cincinnati Art Museum



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Han Dynasty China 206 BC – 220 AD



The Silk Road (3,000 miles) about 206 BC – 220 AD

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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Book Illustration, Silk Merchant Scanned Image from "Silk Roads China Ships"

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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Scroll of the Emperors Emperor Wu Di 7th century Scanned Image "Art Beyond The West"

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Capital City of Chang'an Painting on Silk Scanned Image "Life In Tang China"

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Pair of Tomb Figures of Civil Officials Late 7th – 8th century H: 40 inches Scanned Image "Silk Roads"

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Portrait of Confucius Unidentified Artist From: Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Laozi As A God
(Daoism)
Late 7th century
Art Institute of Chicago



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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Longmen Grotto
at Luoyang
Established 5th century
Scanned Image:
"Son of Heaven"



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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



East Main Altar
Foguang Temple
in Shanxi Province
9th Century
Scanned Image
"Son of Heaven"



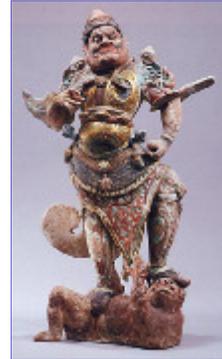
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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Guardian Warrior of
Heavenly King
8th century
Asia Society



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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Tomb Sculptures: Woman in Persian Coat & Musicians on a Camel
7th – 9th centuries, Scanned Image: "Son of Heaven"

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



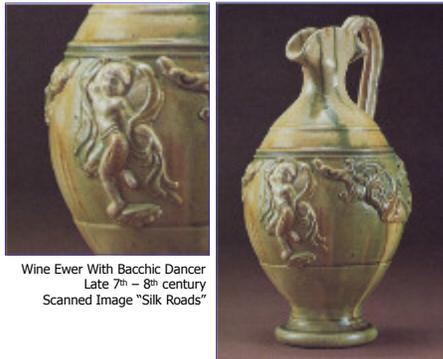
Horse from a Tomb Reliquary
Early 8th century
H: 20.5 inches
Ceramics with three-
colored glaze
Minneapolis Institute of Art



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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Wine Ewer With Bacchic Dancer
Late 7th – 8th century
Scanned Image "Silk Roads"

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Tang Dynasty China 618 – 907



Bowl, Silver and Gilt, 7th century
Freer & Sackler Galleries
Mason Fig. 53 *

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Geography



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Asuka Period 552 – 645

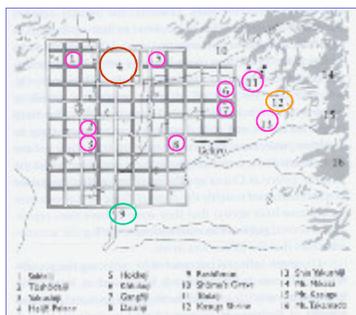


Plan of Fujiwarakyo (694-710)
Mason fig. 44

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Asuka Period 552 – 645



Map of Heijokyo (Nara)
Mason fig. 45

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Nara Period 710 – 794



Shosoin Treasure House
At Todaiji, Nara, 756
Mason fig. 50

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Cinerary Urn
8th century, H: 9 inches
Kyoto National Museum

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Asuka Period 552 - 645



Flask, Sue Ware
7th century
H: 12.4 inches
Kimbell Art Museum

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Nara Period 710 - 794



*Long Necked Bottle with
Wood Ash Glaze*
8th century H: 8.5 inches
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Biwa Named Hakuho
National Museum of Japanese History
Mason fig. 52 *

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Message from Emperor Shomu
Dated 749
Mason fig. 48

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Nara Period 710 - 794



*Segment of a Daihokobutsu
Kegonryo Sutra, ca. 744*
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Nara Period 710 - 794

A



Lady Under A Tree
c. 752-56 Shosoin, Todaiji
Detail of a folding screen panel
from a set of six panels
Mason fig. 51
Total panel height: 50 inches

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Lady Under A Tree
c. 752-56 Shosoin, Todaiji
Detail of a folding screen panel
from a set of six panels
Mason fig. 51

37 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Nara Period 710 - 794

A



Lady Under A Tree
c. 752-56 Shosoin, Todaiji
Detail of a folding screen panel
from a set of six panels
Mason fig. 51

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Introduction To Shintoism

- Evidence of religious beliefs throughout Jomon Period; centered on emperor by Yayoi Period.
- A cult of deities (*kami*) existed by at least 100 AD when the Yamato Dynasty formed.
- First written about in 720 in *Nihon Shoki* (History of Japan)
- There are ancestral, clan and local deities.
- *Kami* are associated with areas of natural beauty or power and with villages.
- *Kami* are unseen and awe-inspiring, inhabit natural phenomenon such as trees, waterfalls and mountains.

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Introduction To Shintoism

- By the 8th century, Shintoism influenced by:
 - Confucianism: reverence for ancestors, behind the idea of imperial and great clan cults
 - Daoism: gathered all the animistic and local traditions into their pantheon; also the Emperor was the head priest.
 - Buddhism: parallel gods and guardian deities, also influenced shrine architecture and shrine sites.

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Introduction To Shintoism

- The main Shinto *Kami*:
 - Amaterasu: she leads all the heavenly gods and is the sun goddess. The Ise Shrine is dedicated to her.
 - Susano: he leads all the earthly gods; he is Amaterasu's brother. He is associated with the Izumo Shrine.
- Japan's creation myth is that Amaterasu created Japan and sent her grandson, Ninigi, to rule Japan.

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

A



Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

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Asuka Period 552 - 645



Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60 *

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60 *



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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Scanned Image



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Asuka Period 552 - 645



Ise Jingu Outer Shrine
Ritual Cleansing Fountain

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Asuka Period 552 - 645



Ise Jingu Outer Shrine
An Individual Shrine

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 59

1. Outer Gate
2. Outer Shrine
3. Inner Shrine
4. Inner Shrine
5. Inner Shrine
6. Inner Shrine
7. Inner Shrine
8. Inner Shrine

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
Isuzu River Hand Washing Site

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
A Meeting Hall at the Site

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Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
Approach to the
Enclosure Gate

51 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Asuka Period 552 - 645

Ise Jingu Inner Shrine
Approach to the
Enclosure Gate

52 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Asuka Period 552 - 645

A

Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

53 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Asuka Period 552 - 645



Izumo Shrine, Main Hall
Rebuilt 1744
Mason fig. 61 *

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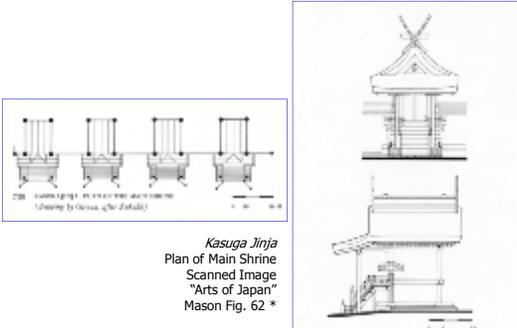
Asuka Period 552 - 645



Izumo Shrine, Outer Building
Decorated with *Shimenawa*

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Kasuga Jinja
Plan of Main Shrine
Scanned Image
"Arts of Japan"
Mason Fig. 62 *

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Nara Period 710 - 794



Kasuga Shrine, Founded 768
Scanned Image "The Art of Japan"

57 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Nara Period 710 - 794



Lady Under A Tree
c. 752-56 Shosoin,
Todaiji
Mason fig. 51

58 Chapter Two: Imperial Models

Asuka Period 552 - 645



Ise Inner Shrine
Founded 1st century
Mason fig. 60

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