

# Lothar Ledderose

**Senior Professor of the History of East Asian Art at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg**

## **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.*

### **Institution Administering Research Funds:**

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  
Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

**Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee:** Dmitry O. Shvidkovsky

## **1. Heidelberg Colloquies in East Asian Art History, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**

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 papers. 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 other's 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 entitled the *Heidelberg Colloquies on East Asian Art History*.

*The First Heidelberg International Colloquy on East Asian Art History* took place from 14-17 September 2006. Sixteen PhD students from ten countries were selected from fifty-three applicants. The young researchers were: Xin Chen (University of Oxford); Youn-mi Kim, (Harvard University); Anton Schweizer (Ruprecht-Karls-

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 (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg); Fei Bi (China Academy of Art, Hangzhou); Jong Phil Park (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Hui Guo (Universiteit Leiden); Mari Takamatsu (New York University); Rosina Buckland (New York University); Walter B. Davis (Ohio State University); Yu-chin Huang (SOAS, University of London); Christof Büttner (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg).

*The Second Heidelberg International Colloquy on East Asian Art History* took place from 10-13 July 2008. Chairpersons: Professor Lothar Ledderose, 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 (Ruprecht-Karls-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 (Ruprecht-Karls-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 (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg).

*The Third Heidelberg International Colloquy on East Asian Art History* took place from 14-17 July 2011. Speakers presented their research thesis in four panels "Objects", "Painting and Calligraphy", "Space" and "Religious Art", which were chaired by Professor Dame Jessica Rawson (University of Oxford); Professor Melanie Trede (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg); Professor Craig Clunas (University of Oxford) and Professor Lothar Ledderose. Speakers: Chen Kaijun (Columbia University); Tseng Chin-Yin (University of Oxford); Anna Katharina Grasskamp (Universiteit Leiden); Peng Ying-Chen (University of California, Los Angeles); Frank Feltens (Columbia University); Ng Sau Wah (University of Oxford); Naoi Nozomi (Harvard University); Seo Yoonjung (University of California, Los Angeles); Lin Fan (McGill University); Liu Lihong (New York University); Grassmück-Zhang Shaohua (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg); Anne Hennings (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität,

Heidelberg); Wang Xiang (Stanford University); Phillip Bloom (Harvard University); Wang Ching-Ling (Freie Universität zu Berlin); Wang Lianming (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg).

## **2. Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in North China, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften**

The research project is carried out in collaboration with the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften). 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 exhibition *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 für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln (Germany). The catalogue contains a preface by Adele Schlombs and essays by Lothar Ledderose, Claudia Wenzel and Suey-ling Tsai (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften), Liqun He (Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing) and Petra Rösch (Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln). Since funds still remain, work will continue on this for a number of years, with the results presented digitally.

### **Exhibition:**

*Herz der Erleuchtung. Buddhistische Kunst in China 550-600 / The Heart of Enlightenment. Buddhist Art in China 550-600*. Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln, 2009.

### **Researchers:**

Paul Copp  
Suey-Ling Tsai

### **Publications:**

*Herz der Erleuchtung. Buddhistische Kunst in China 550-600 / The Heart of Enlightenment. Buddhist Art in China 550-600*, edited by the Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst, Köln and the research project Buddhist Stone Inscriptions in China

of the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften. Köln: Peipers-Druck Zentrum Köln West, 2009.

Hwang Yin. "The Age of Enlightenment: Global Perspectives on the History of East Asian Art. An interview with Lothar Ledderose and Adele Schlombs". *Orientalia* (Nov./Dec. 2009).

Professor Paul Copp of the University of Chicago is in the process of producing a book on the Hongdingshan panegyrics.

**Links:**

The Heidelberg International Colloquies on East Asian Art History are archived at [http://iko.uni-hd.de/archive/conferences\\_en.html](http://iko.uni-hd.de/archive/conferences_en.html)

**Exhibition:**

<http://www.museenkoeln.de/home/pages/785.aspx?s=785&jahr=2009>