# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF CHINESE PICTORIAL ART

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An Introduction to the History of Chinese Pictorial Art by Herbert A. Giles

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### **HERBERT A. GILES**

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## HISTORY OF CHINESE PICTORIAL ART

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#### HERBERT A. GILES

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PROFESSOR OF CHINESE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

With Illustrations

[Second edition, revised and enlarged]

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1918

Art Library

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To

ELISE WILLIAMINA

WIFE

PROOF READER, INDEX-MAKER

AND

GENERAL ADVISER

9. X. Clink

#### PREFACE TO 2nd EDITION.

The Preface to the 1st edition, long since out of print, contained the following passages explanatory of the scope of this work:—

This is the first attempt which has been made so far, in any European language, to deal, even cursorily, with the history of Chinese pictorial art. The Chinese themselves have produced scores of volumes on the history and practice of painting, but there has been little, if any, direct appeal to these works—certainly nothing in the way of translation—on the part of the few foreigners who have written, all too briefly, on the subject.

The present volume is intended to serve at any rate as a temporary stopgap, being for the most part composed of extracts from authoritative works, here translated for the first time, thus exhibiting something of the theory of Chinese pictorial art from the point of view of the Chinese themselves.

The twelve full-page illustrations are intended to indicate, so far as possible, the principal lines of Chinese painting,—history, religion (Buddhism and Taoism), landscape, flowers, birds, beasts, and portraiture. They were chosen for me by Mr. Laurence Binyon, of the British Museum, and the illuminating notes which he has added to each seem to me entirely in keeping with his high reputation as an art critic. For permission to use four of these illustrations I am indebted to the courtesy of the editors of the Kokka; for a fifth I have to offer my best thanks to Mr. Arthur Morrison; the others come from the British Museum.

This 2nd edition has been carefully revised and considerably enlarged. New biographical notices and other items have been inserted; six beautiful pictures, chosen by Mr Laurence Binyon, now Keeper of Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, have been added; a seventh has been borrowed from an interesting article by Mr Arthur D. Waley, published in "The Burlington

Magazine" for January, 1917, and here reproduced by permission of the editor; and an eighth, and very famous picture, shows the passing of Shâkyamuni Buddha into Nirvâna. Lastly, an exhaustive general Index has been prepared by my wife, who has also lent her valuable aid in reading all the proofs; while the Chinese Index of proper names has been increased from 327 to 475 entries.

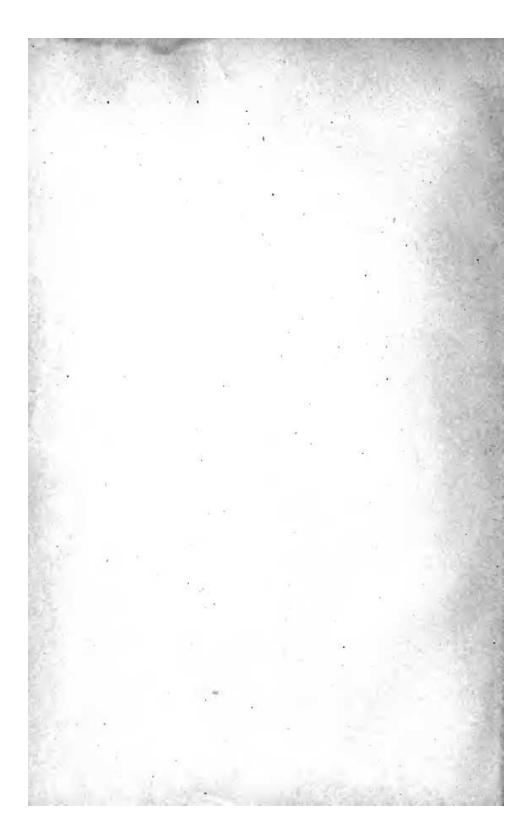
My best thanks are due to Mr Charles L. Freer of Detroit, U. S. A., for permission to make use of his picture by Ma Yüan; to Mr Bernhard Berensen of Settignano, Italy, for a similar authorization in regard to his picture "Reception by an Emperor;" and also to the Government of India and to the authorities of the British Museum for the picture of "Celestial Musicians" from the Stein collection.

Cambridge, 12 May, 1918.

HERBERT A. GILES.

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[N.B. Pictures marked with an asterisk appeared in the 1st edition.]