

4947.1

Dragon

Korea, Chosŏn dynasty, 18th century
Ink and color on mulberry paper

Purchase, Robert Allerton and Prisanlee Acquisitions Funds,
with a matching gift from Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Clark, 1981
(4947.1)

The auspicious dragon has its origins in Taoism, and in Korea, it was also associated with *Shamanism, Buddhism, and Confucianism*. Lurking at the bottom of the sea, or living in the clouds in the sky, the dragon is the Water Spirit controlling rain, oceans, rivers, lakes, and floods. It is holding the Flaming Pearl, representing wisdom and immortality. As a good luck symbol the dragon could be found in Chosŏn dynasty homes as well as in shrines and temples.

Slide 9 - Dragon; Ink and color on mulberry paper; Choson dynasty, 18th century. Dragons are powerful beings in Korean mythology. Lurking at the bottom of the sea or living in the clouds in the sky, the dragon is the Water Spirit controlling rain, oceans, rivers, lakes and floods. It is frequently depicted in paintings such as this one as a dynamic, animated and powerful animal. This dragon is holding the Flaming Pearl representing wisdom and immortality. The dragon could also be found in Choson dynasty homes, shrines and temples as a good luck symbol.

The paper used for this painting is mulberry paper, a typical Korean paper of high quality known throughout Asia for its beauty and strength. (4947.1)



Dragon, 18th century; ink and color on mulberry; Korea

Dragons are auspicious or good creatures in Asian mythology for they are considered to control the rain, oceans, rivers, lakes and floods. Dragons can live at either the bottom of the sea or high above in the clouds. They bring good luck and keep evil at bay, and they represent wisdom and immortality. This dragon is depicted as powerful and dynamic, exemplifying the bold style of Korean folk art. He is chasing the pearl of wisdom.



This Yi Dynasty dragon numbers among the many serpentine images waiting for youngsters and their folks at the Keiki-Parent tour this month. This Korean painting (nineteenth century) was acquired through the museum purchase fund with matching gift from Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Clark Jr., 1981 (4947.1). 11/91



The Academy's collection of Korean Art has been significantly enhanced by two recent acquisitions illustrated here. The painting of a dragon was one of the works included in the Volunteers' Choice event in June, and its acquisition was assured through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Clark, Jr. matching museum purchase funds. The painting, which was done sometime in the 18th century during the Yi dynasty (1392-1910), is an excellent example of the bold style of Korean folk art. The animal's scaly body twists back and forth through misty clouds, its ferocious head in keeping with its role as one of the four cardinal spirits and repeller of evil. Dragon paintings such as this are often found in shamanist shrines as well as Buddhist temples and were once pasted on the front doors of homes in the belief that they would protect the families' good fortune.

Unknown Artist, Korea, Yi dynasty, 18th century
Dragon
 ink and color on mulberry paper; h. 34-1/8",
 w. 20-15/16" (86.7 x 53.2 cm.)
 Museum Purchase Fund with matching gift from
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Clark, Jr., 1981 (10/81)