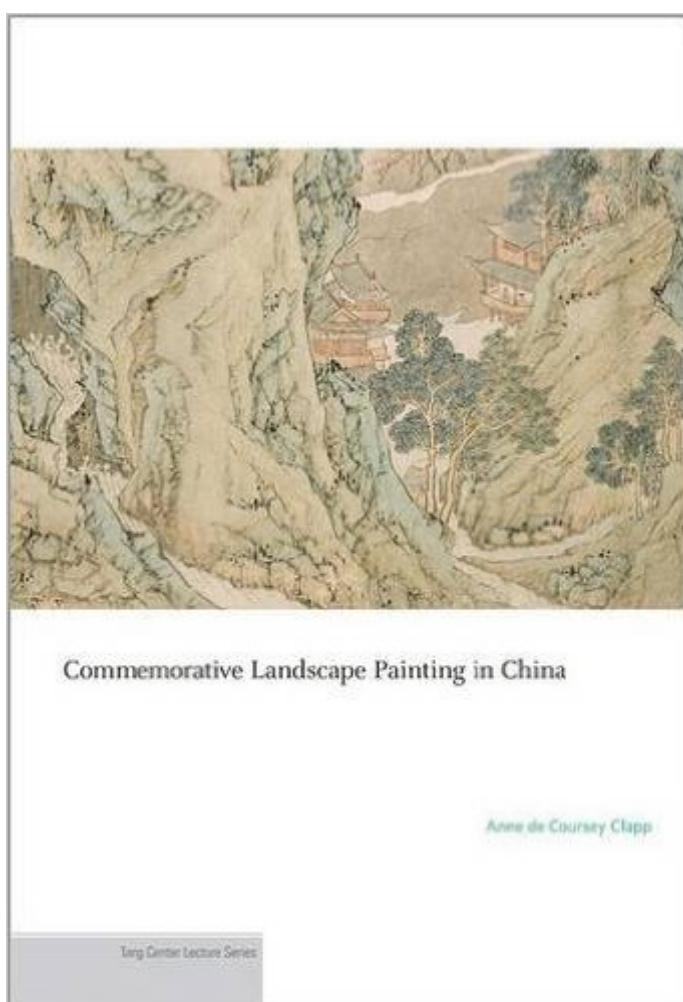


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# Commemorative Landscape Painting In China (Publications Of The Department Of Art And Archaeology, Princeton University)



## Synopsis

When is a landscape more than a landscape? This is a richly illustrated study of an important genre of Ming-dynasty Chinese painting in which landscapes are actually disguised portraits that celebrate an individual and his achievements, ambitions, and tastes in an open effort to win recognition, support, and social status. In this unique study, Anne de Coursey Clapp presents a broad view of these commemorative landscape paintings, including antecedents in the Song and Yuan dynasties. The book traces how in commemorative landscape painting members of the literati address their peers in a deeply familiar language of values, just as they had for centuries through literary biography. Although the setting for such pictures is always natural landscape, it is secondary to the man, and its true function is to mirror him as the humanistic ideal of the recluse-scholar. The book shows how the literary associations attached to the new landscape increased during the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), when the first commemorative paintings appeared, and flourished through the Ming (1368-1644), producing an art form that was simultaneously pictorial and verbal. In the course of exploring the sources and meaning of these paintings, the book examines several varieties of dedicatory paintings, including departure paintings, and the interesting subgenre of "biehao," in which portrait subjects are symbolized through pictorial representations of their literary names.

## Book Information

Series: Publications of the Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (July 29, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691154767

ISBN-13: 978-0691154763

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.5 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #739,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #299 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Landscapes & Seascapes #343 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Landscape #1621 inÂ  Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Archaeology

## Customer Reviews

The only thing wrong with Dr. Anne de Coursey Clapp's writing is that she was such a perfectionist

that she got too little published. The last book of hers is interesting but, for me, does not come close to her writing on Wen Chen Ming or T'iang Yin.

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