

Toth, Alex R.

From: Charles Lachman [clachman@uoregon.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 12:38 PM
To: Toth, Alex R.
Subject: RE: Boxer - A Chinese Temple Dog

Hi, Alex,

Just back from a long spring break road trip to LA, so sorry to have dropped the ball. Feel free to cite me (though I'm really not an authority on Foo dogs!); as far as a date goes, I think you could safely say "late Qing Dynasty" as an approximation.

Charles

On Fri, 21 Mar 2008 10:52:01 -0700, "Toth, Alex R." <tothalex@pacificu.edu> wrote:

>
> Charles -
>
> My last question [I promise]. May I quote, with attribution, some of
> the information you provided in your first response? It will be used
> in conjunction with an article being written about Boxer for the
> University magazine "Pacific." I'd be happy to send you a copy when
> the article is completed.
>
> Is there any way to date, even approximately, our Foo Dog?
>
> Again, many thanks for your patience and assistance.
>
> Alex

> -----
>
>
> Alex Toth
> Social Sciences/Special Collections Librarian Pacific University
> Library Pacific University
> 2043 College Way
> Forest Grove, OR
>
> tothalex@pacificu.edu
> 503.352.1405
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Charles Lachman [mailto:clachman@uoregon.edu]
> Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:48 PM
> To: Toth, Alex R.
> Subject: RE: Boxer - A Chinese Temple Dog

>
> Typically, the right dog is male, and the left female; often, the male
> rests one paw on a ball, while the female rests a paw on a cub. In
> general, the iconography is pretty loose and variable.
> CHL

> On Thu, 20 Mar 2008 16:42:32 -0700, "Toth, Alex R."
> <tothalex@pacificu.edu> wrote:

> >
> > Charles -
> >
> > Thank you for your response. I'm sorry to hear you have been ill,
> > but hope you are well on your way to recovery.
> >
> > Do you happen to know if the temple dogs were assigned a gender? I
> > seem
> > to recall hearing from a guide on a recent visit to a Buddhist
> > temple
> > in

> > Hawaii that the lions guarding the entrance to the temple were
> > designated as male and female and were differentiated by what they
> were

> > resting on.

> > Thanks again for your assistance.

> > Best regards,

> > Alex

> > -----

> > Alex Toth

> > Social Sciences/Special Collections Librarian Pacific University

> > Library Pacific University

> > 2043 College Way

> > Forest Grove, OR

> > tothalex@pacificu.edu

> > 503.352.1405

> > -----Original Message-----

> > From: Charles Lachman [mailto:clachman@uoregon.edu]

> > Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 4:36 PM

> > To: Toth, Alex R.

> > Subject: Re: Boxer - A Chinese Temple Dog

> > Hi, Alex,

> > So sorry for the inordinately long delay in responding to your query

> > (I've been sick as a dog---appropriately enough---and swamped with

> > end-of-term grading). In any case, your Boxer is what is commonly

> > called

> > a Foo Dog, derived from the Chinese term for "Buddha" (fo).

> > Essentially,

> > they evolved from lions, which were a common Buddhist symbol in India.

> > Since lions were not known directly in East Asia, these fierce

> > protective guardians morphed into dogs. They are frequently placed

> > in pairs at temple entrances, and are also used that way in many

> > non-Buddhist contexts, as well (such as outside of Imperial halls).

> > Cheers,

> > Charles

> >

> > --

> > Charles Lachman, Curator of Asian Art Jordan Schnitzer Museum

> > University of Oregon 1430 Johnson Lane Eugene, OR 97403

> > 541.346.0974 (ofc)

> > 541.346.0976 (fax)

> >

> >

> >

> > --

> > Charles Lachman, Curator of Asian Art

> > Jordan Schnitzer Museum

> > University of Oregon

> > 1430 Johnson Lane

> > Eugene, OR 97403

> > 541.346.0974 (ofc)

> > 541.346.0976 (fax)

> >

--

Charles Lachman, Curator of Asian Art

Jordan Schnitzer Museum

University of Oregon

1430 Johnson Lane

Eugene, OR 97403
541.346.0974 (ofc)
541.346.0976 (fax)