



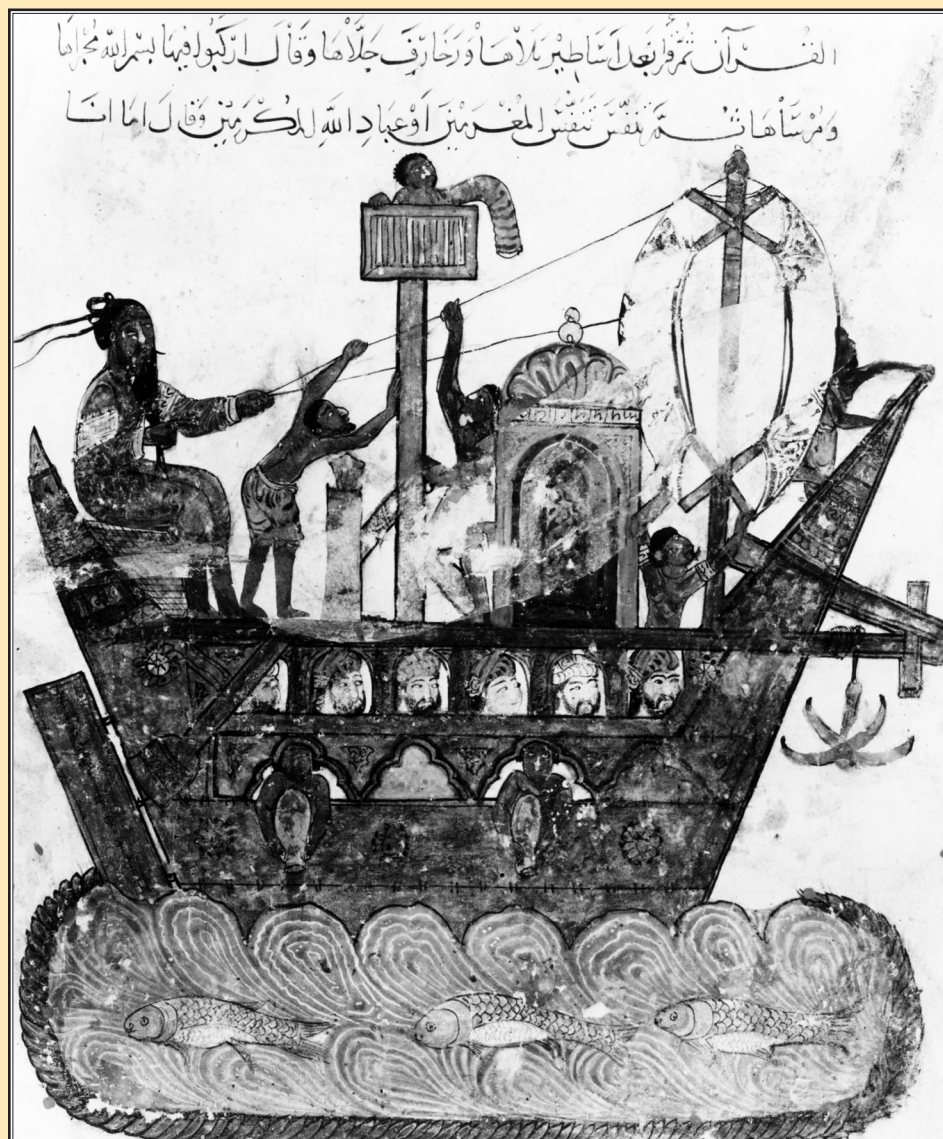
TANG CENTER FOR EARLY CHINA

Presents

Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology

Hollow and Useless Luxuries: Asian Trade in the Age of Sinbad the Sailor

The Java Sea shipwrecks and the emerging role of Arab traders in the late first millennium China trade



John Guy

*Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of the Arts of South and Southeast Asia
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*

Commentators:

Morris Rossabi, Columbia University
Boon Hui Tan, Asia Society, New York

Friday, April 8th, 2016

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Pulitzer Hall

World Room, 3rd Floor
2950 Broadway (W 116th Street), New York, NY 10027

Cosponsors:

The Tang Center for Early China, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALAC),
Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), Columbia University
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

RSVP requested by March 24 at info@tangcenter-columbia.org



Hollow and Useless Luxuries: Asian Trade in the Age of Sinbad the Sailor

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John Guy

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The recent discovery of a number of early shipwreck cargoes in Southeast Asian waters has transformed our understanding of late first millennium Asian maritime trade and cultural exchange. This lecture will examine first the Belitung ('Tang') shipwreck recovered in 1998-99 in the western Java Sea, dated to the second quarter of the 9th century. Its cargo constitutes the largest assemblage of Chinese artefacts belonging to late Tang culture ever discovered. In the following decade two tenth-century vessels were excavated in the Java Sea, the Intan and Cerebon. Their cargoes together provide unprecedented insights into the production and circulation of international commodities and signal both the interconnectivity of the Asian trading system in the 9th and 10th centuries, and the pivotal role played by the entrepot of Srivijaya in that system.

Together these three shipwreck discoveries provide the first archaeological confirmation of contemporary Chinese and Arabic descriptions of exchange along the longest commercial sea route in history, in which the ports of southern China and the Persian Gulf - Red Sea were linked in a complex network of international exchange. The Belitung cargo in particular provides compelling new evidence for the cross-currents of commercial and cultural dialogue between Tang China and Abbasid Iraq.

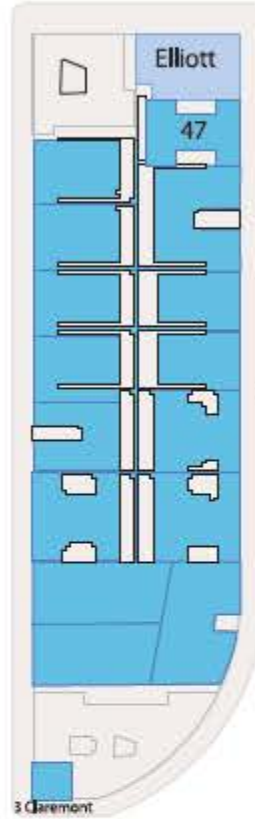
Just in the past year another shipwreck has been discovered, which add further complexities to our understanding of this international traffic, together with new insights into the types of ships engaged in this trade, the nature of regional as well as long distance trade, and suggestions as to the identity of the participants.

John Guy, FSA, is the Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of the Arts of South and Southeast Asia at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. He was formerly Senior Curator of South Asia at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and has served on the Councils of the European Associations of South Asia and Southeast Asian Archaeology and various editorial boards. He has worked on a number of archaeological excavations, both land and maritime sites, and served as an advisor to UNESCO on historical sites in Southeast Asia.

Major publications include *Oriental Trade Ceramics in South East Asia* (OUP 1986), *Ceramic Traditions of Southeast Asia* (OUP 1989), *Indian Art and Connoisseurship. Essays in honour of Douglas Barrett* (IGNCA, New Delhi, 1995, editor), *South East Asia and China: Art, Commerce and Interaction*, Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art Colloquies on Art and Archaeology in Asia, No.17 (University London, 1996, co-editor), *Vietnamese Ceramics: A Separate Tradition* (co-author 1997), *Woven Cargoes. Indian Textiles in the East* (Thames & Hudson 1998; reprint 2009), *Indian Temple Sculpture* (V&A /Abrams, 2007), *Chola. Bronzes of Southern India* (Royal Academy, co-author 2007), *Gods of Angkor. Khmer Bronzes from the National Museum of Cambodia* (Freer-Sackler 2010, co-author), *Wonder of the Age: Master Painters of India* (MMA/Yale, 2011, co-author), *Interwoven Globe. The Worldwide Textile Trade, 1500-1800* (MMA/Yale 2013, co-author), and *Lost Kingdoms. Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia* (MMA/Yale 2014).

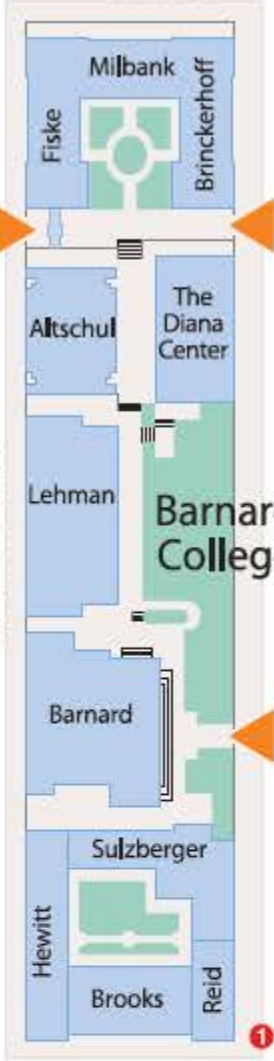
Riverside Park

Riverside Drive



Claremont Avenue

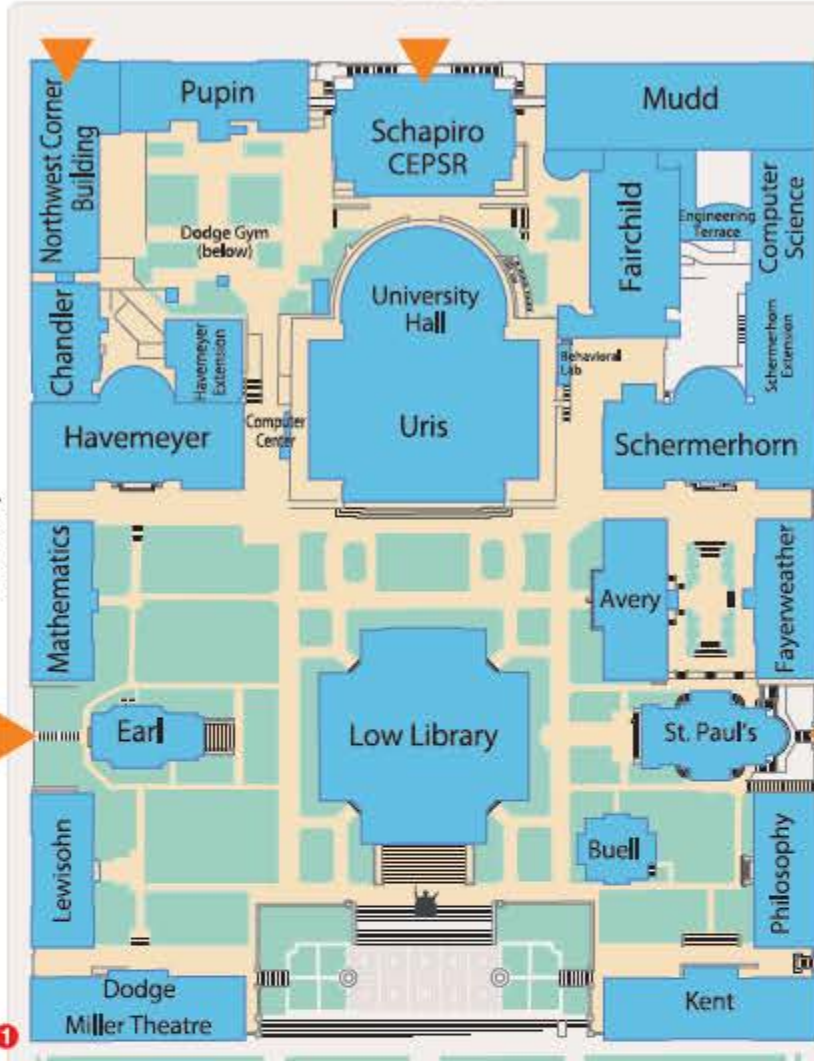
120th Street



Barnard College

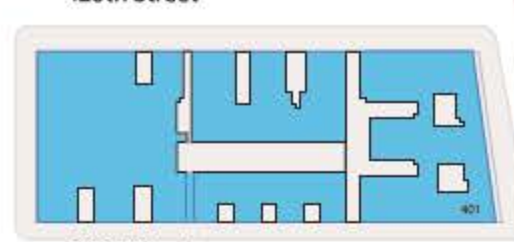
Broadway

120th Street

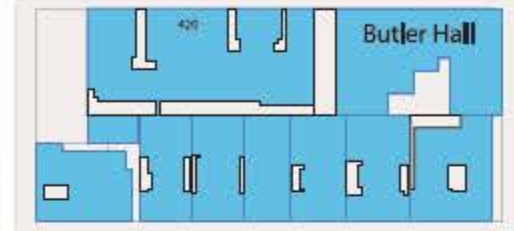


Amsterdam Avenue

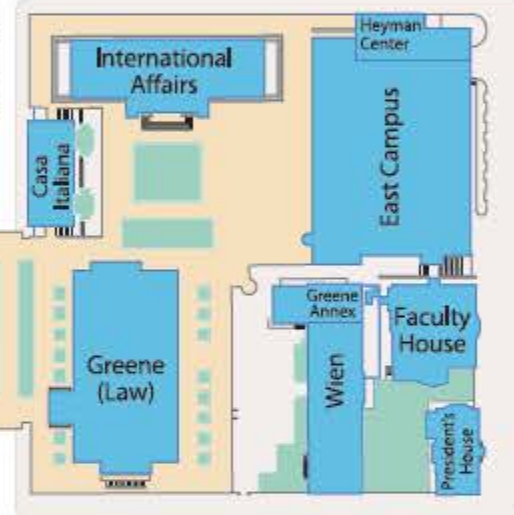
120th Street



119th Street



118th Street



Morningside Drive

Morningside Park

116th Street



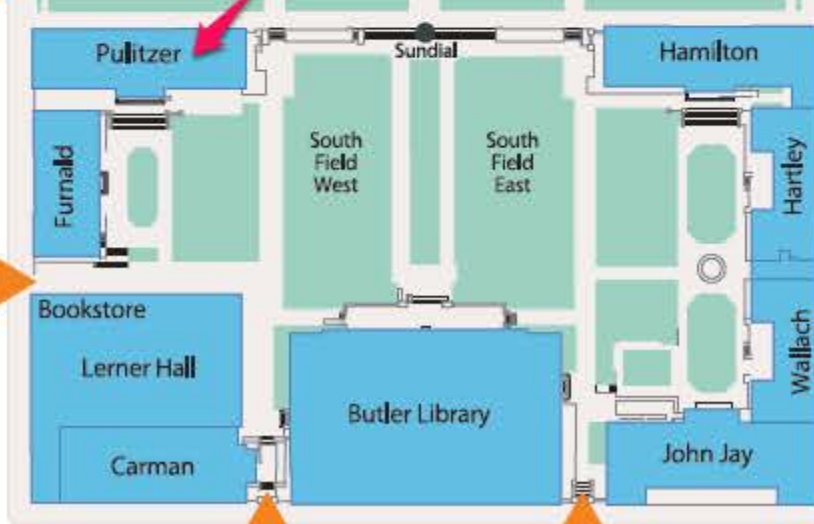
115th Street



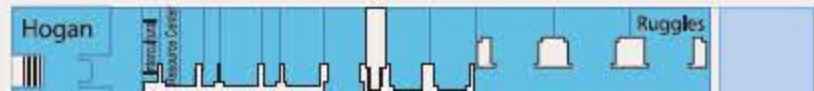
114th Street



College Walk

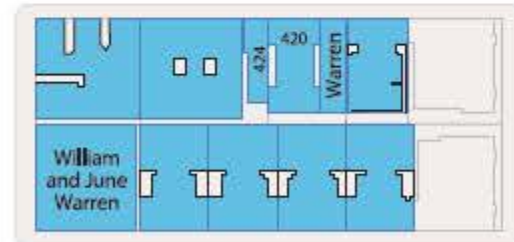


114th Street

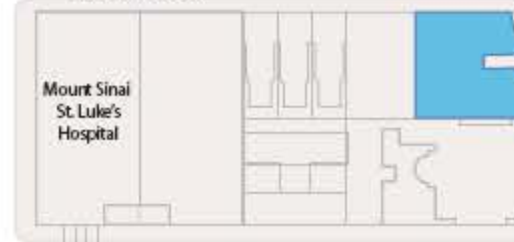


Avenue

116th Street



115th Street



114th Street



Morningside Drive