

Splendid Metal Crowns of the Paekche Kingdom in Korea and Japan

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PSU Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 294



In this lecture, Dr. Junghee Lee explores the dynamic relationship of the ancient art of Paekche, Kaya, Silla, Koguryo and Japan, specifically looking at ancient crowns of the Paekche Kingdom and syncretic subject matter of Buddhism and Taoism.

The history of the Paekche kingdom in Korea is still unclear as very few historical writings from this period exist. However, Korean tombs of the Three Kingdoms period (57 BCE - 668 CE) yield brilliant objects of outstanding quality which reveal a strong connection to other countries. Ancient artifacts such as funerary objects and Paekche metalwork can be found in Japanese tombs of the Kofun period (250 to 538 AD), such as in the Eta Funayama tomb in Kyushu. This discovery suggests the arrival of immigrants from Paekche (in present day Korea) and the transmission of their craftsmanship to Japan, as is also noted in Japanese historical chronicles.



Dr. Junghee Lee teaches Asian Art History classes at Portland State University in the School of Art & Design. She has traveled extensively in India, Southeast Asia, Japan, Central Asia, China, and Korea, visiting various museums and archeological sites. Dr. Lee holds a bachelor's degree in Aesthetics from Seoul National University. She received her M.A. in Modern Western Art History and Ph.D. in Buddhist art from UCLA.

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