

# lecture

## Dunhuang as Nexus of the Silk Road during the Middle Ages

Symposium Keynote Lecture by Victor H. Mair



Foreign dignitaries, Cave 85, Tang dynasty (618–907 CE). Mogao Grottoes, Dunhuang, China. Courtesy the Dunhuang Academy

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Museum Lecture Hall, Getty Center

During the Tang dynasty (618–907 CE), Dunhuang played a vital role in linking diverse civilizations across Eurasia. Situated at the western end of the Gansu Corridor, this center of Buddhist religion and art facilitated the flow of economic goods and cultural influences among peoples of many different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. Like a funnel, it led to the heartland of China in one direction and spread out through Central Asia in the other.

**Victor H. Mair**, professor of Chinese language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania, specializes in Buddhist popular literature as well as the vernacular tradition of Chinese fiction and the performing arts. He began visiting Dunhuang in 1981 and made dozens of trips there in the succeeding decades. Mair is the author of *Tunhuang Popular Narratives* (1983), *Painting and Performance* (1988), *T'ang Transformation Texts* (1989), and scores of articles pertaining to Dunhuang.

### Related Exhibition

This program complements the exhibition *Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China's Silk Road*, on view at the Getty Center from May 7 to September 4, 2016.

### Related Events

#### SYMPOSIUM:

[Cave Temples of Dunhuang: History, Art, and Materiality](#)

#### PERFORMANCE:

[East and West of Dunhuang: Music Carried on the Wind](#)

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#### How to Get Here

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive in Los Angeles, California, approximately 12 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. See [Hours, Directions, Parking](#) for maps and driving directions.

#### Tickets and Parking

Admission to this event is free, but a ticket is required to attend. Please make a reservation by visiting [www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions\\_events/events/cave\\_temples\\_dunhuang/nexus.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions_events/events/cave_temples_dunhuang/nexus.html) or calling (310) 440-7300. Seating for free events is on a first come, first served basis; please check in at least 15 minutes prior to the event. Parking is \$15, but \$10 after 5 p.m.

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