

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
announces a Lecture

by

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Sun Guoting's *Shu pu* and the Manuscripts from Dunhuang

Sun Guoting's 孫過庭 (ca. 647-ca. 690) *Shu pu* 書譜 (Manual of calligraphy) (687) is one of the greatest works of Chinese calligraphy. Now kept in the form of a long horizontal scroll at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, the manuscript is one of the few autographs of renowned Chinese masters prior to the eleventh century that has been preserved almost intact. Hence, it offers a direct insight into the practice and appreciation of calligraphy during the medieval period.

The scholarly world does not agree on the integrity of the *Shu pu*. Some scholars believe it to be complete text, whereas others uphold that it is only a preface to a longer work that Sun Guoting never wrote or was lost. Although the problem is open to different interpretations, by comparing the scroll and its relevant philological information with coeval manuscripts from Dunhuang 敦煌 it is still possible to gain a clearer idea of Sun Guoting's composition in its presumable original form.

The present discussion aims at casting new light on some issues concerning *Shu pu*'s textual content and visual form.

Thursday, 14 April 2016 at 6 pm
Room 0001, CSMC