Shattered Frames – Challenging the Credibility of Colophons

Colophons framing a manuscript, a piece of calligraphy or a painting provide additional historical, biographical or contextual information. How reliable are these? Mistakes might occur in the course of remounting a scroll or an album, but there are also incidents of manipulation and falsification. Shattering the frame, this paper will explore the reasons and motivations behind such doubtful cases and see whether particular patterns can be discerned in these practices.

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