

Yao ritual painting of two Kings of Heaven

Date

Early 20 century

Primary Maker

Unidentified artist

Medium

Hanging scroll: ink on paper, backed with paper

Description

Yang Kin, the Sun King, is depicted in a red robe behind Suy Fo, the Water King (Commander of the Navy - see Gichner), in a green robe. They fill the central space of the picture, one behind and above the other, in the same pose, holding similar objects and with the same halos. The Sun King is in red, with a green brocade pattern, and green ribbons draped around shoulders and over arms. Behind the red and white halo is an asymmetrical sun-symbol with yellow centre and red flames. He is brandishing a green 'sceptre' in the right hand. A small attendant in green tunic and white pants is depicted to the right of this head, holding a fan (parasol?) on a long bamboo-pole behind the head/halo of the king. The Water King is in green, with a darker green brocade pattern, with blue ribbon draped over shoulders and arms. He has bushy black eyebrows and a white beard (mouth is strangely not delineated) and a ferociously knit face. He is brandishing a pink 'sceptre' in his left hand and holds a second implement, curved and white, in his right hand (unlike the Sun King, who only holds the sceptre). In the

bottom right of the picture, two figures are depicted, also one above the other; at the top an official under a blue-tiled pavilion roof stands behind a desk with his writing brush raised and about to write on blank, lined paper on the desk. He is wearing a red robe. Below is a figure in yellow tunic and white pants with a carrying pole, from which hang two painted tassled boxes of some sort. To both sides of the figures, one the left and right of the main composition, are painted blue, red, yellow and green clouds. 6/6/86 Astri W.

Dimensions

Image: 45 5/8 × 17 15/16 inches (115.9 × 45.6 cm)