

Revisiting the *Shiqi Modelbook* Missing Seventeen Lines: A Discussion Based on Five Versions of *Shiqi Modelbook* in the National Palace Museum Collection

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Abstract

Shiqi Modelbook has long been a fundamental and important work for any study or copying of Wang Xizhi's (303-361) calligraphy, in turn leading later generations to venerate and praise him as the "Sage of Calligraphy." As it turns out, the National Palace Museum has in its collection a group of five albums on this illustrious modelbook. Unfortunately, there has been little discussion on them, so their history, dating, and relationship to each other are not well understood. To rectify this situation, the present study first presents the basic information of these five versions of *Shiqi Modelbook* and then discusses the individual works in further depth, their relationship with each other, and the periods to which they may belong. Then, four of the albums, based on the similar characteristic they have in common of lacking seventeen lines, serve as the main focus, being referred to as versions *jia* (1), *yi* (2), *bing* (3), and *ding* (4). The inferences and results of the present study can be further extended to clarifying the relationship between the surviving versions lacking seventeen lines of the *Shiqi Modelbook* and clearing up the confusion about their dating. Finally, a reappraisal of the inscriptions and seal impressions on the albums that represent their collection history can thereupon offer an idea of what the original *Shiqi Modelbook* missing seventeen lines might have looked like.

Keywords: *Shiqi Modelbook* missing seventeen lines, *Calligraphy Modelbooks of the Laiqin Hall*, *Calligraphy Modelbooks of the Yuqing Studio*, *Ink Marvels of the Yugang Studio*, partial version, single modelbook