

WANG XIZHI'S
TEACHER:
LADY WEI SHUO

Erum Vohra
EAST 1200

BACKGROUND

- *Lady Wei's family was full of notable scholars and her grandfather, Wei Yi, was the imperial secretary of the Wei Dynasty.*
- *Other members of her family were known for calligraphy.*
- *At the time, two different schools of calligraphy were developing: the Northern and Southern Schools.*
 - *Her family helped develop the Northern School, which was characterized by bold strokes.*
- *At the time, women were rarely educated, even those from high-class families.*



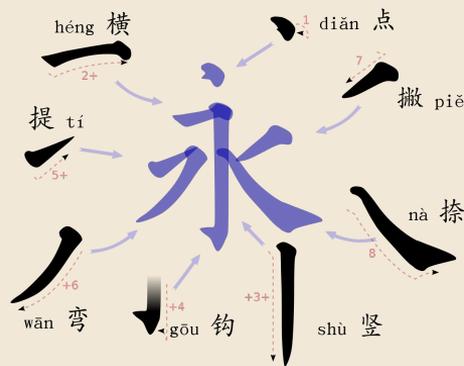
BIOGRAPHY

- *Lady Wei lived from 272 - 349 A.D., during the Eastern Jin Dynasty.*
- *She was born in Hedong, Shanxi Province.*
- *She married a provincial official, Li Ju.*
- *As a child, Wei Shuo was interested in calligraphy, but her uncle refused to teach her, since she was a woman.*
 - *He only agreed to teach her when he found a piece she had done in secret and saw that she had talent.*

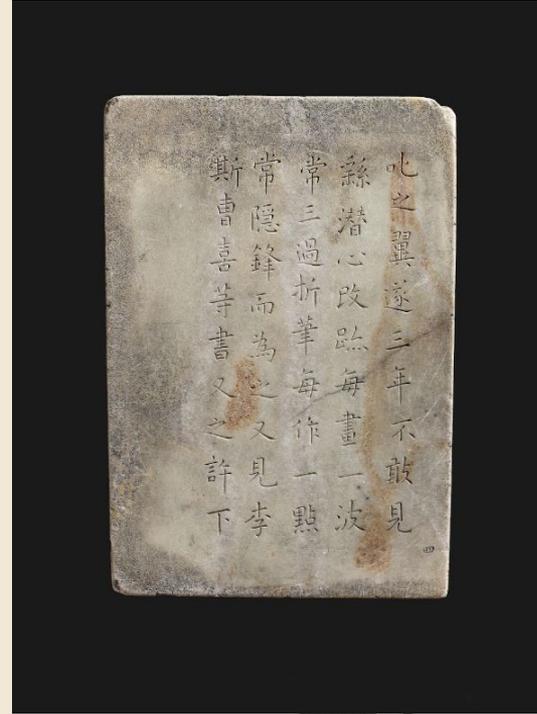
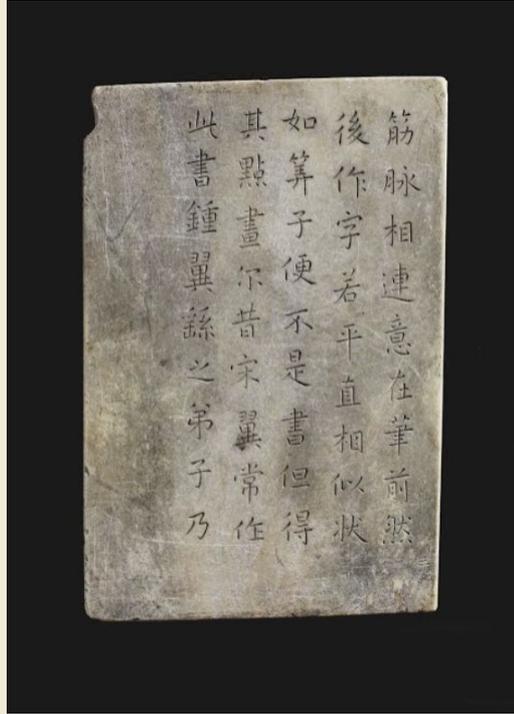


BIOGRAPHY

- She studied the work of calligrapher Zhang You, a famous calligrapher from the Wei Dynasty, but eventually, she developed her own style.
 - Her personal style was elegant and energetic.
 - Her calligraphy was described to be like “a beautiful girl dancing.”
- Many think that Lady Wei wrote 笔阵图, which translates to “Diagram of the Battle Formation of the Brush,” which outlined the seven basic brush strokes and the principles of good calligraphy.

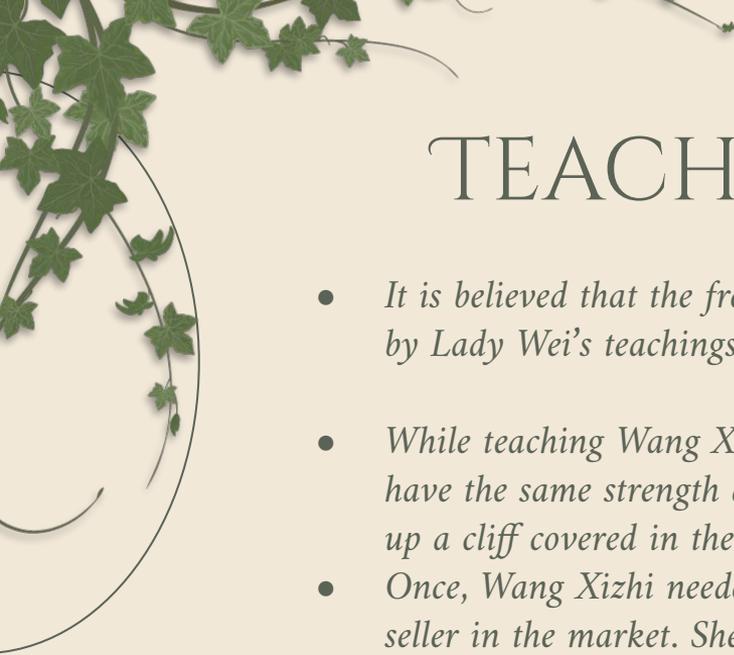


EXAMPLES OF HER WORK

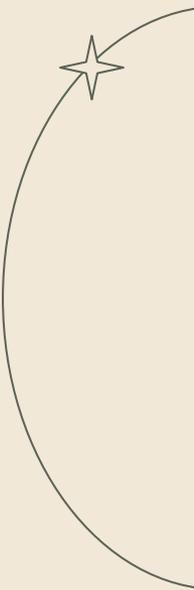


MORE EXAMPLES

義之頓首表亂之極
先墓再離荼毒近
惟酷甚痛兼摧絕
痛貫心肝痛者喜
者亦雖即稍復未
敢馳敘毒益深矣
亦以信紙後更無
何言義之頓首

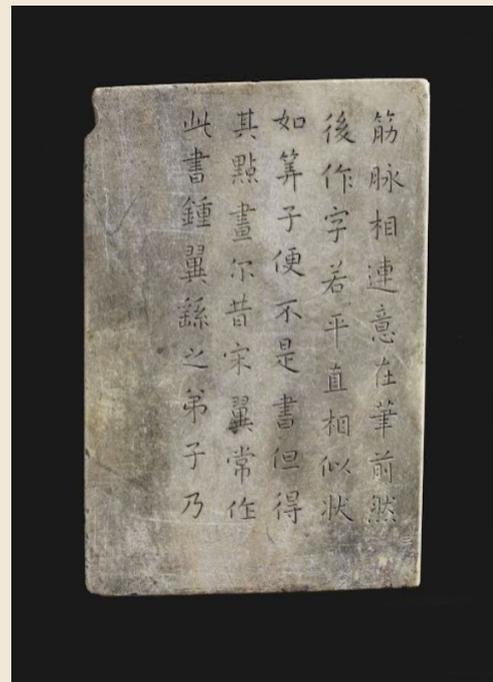


TEACHING WANG XIZHI

- *It is believed that the free and running style that Wang Xizhi's work has is influenced by Lady Wei's teachings.*
 - *While teaching Wang Xizhi, she wanted him to understand that his calligraphy should have the same strength and intelligence as aged wizened vines, so she made him climb up a cliff covered in these vines.*
 - *Once, Wang Xizhi needed encouragement, so Lady Wei disguised herself as a cake seller in the market. She baked her cakes so quickly and efficiently that people stood in awe, but when asked, she said her baking skills were not as impressive as Wang Xizhi's calligraphy.*
- 
- 

COMPARING OTHER WORKS

永和九年歲在癸丑暮春之初會
于會稽山陰之蘭亭脩禊事
也羣賢畢至少長咸集此地
有峻領茂林脩竹又有清流激
湍映帶左右引以為流觴曲水
列坐其次雖無絲竹管弦之
盛一觴一詠亦足以暢叙幽情
是日也天朗氣清惠風和暢仰
觀宇宙之大俯察品類之盛
所以遊目騁懷足以極視聽之
娛信可樂也夫人之相與俯仰
一世或取諸懷抱悟言一室之內



CITATIONS

1. <https://prabook.com/web/shuo.wei/3755830>
2. <https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/m01s8mg?hl=de>
3. <https://www.chinesethought.cn/EN/detail.aspx?nid=114&pid=131&id=2498>
4. <https://molaoshi.weebly.com/wei-shuo-info.html>
5. <https://ink-and-brush.com/wei-shuo/>
6. <https://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/callig/7calsixd.htm>
7. <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/7421/calligraphy-by-wang-xizhi/>