

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451938703321
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Titolo	The mystique of transmission [[electronic resource]] : on an early Chan history and its contexts // Wendi L. Adamek
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, 2006
ISBN	0-231-51002-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (595 p.)
Disciplina	294.3/927
Soggetti	Zen Buddhism Religion Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Part 1. The Mystique of Transmission -- Chapter 1. Authority and Authenticity -- Chapter 2. Transmission and Translation -- Chapter 3. Transmission and Lay Practice -- Chapter 4. Material Buddhism and the Dharma Kings -- Chapter 5. Robes and Patriarchs -- Chapter 6. Wuzhu and His Others -- Chapter 7. The Legacy of the Lidai fabao ji -- Part 2. Annotated Translation of the Lidai fabao ji -- Notes -- Appendix -- Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Mystique of Transmission is a close reading of a late-eighth-century Chan/Zen Buddhist hagiographical work, the Lidai fabao ji (Record of the Dharma-Jewel Through the Generations), and is its first English translation. The text is the only remaining relic of the little-known Bao Tang Chan school of Sichuan, and combines a sectarian history of Buddhism and Chan in China with an account of the eighth-century Chan master Wuzhu in Sichuan. Chinese religions scholar Wendi Adamek compares the Lidai fabao ji with other sources from the fourth through eighth centuries, chronicling changes in the doctrines and practices involved in transmitting medieval Chinese Buddhist teachings. While Adamek is concerned with familiar Chan themes like patriarchal genealogies and the ideology of sudden enlightenment, she also highlights topics that make Lidai fabao ji distinctive: formless

practice, the inclusion of female practitioners, the influence of Daoist metaphysics, and connections with early Tibetan Buddhism. The Lidai fabao ji was unearthed in the early twentieth century in the Mogao caves at the Silk Road oasis of Dunhuang in northwestern China. Discovery of the Dunhuang manuscripts has been compared with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, as these documents have radically changed our understanding of medieval China and Buddhism. A crucial volume for students and scholars, *The Mystique of Transmission* offers a rare glimpse of a lost world and fills an important gap in the timeline of Chinese and Buddhist history.
