

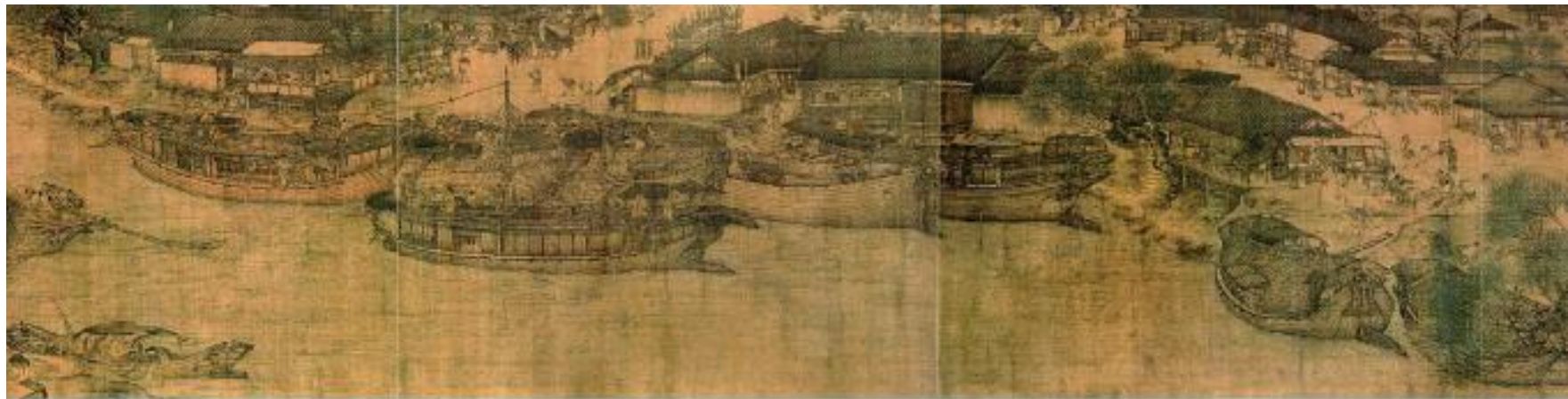
An Appreciation of a Masterpiece  
*Along the River on Qingming*

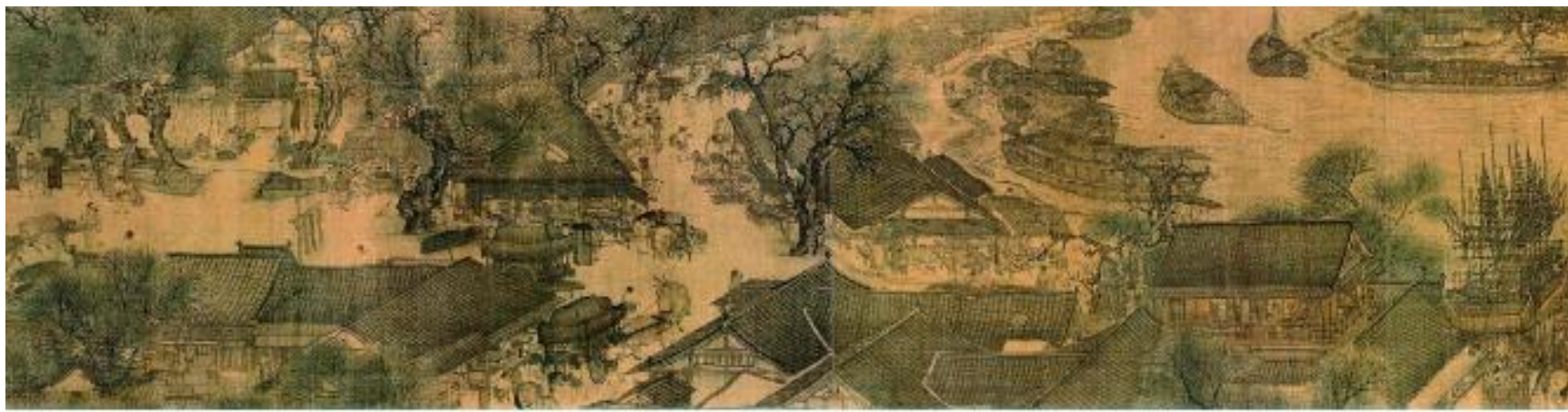
# The Painting

- Artist: Zhang Zeduan 張擇端 (1085 ? -1145 ? )
- Year: Near the end of Northern Song Dynasty
- Size: 24.8 cm x 528 cm
- Collection: Beijing Palace Museum

[https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B8%85%E6%98%8E%E4%B8%8A%E6%B2%B3%E5%9C%96#/media/File:Alongtheriver\\_QingMing.jpg](https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B8%85%E6%98%8E%E4%B8%8A%E6%B2%B3%E5%9C%96#/media/File:Alongtheriver_QingMing.jpg)









# Background of Chinese painting

- Six principles in painting of Xie He 谢赫(479 -502)
  - Spirit resonance, bone manner use of the brush, likeness, color, composition, learn from masters
- Use of Lines
  - Outline, emotion
- Northern Song is the golden age of Chinese painting
- Many painting varieties
  - Landscape paintings, flowers and birds, figurative, ruler painting

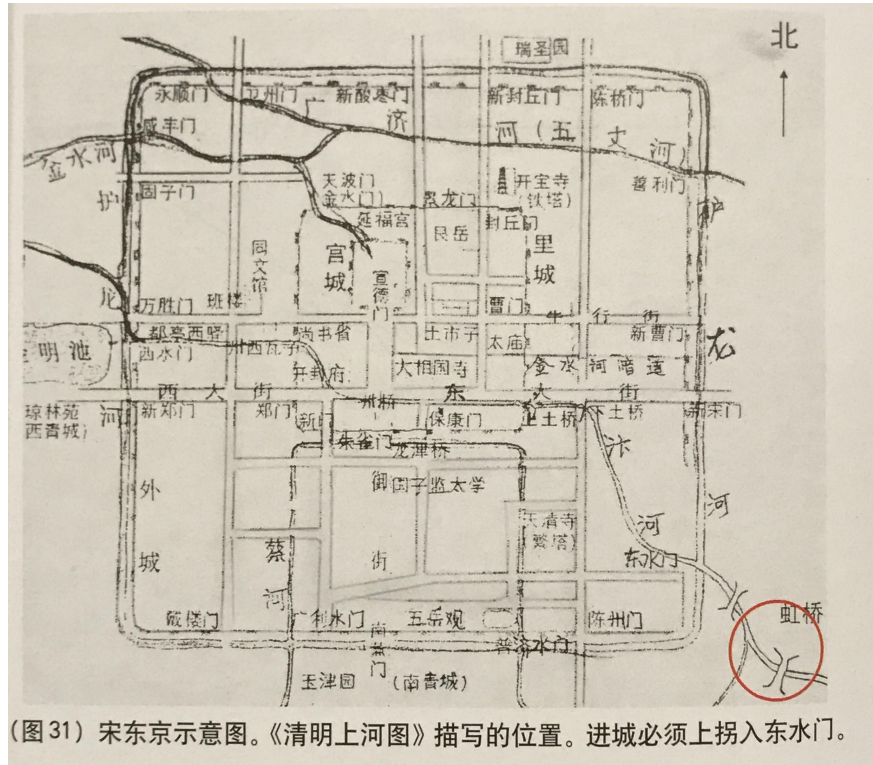
## More on the Painting

- Location and Season

- Capital Bianliang 汴梁 of Northern Song Dynasty
- Centered around the Rainbow Bridge
- Qingming as a Spring festival
- The painting depicts many things consistent with the descriptions detailed in *Remembrance of the Song Capital*《東京夢華錄》, 1127, by Meng Yuanlao 孟元老 (Bianliang is also referred to as East Capital)



# Rainbow Bridge



(图31) 宋东京示意图。《清明上河图》描写的位置。进城必须上拐入东水门。

## Rainbow Bridge Section of the Painting



# Fate of the painting

- Controversy on the painting
  - Is it a complete painting?
- Different interpretation of the painting
- Followers and imitations
- Recent Studies
  - Rediscovered and confirmed its authenticity in 1950.
  - The nine poems inscribed by three Zhang's contemporaries at the end of the painting never mention the Royal lake Jinming as included in some longer versions
  - Studies ended in 2003 concludes that it is a complete painting

# Qing Court Version

- Done by five court artists
- Completed in 1736
- 35.6 cm x 1152.8cm
- Collection of Palace Museum, Taipei



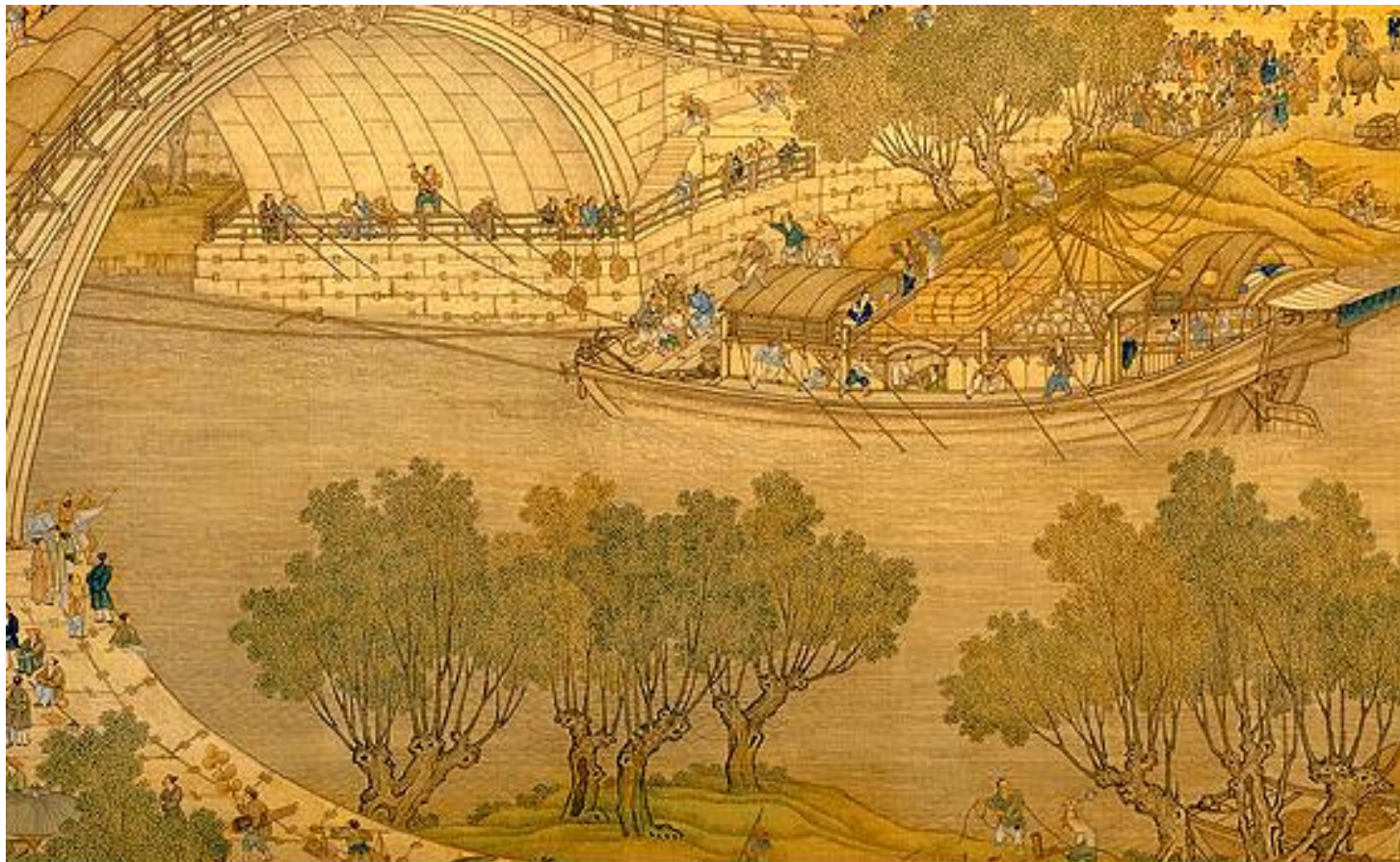
Comparison of Zhang's painting with the Qin Court version in the following slides

# Boat Drama and Waves



[https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B8%85%E6%98%8E%E4%B8%8A%E6%B2%B3%E5%9C%96#/media/File:Alongtheriver\\_QingMing.jpg](https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%B8%85%E6%98%8E%E4%B8%8A%E6%B2%B3%E5%9C%96#/media/File:Alongtheriver_QingMing.jpg)

Compare with the Qing court version: No drama



## Water level and gradient of descent



Two other versions: A copy of Zhang's and Chou Ying's version

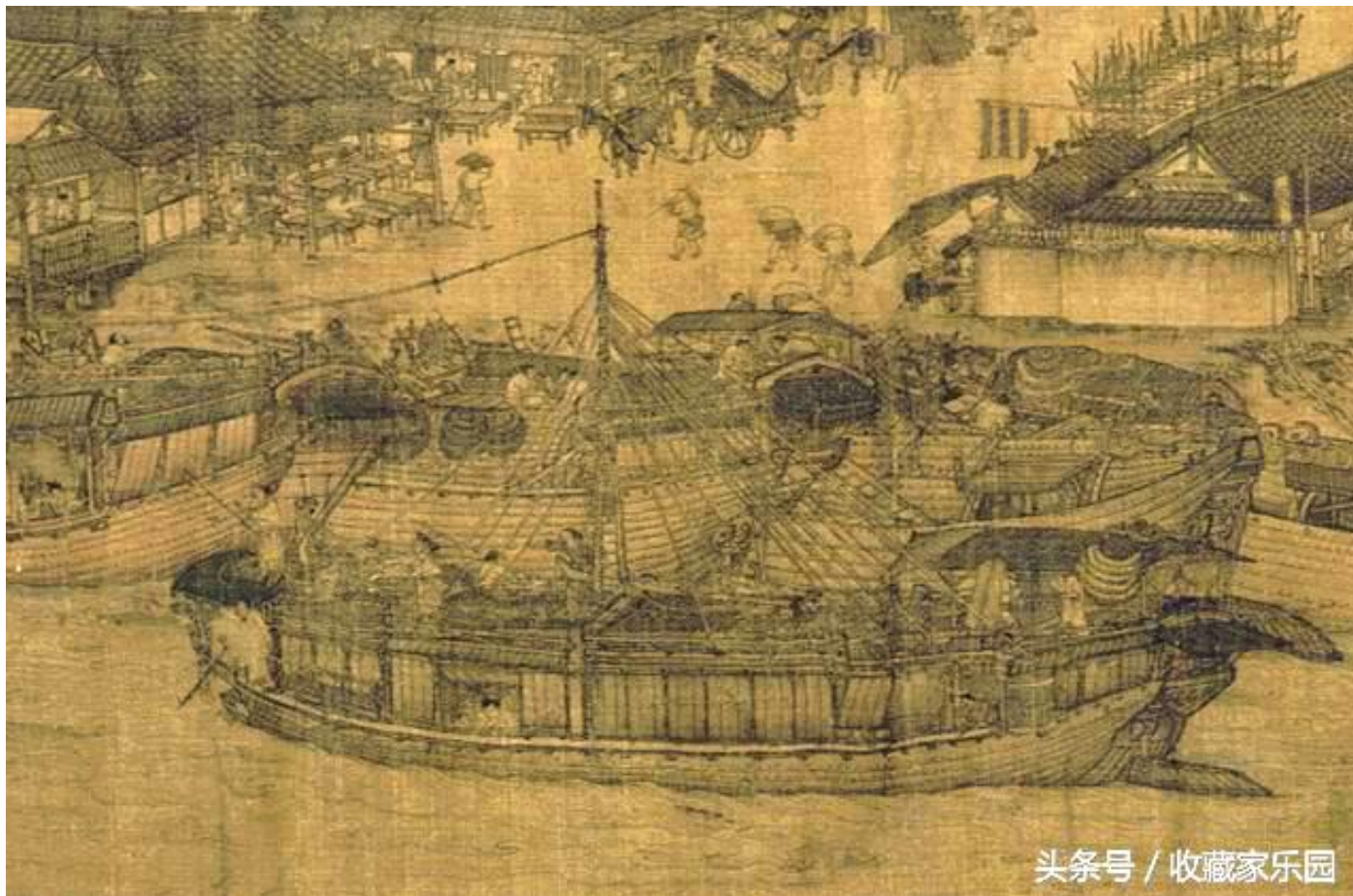




## Boats with different loading and orientations



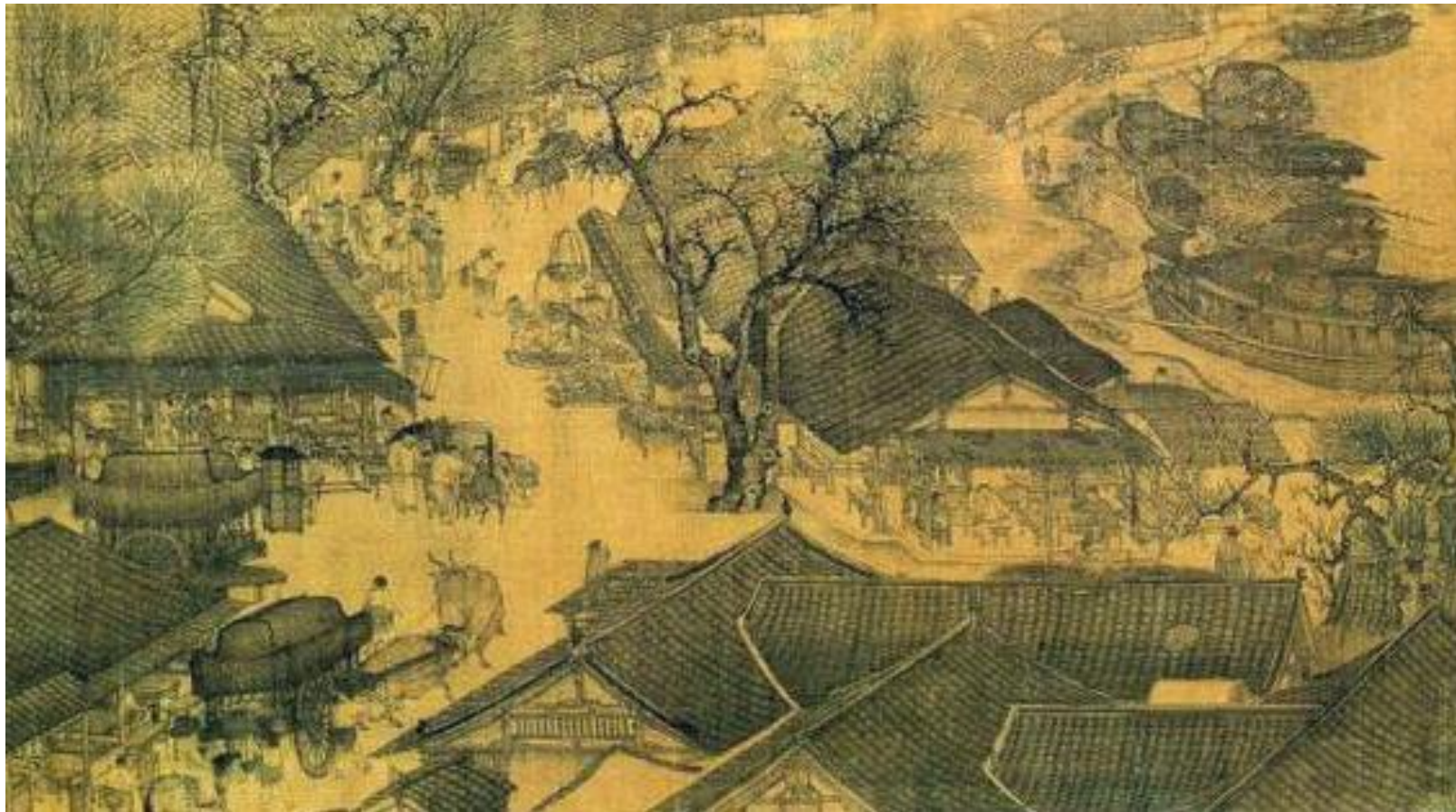
## Boat in tow



## Architectural rendition with good perspective



Street filled with people, shops, carts, trees



## Comparison of the trees in Zhang's with Qing Court version



Close up view of crane and crew members



## A civic officer with servants



Qing court version: no difference in strokes between the beggar and other persons





## Ending Remarks

- We are fortunate to have *Along the River on Qingming* by Zhang Zeduan around. It is much more superior than other versions.
- Art is based on real life observations. Without them, it devoids of moving power and becomes just boring.