



# Every Rock a Universe

## The Yellow Mountains and Chinese Travel Writing

Jonathan Chaves

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- Winner of the prestigious Lucian Stryk Prize for best translation of the year (2013)
- Includes the first complete translation of Wang Hongdu's *A Record of Comprehending the Essentials of the Yellow Mountains*

The Yellow Mountains (Huang shan) of China's Anhui Province have been famous for centuries as a place of scenic beauty and inspiration, and remain a hugely popular tourist destination. One enraptured 17th century-visitor was poet and artist Wang Hongdu (1646-1721/1722), who recorded his impressions in a masterpiece of Chinese travel writing: *Huangshan lingyao lu (A Record of Comprehending the Essentials of the Yellow Mountains)*. Here Professor Jonathan Chaves of The George Washington University presents the first complete translation of Wang's work in a Western language, with extensive annotations. Wang's newly rediscovered verse is also translated, showing him to be one of the most accomplished poets of his day. Introductory essays explore the history of scholarly and religious pilgrimage to the area, and the role of the Yellow Mountains in the great Neo-Confucian, Buddhist, and Daoist revivals of the early Qing period, the center of a yearned-for cultural renaissance.

**Jonathan Chaves** is professor of Chinese in the Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures at The George Washington University. A published original poet and distinguished translator of Chinese poetry, most recently *Cloud Gate Song: The Verse of Tang Poet Zhang Ji*, his work has been nominated for the National Book Award in the translation category.