

therefore avoiding an attempt to cover everything. This text, with additional readings, could serve as the basis for an innovative instructional program on China. Its appeal is more to the history teacher as a researcher and not to the history teacher as a lecturer. For teachers who want their students to be actively involved in researching and exploring China through primary documents and various interactive activities, this is an excellent text.

The Teachers Manual and the compact disc are valuable supplements to the text. The beginning or experienced teacher will find insightful suggestions for organizing and teaching lessons. The musical selections, which are representative of the vastness of China and its history, will provide the creative teacher with numerous opportunities for including these songs into valuable classroom experiences.

As more middle and high school teachers begin to teach about Asia, I think this text should be given consideration for inclusion into their curriculum. Unlike most secondary school texts that oversimplify content, and therefore lose its interest and impact, this text allows students to read many primary documents and get a real taste of Chinese history. ■

Greg Levitt

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Chinese Art and Architecture

Written and Narrated by Ronald M. Bernier

Edited by Ann Campbell

1987. 55 MINUTES (GRADES 5–12); 99 MINUTES (GRADES 9–ADULT)
CD ROM PROGRAM (GRADES 5–12)

Japanese Art and Architecture

Written and Narrated by Ronald M. Bernier

Edited by Ann Campbell


1991. 75 MINUTES (GRADES 5–12); 140 MINUTES (GRADES 9–ADULT)
ALARION PRESS, INC.
P.O. Box 1882
BOULDER, CO 80306-1882
1-800-523-9177
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These splendid multicultural programs can help educators and a broad range of students to become familiar with the richness of Chinese and Japanese cultures. The choices of images and facts have been carefully culled to bring alive the history and artistic heritage of East Asia.


Examples of art and architecture are used to help illustrate the philosophical and socio-political aspects of the cultures. The spoken text, written and narrated by Ronald M. Bernier, is accurate and concise. Contemporary photographs of towns, villages, and landscapes,

STUDY WITH BCA IN ASIA

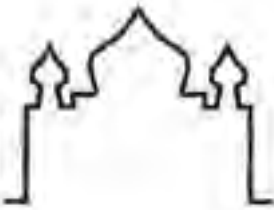
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CURRICULUM MATERIALS REVIEWS

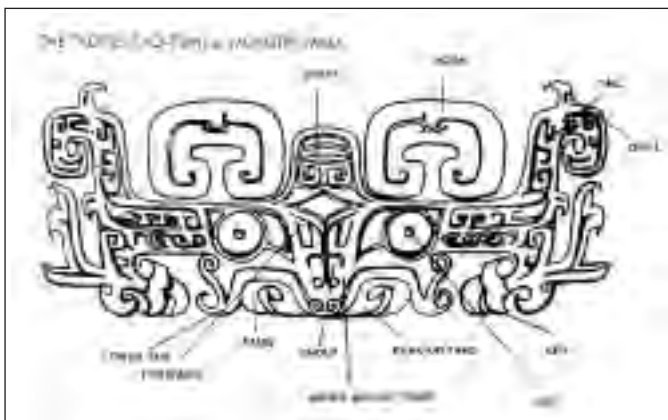


Typical workbook page. Used with permission from Alarion Press

as well as contextual slides, are used in conjunction with the voice-over. Details of artworks are often included in split-screen format.

One example of a complex subject masterfully handled in *Chinese Art and Architecture* is that of Shang bronze vessels. The illustrated discussion includes the technique of their manufacture, their function within the culture, and the interpretation of the *taotie* (t'ao-t'ieh) often associated with them. In the accompanying workbooks, written and illustrated by Ann Campbell, the subject is further enhanced by a diagram and related projects. Along with this topic are such classroom project suggestions as carving a *taotie* mask on a clay pot "as if you planned to cast it in bronze."

In *Japanese Art and Architecture* the program begins with early tomb art, moves on through various religious and secular works, and ends with contemporary Japan's continuing to honor ancient traditions. The portion on Zen Buddhism is particularly well done, including diagrams and class projects in the Japanese "dry garden" and ikebana.



Drawing by Ann Campbell
From Creative Workbook and Teacher's Manual for
The Art and Architecture of China Used with permission from Alarion Press

The elementary offering of *Chinese Art and Architecture* also includes a CD ROM for the Macintosh. The fact that a student can move about the material at his or her own pace is appealing. The background music further enhances the multimedia experience. This choice of such interactive technology is particularly commendable, and hopefully the entire set will have this additional format in the future.

The videos, creative workbooks, teaching manuals and wall posters of these two programs are well coordinated. The same basic information is covered in both the elementary and advanced examples, but with appropriate development in sophistication. Elementary students even earlier than grade 5 could benefit from the videos and "Look and Do" workbooks. The programs labeled "grade 9-adult" are well suited to any high school expanding its multicultural offerings, and could also be useful as an introductory reference complementing first-year college courses in Asian art and culture.

The Teaching Manual describes the goal of author Ronald Bernier as "above all to bring works of art to life as catalysts to understanding entire cultures." These programs offer a superb vehicle for developing awareness and understanding of East Asian civilizations. Now is the time for more schools to purchase such quality resources and for more educators to accept the challenge of conveying this exciting material to their students. ■

Ann W. Norton

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The Eyes of the Empress Women in China's Tang Dynasty

by Lyn Reese

WOMEN IN THE WORLD CURRICULUM RESOURCE PROJECT
1030 SPRUCE STREET
BERKELEY, CA, 94707
510-524-0304
1996. 58 PAGES, PAPERBACK

The *Eyes of the Empress* guides secondary students in examining the diverse roles of women during China's Tang Dynasty (618–906 C.E.). A wide variety of resources are provided which highlight women's significant contributions to the cultural and political life of the period. An analysis of the role of Confucian ideology in defining the status and role of women extends students' understanding of why Tang women are considered unique in Chinese history.

The primary teaching component of *The Eyes of the Empress* is a twenty-six page, original story based on true accounts of the lives of two Tang women: Yu Xuanji, a poet, and the Empress Wu Zetian. The fact that these women were not contemporaries compromises