

## CURRICULUM MATERIALS REVIEWS

**Korean Folk Arts on Photo-CD**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 1995  
 PRODUCED BY SEOUL SYSTEMS CO., LTD.  
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IBM COMPATIBLE PC 386SX OR HIGHER, 4MB RAM, CD-ROM/XA (MODE 2) DRIVE, SVGA DISPLAY, MICROSOFT WINDOWS VERSION 3.1 OR LATER. MACINTOSH: SYSTEM 6.05 OR HIGHER, 4MB RAM, CD-ROM/XA (MODE 2) DRIVE. CD-1 PLAYER. 3DO GAME PLAYER.



Of the three great ancient civilizations of East Asia, Korea receives the least attention. Few instructors of introductory Asian civilization classes take much time away from China or Japan to discuss Korea. That is partially because few of us have had much training in Korean history or culture. (Only a few universities in North America offer such courses.) But even if we do feel comfortable discussing Korea in a survey class, we may still refrain from doing so because of a lack of material to share with our students. This photo-CD was produced by the South Korean government to make that second excuse less common.

There is no explanatory text on this CD, only photos. But they are beautiful photos, ninety-nine of them. They include scenes of musicians in traditional garb playing traditional court music, women dancers in



brightly colored *hanbok* (the national dress of Korea) performing both folk and classical dances (including the popular fan dance and drum dance), male folk music troupes with long white streamers whirling from their hats, shamans dancing and cajoling spirits, Buddhists celebrating Buddha's birthday, and Confucian scholars practicing their calligraphy. There are also several photos of the traditional folk mask dance-drama as well as photos of traditional village games.

No one looking at any of these photos would mistake Korean culture for Chinese or Japanese culture. The clothing, the instruments, and the postures caught by the cam-

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era are all distinctively Korean. Consequently, this photo-CD would be very useful for anyone wanting to provide students with visual evidence that Korean culture is quite distinctive and is not nearly as derivative of Chinese or Japanese culture as many students mistakenly assume. Unfortunately, if you are not already familiar with Korean culture, you will need a photo book to go with this photo-CD so that you can tell what these photos are photos of. Fortunately, the Korea Foundation has published (and sent to many libraries in North America) a series of books on traditional Korean culture called *Koreana: Korean Cultural Heritage* which will allow you to identify the specific folk arts, dances, and religious activities these photos depict.

This CD can be read by computers using either the Windows or the Macintosh operating systems. In addition to the photos, the disk contains the Kodak Photo-CD player to enable you to display the photos on your



screen when the disk is in your CD-Rom drive. The disk also contains a program for Macintosh computers called the Apple Slide Show viewer which allows you to quickly scan the ninety-nine photos on the disk.

This photo-CD would be very useful in a classroom which allows a computer to be hooked up to a projector so that the images can be seen by an entire class. (The photos are of high enough resolution that they would still be clear on a large screen.) Alternatively, this CD could be placed on reserve in a library where students could view the pho-



tos on individual computer screens. Either way, it would allow students to visualize Korean folk culture in all its vitality. Combined with an audio CD of traditional Korean music, and supplemented by a book explaining the various facets of traditional Korean culture (check with your local Korean consulate to see if they can help you obtain those teaching aids), this photo-CD could be used to make Korea come alive for students, and allow them to recognize and appreciate the many ways the people of Korea have expressed their Korean cultural identity over the centuries. ■

For more information on *Koreana: Korean Cultural Heritage* contact:

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Seocho PO Box 227  
Seoul, Korea  
Phone: 82-2-3463-5684  
Fax: 82-2-3463-6086  
E-mail: publication@kofo.or.kr

Images used in this review are examples from the *Korean Folk Arts on Photo-CD*.

Falmer

**Competitor or Ally**  
*Japan's Role in American Educational Debates*  
Gerald K. Lefebvre

In this book, the authors systematically address the most common stereotypes concerning Japanese education that are currently circulating in the popular press, teaching magazines, and educational research journals, illustrating the ways in which such myths are used to further political ends within the American educational debate.

0-8153-3273-4; 200 pages; \$30; Pub. date: July 1999

**Teacher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region: Systems, Tensions, and Prospects**  
Paul Morris and John Williamson

*Teacher Education* investigates the relationships between education and national development in eight East Asian societies, questioning both assumptions that view education primarily as a direct investment in human capital, as well as approaches that measure the efficacy of educational provision solely in terms of quantifiable differences.

0-8153-1058-1; 350 pages; \$45; Pub. date: August 1999

**China's National Minority Education**  
*Ethnicity, State Schooling and Development*  
Edited by Gerard A. Postiglione

This text focuses on policies and practices in the education of China's national minorities, assessing the goals and impact of state sponsored education for China's non-Han peoples. The essays show that despite the authoritarian character of China's state schooling, diversity reigns.

0-8153-2223-2; 275 pages; \$45; Pub. date: June 1999

**International Comparison in Mathematics Education**  
Edited by Gabriele Kober, Eduardo Lora, and Ian Hardy

This book is a critical overview of the current debate and topical thinking on international comparative investigations in mathematics education.

209 pages; Pub. date: April 1999; cloth, ISBN 0-7107-8903-0; \$79  
paper, ISBN 0-7507-9962-2; \$23.95

**Higher Education in Korea**  
*System and Development*  
Namsi Park and John Weidman

The essays in this book present a fundamentally Korean view of the important issues in their country's higher education system, providing alternative theoretical perspectives to analyze the development of a higher education system in this very competitive society.

0-8153-1957-6; 300 pages; \$65; Pub. date: December 1999

**Education in the People's Republic of China: An Ethnography**  
Heidi Ross and Judith Liu

This collection of ethnographic studies of Chinese schooling provides a picture of students and teachers as actors who practice culture.

0-8153-1471-X; 224 pages; \$55; Pub. date: October 1999

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