



THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

EAST ASIA CENTER

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the East Asia Center,

January 22, 2004 marked the beginning of the Year of the Monkey. Chinese astrologers tell us to expect the unexpected, to keep our minds open, and to prepare for change. The monkey is also associated with the social graces, so we can look forward to a year of parties and more serious gatherings where, if the spirit of the Monkey prevails, people find it easy to find common ground and work out their differences. This year we look ahead to launching our new study programs in Shanghai (details below) and the opening of our East Asia Reading Room in Alderman Library, which will eventually house the Stanley and Lucie Weinstein Collection. We also urge you to visit "The Moon Has No Home," an exhibit of Japanese Color Woodblock Prints through March 7, at the University Art Museum. I wish all of you a happy, productive and prosperous new year.

-- Anne Behnke Kinney



LECTURE SERIES, SPRING 2004**REPRODUCING THE NATION: EMPIRICIST HISTORIOGRAPHY IN POSTWAR JAPANESE HISTORY EDUCATION****Julian Dierkes**

Assistant Professor, Keidanren Chair in Japanese Research

University of British Columbia

February 20, 4pm, Minor Hall 225

Co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology

BUDDHISM AND BOOK CULTURE IN TIBET**Kurtis Schaeffer**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

University of Alabama

March 22, 7pm, Cabell Hall 311

Co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and Center for South Asian Studies

WHY STARBUCKS WON'T LAST: COFFEE AND SOCIAL SPACES IN URBAN JAPAN**Merry White**

Professor of Sociology/Anthropology

Boston University

March 26, 4pm, Shea House Conference Room

Co-sponsored by the Japanese Club and the Shea House of Japanese Floor

EFFORTLESS ACTION: WU-WEI AS CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR & SPIRITUAL IDEAL IN EARLY CHINA**Edward Slingerland**

Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures/Religion

University of Southern California

April 9, 4pm, Minor Hall 225

TAIWANESE BUDDHISM AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: CIJI'S USE OF VISUAL MEDIA**Ng Zhiru**

Visiting Scholar

Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University

April 16, 4pm, Cabell Hall 311

TRADITIONS OF EXEMPLARY WOMEN: THE DIGITAL RESEARCH COLLECTION

Traditions of Exemplary Women (*Leinü zhuan*), by Liu Xiang, is a text first created in order to educate Chinese women on proper moral and filial behavior. Compiled in the first century B.C., this work features biographical sketches of women noted for their virtuous behavior. Though the book was very influential in China and used as a text until 1911, it has been neglected by scholars and there exists only one outdated translation of it available in English.

The University of Virginia, through its new project, "Traditions of Exemplary Women: A Digital Research Collection," is on its way to remedy the situation and bring out the true importance of this vital work. Directed by Professor Anne Kinney, in collaboration with Librarian C. Ming Lung, the National Library of China (Beijing) and the University's Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH), this project will focus on the book, its history, and its contribution to the study of culture and the role of gender in China. Included are translations of rare Chinese texts and a new translation of the book itself, which will be put on the Web. In addition, there will be a collection of sources, such as annotations, essays and maps, which will enable scholars to further their acquaintance with the subject.

The collection is intended to both shape and explore the topic of women's lives in early China and the expectations of women at the time. State-of-the-art technology will enable researchers to

search by key themes through archives that are digitized. This project is supported by the IATH and the University Library; it has also received grants and support from the Weedon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The project is designed to not only focus on the history of the book itself, but to examine how the representations of women have changed over time in China. Why did these changes take place? What were the historical, political and cultural imperatives that drove the changing view of women? Kinney says, for example, that the issue of how to control court women, who formed an important part of the political landscape of early China, remained important until the end of imperial China in 1911. In fact, *Traditions of Exemplary Women* became so influential and its importance, both politically and culturally, was so great that all subsequent writers who compiled dynastic histories included biographical information on exemplary women from their own eras. That the behavior of women needed to be so carefully controlled, observed and molded is itself a testimony to the importance of this project for understanding imperial China. The project at the University attempts to explore a vital, if neglected, part of cultural, political and sexual roles in early China.

THE SHANGHAI LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

The themes of public service and international cooperation have long been close to Bryson Clevenger's heart, so the invitation to visit and work at the Shanghai Library seemed to be the perfect opportunity to explore these themes in a new environment. Bryson Clevenger, of Alderman Library, was invited to spend a month in China at the Shanghai Library in late 2003.

Clevenger was invited by Shanghai Library not only to demonstrate reference methods but also to lecture to librarians in Shanghai about the role of a library in the community and the quality of its service. The Shanghai Library is the largest public library in Asia and is also one of the ten largest libraries in the world. Clevenger states that Shanghai is poised to become China's portal to the world. Consequently, the Shanghai Library is a showcase library designed to enhance both the image of Shanghai and the image of China itself. It includes, in addition to its huge collection, the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of Shanghai. This is a fee-based research institute that provides services to businesses and government. The Shanghai Library also houses an impressive patent library and the Friendship Library that consists of books donated by other countries.

Clevenger's lectures were centered on the theme of the community and the central place of the library in it. This is something that Clevenger believes in and he uses Jefferson and the Rotunda to tie his lectures together in that the Rotunda housed the original library in addition to serving as the center of the Academical Village. As the center of a community, even in a virtual world the library, with its e-texts and reference facilities, can be the center of a virtual village. Reinforcing the idea of the library as the centerpiece of

the community is the idea of the cooperative model of reference. Reference not only needs cooperation between the librarian and the client, but also among the different departments within a library. This form of cooperation is essential to enhance the quality of services that are provided by the library. The University of Virginia has been very successful in this area and these themes have also been emphasized by the Director of the Shanghai Library, Dr. Wu Jianzhong.

Though his trip was a personally fulfilling experience, its greater importance can be seen in terms of the goals of UVA. In its 2020 Plan, the University of Virginia aims to make itself more of a global presence. The faculty are encouraged to pursue their academics within a global framework. Clevenger's trip definitely brings the members of the University in contact with an international institution and initiates reciprocity in the exchange of reference methods between the University of Virginia and the Shanghai Library. In doing so, the trip itself starts to build the global village that was the theme of some of Clevenger's lectures.

Bryson Clevenger has been invited back and has also been given the official title of "Senior Reference Librarian for the Shanghai Central Library Virtual Reference Desk" for a period of two years, and he still appears on their website. Clevenger raves about Shanghai, the friendliness of the people and the beauty of the city, and would definitely like to make another trip. Meanwhile, he is also discussing ways in which the library system could show more support for the international students who come to the University of Virginia and would like to institute some programs dedicated to that purpose.

NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

New Archival Materials:

Dan Xin Dang An – this set of 33 reels of microfilm, documenting administrative, civil and criminal law of China's Qing Dynasty, includes archives from Danshui Ting, Taipei Fu, and Xinzhu Xian, dated between Qianlong 41 [1776] and Guangxu 21 [1895]. Alderman Microforms Room: Micfilm 7374

For new library acquisitions in Chinese, Japanese and Korean, please visit this website: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/amlc/newbook.htm>

C. Ming Lung, Librarian

FACULTY NEWS

Stefania Burk, Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Literature, was awarded a UVa Summer Faculty Fellowship for Research and spent six weeks at the University of California at Berkeley collecting materials for her current book project, the first English-language study of the medieval Japanese poet, Eifukumon-in. She also presented a paper, "Compilation as Commentary," at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (AJLS) in Los Angeles, CA.

Professor Fred Damon, Anthropology, is spending much of his Sesquicentennial this semester in Taiwan. He is working on his manuscript dealing with the ethnobotany of an Austronesian speaking area of southeastern Papua New Guinea and interacting with Austronesian scholars throughout Taiwan, as well as giving lectures at a variety of academic and government institutions. He is a member of a research group, "Rethinking Boundaries: Historical and

Cultural Processes at the Chinese Margins," and serving as a scholar in residence at the Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica in early 2004. Following that, Professor Damon will be serving as a writer in residence at the Writing Center, National Tsing Hua University. His new article, "What Good Are Elections? An Anthropological Analysis of American Elections" appears in the second edition of the *Taiwan Journal of Anthropology* (V.1(2):39-81), newly published by the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica.

Ellen Fuller, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Studies in Women and Gender, presented a paper, "Culture and Gender Negotiated: The 'Ideal Employee' in the Japanese Subsidiary of an American Transnational Corp." to the American Sociological Association (ASA), 2003 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Professor Bruce Reynolds, Economics, received a grant from the Filene Foundation to do research on China's financial system, and support from CUNA Mutual to organize a conference on consumer credit in Beijing.

In September Jilin University named **Brantly Womack**, Professor of Government, Honorary Professor, along with Barry Buzan of the London School of Economics. Professor Womack also presented two talks at Jilin, and one at China Foreign Affairs University. In November he presented at talk at National Sun Yat Sen University in Taiwan, and in December he participated in the "Mao Zedong Reevaluated" conference at Harvard, held in honor of Stuart Schram's 80th birthday and Mao's 110th birthday. He published an article, "Asymmetry and Systemic Misperception: The Cases of China, Vietnam and

Cambodia during the 1970s." in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* 26:2 (June, 2003).

Dorothy Wong, Assistant Professor of Art History, published "Ethnicity and Identity: Northern Nomads as Buddhist Art Patrons during the Period of Northern and Southern Dynasties," in Don Wyatt and Nicola di Cosmo, eds., *Political Frontiers, Ethnic Boundaries, and Human Geographies in Chinese History*. London: Routledge/Curzon Press, 2003. This past January she gave a lecture to the docents of the Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington, DC, in conjunction with the "Return of the Buddha" exhibition which will open in March 2004 and feature recently excavated Buddhist sculptures from Shandong. In March Professor Wong will give a lecture titled "Emblems of Identity; Chinese Steles of Sixth Century China" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Introducing Our New M.A. Students

Five new students joined Virginia's M.A. program in East Asian Studies in the past year, all hoping to emerge with a degree in June 2005. Their summer 2004 plans give the measure of their varied interests, and of their energy level as well. **Meredith Hobik**, who's doing our program in conjunction with the Darden School, will head for an internship in Japan this coming summer and fall, working with DHL Japan in Tokyo in the Global Multinational Customers division. Our China-side M.A. students will also be heading for East Asia come summer. **Jonathan Brasher** and **Justin Learned** will study Chinese in Shanghai. **Michael Ryan** will continue his study of both Tibetan and Chinese language in Lhasa. And **Pierce Salguero** will return to his beloved Thailand, to do research on Buddhist art and traditional medicine.

JAPANESE ART EXHIBIT

The University of Virginia Art Museum is presenting an exhibition of Japanese Color Woodblock Prints through March 7, 2004. Entitled **“The Moon Has No Home,”** the exhibition features mid- to late-19th century Ukiyo-e by such artists as Kunisada, Kuniyoshi, and Yoshitoshi, and was curated by Sandy Kita, Assistant Professor of Japanese Art History at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Stephen Margulies, Curator of Works on Paper at the UVa Art Museum. Mr. Margulies notes the following in his essay, “The Enigma of Allure: Eastern Prints, Western Consciousness,” published in the catalogue that accompanies the exhibition:

For some, the outrageous beauty of Ukiyo-e—and especially that represented in this exhibition—amounts to little more than advertising for travel or dubious entertainment. Writing of the theater that was once the chief refuge and expression for Edo’s politically powerless commoners, the twentieth-century novelist Jun’ichirō Tanizaki complains of the “gaudy Kabuki colors,”¹ one of the inspirations for Ukiyo-e, although he also admits that Kabuki may at first seem “more erotic and visually beautiful” than serenely aristocratic Noh theater. But one may argue that the vital gaudiness of late Ukiyo-e especially is part of its endlessly seductive otherness, since the playful blurring of the distinction between fine art and popular art, crass commerce and lofty ideal, intensifies the uncanny allure of these prints just as such blurring intensifies the ambiguous grandeur of Kabuki itself. What is most delightful about Ukiyo-e is also what is most delightful about Kabuki and the cult of the high-class courtesan: its playfulness, its commitment to the poetry and poignancy of play, the ultimate implication of floating away, of emptiness.

Also, running through February 29th at the Art Museum:

“Ink/Stone – The Art of Stephen Addiss, Mark Fletcher, Woonsok Kim.”

Three artists with different connections to Japan and Korea explore “East” and “West” in pots, clay sculptures, Zen-style paintings, and “ink” paintings.

For more information, visit the museum’s website: www.virginia.edu/artmuseum

¹ [Jun’ichirō Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*, trans. Thomas J. Harper and Edward G. Seidensticker \(New Haven: Leete’s Island Books, 1977\), 24.](#)

INFORMATION on OVERSEAS STUDY

**BEIJING SUMMER PROGRAM TO CELEBRATE ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY**

2003 was the 10th anniversary of the Beijing summer program. Ten years of management of the program ranks UVa as having the longest history among American architecture schools that conduct trips to China. Since the program was cancelled last year, a celebration of the program is planned for this year. Participants, and some program alumni, will gather to celebrate the event, in the garden of the Fragrant Hill Hotel. This hotel was designed by the Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei, and was awarded a gold medal by AIA. The dean of the UVa A-school was a member of design team. Local designers who have contributed to the hotel project also will join the celebration. The group is to commemorate the establishment of the program, present talks and exchange ideas, under pine trees and beside the Hill, in a park where the royal family built a summer resort.

After three years of preparation, Ron Dimberg, Yunsheng Huang, and Theo van Groll made a winter trip in

1992 to investigate the situation in Beijing for the program. Having explored the various possibilities to accommodate the program, it was determined that the program would be better conducted under the full administration of UVa. Selectively the program has established academic relations with local institutions and scholars based on the yearly interests of the group.

The program is open to students from both the A-school and the College. Activities are designed with an emphasis on the study of art and architecture, with lectures and field trips arranged accordingly. Participants have benefited from the program in various ways. Nearly all students reported their unforgettable experience of being in a different culture, seeing a different type of architecture. Students have enjoyed meetings with local professionals to discuss issues of planning and design, and some ended up finding jobs related to China or architecture in China.

For more information, contact Professor Yunsheng Huang, Department of Architectural History, at yh6d@virginia.edu.

NEW!: THE CHINA GATEWAY PROGRAM

The University of Virginia's China Gateway Program is designed to provide students without prior language training an opportunity to earn six credit hours while living, studying, and traveling in China for approximately seven weeks this summer. The Program Director will take a maximum of 20 students to Shanghai, one of the most cosmopolitan and exciting cities in Asia, for five weeks of classroom study at East China Normal University (ECNU). Program participants will enroll in EAST 131-132, a single six-credit UVa course. Study at ECNU will consist of daily classes from nine to noon. The coursework includes three components. First, a daily class in "survival" Chinese taught by an experienced ECNU teacher will give students enough language skill to feel comfortable using Chinese to ask directions, move about the city, make purchases, and engage in simple conversations. Second, on Mondays and Fridays, a "culture class" conducted by an ECNU faculty member will focus on such topics as art, literature, music, martial arts, and folklore, each of which will be linked to some off-campus activity planned for that week. Third, on the three middle days of the week the Program Director will conduct a lecture/guided reading course, discuss-

ing five books introducing China's social system and recent history.

Following the Shanghai portion of the program, participants will fly north to Beijing for four days of sightseeing (including visits to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and a Tibetan Temple), then on to the ancient capital city of Xian, where they will spend three days visiting the provincial museum, the tomb of the Empress Wu from the Tang dynasty, the oldest city wall in China, and the tomb of China's first Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, who was buried with an army of terra cotta warriors, chariots and horses. From Xian, the group will fly back to Shanghai before returning to the US.

The Gateway Program runs from May 22 to July 5. The program is particularly designed for student who have not had any language training but who nevertheless want to gain first-hand experience living in and learning about China.

For more information, contact the Program Director, History Professor Brad Reed, at bwr4k@virginia.edu or visit the program's website at www.virginia.edu/iso/studyabroad/gateway/index.html.

NEW!: THE SHANGHAI CHINESE PROGRAM

The Shanghai Chinese Program is hosted by East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai, one of the country's top programs for preparing teachers of the Chinese language. Students will receive UVA credits and grades for this program; students take courses on weekdays and participate in group field trips and excursions over the weekends. Local field trips include Suzhou, Hangzhou, Zhujiajiao, Oriental Tower, the Shanghai Museum, and Yu Garden. The program includes many opportunities for independent and group travel, field trips, and excursions. After 8 weeks of study in Shanghai, students will spend one week sightseeing in Beijing and Xian.

Highlights of the language program:

1. Language Pledge: speaking Mandarin Chinese only in a total immersion environment
2. Language Table: have lunch with your language instructors and graduate students over lunch time from Monday to Friday
3. One-on-one tutorial sessions: receive help and immediate feedback daily
4. A small student/instructor ratio

Credits: 9 credits

Second-year Chinese language learners: 8 credits for language, and 1 credit for the course on Culture/History

Third- and Fourth-year Chinese language learners: 6 credits for language, and 3 credits for the course on Culture/History

Program dates: May 26 - July 30

For detailed information about the program, please visit <http://www.virginia.edu/iso/studyabroad/summer/Shanghai>

Should you have any questions, please contact the Program Director, Dr. Miao-Fen Tseng at mt3z@virginia.edu.

KYOTO CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

The Kyoto Center is a consortium study abroad program; UVA joins with Stanford, Harvard and other top universities in sending two to four students each year to study at the center, either for one semester or the academic year. The program requires two years of college-level Japanese as a prerequisite. In addition to small-sized Japanese language classes tailored to students' level of ability, participants take courses on Japanese politics, culture and other subjects primarily in English.

A student currently on the program sent the following in a letter to Professor Michiko Wilson, Japanese Language and Literature:

"The faculty here at the Center are amazing – the Japanese teachers here are just a joy to work with, and the teachers of the disciplinary courses are some of the best in their field. I have been taking "Raku-chu,

Raku-gai : The Spaces in Japanese Literature" with Meera Viswanathan of Brown University, which is mostly a pre-modern literature course dealing with the psychology of space and surroundings - we've read the *Tale of Genji*, the *Tale of the Heike*, lots of poetry, *Life of an Amorous Woman*, *The Waiting Years*, *The Makioka Sisters*, and other books - it's a great course, and Meera-sensei is a fun, engaging professor. The other course I am taking is the Noh and Kyogen class with Monica Bethe, who as it turns out is one of the top people in her field as far as I know. She's just great - she knows the material inside and out, and she's just really fun and teaches an interesting course. We go to see lots of Noh performances in the area and have also seen some Bunraku and Kabuki for comparison, all of which I've really enjoyed."

For more information, see the website: kcjs.stanford.edu