Medieval China Resource Packet

by
Debra Carlson, Jean Diamond, Virginia Gannaway, Joann Gillespie, David Grant, Sally Olson

Annotated Bibliography

A good collection of primary sources, useful for sixth and seventh grade world history, it includes primary sources on Buddhism and Confucianism.

A panoramic study of the art in China, tracing its origin and describing its actors (in both male and female roles), their costumes and make-up, superstitions and stage slang, the accompanying music and musical instruments, concludes with synopses of thirty Chinese plays.

This mixture of primary and secondary material provides information on traditional roles of women in China and contrasts these roles with those of women in the present.

Excerpts from this work were used in the NEH institute 1995-1996. Dr.Lashgari was one of the guest teachers and provided great insight into the role of women in Chinese literature. A rich treasure for those looking for examples of women's literature.

This recent addition to the many books on Chinese literature describes ancient beliefs of China and the roles they played in Chinese life.

Excellent children's book that retells a folktale depicting the Daoist view of the
ideal country. This book includes outstanding artwork in water color.


Carey, John, Ed. *Eyewitness to History*. New York: Avon Books, 1987. ISBN#: 0-380-70895-7. This is an excellent collection of primary sources in world history 430 B.C.-1986. Excerpts can be used as they are or presented in other forms, such as readers' theatre.

*China: A Cultural Heritage*. Amawalk, New York: Golden Owl Publishing Company, 1993. ISBN#: 1-56696-040-1. This Jackdaw kit of primary sources, pictures, and posters is an excellent source of visuals and authentic realia for students. The study guide has many helpful materials as well. The cost was $30; check the current catalogue prices by calling 914-962-6911.

Chuang, Ph-Ho, translation by Peter Eberly. *Chinese Forms*. Taipei, Taiwan: Sinorama Magazine, 1989. In studying ancient Chinese art, author Chuang noticed that certain forms and shapes appeared throughout Chinese history. He has provided historical and cultural analyses of specific forms found in folk art and illustrated each with a photograph.


Cotterell, Arthur. *Ancient China*. Eyewitness Books, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. This beautifully illustrated book provides a history of China from the Bronze Age to 1911, when the Manchu (Qing) Dynasty ended. Covered are such diverse topics as ancestor worship, divination sticks, Confucius, and lacquerware. Primary source illustrations in this book could be used to introduce limited English speakers to Chinese history and culture in an easily understood format.


Dore, Henry S.J., translation from French. *Chinese Customs*. Singapore: Graham Brash Publishers, 1987. This discussion of Chinese beliefs, practices, and "superstitions" was written by a French missionary in Shanghai in 1914. It deals with birth, children, marriage, death, and burial. Illustrations, such as a charm showing the eight trigrams of the I Ching, are included.

Eherhard, Wolfrom. *Folk Tales of China*. New York: University of Chicago Press, 1993. Folk tales include some of the history and culture in language that is easily understood by students of all abilities and language fluencies.

This collection of stories has some information on footbinding, but it has mostly modern stories.


This reference provides detailed information on Chinese calligraphy, and directions for making Chinese characters. Illustrations are easy to understand and follow.


Descriptions of earlier traditions are illustrated with drawings and photographs.


This mixture of primary and secondary information describes traditional and changing roles of Chinese women.


Though the maps of China have place names in the Wade-Giles format, rather than the preferred Pinyin, they include excellent outline maps for use in the classroom.


Women from the time of Confucius to modern China are described, with detailed information on particular historic characters.


This excellent source provides information on various crafts such as Chinese writing.


This reference describes modern Beijing’s character and daily life.


A poor old Chinese farmer finds a magic brass pot that doubles or duplicates whatever is placed inside it, but his efforts to make himself wealthy lead to unexpected complications. This is an excellent example of children’s literature for use in the classroom.


This encyclopedia is a great general resource for information. Much of the inventions section came from its section on science and technology in China. It also has pictures of coins used in trade and contains three pages of tables demonstrating conversions of place names from Wade-Giles or Post Office formats to the preferred Pinyin.

This book provides everything needed to start painting. Traditional bamboo brushes, paints, rice paper, instructions, and examples are all included. Using this book, some students have produced outstanding watercolor art beyond what would ever have been expected. Priced at $21.95, it is a great value.


The Huangs, in addition to their own translations, discuss Chinese history (especially that described by the I Ching), the legacy of Confucius and interpretations of the I Ching by his followers, the relationship between the I Ching and physics (Kerson is a physicist), the history of oracle bones and yarrow stalks, suggestions for using the I Ching, and commentary on each hexagram.


This reference provides information and history on various dynasties of China.


Each story and folk tale is provided with beautiful illustrations and its geographic origin. The reading level is approximately sixth grade.


The authors have illustrated and written, in both Chinese and English, this story, based on a Song Dynasty poem, of a woman who disguised herself as a male in order to take the place of her old and ill father in the army. The story illustrates the importance placed on respect for one's elders and family.


A good book on the history of Chinese kites, this reference also gives instructions on how to make and fly them.


Good collection of primary sources, useful for sixth and seventh grade world history, it contains the Buddha's original Deerpark sermon, from which the readers' theatre script on Buddhism was written.


Although 300 pages in length, this book is written more for the casual Western reader. Kaser provides a detailed guide of proceeding, using coins, and ties readings to particular questions, such as money, love, work, and astrology.

A "must-buy" for teaching social studies or language arts, this engaging collection of folktales is available through Perma-bound. A class set is well worth the investment. The folktales range from the Han dynasty to the Qing dynasty with several stories having no distinguishing time period (oral history). The reading level is mainly grades 4-5, yet the cultural issues raised challenge students in thinking about the rich culture of China.

An excellent map of China, showing both political and physical features, is contained in this resource. Place names are shown in the Pinyin form.

After an explanation of the history and how to use either divining sticks or coins for consulting the I Ching, Lee and Wong combine Confucian commentaries with others to present part of the reading of each hexagram in verse form.

Illustrations, such as schematic drawings showing the "before" and "after" views of the foot, accompany the historical and cultural study of the custom of footbinding, now illegal.

This collection of Chinese writers has a variety of historical and literary materials.

An excellent source for literature of the Tang dynasty, this book has an introduction providing insight into the life of one of China's greatest poets as well as facilitating understanding of Chinese poetry itself. The relationship between beliefs, literary expression, artistic expression, and life circumstances are explored, using Li Po's poems as examples. Several paintings corresponding to particular poems are included in the book.

ISBN#: 0-87332-596-6
The first 125 pages deal with women in ancient China.

The author describes and illustrates customs and beliefs such as geomancy, face-reading, festivals, legendary deities, and charms. In the preface the author indicates that this is not intended to be a scholarly work but rather a "light-hearted representation" of some beliefs.

This book includes a biography of Chu-ko Liang, the inventor and military strategist, born about 181 A.D. in the province of Shantung. He has been compared to Leonardo da Vinci, who acted as military engineer to Prince Borgia in Renaissance Italy.
This study and survey of art in China provided much of the information in the art section.

Information on this part of Beijing and its historical and cultural significance are included.

This is the source of the translation of "The Peach Blossom Spring". T'ao Ch'ien (365-427) is the original author and a prolific writer in Chinese literature. The anthology is helpful as a general reference.

This secondary source describes, in detail, the civil service system of China and its foundations in writings of Confucius.

This book contains information on the Taoist alchemy that led not only to the invention of gunpowder and firearms, but also to the rise of modern medical chemistry.


This general historical reference contains really attractive, illustrated portraits of Mongols, including Genghis Khan.

This article provides an overview of ancient Chinese beliefs, including ancestor worship, earth-worship, and oracle bones.

Nylan has translated both the original texts and various commentaries, including those written by Confucius and/or his followers.

An excellent translation with a helpful introduction and commentary notes for the teacher-scholar seeking a deeper, more profound understanding of Daoism, this book is easy to understand. All excerpts for lessons come from this translation.

Besides newly translating from the original Chinese, the authors have provided their own original art, calligraphy, and poetry to accompany each hexagram and have analyzed the radicals of the Chinese characters used to describe each. A philosophical and historical analysis of the I Ching in general, oracle bones, and specific hexagrams is provided.
Pirazzoli-t’Serstevens, Michele. *The Han Dynasty.* New York: Rizzoli, 1982. This reference contains a silk road map and information about the development of this road. It also contains pictures of archeological studies during the Han period.


Rappaport, Doreen. *The Journey of Meng.* Chinese legend retold by Doreen Rappaport; pictures by Yang Ming-Yi. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991. ISBN: 0-8037-0895-5 Set in the time of Shihuangdi's rule of China, a woman goes in search of her husband who has been forced to be a slave for the emperor. This story prompts discussion of the impact of building the Great Wall of China as well as the characteristics admired in women in traditional Chinese culture. This is beautifully illustrated children's literature.


China is seen and documented through the eyes of a nineteenth century western Christian.


Sung, S.D. *I Ching: Book of Changes.* Taiwan: Cultural Books Company, 1988. Sung's text is written almost as a workbook and is very easy to follow. It has traditional interpretations written in simple language.


Wilhelm, Richard. *Heaven, Earth, and Man in the Book of Changes: Seven Eranos Lectures.* Seattle: University of

Wilhelm has very carefully translated from the Chinese, according to most other scholars, exactly as the text was originally written.


The author's original art illustrates many of the fine points of reading the I Ching and various types of divination. Wing's text is often poetic.


This is a retelling of the Chinese tale in which the governor's clever son finds a way to weigh an elephant. This example of children's literature is illustrated and easy to read.


These poems were written during the Song dynasty. Some examples are used in *Across the Centuries* (seventh grade textbook). It is included here for those who would like to go into greater depth with students or for personal enrichment.


This is a good resource for poetry from the Tang and Song dynasties.


To save herself and her husband from an evil king, Shell agrees to bring him three wonders. This example of children's literature, by the author of *Dragonwings,* is illustrated.


ISBN: 0-399-21969-2

Early one morning Wei Gu meets an old man from the spirit world who tells the young bachelor about his future bride and their life together. The story deals with issues of fate, love, and marriage. The artist used watercolor and pastels to create the outstanding illustrations for this book.


The maps and data contained in this program were developed by Dr. Lilian Wu, one of the guest lecturers in the NEH Institute. The teacher may combine needed data and map directions to produce specific maps,
such as the ones shown in this packet. One limitation is that the maps contain only information current for 1995, rather than historical data. However, geographic information is more current than most available, and place names are in the preferred Pinyin style.


No one has attempted to illustrate so many Chinese legends as Song Nan Zhang has done here. His paintings are inspired by ancient Chinese pottery, sculpture and paintings. To this, he has added his own modern sensibilities to create a book that is a unique insight into the Chinese world and a good example of children's literature.
Given textual and archaeological evidence, it is thought that thousands of Europeans lived in Imperial China during the period of Mongol rule. These were people from countries traditionally belonging to the lands of Christendom during the High to Late Middle Ages who visited, traded, performed Christian missionary work, or lived in China. This occurred primarily during the second half of the 13th century and the first half of the 14th century, coinciding with the rule of the Mongol Empire, which ruled Within China, there had been a major change in the distribution of the population during these centuries. In Han times the vast majority of the people had lived in the north: the south was a thinly populated frontier region. The chaotic conditions which followed the Han’s fall in the north had caused large-scale migration to the south, and as a result, by the end of the 6th century about a third of the population lived there.