



# Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 8, No. 5 / March 2003

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亞細亞學研究

## Historical Significance of Great Walls and City Walls in China

Roger DesForges  
Department of History

Quite apart from whether the Great (or, literally, "Long") Walls of China are visible from the moon (they are not), they have long been subject to more serious controversies. Were they marvelous engineering feats, or long workers' cemeteries? Symbols of China's defensive posture, or signs of its imperial ambitions? Arthur Waldron in *The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth* rightly pointed out that the rammed-earth walls linked together by the Qin (221-206 B.C.E.) differed considerably from the brick-faced walls built by the Ming (1368-1644 C.E.). But Waldron underes-

timated the military importance of the earliest walls and the political significance of those that have endured from the Qing (1644-1911 C.E.) to the present.

I would emphasize that the long walls of the Qin and Han (206 B.C.E.-220 C.E.) were constructed much further out in the steppe than were the walls of the mid-Ming, resulting in an absolute as well as relative decline in China's effort to control the world in which it aspired to be central. I would note, too, that long walls had originated in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (722-221 B.C.E.) and only in the Qin and Han came to delineate

two different cultures. They recovered their military importance during the contest between the Jin and the Song (circa 1126-1234 C.E.) and attained their greatest utility during the Ming, but they also retained strategic as well as symbolic value as late as the Republic (1911-49) and People's Republic (1949-).

China's long walls differed in several ways from its city walls. Long walls were situated largely in the north, generally reinforced the lay of the land, and formed a linear boundary that did not fully enclose the space they delimited. City walls, on the other hand, including those of Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, and Shangqiu

See WALLS p. 2

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## Amy Tan to Speak at UB

- Screening of "The Joy Luck Club," Monday, March 24, time and place TBA.
- "Book Talk on Amy Tan", Tuesday, March 25, 4:00-5:30 pm, Capen 420.
- Amy Tan will address UB community on Wednesday, March 26, 8 pm, at the CFA MainStage.

One of the most highly acclaimed writers of our time, Amy Tan is author of *The Joy Luck Club* (1989), a beloved international #1 best-selling novel which explores the relationships of Chinese women and their Chinese-American daughters. The book has been translated into 25 languages including



Chinese, and has been made into a major motion picture. Tan's second novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), was the #1 best-seller on the *New York Times* hard-

cover list and made numerous foreign best-seller lists. Tan's other books include the best-seller *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), her latest novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), and two children's books, *The Moon Lady* (1992) and *The Chinese Siamese Cat* (1994).

Tan was born in Oakland, CA in 1952. She attended high school in Montreux in Switzerland and college at San Jose State University.

For tickets go to [www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/special/tickets](http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/special/tickets)

# Amy Tan



## Library Exhibit

### Visions and Shadows: The Chinese in America

Lockwood Memorial Library

**March 17- May 31, 2003**

## Panel Discussion on the Works of Amy Tan

**Tuesday, March 25, 2003, 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

Special Collections Reading Room, 420 Capen Hall

Panelists:

*Robert Daly*, Distinguished Teaching Professor, English

*Arabella Lyon*, Associate Professor, English

*Mijeong Park*, Instructor, Asian Studies

## Movie: The Joy Luck Club

**Monday, March 24, 2003, 8pm**

145B Student Union

## UB Distinguished Speaker Series: Amy Tan

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003, 8pm**

Center For the Arts Mainstage

One of the most highly acclaimed writers of our time, Amy Tan is author of *The Joy Luck Club* (1989), a beloved international #1 best-selling novel which explores the relationships of Chinese women and their Chinese-American daughters. The book has been translated into 25 languages including Chinese, and has been made into a major motion picture. Tan's second novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), was the #1 best-seller on the *New York Times* hardcover list and made numerous foreign best-seller lists. Tan's other books include the best-seller *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), her latest novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), and two children's books, *The Moon Lady* (1992) and *The Chinese Siamese Cat* (1994).

Tan was born in Oakland, CA in 1952. She attended high school in Montreux in Switzerland and college at San Jose State University.

## **Sponsors:**

Arts & Sciences Libraries, Asian American Student Union (AASU), Asian Studies Program, Department of English

**WALLS** (cont. from p. 1)

located in the heart of the central plain (a common synecdoche for China), were completely man-made and entirely surrounded the spaces within them. Yet city walls, or at least these three, shared two important characteristics with the long walls: they marked off spaces that generally diminished in size over time; and they rose and fell recurrently rather than developing along a line from history to myth.

The original wall of Zhengzhou that dates to the mid-Shang (circa 1600-1250 B.C.E.) or early Zhou (circa 1250-256 B.C.E.) formed a rectangle (longer north to south than east to west) with a circumference of some 7 kilometers. Later on, during the Han or the Tang (618-907 C. E.), a second wall arose atop the original southern wall and parts of the western and eastern walls, forming a new rectangle (now longer east to west than north to south) with a circumference of only 4.5 km. It was faced with brick in the late Ming, and, after being damaged by rebels, was restored in the early Qing. Remnants of much of the southern, eastern, and western sections of the wall

remain to this day.

The city walls of Kaifeng experienced even more ups and downs over time. The original wall of Da Liang, capital of the Wei state that flourished from 339 to 225 B.C.E., was several times larger than the wall of the regional city of Bianzhou (circumference: 10 kilometers) that replaced it in the Tang. In the Northern Song (960-1126), the capital city of Dongjing inherited Bianzhou's wall and added an external wall 16 kms. in circumference. After the Jin invasions, the city, now called Kaifeng, gave up its outer wall and fell back to its inner wall. Kaifeng suffered further destruction during the Yuan and was reduced to the capital of a single province during the Ming and Qing. The city was inundated and its walls largely buried by the Yellow River at the end of the Ming and again in the late Qing, but it was both times reconstructed and thus survived into the twentieth century. Although somewhat damaged during the Civil War and the Cultural Revolution, the walls of Kaifeng are still among best preserved in China. While the city has yielded its role as provincial capital to Zhengzhou, it has recently begun to accent its heritage as the capital of six earlier states in an effort to become an

attractive historical site.

Further east the principality of Song, established in the early Zhou for the descendants of the Shang kings, was originally encircled by 12.7 kilometer-long wall. That wall was several times the size of its successor in Suiyang, a county town established by the Qin that flourished as the principality of Liang during the Han. In 1503, after Suiyang was destroyed in a major flood, the Ming established a new city named Shangqiu on higher ground to the north and wrapped it with an even shorter wall totaling only 4.35 kms. The new wall, though smaller, was built of brick. Shangqiu therefore survived many floods and wars and remains today, under the name Suiyang, largely unaffected by the industrial development that has been

See WALLS p. 4

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 \*NOTE ON THE AUTHOR:

*Roger DesForge, Professor of History, is chair of the Asian Studies Advisory Council. He spent the fall semester in China doing research on the historical place of walls.*

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## Upcoming Asia at Noon Events

Asia at Noon is a series of brown-bag lunch gatherings sponsored by the Asian Studies program. They meet in Park 280 on Fridays at 12 noon, and dismiss promptly at 1:00. The audience is comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, interested faculty, and folk from the Buffalo community.

March 21. **Lawrence Fouraker**, Assistant Professor of History, St. John Fisher College, Rochester. He received his Ph.D. in modern Japanese history at the University at California at Berkeley, and has taught at Georgetown University, Skidmore College, and Wellesley College. His topic will be "A Yakuza Recession? Japan's Mafia

and the Current Slump."

April 4. **Jennifer Randall**, Ph.D. student in Anthropology. Ms. Randall does research on psycho-social stress of females in the face of modernization in China. She will speak on "How does Globalization Affect our Health? A Case Study in China."

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### New Asian studies Website

<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/charlclass/asianguidefinal.html>

This guide focuses on the collections of Lockwood Library, although other units of the University Libraries also hold Asian material. The most notable holdings of Asian material outside of Lockwood Library are human rights materials in the Law Library and engineering material in the Science and Engineering Library. This guide describes materials in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean held in Lockwood Library's East Asian Collection, Western-language reference materials held in Lockwood Library's general reference collection, periodicals and newspapers held at Lockwood Library and electronic resources, both indexes and Web sites. The website has links to other Asian Studies Centers in North America. We thank Charles D'Aniello of Lockwood Library for creating this valuable resource.

## Asian American Studies Graduate Students Group Lecture Series

*Mijeong L. Park*, Ph. D. student, Department of Comparative Literature

The Asian/American Studies Graduate Student Group is inviting two renowned authors in Asian American studies and literature to UB in March 2003: David Mura and Gary Okihiro.

**David Mura** is a third generation Japanese American poet, author and performance artist. He has published *After We Lost Our Way* (1989), *Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sansei* (1991), *The Colors of Desire: Poems* (1995), *Where the Body Meets Memory: an Odyssey of Race, Sexuality, and Identity* (1996). His creative works frequently interrogate Asian American male identity and desire, which are constantly challenged and transformed under the racial hierarchy of American society and transnational exchange. In addition, his works illustrate a literary approach to the theoretical and political consciousness of Asian American experiences such as Japanese internment during World War II. His lecture on "Asian American Identity and Asian American Community Organizing and the Arts," is set for March 20 (Thu.), 11:00 am-12: 30pm, in 120 Clemens. He will also have a poetry reading on the same day, 7:00 pm at Black and Blue Theater in Hallwalls, 2495 Main Street, Buffalo.

**Gary Okihiro** is a professor of International and Public Affairs and Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University. As a historian, he specializes in Asian American history and explores alternative ways of reading American history in terms of its relationship to Asia. *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture* (1994) and *Common Ground: Reimagining American History* (2001) are his representative works, focusing on a history of margins and deconstructing main-streams through Asian American perspectives. His lecture, "Safeguarding Democracy: Asian Americans and War," will take place March 28 (Fri.), 12:00 pm in 120 Clemens.

The Asian/American Studies Graduate Students Group hosts Mura and Okihiro for the purpose of promoting public awareness of the field of Asian American studies and fostering interdisciplinary communication in the UB community. These events are made possible by the Interdisciplinary Reading Group Fund, the Interdisciplinary Research and Creative Activities Fund, and the co-sponsorship of the Graduate Student Association.

## Chinese Scholar of Sino-American Relations on Campus March 6

Prof. **Jin Canrong**, a political scientist from Renmin University in Beijing, will be on campus Thursday, March 6.

Professor Jin's specialties are international relations and American studies. He is the author and editor of four books and many articles on American politics and Sino-US relations. He holds appointments in the School of International Studies and the School of Public Administration of Renmin University. Renmin is a partner with UB's School of Management. Currently, Jin is a visiting scholar at the University at Michigan.

At UB he is lecturing in History and Communication classes. He comes to Buffalo by the invitation of Professor Junhao

Hong of the Department of Communication, and is sponsored by the Asian Studies program.

The Asian Studies program invites interested persons to an informal conversation with Professor Jin, 12:30-2:00 on March 6, in Clemens 412. A light lunch will be provided. Interested person should contact Pat Kratz at [kratzpg@buffalo.edu](mailto:kratzpg@buffalo.edu).

In the present environment of shifting international alignments and China's growing political and economic influence, Professor Jin's visit provides an opportunity for a significant exchange of views.

## Symposia on China

The Dean of Faculty and Provost's office of Hobart and William Smith Colleges are pleased to announce a symposium on China on April 11, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the Geneva Room of the Warren Hunting Smith Library. Professor Elizabeth J. Perry, the Rosovsky Professor of Government at Harvard University and a William Smith alumnae, will speak on "Popular Protest and Political Stability in Contemporary China." A pre-eminent scholar of Chinese politics, Professor Perry is the author of 12 books. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the winner of the prestigious John King Fairbank Prize and sits on the editorial boards of nearly a dozen major scholarly journals. A comparativist, her research focuses on popular protest and grassroots politics in modern and contemporary China. Mark Selden, Professor of Sociology of SUNY Binghamton, Sherman Cochran, Professor of History of Cornell University, and Patricia Stranahan, Dean of Faculty and Provost at Hobart and William Smith Colleges will provide short perspectives on the talk.

## Scholars of Asia to Gather at UB

The Asian Studies Program will host the annual meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) this fall. Some 200 faculty and graduate students from colleges and universities across New York State and surrounding states will listen to research papers and plenary speakers on a variety of topics related to East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Asia-America. The meeting will be held at University Inn and Conference Center in Amherst, Friday and Saturday, October 17-18. NYCAS is a regional body of the Association for Asian Studies.

The conference theme, "Walls in Asia," was selected as a prelude to a

major art exhibition, "The Wall," which will be staged in Buffalo in 2005. Walls have become symbols of Asia in the minds of Asians and non-Asians alike. They denote separation, but also serve to protect and foster identity. Presenters at the conference will address the theme both concretely and abstractly, including treatments of racial, gender, cultural, economic, and disciplinary barriers.

A highlight will be a lecture/performance of Beijing opera titled "The Monkey Knows No Walls." A troupe from Beijing will bring this event



to the Center for the Arts on Friday night October 17, portraying Monkey King legends. James L. Watson, an anthropologist from Harvard University and president of the Association for Asian Studies, will deliver an address on "The Other Side of the River: Hong Kong's Border Saga, 1898-2003."

Asia specialists and graduate students are invited to propose panels, papers, and roundtables. The deadline for proposals is May 1. The Call for Papers and registration information are on-line at [www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NY-CAS03](http://www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NY-CAS03).

In conjunction with the NYCAS meeting, Asian Studies will co-sponsor a teacher workshop, "Asia in the Classroom," on Friday morning, October 17. The workshop, co-sponsored by Buffalo/Niagara WorldConnect, will include a session with the Beijing opera troupe and presentations on Chinese legends and current issues in Chinese society.

Fur further information, contact Prof. Burkman at 645-3474; email: [burkman@buffalo.edu](mailto:burkman@buffalo.edu).

## Cornell East Asia Video Lending Goes Online

The Video Lending Library of the Cornell East Asia Program, is now on line as a searchable database. This library offers over 300 feature films and documentaries on China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan and Tibet. If you are a teacher or a student in the U.S. or Canada you can borrow these materials for educational purposes at no charge for up to one month. Your only expense is return shipping.

You can search the new database by video type, educational level, country or keyword and check-out videos with a simple on-line form.

Please visit the East Asia Program Video Library at: [www.einaudi.cornell.edu/eastasia/outreach/lending/video.asp](http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/eastasia/outreach/lending/video.asp).

### WALLS (cont. from p. 2)

has been concentrated in yet another new city, named Shangqiu, just to the north. Together the old and new towns of Shangqiu constitute only a regional center, but they have recently become a rail hub and may grow considerably in the near future.

In sum, both the long walls and these three city walls contained spaces that generally diminished in size over time. They also waxed and waned in patterns that, although various, were largely cyclical and complementary. While the Great Walls flourished in the Qin-Han and Jin-Ming periods, Zhengzhou's walls arguably peaked in the Zhou and Tang, Kaifeng's reached maximal size in the Warring States and Song, and Shangqiu's became solid in the Han and Ming. Further research is necessary to determine how these patterns are related to larger ones in Chinese history.

Meanwhile, their significance will depend in part on the views of contemporary Chinese and of other peoples of the world.

## Conferences and Seminars

### NYCAS'03 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Student Prize

The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) announces prizes for excellent student papers in any Asian studies field. The prize honors the outstanding service of Dr. Marleigh Grayer Ryan, longtime Executive Secretary of NYCAS.

Each year, one prize of \$100 will be awarded to an undergraduate student and one to a graduate student. Students must be enrolled in a college or university in New York State. NYCAS will financially assist awardees in attending the fall meeting of NYCAS, where the awards will be formally presented. The upcoming conference will be held at University at Buffalo, October 17-18, 2003.

The Asian Studies program at UB will be receiving the essays. A committee of UB Asianist faculty will evaluate them and select the winners.

Papers should be submitted by e-mail attachment to [asian-studies@buffalo.edu](mailto:asian-studies@buffalo.edu). This year's deadline is June 1, 2003. For full particulars, contact Thomas W. Burkman, Director of Asian Studies, at [burkman@buffalo.edu](mailto:burkman@buffalo.edu).

### Fulbright Grants:

#### 1) Graduate Study or Research: Annual Grants

*Competition for 2004/05  
Opens May 1, 2003*

May 1 is the official opening of the 2002/03 competition for Fulbright grants for graduate study or research abroad in academic fields -- and for practical training in the creative and performing arts. Awards are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State under the legislative mandate of the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1,000 grants annually and currently operates in over 140 countries worldwide. For all grants, applicants must be U.S.

citizens at the time of application and hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent by the beginning date of the grant. Creative and performing artists are not required to have a bachelor's degree, but must have four years of relevant training or study. Candidates in medicine must have an M.D. or equivalent (e.g., D.D.S., O.D., etc.) at the time of application.

All applicants are required to have sufficient proficiency in the language of the host country to carry out their proposed study or research.

Fulbright Full Grants provide round-trip international travel, maintenance for the duration of the grant and tuition waivers, if applicable.

Fulbright Travel Grants provide round-trip travel to the country where the student will pursue study or research. They are intended to supplement maintenance awards from other sources that do not provide funds for international travel or an applicant's personal funds. All grants include supplemental health and accident insurance.

#### 2) Faculty and Professionals: Annual Grants

The Fulbright Scholar Program is offering lecturing/research awards in some 140 countries for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Traditional Fulbright awards are available from two months to an academic year or longer. A new short-term grants program, the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, offers two-to-six-week grants in a variety of disciplines and fields.

While foreign language skills are needed in some countries, most Fulbright lecturing assignments are in English. Some 80 percent of the awards are for lecturing.

Application deadlines for 2004-2005 awards are: May 1, 2003 for Fulbright

## Job Vacancies

Asian Studies Program, 714 Clemens  
[asian-studies@buffalo.edu](mailto:asian-studies@buffalo.edu)

1) We are accepting applications March 1-March 17 for one **Graduate Assistant position** in Asian Studies for the academic year 2003-2004. Tuition waiver and a stipend of \$10,000. Skills: high-level computer, website, newsletter editing, English composition, knowledge/interest in Asia. Submit resume and letter of interest and names and contact information for two references.

2) We are creating a file of candidates for **Adjunct Instructors** for Asian American courses, from Spring semester, 2004. Advanced graduate students and Ph.D. holders with appropriate background may submit resume and letter of interest and names and contact information for two references, by March 17.



Distinguished Chair awards in Europe, Canada and Russia; August 1, 2003 for Fulbright traditional lecturing and research grants worldwide; Rolling deadline for Fulbright Senior Specialists Program.

The Fulbright Scholar Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

More info.:

Mark A. Ashwill, Ph.D.

& Fulbright Program Adviser

224 Clemens Hall, Tel. (716) 645-2292

Fax: (716) 645-2293, [http://wings.](http://wings.buffalo.edu/fullbright)

[buffalo.edu/fullbright](http://wings.buffalo.edu/fullbright)

# Asian Studies Calendar

## March

- Mar. 6, Thu. 12:30-2:00 pm. *Informal Conversation*. **Jin Canrong**, Professor of Political Science, Renmin University, Beijing. Capen 412. RSVP: Pat Kratz at [kratzpg@buffalo.edu](mailto:kratzpg@buffalo.edu).
- Mar. 20, Thu. 11:00 am-12:30 pm. *Special Lecture Series*. **David Mura**. "Asian American Identity and/or Asian American Community Organizing and the Arts." Clemens 120.
- Mar. 20, Thu. 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. *Special Lecture Series: Poetry Reading*. **David Mura**. "Color of Desire." Black and Blue Theatre, Hallwalls Arts Center, 2495 Main Street, Buffalo.
- Mar. 21, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Lawrence Fouraker**, Associate Professor of History, St. John Fisher College. "A Yakuza Recession? Japan's Mafia and the Current Slump." Park 280.
- Mar. 24, Mon. Time and place TBA. *Screening*. "The Joy Luck Club."
- Mar. 25, Tue. 4-5:30 p.m. *Panel Discussion*. "Book Talk on Amy Tan." Capen 420.
- Mar. 26, Wed. 8 p.m. UB Distinguished Speaker series. **Amy Tan**, Asian American author. Mainstage Theatre, CFA.

ter, CFA.

- Mar. 27-30, Annual Meeting. **Association for Asian studies**, New York City. [www.aasianst.org](http://www.aasianst.org).
- Mar. 28, Fri. 12:00 pm-2:00 pm. *Special Lecture Series*. **Gary Okihiro**, Columbia University. "Safeguarding Democracy: Asian Americans and War." Clemens 120.

## April

- Apr. 4, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Jennifer Randall**, Ph.D. student in Anthropology. "How Does Globalization Affect Our Health? A Case Study in China." Park 280.
- Apr. 18, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Seon-Wook Kim**, Professor of Philosophy, Soongsil University, Seoul, Republic of Korea. "Korean Democracy after the Presidential Election: A Philosopher's Viewpoint." Park 280.

## May

- May 1, NYCAS 2003 Proposal Submission Deadline.
- May 7-13, Annual Meeting. **Association for Asian American Studies**, San Francisco, [www.aaastudies.org](http://www.aaastudies.org).



### *Asian Studies Notes*

#### **Asian Studies Program**

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CAMPUS

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