

Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling Video Collection

AFC 2004/021

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
November 2005**

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af006006>

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Collection Summary

Collection Number: AFC 2004/021

Title: Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling Video Collection

Inclusive Dates: 2001-2004

Location: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Extent (original): 3.3 linear feet (4 boxes) containing 1 monograph with 408 pages and 361 video compact discs (VCDs).

Collector: Børdahl, Vibeke

Languages: Chinese, Yangzhou dialect; English

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2005700224>

Summary: The entire repertoires of four master storytellers, Dai Buzhang, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Li), Gao Zaihua, and Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) were recorded on video for the project "Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling" from 2001 to 2003 in Yangzhou. In addition, a medium-length repertoire was told by Ren Dekun. Project co-leaders were Fei Li and Vibeke Børdahl, project assistant, co-editor and translator was Huang Ying, Yangzhou University; photographers were Li Xin and Chen Wei, Yangzhou. Yangzhou storytelling (Yangzhou pinghua) is oral narrative, primarily in Yangzhou dialect, performed with gestures and learned through apprenticeship with a professional master storyteller.

Scope and Content

This collection is the product of the "Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling" conducted by Dr. Vibeke Børdahl and Fei Li between 2001 and 2003. During this project, the repertoires of four masters of Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou - Dai Buzhang, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Li), Gao Zaihua, and Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) - were filmed on video for a total of 360 hours of storytelling. The videotapes were then converted into sets of video compact discs (VCDs) and donated to research institutions in Asia, Europe, and the United States.

The four masters recorded for the project were Dai Buzhang of the Dai school of Journey to the West, Fei Zhengliang (Fei Zhengliang is the artistic name for Fei Li.) of the Wu school of Three Kingdoms, Gao Zaihua of the Kang school of Three Kingdoms, and Ren Jitang (Ren Jitang is the artistic name for Ren Dekun.) of the Wang school of Water Margin. The collection also includes a medium-length repertoire, Emperor Qian Long Goes South, told by Ren Jitang. The collection is accompanied by the monograph, *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video*, edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. This book provides summaries of the content on each VCD, biographical information about each of the four masters, and descriptive articles about Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou in both Chinese and English.

Biographical History

Vibeke Børdahl, Ph.D., is a senior researcher at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen, Denmark. She has taught Chinese language and literature at the University of Aarhus, the University of Oslo, and the University of Copenhagen, and has published books related to Chinese storytelling listed below. Dr. Børdahl directed the "Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling" project and her work is featured on a web site about Chinese storytelling at <http://www.shuoshu.org/>

Bibliography

Børdahl, Vibeke. *Along the Broad Road of Realism: Qin Zhaoyang's World of Fiction* (London: Curzon Press, 1990)

Børdahl, Vibeke. *The Oral Tradition of Yangzhou Storytelling* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1996)

Børdahl, Vibeke, ed., *The Eternal Storyteller: Oral Literature in Modern China* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, 1999)

Børdahl, Vibeke and Jette Ross. *Chinese Storytellers: Life and Art in the Yangzhou Tradition* (Boston: Cheng and Tsui Co., 2002)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Børdahl, Vibeke
Børdahl, Vibeke. Four masters of Chinese storytelling.
Dai, Buzhang, 1925-2003.
Fei, Li
Gao, Zaihua
Ren, Jitang

Subjects

Folklore--China--Yangzhou Shi.
Oral tradition--China--Yangzhou Shi.
Ping shu--China--Yangzhou Shi.
Storytellers--China--Yangzhou Shi.
Storytelling--China--Yangzhou Shi.
Tales--China--Yangzhou Shi.

Titles

Four masters of Chinese storytelling, 2001-2004
Large-scale registration of Chinese storytelling

Form/Genre

Ethnographic films.

Arrangement

The video compact discs (VCDs) were originally numbered for each storyteller's range of discs resulting in five series of numbers within the collection. During processing, each VCD was assigned a unique moving image (MV) number. A "Concordance for Moving Images" is included in the appendix of this finding aid to document the correspondence between the MV number and the original number of each VCD.

Access

Duplication of the collection materials is governed by copyright and other restrictions.

Acquisition

The VCDs produced during the "Large-scale Registration of Chinese Storytelling" and the monograph, *Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video* (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004), were donated to the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklife Center by Dr. Vibeke Børdahl in December 2004.

Preferred Citation

Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling Video Collection (AFC 2004/021), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Related Materials

The collection of VCDs is also on deposit at the library of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China; Fu Ssu-nien Library, Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan; and Danish Folklore Archives in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video. Edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004) is available in the Library of Congress general collection.

Collection Concordance by Format

Quantity	Physical Extent (original)	Location	Item Numbers
Manuscript Materials 408	pages in the monograph	AFC, Box 1	Not applicable
Moving Images 361	video compact discs (VCDs)	AFC, Box 2-4	MV001- MV361

Description of Series

Container

Series

[Series I: Manuscripts](#)

[Series II: Moving Images](#)

To play a VCD with Windows Media Player, insert the VCD in the CD or DVD tray of your computer. Open the Windows Media Player, click on "File" and then "Open." A dialog box will appear, listing the MPEGAV folder. Under "Files of Type," select "Any File." A .dat file should appear in the dialog box. Double click on the .dat file, and the video will launch in the Windows Media Player view window.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series I: Manuscripts
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	Finding Aid. 15 pages.
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video. Edited by Vibeke Børdahl, Fei Li, and Huang Ying. (Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2004). This book provides a detailed log of the content on each VCD, biographical information about each of the four masters, and descriptive articles about Chinese storytelling in Yangzhou. 408 pages.
	Series II: Moving Images
	To play a VCD with Windows Media Player, insert the VCD in the CD or DVD tray of your computer. Open the Windows Media Player, click on "File" and then "Open." A dialog box will appear, listing the MPEGAV folder. Under "Files of Type," select "Any File." A .dat file should appear in the dialog box. Double click on the .dat file, and the video will launch in the Windows Media Player view window.
BOX 2	MV001 - MV100 Dai Buzhang performing Journey to the West in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 8, 2003 - October 24, 2003. MV101 - MV150 Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of Three Kingdoms in fifty days of storytelling. Recorded April 8, 2003 - June 8, 2003. MV151 - MV172 Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of Three Kingdoms in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - December 5, 2002.
BOX 3	MV173 - MV260 Gao Zaihua continues performing the Central Part of Three Kingdoms in one hundred days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - December 5, 2002. MV261 - MV342 Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the Wu Song Saga from Water Margin in eighty-eight days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - November 15, 2002.
BOX 4	MV343 - MV348 Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) continues performing the Wu Song Saga from Water Margin in eighty-eight days of storytelling. Recorded April 5, 2002 - November 15, 2002. MV349 - MV360 Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing Emperor Qian Long Goes South in twelve days of storytelling. Recorded November 16, 2002 - December 3, 2002. MV361 The video compact disc that was included with the book, Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video, contains selections from each of the four masters on the first day of recording.

Appendix I: Concordance for Moving Images

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV001	1	Dai Buzhang performing Journey to the West begins.
MV002	2	
MV003	3	
MV004	4	
MV005	5	
MV006	6	
MV007	7	
MV008	8	
MV009	9	
MV010	10	
MV011	11	
MV012	12	
MV013	13	
MV014	14	
MV015	15	
MV016	16	
MV017	17	
MV018	18	
MV019	19	
MV020	20	
MV021	21	
MV022	22	
MV023	23	
MV024	24	
MV025	25	
MV026	26	
MV027	27	
MV028	28	
MV029	29	
MV030	30	
MV031	31	
MV032	32	
MV033	33	
MV034	34	
MV035	35	
MV036	36	
MV037	37	
MV038	38	
MV039	39	
MV040	40	
MV041	41	
MV042	42	
MV043	43	
MV044	44	
MV045	45	
MV046	46	
MV047	47	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV048	48	
MV049	49	
MV050	50	
MV051	51	
MV052	52	
MV053	53	
MV054	54	
MV055	55	
MV056	56	
MV057	57	
MV058	58	
MV059	59	
MV060	60	
MV061	61	
MV062	62	
MV063	63	
MV064	64	
MV065	65	
MV066	66	
MV067	67	
MV068	68	
MV069	69	
MV070	70	
MV071	71	
MV072	72	
MV073	73	
MV074	74	
MV075	75	
MV076	76	
MV077	77	
MV078	78	
MV079	79	
MV080	80	
MV081	81	
MV082	82	
MV083	83	
MV084	84	
MV085	85	
MV086	86	
MV087	87	
MV088	88	
MV089	89	
MV090	90	
MV091	91	
MV092	92	
MV093	93	
MV094	94	
MV095	95	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV096	96	
MV097	97	
MV098	98	
MV099	99	
MV100	100	Dai Buzhang performing Journey to the West ends.
MV101	1	Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of Three Kingdoms begins.
MV102	2	
MV103	3	
MV104	4	
MV105	5	
MV106	6	
MV107	7	
MV108	8	
MV109	9	
MV110	10	
MV111	11	
MV112	12	
MV113	13	
MV114	14	
MV115	15	
MV116	16	
MV117	17	
MV118	18	
MV119	19	
MV120	20	
MV121	21	
MV122	22	
MV123	23	
MV124	24	
MV125	25	
MV126	26	
MV127	27	
MV128	28	
MV129	29	
MV130	30	
MV131	31	
MV132	32	
MV133	33	
MV134	34	
MV135	35	
MV136	36	
MV137	37	
MV138	38	
MV139	39	
MV140	40	
MV141	41	
MV142	42	
MV143	43	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV144	44	
MV145	45	
MV146	46	
MV147	47	
MV148	48	
MV149	49	
MV150	50	Fei Li (Fei Zhengliang) performing the First Part of Three Kingdoms ends.
MV151	1	Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of Three Kingdoms begins.
MV152	2	
MV153	3	
MV154	4	
MV155	5	
MV156	6	
MV157	7	
MV158	8	
MV159	9	
MV160	10	
MV161	11	
MV162	12	
MV163	13	
MV164	14	
MV165	15	
MV166	16	
MV167	17	
MV168	18	
MV169	19	
MV170	20	
MV171	21	
MV172	22	
MV173	23	
MV174	24	
MV175	25	
MV176	26	
MV177	27	
MV178	28	
MV179	29	
MV180	30	
MV181	31	
MV182	32	
MV183	33	
MV184	34	
MV185	35	
MV186	36	
MV187	37	
MV188	38	
MV189	39	
MV190	40	
MV191	41	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV192	42	
MV193	43	
MV194	44	
MV195	45	
MV196	46	
MV197	47	
MV198	48	
MV199	49	
MV200	50	
MV201	51	
MV202	52	
MV203	53	
MV204	54	
MV205	55	
MV206	56	
MV207	57	
MV208	58	
MV209	59	
MV210	60	
MV211	61	
MV212	62	
MV213	63	
MV214	64	
MV215	65	
MV216	66	
MV217	67	
MV218	68	
MV219	69	
MV220	70	
MV221	71	
MV222	72	
MV223	73	
MV224	74	
MV225	75	
MV226	76	
MV227	77	
MV228	78	
MV229	79	
MV230	80	
MV231	81	
MV232	82	
MV233	83	
MV234	84	
MV235	85	
MV236	86	
MV237	87	
MV238	88	
MV239	89	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV240	90	
MV241	91	
MV242	92	
MV243	93	
MV244	94	
MV245	95	
MV246	96	
MV247	97	
MV248	98	
MV249	99	
MV250	100	
MV251	101	
MV252	102	
MV253	103	
MV254	104	
MV255	105	
MV256	106	
MV257	107	
MV258	108	
MV259	109	
MV260	110	Gao Zaihua performing the Central Part of Three Kingdoms ends.
MV261	111	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the Wu Song Saga from Water Margin begins.
MV262	2	
MV263	3	
MV264	4	
MV265	5	
MV266	6	
MV267	7	
MV268	8	
MV269	9	
MV270	10	
MV271	11	
MV272	12	
MV273	13	
MV274	14	
MV275	15	
MV276	16	
MV277	17	
MV278	18	
MV279	19	
MV280	20	
MV281	21	
MV282	22	
MV283	23	
MV284	24	
MV285	25	
MV286	26	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV287	27	
MV288	28	
MV289	29	
MV290	30	
MV291	31	
MV292	32	
MV293	33	
MV294	34	
MV295	35	
MV296	36	
MV297	37	
MV298	38	
MV299	39	
MV300	40	
MV301	41	
MV302	42	
MV303	43	
MV304	44	
MV305	45	
MV306	46	
MV307	47	
MV308	48	
MV309	49	
MV310	50	
MV311	51	
MV312	52	
MV313	53	
MV314	54	
MV315	55	
MV316	56	
MV317	57	
MV318	58	
MV319	59	
MV320	60	
MV321	61	
MV322	62	
MV323	63	
MV324	64	
MV325	65	
MV326	66	
MV327	67	
MV328	68	
MV329	69	
MV330	70	
MV331	71	
MV332	72	
MV333	73	
MV334	74	

Moving Image Number (MV)	Original Number	Description
MV335	75	
MV336	76	
MV337	77	
MV338	78	
MV339	79	
MV340	80	
MV341	81	
MV342	82	
MV343	83	
MV344	84	
MV345	85	
MV346	86	
MV347	87	
MV348	88	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing the Wu Song Saga from Water Margin ends.
MV349	1	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing Emperor Qian Long Goes South begins.
MV350	2	
MV351	3	
MV352	4	
MV353	5	
MV354	6	
MV355	7	
MV356	8	
MV357	9	
MV358	10	
MV359	11	
MV360	12	Ren Jitang (Ren Dekun) performing Emperor Qian Long Goes South ends.
MV361	Not applicable	The video compact disc that was included with the book, Four Masters of Chinese Storytelling: Full-Length Repertoires of Yangzhou Storytelling on Video, contains selections from each of the four masters on the first day of recording.