



Simmons College
Graduate School of
Library and
Information Science

CHEN TO DIRECT NEH SUPPORTED PROJECT EMPEROR-I

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science of Simmons College is pleased to announce an award of \$219,245.00 from the Humanities Project in Libraries, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), with a matching grant of \$58,659.00, for "PROJECT EMPEROR-I: China's Treasure Revealed via Videodisc Technology," starting October 1, 1984 for a duration of two years.

Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor and Associate Dean of the School, is the Principal Investigator and Director of the project, which intends to apply the latest in videodisc technology in order to present and interpret a major historical/archaeological period of China's past. The site and artifacts to be recorded and presented are from the period of the first Emperor of China (Ch'in Dynasty). During the Emperor's brief fifteen year reign, his accomplishments included the institution of a unified written alphabet, the completion of the Great Wall, the unification of warring states, and the building of his magnificent tomb near Xian. The Ch'in Shih Haung-Ti tomb is the focus of the project, which will make that period of history come alive for the general public.

Dr. Robert D. Stueart, Dean of the School, serves as the other principal project staff, and is responsible mainly for information gathering and interpretation of the project content, specifically as it relates to an American audience. Other staff will include researchers in art, archaeology and information science.

The actual production of the videodisc will be done in close collaboration with Mr. Rus Gant of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Actual work will be carried out at the Athena Lab of the Center. On-site filming and data collection are expected to be conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Shansi Provincial Bureau of Museum Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Database construction will use two Interactive Video Information Systems (IVIS) donated by the Digital Equipment Corporation. The Program Officer at NEH is Mr. Tom Phelps.

Associated with the project is an extraordinary group of experts in both technology and the humanities. Dr. K.C. Chang, Professor and former Chair of the Anthropology Department of Harvard University, will serve as a consultant to the project on anthropology and art history-related topics; Mr. Charles M. Goldstein, Chief of Computer Technology, Lister Hill National Center of the National Library of Medicine, will serve as a technical consultant; and Mr. Wu Tung, Assistant Curator in Chinese Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA, will serve as consultant on artistic interpretation.