

# News

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## Simmons College

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### PROJECT EMPEROR-I PREMIERED IN BOSTON

One year after receiving funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Simmons College, the primary goal of Project Emperor-I has been accomplished. Under the direction of Ching-chih Chen, Associate Dean of the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the era of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di, has been captured on videodisc, bringing it to life and making it accessible to scholars throughout the world.

The interactive videodisc, "The First Emperor of China," was shown to the public for the first time at the Boston Public Library on Friday, December 13, 1985. Arthur Curley, Director of the Boston Public Library, hailed the project as a combination of humanism and technology, and as an example of the tremendous opportunities videodisc technology offers librarians. Ching-chih Chen and Robert Stueart, Dean of Simmons' Graduate School of Library and Information Science, provided a history of the project, and Rus Gant, Technical Director of Project Emperor-I, demonstrated the use of the videodisc to an audience of more than two hundred people.

More than 200,000 still and video images about China's first emperor and his time, accompanied by music and narration, are stored on the disc. All of the frames can be random accessed for close examination by scholars and researchers, or portions can be played sequentially for the general user. The final phase of the project will include the development and dissemination of coursewares for educational use.

For more information on Project Emperor-I, please contact: Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115.

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