

# ETV Newsletter

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incorporate African motifs. John Biggers draws heavily on his African visits for inspiration, but often includes images of urban American life in his monumental paintings. Renee Stout's sculptures combine classical African forms with mystical elements ranging from folk medicine to tribal religions. Jones, who has been painting since the 1930s, blends Haitian and African symbolism with other ancient and modern images.

KERA's "Kindred Spirits: Contemporary African-American Artists" is produced by Clayton Corrie and directed by Christine McConnell. The poet Maya Angelou appears in the program offering her insights on creativity, along with comments by the featured artists. For more information, call Jonnie England, 214/740-9213.

**VIDEO DISC LIFE & TIMES OF FIRST CHINESE EMPEROR.** "The First Emperor of China," two double-sided videodiscs with 216,000 images--20,000 still pictures and the rest full-motion video--and two hours of audio on Qin Shi Huang Di and the excavation of his burial site in Xian, is now available from Simmons College in Boston. The set also contains the full text of many publications from both American and Chinese sources.

The first disc introduces Qin Shi Huang Di, documents the discovery in 1973 of some 7000 terracotta warrior figures at his burial site, and tours the Museum of Qin Terracotta Figures of Warriors and Horses, built over Pit No. 1 of the excavation. The disc also documents the excavation and restoration of a bronze chariot that was unearthed after the figures. The second disc is composed entirely of oral interviews, in both English and Chinese, with Qin scholars, who outline the significance of the archaeological find and add details about the artifacts.

To use the interactive videodiscs, users call up the main index, which is available in both English and Chinese. The index lists modules that, among other things, provide access to information at different academic levels. One module, called Interactive Research, is designed for the scholar, for example, while another, called General Information, is tailored for high-school students and the general public. Each module is accessible by clicking on an icon.

"The First Emperor of China" is available for \$349 from Project Emperor-I, Graduate Sch. of Library & Information Sciences, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston 02115 (617/738-2224). Selected Qin materials are available for \$99.95 on a single disc, with companion software for \$69.95 from the Voyager Co., 1351 Pacific Coast Hwy, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (800/446-2001).

**SOFTWARE BRIEFS:** MET Opera Pay-Per-View On Hold. When NBC/Cablevision Systems announced last summer that they would televise the Metropolitan Opera's Sept. 1991 "25th Anniversary Gala" as a special pay-per-view event, it was to be the first of many opera PPV broadcasts in a 10-year deal. However, the event did not draw the hoped-for PPV audience; only 33,000 viewers paid, less than the 40,000 that NBC/Cablevision had predicted. This came to 0.25% of Cablevision System's 18.5 million PPV subscriber universe. No further Met Opera PPV events are scheduled by NBC/Cablevision at this time and Susan Greene, who headed the project at NBC, has resigned. ... "Lamb Chop's Play-Along" & "Barney & Friends," two new childrens program series on public TV, give educators 3-year off-air taping rights, says PBS. ... DOT, the Div. of Telecommunications of the AECT gave its 1991 Crystal Award for the "most innovative & outstanding video-based instructional telecommunications project" to the Agency for Instructional Technology (AIT) for its program "Clash of Cultures on the Great Plains: 1865-1890." "Clash of Cultures" is the fourth program in "Geography in U.S. History," a video series of ten 20-minute high school programs.