

FORUM



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SMU to host historic videodisc presentation

More than 200,000 still and video images about China's first emperor and his era have been combined to form PROJECT EMPEROR I, an interactive

videodisc presentation on the life of Qin Shi Huang Di. The images, taken in and around the emperor's tomb near Xian, are stored on a videodisc and accompa-

nied by music and narration.

Dr. Ching-chih Chen, professor and associate dean of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston, will demonstrate the project Jan. 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the Crow Building's Georges Auditorium.

"We chose interactive videodisc technology to make this period come alive for both scholars and the public," Chen said. "We needed visual images that would capture and communicate the archaeological grandeur of the era of China's first emperor."

Researchers and scholars can access individual frames for close examination, or portions can be sequentially played for the general user. A later phase of PROJECT EMPEROR I will include the development and dissemination of courseware for educational use.

Qin Shi Huang Di ruled from 221-206 B.C. His tomb contains approximately 7,000 life-size terra-cotta figures, including soldiers and horses buried in military formation. Known as the Great Unifier, Di standardized weights and measures and written characters, completed the Great Wall of China and established a system of roads and canals.

On-site filming for PROJECT EMPEROR I was conducted with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and the Shansi Provincial Bureau of Museum Affairs and Relics, the People's Republic of China.

For demonstration information, contact Carolyn Kacena, 692-3229.



Some of the 7,000 life-size terra cotta figures found in the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di.