

# Professor visits China

## Studies Boxer Revolution from a different side

By Leslie Knight  
Of the Emerald

Foreigners have been excluded for more than 30 years from most of China, but Joseph Esherick, a University associate history professor, got the chance to explore Chinese villages and probe into the past.

While he has "been in the China racket for 20 years," Esherick didn't get to visit the country until 1979 when normalization was achieved between the two countries.

Esherick spent a year in China researching the Boxer Revolution, which took place in the 1890s. The boxers were loosely organized bands of martial artists who believed one could achieve invulnerability to bullets through intense concentration. In the Chinese lan-

guage the character for a bullet and a spear are the same, Esherick explains that the boxers thought bullets were just long-range spears.

The first year Americans were allowed to visit China proved to be a very good year to go, he says.

"China was in a liberalizing mode at the time, and there was a lot of enthusiasm about the new found freedom," he says. "There's been a lot more tightening down since then."

Scholars "rather routinely gained access" to unpublished materials normally prohibited to foreigners, Esherick says.

This opportunity was valuable to visiting scholars because "the most important kind of research you can do in these areas is not going to be in published sources. You can get

those here (in the United States)."

Esherick studied unpublished oral surveys conducted in the 1960s about people alive during the boxer uprising. The documents were available to him because excerpts were going to be made public later that year for a conference on the revolution.

The oral histories allowed Esherick to view the revolution from a different viewpoint than normally is shown in histories.

"Any such thing as a revolution is always shown through the eyes of the people who suppress it. The rebels never get to speak for themselves," he says.

The most authoritative book on the subject to date approaches the revolution from the wrong standpoint, Esherick says. "The Boxer Uprising," by Victor Purcell, seeks to find out how the revolution changed from being anti-dynastic to pro-dynastic.

"The oral history makes clear that it never was anti-dynastic. It's a false question in the first place," he says.

Visiting the areas where the uprising grew was another opportunity provided Esherick. It is difficult to gain the same opportunity now: except for about 100 cities, China is virtually closed to foreigners. These cities have tourist facilities and "are not exactly sanitized, but people are used to foreigners being there."

The boxers Esherick studies were opposed to Christian missionaries and other foreign influences in China.

Esherick says there are many reasons people have not gained access to most of the villages.

"Foreigners are real curiosities. People stream out of the fields and the workshops" to marvel at newcomers. He points out this hinders productivity.

An incident in 1980 has caused the Chinese to be less cooperative in academic ventures, Esherick says.

A graduate student from Stanford University was "allegedly engaged in smuggling, bribery, driving a vehicle in

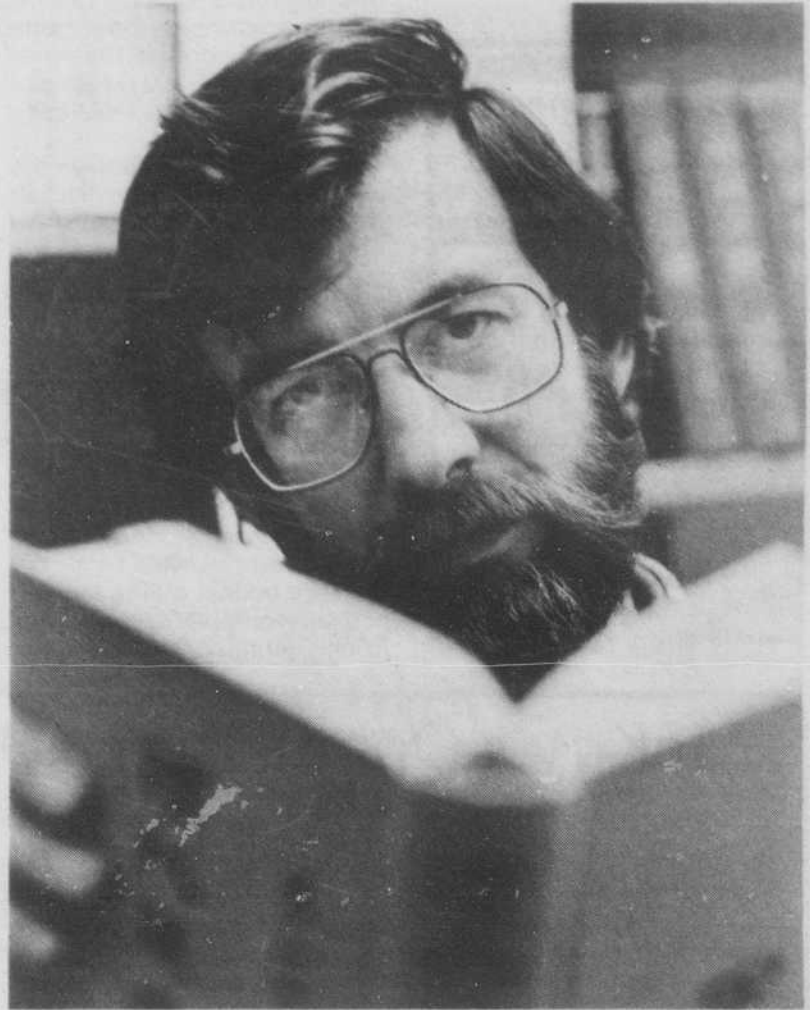


Photo by Bob Baker

Professor Joseph Esherick finally got to visit China after spending years doing research only from books.

prohibited places" and other personal offenses that "thoroughly outraged his Chinese hosts," he says. Since these incidents, which are under investigation, the Chinese have all but stopped academic field work.

In November 1980 Esherick visited China again for a month to attend the conference on the uprising and he is writing a book on the subject.

Esherick and three other scholars received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that was supposed to begin last summer, but problems between the two countries prevented him from visiting the country again, he says.

The cultural exchange was brought about because former Pres. Carter was very supportive of it, but "there has been a general souring of relations since (Pres. Ronald) Reagan came in," Esherick says.

The Chinese were "very irritated by Reagan's arms sales to

Taiwan" and this may have contributed to the postponement of his trip until next summer.

Esherick and his colleagues were to study three villages to see what changes occurred during the Chinese revolution.

Visas were approved for the group in August, but it was clear there would not be enough cooperation for their research to progress, he says.

Reasons for these difficulties can only be guessed at, Esherick says.

"The Chinese don't generally give explanations why they are saying no. Sometimes they don't even say no."

Plans for a summer 1983 trip seem firm, and Esherick says the trip participants hope the plans stay that way.

"Some things are beyond one's control. What one can control is conducting oneself in a reasonable manner and cultivating cooperative connections."

## State board considers finalists for top posts

Finalists for the presidencies of Western Oregon State College and the Oregon Institute of Technology have been named.

The candidates, one of whom is a finalist for both posts, will be interviewed by the State Board of Higher Education beginning Dec. 16.

Chancellor Bud Davis sent the board names of candidates chosen by separate presidential search committees at the institutions. He screened the committees' recommendations before forwarding them to the board.

Larry Blake, president of the North Carolina Community College System in Raleigh, N.C., is the finalist for both the OIT and WOSC presidency.

Other OIT finalists are Peter Blomerley, president of Ohlone College in Fremont, Calif., and William Orth, dean of faculty at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

The finalists at WOSC, are James Beard, interim president of WOSC, Rose Marie Beston, dean for academic affairs at Castleton State College in Vermont and Richard Meyers, president of Pasadena City College in California.

After the interviews, the board will provide Davis with a list of candidates ranked according to its rating system.

The board probably will direct Davis to negotiate with the top candidates. If the negotiations are successful, the board will hold a telephone conference on Dec. 20 or Dec. 21 to make the two appointments, says Tim Marsh, publicity director for the state system.

Interim presidents have been administering OIT and WOSC since the resignations of Kenneth Light at OIT in July and Gerald Leinwand at WOSC in September.

# Sex: pleasures mix with medical problems

By Harry Esteve  
Of the Emerald

*Editor's Note: This is the last in a three-part series dealing with sexual attitudes, behaviors and problems on campus.*

The joy of sex can turn into sheer misery if the participants aren't careful.

Sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and psychologically rooted sexual dysfunction are common problems, according to medical and academic authorities. Some are harmless, some quite dangerous; some have remedies, some stubbornly resist cure.

But in all cases the results can be discomforting, embarrassing and stressful.

The malady that is causing the most concern among students seems to be genital herpes — sometimes referred to as the "epidemic of the '80s."

Genital herpes, a form of herpes simplex II, is a lifelong disease with no known cure. It appears as lesions or blisters around the genitals and causes irritating and sometimes painful itching and burning.

Although it is almost always transmitted by sexual intercourse or oral-genital contact, the highly contagious herpes virus can also be picked up from towels or other contaminated surfaces.

Unlike cases of gonorrhea or syphilis, people who contract herpes do not have to report the disease to medical authorities. Consequently exact numbers of

herpes cases are not available. Last year, however, authorities estimated 20 million Americans were afflicted with the disease, with 300,000 to 500,000 new cases appearing each year.

At the University's student health center, Carol John says herpes is not as big a problem as students have been led to believe.

"From my perspective, it's not number one," says John, an adult nurse practitioner in the women's clinic at the health center.

Students have overreacted to the recent surge of publicity on the virus, John says. She sees the same amount of people with herpes this year as she did last year, indicating the herpes outbreak is leveling off.

Whether students' fear of herpes is warranted or not, it is "slowing people up," says Harry Hoberman, University psychology professor. A lot of people are abstaining from sex because of their fears of contracting the virus, he says.

Because there is no cure, many people have a "feeling of helplessness," John says. "Some people are really devastated by it."

John, however, is more concerned over a different disease that is also sexually transmitted. Pelvic infection is becoming more common among students, she says.

In females, the disease is caused by the bacteria "chlamydia," which attacks the uterus and tubes. The infection can

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