2013

Classic China and the Yangtze

Brian Vivier
University of Pennsylvania, viver@pobox.upenn.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.upenn.edu/alumni_reading

Part of the Chinese Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
https://repository.upenn.edu/alumni_reading/2


This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. https://repository.upenn.edu/alumni_reading/2
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.
Classic China and the Yangtze

Abstract
Suggested readings for the Penn Alumni Travel event in China. See the Library Guide for this bibliography here.

Keywords
china, yangtze, travel, alumni, penn, reading, recommendations

Disciplines
Chinese Studies

Comments

This other is available at ScholarlyCommons: https://repository.upenn.edu/alumni_reading/2
Alumni Travel Bibliography

**Classic China and the Yangtze**

Prepared by Penn Library Subject Specialist

Brian Vivier
Chinese Studies Librarian & Coordinator of Area Studies Collections
vivier@pobox.upenn.edu

---

**Reading Recommendations**

Peter Hessler, *Oracle Bones* (HarperCollins, 2007). An excellent introduction to the recent changes undergone by China combined with explorations of ancient Chinese history and the scholars who study it. Much of Hessler's reporting is set in Beijing, and his stories introduce people and sites throughout the city.

For much of the first millennium CE, Xi'an formed the eastern terminus of the Silk Road, which carried goods, travelers, and ideas between China and western Asia. Valerie Hansen's new survey, *The Silk Road: A New History* (Oxford University Press, 2012), introduces the sites of the Silk Road and the rich network it formed across Inner Asia.

Sichuan province, which surrounds the city of Chongqing, was the home of Liao Yiwu, several of whose interviews with ordinary Chinese people are translated in *The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories, China from the Bottom Up* (Pantheon, 2008). Many of Liao's interlocutors also come from Sichuan, and their conversations reveal much of how life there has changed over the last several decades. *24 City* by the director Zhang Jiake, portrays contemporary Chengdu--another great Sichuanese city--through a combination of documentary interviews and fictional scenes acted in a documentary style.

Lyman P. Van Slyke, *Yangtze: Nature History and the River* (Addison-Wesley, 1988) surveys the topography and history of the Yangtze River and is a great introduction to accompany a cruise through southern China. In *The Old Man Who Does as He Pleases* (Columbia University Press, 1973), Burton Watson translates excerpts from the diary of the government official Lu You as he traveled by boat up the river and into Sichuan during 1170.