

present for review by those at the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program.

This promises to be a wonderful initiative. It is the first grant ASIANetwork has received from the Department of Education. We hope that others will follow.

Van Symons
Executive Director



Richard Bohr



Chia Ning



Christopher Smith



Glenn Shive

The Luce Foundation funded Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum

Stanley L. Mikel, Administrator

In the summer of 2004 ASIANetwork received a grant from The Henry Luce Foundation for \$370,000 to support our 2004-2007 three-year consultancy and publication project. The project seeks to tap the Asian art and items of material culture that exist on ASIANetwork campuses and help faculty teaching courses about Asia integrate these resources into their curricula. The end product will be a book with an accompanying DVD, to be entitled *Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum*. The book and DVD will have two foci. The first is to clarify how to utilize Asian art and objects of material culture effectively in classroom instruction. The second is to identify and make available pieces of Asian art and objects of material culture that can be used in classes across the liberal arts curriculum to enhance understanding of Asia.

The project was designed to have two rounds of consultancies that send consultants to AN campuses to examine their less widely known works of Asian art and material culture. These consultants, experts in Asian art and experienced teachers and scholars, are to study those campus collections and identify works of artistic and cultural value that can also be used pedagogically. They are to nominate items to the Selection Committee which will select specific items that will help the project reach the goal of presenting a book of Asian materials having significant aesthetic and pedagogical value.

The first selection of consultancies was held in the 2004-2005 academic year. Announcements of the receipt of the Luce grant were made in the *ASIANetwork Exchange*, on the AN website, and by flyers that were sent to members. At the same time, a cadre of Asian art professionals was created to be sent as consultants to schools holding materials that fall within their particular areas of expertise. A total of eight consultancy applications were received by the deadline of January 10, 2005. At the first Selection Committee meeting that was held in February at Hickory Ridge, applications from Beloit College, Connecticut College, DePauw University, Dickinson College, Earlham College, Eckerd College, Guilford College, and Wittenberg University were examined. The Selection Committee was delighted to find that the collections from these schools hold a variety of art pieces and some interesting objects of material culture. For example, several schools have excellent scroll paintings, woodblock prints, artistic bronzes, ceramics, manuscripts and sculpture. Additionally, there is a range of objects of material culture that includes

ceremonial bronzes, textiles, puppets, personal adornments, ritual pieces, musical instruments, and many other things.

The next task of the Selection Committee was to match individual collections with the particular set of skills and experiences of the consultants. In general, each consultancy is to include a two-day campus visit by the outside consultant, with groundwork for the visit and preliminary research to be done by an on-campus coordinator designated by the school to be visited. The consultant is to identify aesthetically superior works in the collection, which hold pedagogical promise for deepening students understanding of Asia, and to recommend them for digitization and possible inclusion in the book and DVD. The exact date for consultancies will vary from school to school, but all first round consultancies are to be completed by the end of the 2005-2006 academic year.

The second round of consultancies will take place during 2006-2007 with selection of applications occurring in the middle of 2005-2006. We will continue to assign consultancies for AN institutions that hold established collections of art and objects of material culture. However, we are also highly interested in finding “hidden pockets” of Asian art and/or material culture that ASIANetwork schools might have. An example of a “hidden pocket” might be at a college with an alum who traveled years ago to, say, Indonesia and brought back some excellent pieces of Indonesian art or culture that were then given to the school. Eventually, when no one knew what to do with them, they were stuck in a box and stored away in a basement or attic where they now await rediscovery. It may be that only a very senior faculty or staff member knows of the existence of such objects.

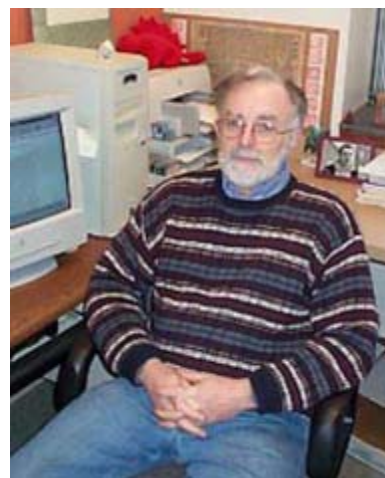
By definition, it is hard for a Selection Committee to find these sorts of “hidden pockets” of items that have the potential to bring pedagogical life to a period of time long past. We seek your help in finding items of this type that might be hidden away on your campus—or which might be hidden in plain sight in someone’s office or classroom. Collections of art and cultural items do not need to be extensive or be well researched and catalogued to be of value. If you are in doubt about the applicability of your materials to this project, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Selection Committee listed at the end of this article.

The 2007-2008 academic year and the summer before it will be dedicated to the creation of the book *Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum* and its accompanying DVD. It is the firm intention of the co-editors to have the book published by the time of the ASIANetwork annual meeting in spring 2008. You may find it interesting to learn that this book will be the first in a series of ASIANetwork pedagogical books on Asian themes to come out in the next decade. A second based on missionary archives at liberal arts colleges is already well underway. All will be published as one of a new series of guidebooks produced as part of the Association for Asian Studies’ “Resources for Teaching about Asia” series edited by Bob Entenmann of St. Olaf College.

A look at the AN website (www.ASIANetwork.org)

and its pages on this project might be helpful for further understanding how your school might participate in this project.

The members of the Selection Committee are: Joan O’Mara of Washington and Lee, Paul Nietupski of John Carroll, Karil Kucera of St. Olaf, Van Symons of Augustana, and Stan Mickel (Project Administrator) of Wittenberg. Please feel free to communicate with us at any time.



Stanley L. Mickel