

The American Folklife Center presents
free noontime event
Benjamin Botkin Folklife Lecture Series
IN CELEBRATION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

CHINESE FOLK ART TODAY

中国乡土艺术

杨先让 杨阳 编著



richly illustrated
slide lecture by
YANG XIANRANG
Artist and Professor Emeritus
of the Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts



Thursday,
January 22, 2004
12 NOON - 1:00 PM
Dining Room A,
sixth floor of the
Madison Building, Library of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Request ADA accommodations five days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ADA@loc.gov

Closest Metro Stop:
Capitol South
(orange and blue
lines), located one
block south of the
Madison Building
main entrance



CHINESE FOLK ART TODAY

Xianrang Yang was born in Yangma Island, Muping, Shandong Province, Peoples Republic of China in January 1930. He spent his early years in Inchon, Korea, and attended schools for overseas Chinese students in Seoul. He returned to China and entered the Fine Arts Department of the then Beijing National Arts Academy in 1948, graduating in 1952 with a diploma in painting.

He worked for eight years as an editor and painter with the People's fine arts Publishing House and the Research Office of Ministry of Culture. In 1961, he returned to his Alma Mater to teach in the Graphic Arts Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, while at the same time, taking lessons from Rong Bao Jai to study Chinese ink and brush art, seal engraving, and to refine his woodcut and block print technique.

In 1980, he became a founding member of the Central Academy of Fine Arts' Folk Arts Department, for which he served as Chairman until 1990. During his tenure as Chairman, he began to focus work on researching and preserving Chinese Folk Arts. In 1987, he lead a research team to study folk arts found along the Yellow River. From this expedition came the extensive and beautifully illustrated volume, *Chinese Folk Arts*, and the accompanying video tape "A Trip Along the Yellow River." He retired from teaching in 1993 and moved to Houston, Texas to be nearer his son.

Throughout his academic career, he has continued to develop his own artwork.. "A Collection of Yang Xianrang's Woodcut Prints" was published in 1979 and other publications followed. His artwork has been showcased internationally and is represented in the permanent collections of the China Art Gallery, the Paris Museum, the British Museum and in private collections in the United States. A group of his woodcuts are currently on exhibit during 2004 in the Houston Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas.

In his lecture, Professor Yang will focus on the origin, development, and current state of Chinese folk art. He will discuss folk arts as diverse as batik dyeing, dough figures, embroidery, and paper cutting. Professor Yang will illustrate his lecture with beautiful color and black-and-white slides taken during the research expedition he led in 1987 on the Yellow River. He will also explore some of the traditional symbols found on simple articles, such as porcelain or bed covers, which reflect the desire of ordinary people to enrich their lives with their own artistic endeavours.

From text provided by
Li-Jen Wang, ITS, Library of Congress

