

**University of Michigan CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES Booklist (general) 2008**  
***Ann Arbor Book Festival***

Bongiorni, Sara. *A Year Without "Made in China."* John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007. ISBN 978-0-470-11613-5.

To buy a humane mouse trap made in China or the traditional wood and wire trap made in the USA--that's the question. A journalist decides to boycott goods from China and embarks on a journey that causes a friend to ask "Whence this sudden hatred of the Chinese" followed by the challenge "You should be writing this down." The author's boycott is an economic experiment--to see for herself what it would be like to step outside the trans-continental market--to assess, on a family level, China's role in globalization.

Lee, William Poy. *The Eighth Promise.* Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2007. ISBN 1-59486-811-5. Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti's read for 2008-09, this memoir told through the dual voices of mother and son chronicles a Chinese American family in San Francisco's Chinatown struggling through the 50s, the turbulent 60s and 70s, and the rejuvenation of the later 80s and 90s. Garnishing the novel are savory descriptions of home-made soups which serve not only as nourishment but also as spiritual solace. Readers will find this as much of an introduction to Chinese American history and culture as a guide for parenting and acceptance of family.

Nan Shunxun and Beverly Foit-Albert. *China's Sacred Sites.* Himalayan Inst. Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-89389-262-3.

Nature, environment, and classical Chinese cosmology are the factors shaping China's architectural achievements. The foundations of fengshui (wind/water) are explained in this lavishly illustrated book covering 42 Chinese architectural sites. Landscapes of mountains, valleys, caves, and cliffs are the breath-taking stages for terraced dwellings enhanced by pavilions, gates, bridges, paths, and engravings.

Roberts, Claire and Geremie R Barme. *The Great Wall of China.* Powerhouse Museum, 2006. ISBN 1-86317-121-5.

The Great Wall of China has so staggered human imagination that we think that it's visible from the moon (it isn't). Nevertheless, the Wall has wound its ways over the cultural, military, and social history of China for over 2000 years. An excellent introduction to China in general, this book explores the Wall's status as a national icon and its material culture and making through six strikingly illustrated chapters arranged roughly in chronological order from the Warring States to the Qing Dynasty.

**University of Michigan CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES Booklist (youth) 2008**  
***Ann Arbor Book Festival***

Bjorksten, Johan. *Learn to Write Chinese Characters.* Yale University Press, 1994. ISBN 978-0-300-05771-3. Grades 9-12, general.

Learning to write Chinese seems to require a cross-word mentality and a keen eye for detail. This book takes the puzzle out of the language by providing a logical framework for writing, an easy

to memorize guide for learning radicals, a poem to unlock the complexity of characters, and a how-to guide on writing characters so that script comes alive on the page.

Chai, May-lee and Winberg Chai. *China A to Z*. Penguin Books, 2007. ISBN978-0-452-28887-4. Grades 9-12, general.

Faster than Wikipedia and arguably more engaging, this A-Z guide on Chinese culture is a must-read for tourists to China, arm-chair travelers, and busy people on the go who need to know everything from restaurant etiquette and ethnic diversity to human rights issues and who's the current supreme leader of China. Your memory palace of all things Chinese will be in alphabetical order, and you won't limit yourself to one-stop searches.

Fleming, Ann Marie. *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*. Penguin Group, 2007. ISBN 978-1-59448-264-9. Grades 7-12, general.

Whether to call this a graphic novel or an illustrated memoir, this book is an artistic and personal account of the author's search for her multi-layered, mixed-race roots. In the end, we question why the author's great grandfather--a magician and acrobat, one of the most successful vaudeville acts of his time--is forgotten by his family, his homeland in China, and the entertainment industry in the West.

Yang, Gene. *American Born Chinese*. First Second, 2006. ISBN 978-1-59643-373-1. Grades 7-10.

Told in the voices of Monkey King and a soul searching high school boy, adolescence and heroism meet head on in this fast-paced graphic novel. Chinese-American issues of identity and the everyday problems of a teen-ager make this a meaningful and wildly funny story. Compactly illustrated.