



THE CHARLIE CHAN FAMILY HOME

2019 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 2

www.charliechan.info



2019 THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

By Lou Armagno

Greetings “Charlie Chan fans,” and welcome to our **2d annual newsletter**. With it we highlight significant events and happenings at year’s end, then include other items of interest surrounding one of America’s first and most unique detectives: Charlie Chan of the Honolulu Police.

2019 was again a busy year for our detective. And we saw yet **another two books**

issued (last year saw three new editions). First, ***The Library of American Comics Essentials Volume 13: Charlie Chan***, July 2019, by Alfred Androila; introduction by Bruce Canwell. It reprints the complete first year run of the Charlie Chan daily newspaper comic strip from October 31, 1938, to November 17, 1939. Next, ***Mysterious Obsession: Memoirs of a Compulsive Collector***, 2019, by [Otto Penzler](#). To say that Mr. Penzler is a “Titan” of mystery fiction is no hyperbole!

“THE CALM MAN IS THE HAPPY MAN”

(*Charlie Chan Carrie’s On*, 1930, Chapter 1)

He is (among many other titles) founder and owner of the oldest mystery specialist bookstore in the world, [The Mysterious Bookshop](#) (1979) at 55 Warren St, New York (Ahem: Warren St.) He just sold at auction his world-renowned collection of over 60,000 first editions of mystery fiction,

regarded to be the best in the world. In his book “memoirs,” he shares with us anecdotes and memories of a lifetime of collecting. And of 26 key titles he chose to reminisce over; one of these stories recounts collecting a “signed” edition of the first Chan novel, *The House Without a Key* (1925.) Outside of these new additions to the [Library](#), January 6th saw the launch of a brand new mystery blog, [The Postman on Holiday](#) (read all about it inside!) Last year, we told you about Charlie Chan message board member Len Freeman’s March 2018, six-session class **Charlie Chan and**

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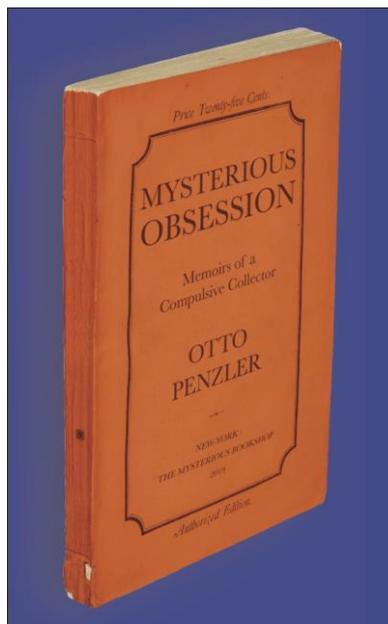
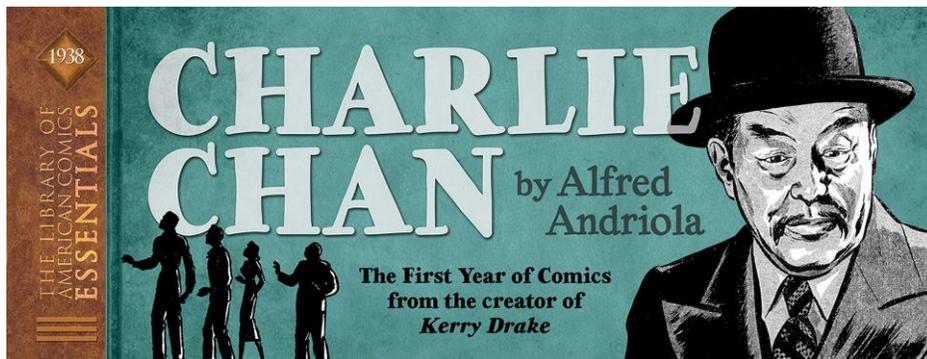
KEEPER OF THE KEYS (recurring items)

Page 12. The Charlie Chan DVD “Feaurettes” and where you’ll find them.

Friends at University of Minnesota, Osher Livelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for continuing education. Well, lo and behold, yet another OLLI course! This one is at the Univ. of Las Vegas, NV, and taught by longtime Las Vegas native and old-movie fan, Keith McMillen, titled **CHARLIE CHAN MOVIES FROM THE 30S AND 40S**. The 10-week course ran September 18 -November 20. But wait! Keith is back for another go in 2020. The course will run February 3d to April 13, 2020! Aside from in residence continuing education,

throughout 2019 our “regulars” gathered each Monday evening to view **Charlie Chan movies in the “Chat room” starting January 7th, 2019** with *Behind that Curtain* (1929) starring E. L. Park in a brief appearance as Charlie Chan. **And we ended the yearly journey thru films December 30st**, with *The Return of Charlie Chan* (1971), starring Ross Martin. There were a total **60+ topics discussed throughout the year on the “[Message board!](#)”** And this year, we changed to a new Chat room. While it doesn't have all the

features as the last product, it does allow anyone to enter without having to register! And brand spankin' new to the site is the addition of the [Chat Archive](#). Online “chats” from the Monday group gatherings, as far back as 2010, can be followed! So, dive in and take a look! We hope you enjoy our collection of happenings for 2019, and various articles. If we've missed something our humble apologies. if you have or know of anything for 2020, please send it to: charliechanfamily@yahoo.com



THE FOUR "LOST" CHAN FILMS: AND THE "FOUND" SCRIPTS.

By Webmaster Rush Glick

In the early morning hours of **July 9, 1937, a major fire broke out** and swept through a 20th Century-Fox film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey. Little Ferry firefighters first arrived at 2:26 a.m., followed by companies from several other neighboring towns, but the fire was not fully extinguished until three hours later. More than 40,000 reels of negatives and prints were destroyed including the highest-quality examples of every Fox film produced prior to 1935. Sadly, this included the four Fox films that are today missing from the Charlie Chan film series: *Charlie Chan Carries On* (1931), *Charlie Chan's Chance* (1932), *Charlie Chan's Greatest Case* (1933), and *Charlie Chan's Courage* (1934).

During the intervening years, two more Chan movies, previously thought to be lost, were through good fortune eventually discovered. First, a copy of *Charlie Chan in Egypt* (1935) was found. This was followed by an example of *Charlie Chan in Paris* (1935) which resurfaced in the 1970s. Another movie, *Eran Trece* (1931), the Spanish language version of *Charlie Chan Carries On*, starring Spanish actor Manuel Arbó as Charlie Chan, was also found, giving fans a decent "facsimile" of the first movie in the Chan film series.

However, the only way that fans of the Chinese detective could learn anything about the four movies that remain lost to this day would be through vintage film reviews, movie stills, the original stories as written by Earl Derr Biggers, plot summaries, and, if anyone was privileged enough to have access to them, there were the original film scripts.

In the year 2000, while I worked at a San Diego area museum devoted to the history of computer technology, **a door unexpectedly opened**. During that year our museum was represented at a computer expo in San Jose, where we displayed some examples from our collection of vintage computers. While there, I met a gentleman who collected a certain model computer which we had on display. During my conversation with him, he mentioned that he was involved in the film industry working for Warner Brothers. Somehow the subject of film scripts came up, and, with that proverbial shot in the dark, I asked if he knew of some way I could gain access to scripts from Charlie Chan films. It turned out that he had a contact for me who worked at the film library at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. For the remainder of the computer expo and during the drive back home, I was, to put it mildly, in a state of Chan euphoria!

It was not long until I called the USC Film Library to inquire about the availability of scripts from the four lost films. Informed that "yes" those were available, my next question was whether I could make copies of them. While the photocopying of the scripts was not allowed, I was told that I could use a laptop computer to type out anything I desired. So, **armed with a laptop borrowed from our museum, I was ready to begin the task of transcribing each of the scripts.**

On my first trip up to Los Angeles I was accompanied by my wife, Marie. We arrived at USC early that morning and found the Film Library. I wanted to make sure that I would have the entire day to conduct my work. Appropriately, Marie took the day to pay a visit to Los Angeles' Chinatown.

Checking in at the loan desk, I was handed the material I had requested earlier that week: a container that held the final shooting script for *Charlie Chan Carries On*. From there I was led to a separate room where I was allowed to go through the script under the occasional watchful gaze of a person whom I figured to be a student library worker. Opening the laptop, I got to work right away. As anyone who regularly attends our Monday Evening Chat sessions knows, my typing skills consist of that time-honored "hunt and peck" technique. Throughout the day, as one hour seemed to quickly melt into another, other people engaged in research arrived, worked, and then departed as I continued to peck away at the keyboard, deeply enthralled and quietly ecstatic over what I was reading with each turned page. To me, **the experience was**

something perhaps akin to what an archeologist must feel as a lost tomb is slowly uncovered. As I slowly typed, I was also slowly reading through material that had probably not been viewed by more than a handful of persons for seven decades. This was really something special!

The day continued. The hours passed quickly. I didn't want to waste any valuable time, so I didn't even stop for lunch or any other breaks. It soon became apparent that it was going to take me much longer to transcribe the entire script than I had originally thought. Time, the enemy, ticked by at a relentless pace. I had to complete my work by four o'clock, and as that time neared, the pace of the day coupled with my focused attention had caught up with me. However, although I was physically and mentally drained, I was also still riding that emotional high of discovery.

I placed the script back into its container and handed it to the student who had covered the second shift that day. Thanking her, I emerged from the room and was met by a very understanding Marie. Owing her a nice dinner before heading home, we drove along Fairfax Avenue, stopping at Canter's Restaurant. During our meal, besides profusely thanking Marie for putting up with this latest episode of my Chan passion, I expressed my glee at what I had been able to be a part of that day. **I also realized that it would be a long road to the completion of the task** – a very pleasant, rewarding task – of transcribing the four "lost" scripts.

It eventually took three trips to USC to complete the painstaking process of typing a copy of *Charlie Chan Carries On*. The transcription of all four scripts would eventually require a total of twelve trips. Each week, minus a holiday or two, I was able to set aside a day in order to do this, traveling on my mission solo as even such a tolerant wife as Marie has her limits!

Going through the scripts in order, I next tackled *Charlie Chan's Chance*. Over the intervening weeks this was followed by *Charlie Chan's Greatest Case*, and finally, *Charlie Chan's Courage*. As I had a little free time on the day I wrapped up my project, I was able to look at some esoteric material including the script for *Eran Trece* and the proposed storyline, consisting of two or three typed pages, for *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*. One thing I gleaned from the *Eran Trece* script was that that version of *Charlie Chan Carries On* was originally going to include the same Chan family breakfast scene that is today a fun part of *The Black Camel*. The *Charlie Chan in Honolulu* material gave proof that this was to have been Warner Oland's and Keye Luke's next movie. Sadly, however, as we all know, this was not to be.

Now that I had the four scripts on, yes, floppy disc, the task of making them available to other fans of Charlie Chan came into play. For some time I had thought of creating a site on the Internet which could showcase the scripts as well as other Charlie Chan-related material. Working at a computer museum immediately came into play. Not being anything close to knowledgeable in the area of creating a web site, **good fortune stepped in once again.** A person connected with the computer technology school, which sponsored our museum, was teaching a small class on the creation of personal web sites. Jumping at the chance, I learned the basics I needed to begin work on what is today our Charlie Chan Family Home (charliechan.info).

Slowly, I was able to format all the work I had done with the four "lost" Chan scripts. Along the way through the process, I came up with the thought of including illustrations within the scripts wherever possible by using available publicity stills and images found in books and magazines, or any other source I may come across. Eventually, **when the site was finally ready, it was placed on the Internet on October 3, 2001 – Warner Oland's birthday.**

But, the story does not end there. Years later, I was able to purchase the scripts for the "Lost" Charlie Chan films which contained the dialogue taken from the screen; that is, the complete dialogue from each of the completed movies. From these examples I soon found that there were a good number of differences

between the “final shooting scripts” and what eventually appeared on the big screen! Most of the changes were fairly subtle, but others were more profound. With this new material now available to me, I was able to comb through each of the web site scripts and make the necessary changes. While the original scripts contained character dialogue as well as scene directions and descriptions along with camera shot directions, the “dialogue” scripts were just that: dialogue. **I called the results “composite film scripts.”**

Over the years, I have gradually added more and more visual images to the scripts. In reality, this is an ongoing process, and it is always with great pleasure that I come across a new piece of visual material into one of the scripts. There are so many people who have had, in one way or another, offered a hand in the ongoing presentation and enhancement of the Charlie Chan “lost” film scripts. My profound appreciation goes out to all of you, and, yes, especially to my wife, Marie, who has been so understanding and “grudgingly” supportive of this passion of mine over the past two decades!

To anyone who has yet to experience the scripts for the missing four Charlie Chan films, please consider taking the time to do so. I humbly suggest that, for Charlie Chan fans, this is the closest thing to actually watching these movies that is available today. All four composite film scripts can be experienced at <http://www.charliechan.info/id67.html>. Thank you so much, and may you find both enjoyment and discovery as you read through them.

“Always pleasant journey which ends among old friends” (*Charlie Chan's Courage*)

Ancient Chinese philosopher say, "Hope is sunshine which illuminate darkest path." (*Charlie Chan at the Olympics*)

Ancient proverb say, "One small wind can raise much dust." (*Dark Alibi*)

“Must gather at leisure what may use in haste.” (*Docks of New Orleans*)

“Nerves make time crawl backward.” (*Charlie Chan in Panama*)

“Nothing ever entirely disappear - something always remain.” (*The Red Dragon*)

THE OTHER GUYS – MR. WONG & MR. MOTO.

BY LEN FREEMAN

In the 1920s, 30s and 40s Oriental themed films and decor were hot. Studios poured out primarily low-browed potboilers like *Chinatown After Dark* (1931), *Daughter of the Tong* (1939), *Mandarin Mystery* (1936), the Bela Lugosi serial *Shadow of Chinatown* (1936), and of course...the 1940 classic serial from Republic, *Drums of Fu Manchu*. Like the Chan films almost none of them starred anyone of Asian origin, but they were a "flavor of the day!" And this clear fascination with oriental detectives generated the two-primary competitor/copy series to the Charlie Chans: **Mr. Moto**, starring Peter Lorre, and **Mr. Wong** with Boris Karloff.

MR. WONG:

The *Mr. Wong* films, released between 1938-1940, jumped in after Warner Oland died, hoping to pick up some of the slack before Fox rebooted with Sidney Toler. In production quality they are the lesser of the two, churned out by the lower-grade Monogram studios — the same studio that later picked up and carried forward the Chan series with Sidney Toler. But they were good solid B-films with good casts designed to "ride the coattails" of the Chan success.

The fictional Chinese-American detective **James Lee Wong** was created by writer Hugh Wiley to pick up on the Chan popularity in a dozen short-stories that he wrote for *Colliers Magazine*, between 1934-38 (you can find almost all of them for 99-cents or so on Kindle or Nook.) But Mr. Wiley differentiated his hero in specific ways. While Chan, as both the films and books noted, was shorter, chubby and more 'grounded' in his common-sense Chinese-Hawaiian roots; the Wong stories described him as **tall, well-educated at Yale and Oxford, and an agent of the U.S. Treasury Department** living in sophisticated San Francisco. If you think about the description, tall, thin, with just a touch of Oxford accent, and his mysterious slightly sinister image — Boris Karloff was just about perfect.

The Wong scripts tended to reuse other Hollywood 1930s detective scripts. The second Wong film, *The Mystery of Mr. Wong* (1939), is a direct copy of 1931's *Murder at Midnight*; both written by Scott Darling, who just changed the character names, added some Chinese decor, and collected another paycheck for himself. We shouldn't think too badly of him though... this was pretty much standard practice, especially at the smaller studios. Roland Winters first Charlie Chan film *The Chinese Ring* (1947), is pretty much a direct copy of *Mr. Wong in Chinatown* (1939). **There were a total five Mr. Wong films starring Boris Karloff:** *Mr. Wong, Detective* (1938), *The Mystery of Mr. Wong* (1939), *Mr. Wong in Chinatown* (1939), *The Fatal Hour* (1940), and *Doomed to Die* (1940).

The series ended primarily because Mr. Karloff went on to other things. A last-ditch effort, *Phantom of Chinatown*, to replace Karloff with Chan son #1 **Keye Luke** as a young Mr. Wong, wrapped up the Wong films in 1940.

MR. MOTO:

Not so much a competitor as a parallel tracker for Chan, was the **Mr. Moto** series that 20th Century Fox kicked off in 1937 with Peter Lorre. Much more high-budget than the Wong series, Fox also picked up on American Oriental interest with a detective who, like Wong, would not directly ape Mr. Chan. **Kentaro Moto was Japanese** rather than Chinese, an international intelligence agent, and a decidedly darker, more aggressive and immediately deadly character than Charlie Chan.

Like Mr. Wong, Mr. Moto came out of a character created for a mid-1930s magazine, in this case *The Saturday Evening Post*, which was seeking stories with an Asian hero after the death of Charlie Chan's creator Earl Derr Biggers.

John P. Marquand's first Moto novel came out in 1935 and Fox picked up the series almost immediately, putting out the first film *Think Fast Mr. Moto* in 1937; it was a popular and well-made series. But American edginess with things Japanese, as war sabres increasingly rattled, did the series in after only seven more films: *Thank You Mr. Moto* (1937), *Mr. Moto's Gamble* (1938), *Mr. Moto Takes a Chance* (1938), *Mysterious Mr. Moto* (1938), *Mr. Moto's Last Warning* (1939), *Mr. Moto in Danger Island* (1939), and finally *Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation* (1939).

Following the 1940 release of Republic Pictures' serial, [Drums of Fu Manchu](#), the Chinese embassy objected to the negative Fu Manchu image, and with China now our ally against Japanese imperialism the U.S. Department of State requested the film studios make no further films with the Fu Manchu character. For the remainder of the 1940s at least, there was only Charlie — with no more Mr. Moto and no more Fu Manchu.

“Ocean have many fish.” (*Charlie Chan at the Race Track*)

“Ship with too many pilots sometimes have difficulty reaching port.” (*Docks of New Orleans*)

“Surprised detective might as well clutch iron ball and dive in lake.” (*The Shanghai Chest*)

“When Chinese emperor have eight suspects of murder, he solve problem very quickly...chop off eight heads - always sure of getting one criminal.” (*Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise*)

“Little things tell big story.” (*Charlie Chan in London*)

“Like all detectives, must consider every possibility.” (*Charlie Chan in Paris*)

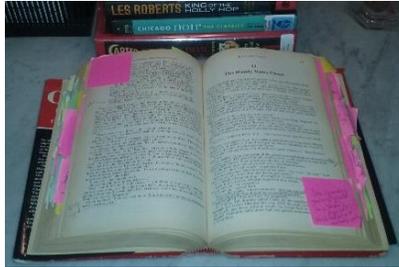
“Inquisitive person like bear after honey - sometime find hornets' nest.” (*Charlie Chan at the Circus*)

“Hunch not sufficient evidence to convince jury of guilt.” (*The Feathered Serpent*)

A NEW BLOG: THE POSTMAN ON HOLIDAY.

By Lou Armagno

“A place to explore all things surrounding Detective Charlie Chan, his creator Earl Derr Biggers, and their connection with Hawaii, Cleveland, and mystery fiction.”



I had to do it. After a few decades collecting notes on various “things” from the six Charlie Chan Novels, I found I had “so much” to share! So, January 2019, I rolled out my very first blog titled, *Warren Ohio's Month-Long Celebration of Author Earl Derr Biggers*, at my site: <https://thepostmanonholiday.com/>. That blog covered my trips attending many of Warren library's month-long events, March 2018, under their “**One Book-One Community**” program: the book celebrated that month was *The House Without a Key*.(1925).

But before releasing that first blog, I paused to ponder; “this blogging just might not be a cake walk!” Not only did I need to say something substantial with each new entry, but something followers and readers would be interested in—not just myself. Then I looked at my “bible” with all its sticky notes (pictured above.) I'd collected so much information surrounding Chan's family members, the ships, characters and locations, trees and fauna, associations to real people and places, and those endearing aphorisms. So, as Charlie might say “Haie! What will be, will be.” So here I am having made it through that first year (whew!) Presently, I have six blogs in draft. I estimated that's how many I'll need (working) to keep pace. Now that's only blogging once a month. I can't imagine how those who blog two, three, four times per month—or daily—manage it!

Also, I was EXTREMELY fortunate, in that two wonderful mystery sites have publicized my blog, Janet Rudolph at [Mystery Readers Inc.](#) (her blog *Mystery Fanfare*) and J. Kingston Pierce at [The Rap Sheet](#). Without a doubt their publicity boosted my visibility immensely, contributing to a very successful first year! As of December 31st, 2019, we've had over 1000 visits and 1800 view from 23 countries around the globe!

If you are so inclined, **PLEASE, sign up** on the [home page](#) to follow my once-monthly iterations and pontifications! There are 12 posts to date (13 counting this newsletter). You'll find them at [The Postman's Posts](#).



“Happiest walk in life of mailman are on holiday” (*The Shanghai Chest*)

A “GUMSHOE” EDUCATION WITH CHARLIE CHAN AT THE UNIV. OF LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

By Keith McMillen

A testimony to that age-old adage “**You can't keep a good man down,**” 27 people joined me the fall of 2019 to watch and discuss ten Charlie Chan movies first released in the 1930s to 1940s. As we finished this 10-week course (my first-time with Chan), it was rewarding to see so many people interested enough to get up and be at the University by 9AM to watch and discuss this sleuth, who'll be 95 years old in 2020 (The House Without a Key, 1925!) Each Wednesday, we watched a specific movie and afterwards held a discussion. The students expressed their joy at seeing these movies again and I heard many stories about early childhood memories of seeing them on Saturday afternoon television; and even, in one case, seeing them at a Saturday matinee in a movie theatre. **The course was a huge success and by popular demand I'm returning with a new group of Chan movies for Spring 2020: [OLLI at UNLV - Spring 2020](#).** And since there were complaints from others who wanted to come, but could not get out that early, the University has agreed to give me an afternoon time slot! Here's an overview of the 2019 course:

CHARLIE CHAN MOVIES FROM THE '30s AND '40's. Take a closer look into some of the popular Charlie Chan B movies from the '30s and '40s. Get some background on the actors, directors, and studios who produced them. Hear about the four different sons and one daughter who “helped” Charlie solve these mysteries and gain some insights into how the series changed over its lifetime. We will indulge in one chapter of a 12-part movie serial each class. A 10-week course, September 18 – November 20, 2019.

INSTRUCTOR: Keith McMillen is a 20-year resident of Las Vegas. A retired software engineer he is a life-long fan of old movies, especially B movies and Saturday serials.

FALL 2019 SYLLABUS:

1. **9/18: Movie – *The Black Camel* (1931).** The earliest known “surviving” Charlie Chan film with co-stars Bela Lugosi & Robert Young. The only Chan movie to be filmed on location
2. **9/25: Movie – *Charlie Chan in Paris* (1935).** The first appearance of Number One Son, Keye Luke, as Lee Chan.
3. **10/2: Movie – *Charlie Chan's Secret* (1936).** First 20th Century Fox production.
4. **10/9: Movie – *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo* (1937).** Warner Oland's last appearance as Charlie Chan.
5. **10/16: Movie – *Charlie Chan in Honolulu* (1938).** New Charlie Chan – Sidney Toler. New Son #2 – Victor Sen Yung as Jimmy Chan. Debuted just barely in 1938, on Dec 30th.
6. **10/23: Movie – *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island* (1939).** With Caesar Romero and film debut of Gerald Mohr (big radio star.)
7. **10/30: Movie – *Charlie Chan in Panama* (1940).**
8. **11/6: Movie - *Castle in the Desert* (1942).** The end of the 20th Century/Fox run.
9. **11/13: Movie – *Dark Alibi* (1946).**
10. **11/20: Movie – *The Chinese Ring* (1947).** The first Chan with Roland Winters as Charlie Chan. Many adjustments here.

“Charming company turn lowly sandwich into rich banquet” (*Charlie Chan in Reno*)

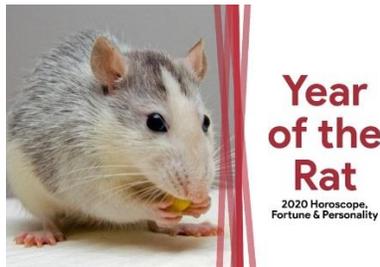
2020 A NEW YEAR...AND BEYOND.

By Lou Armagno

HAPPY NEW YEAR RATS...Eek RATS! Yep, lots of them, too. They'll all be celebrating **THE YEAR OF THE RAT** this Chinese New Year, which fall on [January 25th, 2020](#) and runs through [February 11th, 2021](#). While our Roman calendar New Year's began on January 1st, not so with the Lunar New Year and Chinese zodiac! **Recent "Rat Years" are:** 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, and 2008.

The Rat happens to be the "first" in the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. According to myth, the Jade Emperor called all animals of the universe together for a race. He decreed the first 12 animals to finish would be rewarded with a year dedicated in their honor, and according to the order in which they arrived. Rat was the first to arrive. He rode upon the back of the water buffalo, and when they got to their destination, jumped off to be first to finish! The calendar repeats every 12 years. This cute video easily explains the tale, and reveals, **why cat and rat are forever enemies!**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw0adpGLldk>.

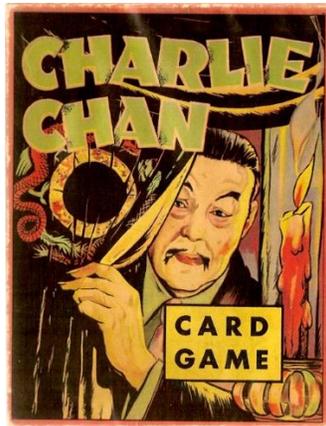
The RAT is quick-witted, resourceful, versatile, kind, smart, and lovely. With rich imaginations and sharp observations, they can take advantage of various opportunities well. Opportunistic and picky as Rats are, they do not have broad minds but take a narrow view of things. Want to know your lucky color? How about your lucky numbers, flower, or even lucky direction? And be sure to avoid yellow, brown, numbers 5 and 9, and the south and southeast directions; all unlucky for the rat! Visit: <https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/rat.htm>.



SPRING 2020 CHAN COURSE, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA (OLLI). If you read the previous article on the University of Nevada, **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** Charlie Chan course, then you'll be happy to hear once again Keith McMillen will be offering this desirable course to students. The course will run 9 weeks, February-April 2020 and is titled "**More Charlie Chan Movies from the 30s and 40s.**" You can find out more about this wonderful Chan experience at: [OLLI SPRING 2020 CATALOG \(LINK\)](#)

SUMMER 2020 CUYAHOGA COUNTY LIBRARY PRESENTATION: "CHARLIE CHAN: THE CHINESE-HAWAIIAN DETECTIVE FROM WARREN OHIO." Since starting my blog January 2019, I've had some great feedback and comments from followers. One of those blogs, February 2019, "[So, what-in-the-world is an aphorism, anyway,](#)" describes a book I've written about the aphorisms found inside the Chan novels. Imagine my surprise when the Fairview Park, Ohio, library contacted me to speak about my book (still unpublished.) I explained to them I'm still searching for a publisher, so don't really qualify as an "author." However, after re-visiting my BLOG site they thought their audience would find the topic interesting; especially since Biggers was from the surrounding area. So, after a little more discussion, I agreed to speak on the above title, May 2020. You'll find more on that at: <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/3670825>

FALL 2020 CHAN COURSE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA (OLLI). Nope! You're not seeing double, and that isn't a typo. Another Chan course is being taught later in 2020 (about 5 states away) at the University of Minnesota, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. We briefly spoke of Leonard Freeman's 2018 course **CHARLIE CHAN AND FRIENDS** in last year's newsletter but hadn't time to expand upon it. Len is a longtime film critic, poet, and cowboy B movies/serials buff. The FALL 2020 curriculum is not out yet for UNMN, OLLI; however, here's a recap of his course: **CHARLIE CHAN AND FRIENDS**. This class will focus on the 1930s–1950s "oriental" detective films of Charlie Chan, Mr. Moto, and other "friends of the East"; some of the most successful film series of their period. The Chan series ran for over twenty years against a background of American fascination, mixed feelings, and changing values with regards to the "inscrutable Orient." The class will explore how popular media reflect the cultural constructs and tensions of their times through the lens of Charlie and his onscreen compatriots. Film clips and discussion. The 6-week course seats 50 eager sleuths.



THE END

THE CHARLIE CHAN DVD "FEATURETTES" & WHERE TO FIND THEM

By Steve Fredrick and Lou Armagno (2018)

One aspect of the Charlie Chan DVDs often overlooked, are the mini "featurettes" one finds at the main menu; usually, listed as "Other Features," "Special Features," or something similar. These small snippets are extremely entertaining tidbits of education and take us behind the scenes of these prospective film productions.

Listed below, please find our index of some thirty extremely entertaining and enlightening shorts and the DVDs where you'll find them. We've omitted any "Theatrical Trailers" or "Still Galleries." Happy Hunting!

(Note: Our illustrious Charlie Chan Family Home webmaster appears in no less than five!)



[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 1 \(20 Jun 2006\)](#)

1. Featurette - Eran Trece (full Spanish-Language Version of the lost film, *Charlie Chan Carries On*) (1931)

CAST (Main): Manuel Arbo (Charlie Chan), Rafael Calvo (Inspector Duff), Juan Corena (Dick Kennaway), Ana Maria Custodio (Elen Potter).

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Shanghai*.

2. Featurette - The Legacy of Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Jon L. Breen, DeSoto Brown, Janice Clapoff, Rush Glick, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, James G. Y. Ho, Sheri Kagimoto, Kanoolehua Miller, Judy Narita, Layne Tom Jr., Valerie Yaros.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in London*.

3. Featurette - In Search of Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Howard Berlin, Jon L. Breen, Rusty Cundieff, Rush Glick, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, Carla Winter, Paul Wurtzel, Valerie Yaros.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Paris*.

4. Featurette - The Real Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: DeSoto Brown, Janice Clapoff, Eddie Croom, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, James G. Y. Ho, Karl Kagimoto, Sheri Kagimoto, Nannette Napoleon, Bob Krauss.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Egypt*.

[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 2 \(5 Dec 2006\)](#)

5. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Lucky Director: H. Bruce Humberstone (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Eve Brent, Jordana Gainsworth, Rush Glick, Ken Hanke, Scott Mclsaac, Johnny Scheffield.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Opera.*

6. Featurette - Layne Tom, Jr.: The Adventures of Charlie Chan, Jr. (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Tom Layne Jr.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Olympics.*

7. Featurette - Number One Son: The Life of Keye Luke (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Rush Glick, Ken Hanke, Vikki Luke, Scott Mclsaac.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Race Track.*

8. Featurette - Charlie Chan at the Movies (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Jordana Gainsworth, Rush Glick, C. Courtney Joyner, Sara Karloff, Scott Mclsaac.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Circus.*

[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 3 \(14 Aug 2007\)](#)

9. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2007)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret.*

10. Featurette - Charlie Chan and the Rise of the Modern Detective (2007)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen / (W) John Cork.

CAST: Ronald Thomas, Matthew Pearl, Dr. Henry C. Lee.

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret.*

11. Featurette - Dr. Henry Lee: The Modern Day Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Dr. Henry Lee

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret.*

12. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2007)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).

DVD: *Charlie Chan in The Black Camel.*

13. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Chance: A Re-creation of a Lost Chan Film (2007)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork / (W) John Cork, Bruce Scivally, Lisa Van Eyssen.

Screenplay and Dialog: Philip Kleine and Barry Connere.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in The Black Camel.*

14. Featurette (Side 1) - Charlie Chan is Missing: The Last Days of Warner Oland (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Paul S. Oland, David Lewis, Ken Hanke, Valerie Yaros, Rush Glick, Kay Linaker.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

15. Featurette (Side 1) - Warner Oland is Charlie Chan (2007)

(Screen shots of lobby cards, posters, and advertisements featuring Oland as Chan).

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

16. Featurette (Side 2) - Behind That Curtain -- The 1929 Film Featuring the First Appearance of the Charlie Chan Character at FOX (2007)

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

17. Featurette - The World of Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Ken Hanke, Scott Mclsaac, Rush Glick, Michael Shermer, Khaled Azzam, Gerry Scott, Suzanne Wilson Barnett, Nancy Bistow, Robert Sabia, Jon White, Miles Kreuger, David Wallechinsky.

DVD: *Charlie Chan on Broadway*.

18. Featurette - Chanograms: The Aphorisms of Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Ken Hanke, Rush Glick, Suzanne Wilson Barnett.

DVD: *Charlie Chan on Broadway*.

[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 4 \(12 Feb 2008\)](#)

19. Featurette - Reinventing Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Scott Mclsaac, Ken Hanke.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

20. Featurette - Sidney Toler: The Man Who Became Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Miles Krueger, David Lewis.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

21. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Courage: A Re-creation of a Lost Chan Film (2007)

(Based on The Chinese Parrot)

Director/Writer: John Cork/Bruce Scivally and Lisa Van Eyssen.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

22. Featurette - Welcome to Reno: America's Divorce Resort (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork and Lisa Van Eyssen.

CAST: Mella Harmon, William L. McGee, Pat Ferraro Klos, Judge Peter I. Breen,
DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

23. Featurette - Reno Memories (2008)

Director/Writer: Lisa Van Eyssen, John Cork.
CAST: William L. McGee.
DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

24. Featurette - Chan's Killer Actress: Kay Linaker (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.
CAST: Kay Linaker.
DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

25. Featurette - The Making of Charlie Chan in City in Darkness (2008)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen, (W) John Cork.
CAST: Rick Jewell, Scott Mclsaac, John Cork, Marje Schuetze-Coburn, Cornelius Schnauber.
DVD: *Charlie Chan in the City in Darkness*.

26. Featurette - Writing Charlie Chan: Robert Ellis and Helen Logan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.
CAST: John Cork, Scott Mclsaac.
DVD: *Charlie Chan in the City in Darkness*.

27. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2008)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).
DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

28. Featurette - The Real Treasure Island (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.
CAST: Richard Reinhardt, Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig, Gladys Hansen.
DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

29. Featurette - Charlie Chan and the Zodiac (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.
CAST: Michael Kelleher, Ed Neil, Howard Davis.
DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 5 \(16 Sep 2008\)](#)

30. Featurette - The Era of Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen, (W) John Cork.
CAST: John Cork, Scott Mclsaac, Sharon Rosen Leib, Paul Wurtzel, David Wurtzel, Miles Kreuger, Ken Hanke, Jim Doherty, Didi Hunter, Lorenzo Semple, Jr.
DVD: *Castle in the Desert*.