

might be appropriate for an all-white classroom, but there are fewer and fewer of such classrooms around. Obviously, teachers will have to make appropriate use of the material for their particular classrooms.

One of the strongest statements made in the series is in the *Secondary Curriculum Guide*. In her essay, Suzanne Perry emphasizes the power of language: "language is the medium through which we transmit culture." If we could get students to understand this concept, we would be on the way to helping them understand themselves, their own use of language to distort and stereotype, and the way language molds our perceptions of society.

The flexibility and reasonable cost of this series make it a wise choice for school districts. Each filmstrip is short enough to use in a single class period and still allow time for discussion, and each guide provides a sufficient number of activities for varying skill levels and diverse subjects. The bibliography includes basic sources for librarians who wish to expand their multi-cultural holdings.

The series would also be excellent for teacher training programs. There is enough information here to use both the visual and written media as models for students to develop their own materials for the classroom, or to modify the lessons to make them useful in a variety of settings. Students could take further advantage of these materials by using them as a foundation for preparing additional bibliographies and lessons plans.

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Arthur Dong (Producer). *Sewing Woman*. 16mm film, 15 minutes, black and white, rental \$30.00 per showing, \$45.00 two showings/one day; purchase \$225.00, video (all formats) \$195.00. Deepfocus Productions, 1548 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123 (415-776-9049).

Married at thirteen years of age to an unknown husband, and pregnant two months later! How could her parents allow such a horror to happen? Zem Ping Dong would soon understand the Chinese way: to accept fate and do what must be done, regardless of the cost.

To the Euroamerican, this attitude seems reprehensible, but to many Asians it is a way of life. *Sewing Woman* shows the Chinese way through the story of Zem Ping Dong, an immigrant woman. Disowning

her first-born son was a necessity and the first step in getting to America; since it was something that had to be done, she did so dutifully.

By tracing the life and hardships encountered by this sewing woman, the film clearly defines the adjustment of a young woman to American ways and the perils involved in bringing her family to the United States. Although she had raised a family of her own in America, Zem Ping Dong knew it would never be complete until her family in China could gain American citizenship. *Sewing Woman* tells of her struggle to do so in a clear, “matter of fact” manner. By exploring her life and the obstacles she had to overcome, the film depicts a candid view of life in a land foreign to everything Zem Ping Dong had ever known.

Although the film is short, *Sewing Woman* excels at giving insight into many Asian traditions. By exposing some hard-to-comprehend customs, the film aids the native-born American in finding at least some understanding of the Asian way. *Sewing Woman* is a must in any ethnic or Asian studies curriculum.

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