

## V. China

- V-1 Ma, Bian. "Sports Acrobatics in Ancient China," *China Sport*, 21, No. 2 (1989), 47-48.

Sports acrobatics can be traced to ancient China and had rapid growth during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Acrobatics were particularly popular during the reign of Emperor Xuan Zong (700s) when special halls were built for performances. Artifacts showing tight-rope walking, handstands, handsprings and balances for two, three and four people have been found from this period. The paintings show that a high degree of difficulty had been achieved and many of the stunts are still being performed today. Based on primary and secondary sources; no notes; 4 illustrations.

—Lynne Emery

- V-2 Tian, Ma. "Sports Motifs in Maijishan Sculptures and Murals," *China Sports*, 21, No. 11 (1989), 39-40.

The Maijishan Grottoes are in northwest China and consist of 194 caves with sculpture and murals created between the fourth and early twentieth centuries. Many of the artifacts deal with sport themes and can be grouped into acrobatics, equestrian activities, hunting, *wushu* and *qigong* exercise. An example of acrobatics is a two person balance while many sculptures depict the horse and carriage, archery on horseback and horse racing, a sport which dates back 2000 years. Hunting scenes depict hunting on horseback, tracking animals and bow and arrow bird hunting. Based on primary sources; no notes; 9 illustrations.

—Lynne Emery

- V-3 Xie, Yunxin. "Dunhuang Murals with a Sports Motif," *China Sports*, 21, No. 4 (1989), 45.

Close to the main gateway to China on the Silk Road lie the Mogao Grottoes also known as the Thousand Buddha Caves. The artifacts found in the grottoes were created between the fourth and fourteenth centuries and were primarily to spread Buddhism.

Many murals deal with sports such as archery, horsemanship, *qigong*, rowing, swimming, wrestling and *wushu*. Among the more interesting murals are those depicting sumo wrestling which look much like the sport in contemporary Japan and a painting titled the Lotus Pond in which men appear to be swimming freestyle, butterfly, backstroke and breaststroke. Based on primary sources; no notes; 4 illustrations.

—Lynne Emery