Chapter 3 - The Asian Contribution

Introduction, 34
Chinese calligraphy, 34
The invention of paper, 37
The discovery of printing, 39
The invention of movable type, 45

Key Terms (in order of appearance; the first page number of their appearance is listed)

1. Chinese calligraphy, page 34
2. Paper, page 34
3. Logograms, page 34
4. Chiaku-wen, (bone-and-shell script), page 35, (Figs. 3-1 and 3-2)
5. Oracle bones, page 35
6. Chin-wen, (bronze script), page 35, (Fig. 3-3)
7. Hsiao chuan, (small-seal style), page 35, (Fig. 3-1)
8. Chen-shu or kai-shu, (regular style), page 36, (Fig. 3-5)
9. Li, page 36, (Fig. 3-6)
10. Tao, page 36
11. Chop, page 39 (Fig. 3-10)
12. Cinnabar, page 39
13. Woodblock printing, pages 40, 45, (Fig. 3-16)
14. Relief printing, page 40, (Fig. 3-14)
15. Dharani, page 41, (Fig. 3-14)
16. Diamond Sutra, page 41, [Fig. 3-15]
17. Accordion-style book, page 43
18. Codex-style book, page 43
19. Pen ts’ao, page 43, [Fig. 3-17]
20. Movable type, page 45, [Fig. 3-19]

**Key People and their Major Contributions** (in order of appearance; the first page number of their appearance is listed)

1. Ts-ang Chieh, page 34
2. Prime Minister Li Ssu (c. 280–208 BCE), page 35
3. Li Fangying (1695–1754 CE), page 36, [Fig. 3-7]
4. Ts’ai Lun, page 37
5. Pi Sheng, page 45 (1023–1063 CE)
Multiple Choice

1. Legend suggests that by the year 2000 BCE, a culture was evolving in China in virtual isolation from the pockets of civilization in the West. Three innovations developed by the ancient Chinese that changed the course of human events are listed below. Which does NOT belong? __________
   A. oil paint
   B. gunpowder
   C. paper
   D. the compass

2. About 1800 BCE, __________ was inspired to invent Chinese writing by claw marks of birds and footprints of animals. Elementary pictographs of things in nature were highly stylized and composed of a minimum number of lines.
   A. Shih Huang Ti
   B. Li Ssu
   C. Ts-ang Chieh
   D. Li Fangying

3. There is no direct relationship between the spoken and written Chinese languages. Written Chinese was never broken down into syllabic or alphabetic signs for elementary sounds. The Chinese calligraphic writing system consists of __________, graphic signs that represent an entire word.
   A. pictographs
   B. logograms
   C. cartouches
   D. ideograms

4. The earliest known Chinese writing, called __________, was in use from 1800 to 1200 BCE and was closely bound to the art of divination, an effort to foretell future events through communication with the gods or long-dead ancestors. It was also
called bone-and-shell script because it was incised on tortoise shells and the flat shoulder bones of large animals, called oracle bones.

A. chin-wen  
B. hsaio chuan  
C. chen-shu  
D. chiaku-wen  

5. In earlier times, the Chinese wrote on bamboo slats or wooden strips using a bamboo pen and dense, durable ink. After the invention of woven silk cloth, it, too, was used as a writing substrate; however, it was very costly. __________, a Chinese high government official, is credited with the invention of paper in 105 CE, and was deified as the god of the papermakers. His process for making paper from natural fibers continued almost unchanged until papermaking was mechanized in nineteenth-century England.

A. Ts’ai Lun  
B. Li Tsu  
C. Chu-Yun-Ming  
D. Yuan Chao Meng-fu  

6. One theory about the origins of relief printing in China focuses on chops, seals made by carving calligraphic characters into a flat surface of jade, silver, gold, or ivory. Another theory focuses on the practice of making __________ from inscriptions carved in stone.

A. inked rubbings  
B. impressions in soft clay  
C. playing cards  
D. calligraphy  

7. The oldest surviving printed manuscript is the ________, which was printed by one Wang Chieh to honor his parents and widely distributed in 868 CE. It consists of seven sheets of paper pasted together to form a scroll. Six sheets of the text convey Buddha’s revelations to his elderly follower Subhuti.

A. Album of Eight Leaves  
B. Yuan Chao Meng-fu (A Goat and Sheep)  
C. Mountain and River Landscape scroll  
D. Diamond Sutra
8. China became the first society in which ordinary people were in daily contact with printed images. In addition to block prints of religious images and texts, paper __________ began to be designed and printed around 1000 CE due to an iron shortage.
   A. charms, called dharani,
   B. playing cards
   C. money
   D. medical herbals

9. In China beginning in the ninth or tenth century CE, the scroll evolved into a paged format. Instead of rolling the scroll, it was folded __________. In the tenth or eleventh century, stitched books were developed: two pages of text were printed from one block; the sheet was folded down the middle, then the sheets were gathered and sewn to make a codex-style book.
   A. European-style
   B. accordion-style
   C. like a letter
   D. in half

10. When making a woodblock print in China, the wood around each character is painstakingly cut away. Around 1045 CE, the Chinese alchemist Pi Sheng extended this process by developing the concept of __________, an innovative printing process that was never widely used in Asia because the sheer number of characters made the process too tedious.
    A. stamping
    B. relief printing
    C. casting type
    D. moveable type

11. The painting of bamboo from the __________ by Li Fangying shows how vividly descriptive strokes made with a bamboo brush join calligraphy, painting, poem, and illustration into a unified communication.
    A. bamboo scrolls
    B. Mountain and River Landscape scroll
    C. Album of Eight Leaves
    D. Diamond Sutra
**Matching**

Match the key term with the correct definition.

1. chin-wen ____
2. hsaio chuan ____
3. k’ai-shu ____
4. chia-ku-wen ____

A. This phase in Chinese calligraphy is called bronze script because it consisted of inscriptions on cast-bronze objects, such as food and water vessels, musical instruments, weapons, coins, and seals.

B. When one wished to consult an exalted ancestor or a god, the royal diviner was asked to inscribe the message on a polished animal bone. This writing was called bone-and-shell script.

C. Small seal script was a new writing style designed by Prime Minister Li Ssu during the reign of emperor Shih Huang Ti. This graceful, flowing style is much more abstract than other styles.

D. The final step in the evolution of Chinese calligraphy, regular script is considered the highest art form in China, more important even than painting.

**True/False**

1. Chinese calligraphy is a purely visual language. _____

2. The Chinese calligraphic system consists of about forty characters. _____

3. In contrast to Western writing, Chinese calligraphic strokes express spiritual states and deep feelings. _____

4. The Chinese were immediately receptive to the use of paper in its early decades because of its greater elitist appeal. _____

5. During the Han Dynasty, seals, called chops, were made by carving the background away from a calligraphic character. The resulting print was a red character on a white background. _____
6. In the tenth century CE, Prime Minister Feng Tao ordered the use of wood blocks to print Confucian classics so that they would be available to the masses. 

7. Relief printing is the process of removing the negative spaces surrounding an image and then inking the raised surface, which is rubbed onto paper.

8. The pages of the Pen Ts’ao medical herbal were assembled as a folded accordion-style book, which replaced the scroll format in the ninth and tenth centuries CE.

**Image Identification**

I. Identify the title and date of the following images.

1. Fig. 3-7 ______________________________________
2. Fig. 3-10 ______________________________________
3. Fig. 3-16 ______________________________________

II. Match each of the images shown with the correct writing style.

1. Fig. 3-2 ____(A. Chiaku-wen (bone-and-shell script))
2. Fig. 3-3 ____(B. Chen-shu (regular style calligraphy))
3. Fig. 3-4 ____(C. Chin-wen (bronze script))