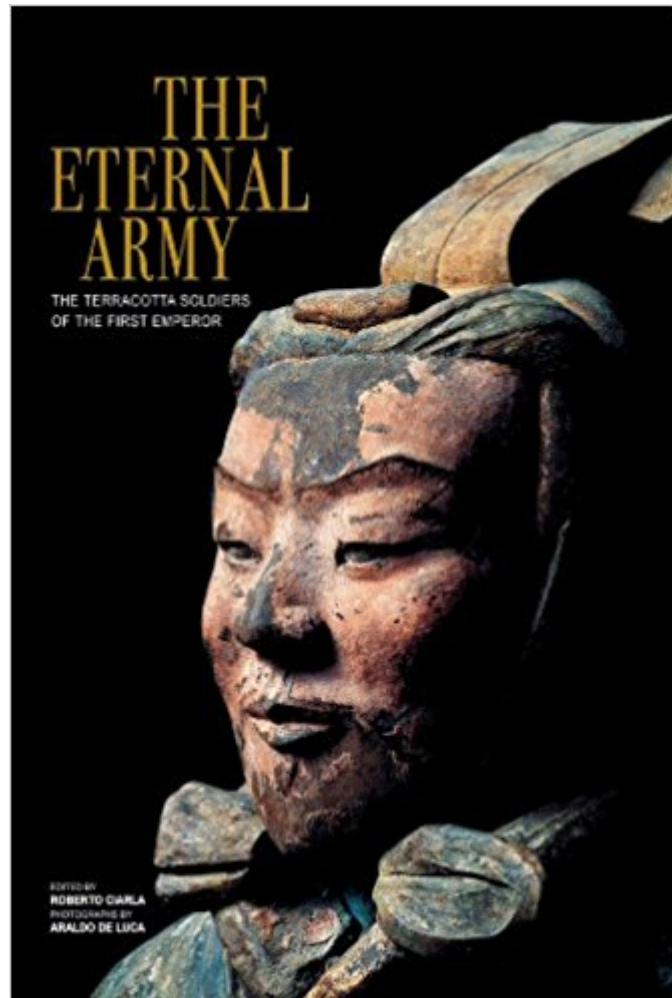




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The Eternal Army: The Terracotta Soldiers Of The First Emperor



Synopsis

More than 22 centuries ago, in China's northwestern Shaanxi province, the first Qin emperor was buried in a magnificent tomb surrounded by an army of some 7,000 terra-cotta soldiers. This lavish volume offers a detailed look at that astonishing army, and the life and times of the man whose resting place it guards. Combining photographs taken expressly for the book with essays by leading experts, this is both a profile of a legendary figure and an unprecedented view of a spectacular archaeological site.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: White Star Publishers (February 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 8854406279

ISBN-13: 978-8854406278

Product Dimensions: 1 x 8.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #206,441 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 in Books > Travel > Pictorial
#350 in Books > History > Asia > China #368 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Archaeology

Customer Reviews

Roberto Ciarla is an Orientalist and archaeologist and has directed and participated in numerous excavations in Asia. Since 1982 he has been curator of the Far East section of the National Museum of Oriental Art in Rome. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient and numerous cultural and scientific associations, and has chaired conferences on the art and archaeology of the Far East and Southeast Asia. Araldo De Luca has always worked for important cultural institutes, architectural firms, museums, and prestigious publishers. He is currently considered one of the world's finest art photographers.

I bought THE ETERNAL ARMY to learn more about its discovery, the reason for its creation, and above all, for its many incredibly stunning/revealing photographs. So closely are the soldiers shown, for example, that one can clearly see the different facial expressions of each. But I was even more amazed by how detailed and different the backs of their heads are, especially the ones with braided

hair. And that each soldier's armor is made up of a myriad plates absolutely astonished me. In addition to the famous soldiers and bronze chariots (also shown in incredible detail), the camera treats the reader to close-ups of the chariot driver, archers, functionaries and the scantily clad figures now thought to perhaps be gymnasts or wrestlers "ready to engage in an exercise of martial arts." Shown too are many artifacts, such as bronze birds, that were found along with the army. But perhaps most mind-boggling of all are the photographs of finds yet to be reassembled, for they attest to how monumental the task has been to excavate and restore but a fraction of the emperor's army. Had the above, including the fascinating information about the army, been all that was in this book, I still would have gladly spent every dollar I did to purchase two copies. But much to my amazement, there was even more: approximately 90 pages of background about ancient China and the Qin empire--pages laced with stunning photographs of related artifacts and watercolors, pages so interesting that I learned much about a period that I'd had absolutely no interest in. And as an added bonus, the entire book is written in prose not the least bit pedantic. For these reasons, there are neither superlatives nor stars enough to convey how highly I recommend this book. --B. Evans, 12/11/07

I ordered this book so I could read about the terracotta warriors prior to visiting the exhibit currently at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, CA. The other reviews are really what sold me on the book - especially the review by B. Evans. I ordered the book July 31 (Sunday) and paid for shipping so I could receive it prior to my museum visit August 7. I expected it to arrive the 6th but it arrived on the 4th! I was very pleased with the fast service. I was astounded when I saw the book. It surpassed the reviews by far. It's gorgeous! There's so much background information and the writing style is excellent and the photos are superb. If you have an opportunity to see an exhibit, please go! But first - buy this book! I'm so glad I'd read the background information (I skimmed a lot - there's a lot of information!) and looked at the very detailed photos prior to my visit. It made it so much more enjoyable (there's an audio guide and great written plaques at the museum but I liked knowing all that information beforehand). I also appreciate the photos even more now because the museum has low lighting and that makes a difference when you're over 50! Seeing the warriors in person is a great experience - but having this book is even better because the details are sharper and you get a vast amount of information. The exhibit had the 2 chariots with horses and so many of the warriors and animals that are featured in the book that you have your own museum tour right there in the book. I almost bought a book that featured a large fold-out of the warriors lined up in the pit. I saw that book in the museum and looked at the fold-out (and another fold-out was placed on the wall).

The photography was inferior to the photography in this book. I looked at all the books the museum had and was thrilled with this book. It's really the best. So thank you to the first 3 reviewers! You sold me and I'm grateful! One thing no one mentioned was the quality of the paper in this book. That struck me immediately. It has very high quality, glossy paper which makes it easy to read and makes the photographs stand out. With tax and shipping, it came to \$41.79 and is worth so much more than that.

This is a new edition of the Italian book on the terracotta army you see out of print elsewhere on . As the reviewers of the previous edition note, this is an absolutely magnificent volume. Although it's paperback, the paper is thick, durable and lustrous, and the photography is simply superb. Short of seeing the exhibit of the army that traveled around the US recently, this is the closest you can come to the thing itself. (We saw it in DC.) Many of the photographs are close-ups, letting you see the incredible work that went into creating unique individuals, with massive detail in, for instance, pinned down hair. Curiously, this kind of detail in the heads is accompanied with much rougher work in the parts that were cast from moulds, like the hands, and - let's be honest - they had no idea how to make natural looking horses. Anyway, I can't emphasize enough how expertly all the statues, details and overhead scenes are shot here, with absolutely exquisite lighting. The army is treated, as it should be, like a piece of art, not just some piece of dusty archaeology. The pictures are accompanied by expert if uneven text by the Italian authors, explaining the finds and techniques used. There's the occasional fawning, politically correct tone reminiscent of Bertolucci's films (what is it with Italians and communist China?), but nothing too bad. Until they finally dig up old Qin's tomb itself, this is it!

This is a fantastic book with gorgeous full color photographs and fold-out images of terra cotta warriors from China. I have several books on the topic and this is the best so far. Very professional, high quality printing. There are also images of ancient paintings, scrolls and pottery, and very informative historical information about the era of the Chinese emperor whose burial site is being slowly excavated. Highly recommended!

So far, this is the best book I have found on the Terra Cotta Soldiers

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