

Notable Howlers -- the crop of 1992

Below are preserved some of the more... innovative... test answers I received while teaching a course on the premodern history of Asia in Alberta in 1992. There were 60 or 70 people in the class, and in such a large group, there's always someone who doesn't get the word....

Thus it is logical to expect to find a large amount of Shinto Shrines in Japan, from elusive structures to simple trinkets kept in the family closet.

Zen's popularity was also increasing in the field of popular literature due to the Ba-sho, the shortest form of poetic composition.

Due to a premature and untimely death at the hands of one of his vassals, his part in unification ceased.

...descendants of lords and retainers who had recognized the Tokugawa seizerainty before 1600.

There are few greater complaints any belief system can be paid than this fact the Jain tradition can claim. It is evidence of theory wedding pragmatic.

Confucian philosophy has dominated Chinese thought since the nascent tremblings of a world view and philosophy first became a part of the intellectual life of the Chinese people.

Ghiyassudin was succeeded by his son Muhammad Tughlaq when he died by an accidental building falling on him. It was rumored that this reception hall was purposely designed by his son to crash and then murder him.

The country also faced economic disaster when Muhammad tried to force cash payment of taxes and a new copper.

He also built new mosques, hospitals, abolished torture, and levied the jizya pool tax upon the Brahmans.

In the Dharma Sastras (c. 100 AD), the sage Atri wrote that a woman did not have to take a long journey to a scared stream to gain merit by bathing there;...

As quickly as the dynasty rose though, it fell equally as fast due to some unfortunate circumstances. Nevertheless this period was truly as interesting in its upbringing as it was in its downfall.

Rituals were performed more for the public rather

than to honor their own past ancestors which were popular in previous dynasties.

Rumor had it that Empress Wu also had an enormous sexual appetite, and that through this method it was also possible to gain positions of authority. Expansion policies became even more dominant under Empress Wu.

It is proudly said by many that during this dynasty, only their church establishments can be compared to that of medieval Europe. The conjunction with secular society though showed that they could not really break away completely, and secularism did indeed influence society slightly more than Buddhism.

History reveals that he drowned while drunkenly attempting to embrace the reflection of the moon in the lake. If this was true, Li Bo possibly died appropriately, doing what he loved most.

The An Lu-shan rebellions did not cover a long period of time, nor did An Lu-shan personally do considerable damage.

Tung-Chung-Shu also talked about mysterious confound subjects.

After his death, thus, he seized the throne.

Despite this, he was in awe of the emperor, and when it came time for him to overthrow him, he asked him nicely to abdicate.

Nobunaga a violent fellow: Burned Buddhist monasteries (with Buddhists inside) but was careful not to completely alienate the Buddhists.

Although he burned some monasteries he was open to new ideas.

He was a bit of a dork, he had a strange reverence for the emperor.

Noted for his ruthlessness, he enjoyed killing, in fact, he himself was murdered.

Also, Hung-Wu was responsible in finding the Ming dynasty; Ming means "brilliant." During this period, Hung-Wu made it clear of his intentions.

Hung-wu was a very formidable ruler however he was particularly ugly which he was very paranoid about. He killed anyone who accidentally referred to his facial features.

The Mongol capital of Peking was taken in 1368 and was moved to Nanking.

Wu then declared herself the coming of the sage mother after reading a stone found in the Lo River which lead to Jui-tsung advocating the throne, leaving the empress Wu in charge.

The next Emperor would not be advised by Wu so she throw him off the thrown, and replaced him with a younger brother.

When the emperor died he left her much power and she basically ruled behind male screens for some time.

King Sejong was a great Korean king until his reign ended in 1450.

The envoy returning, with most of their heads cut off, enraged the Mongols to such an extent, that they sent several large invading forces off to Japan, in essence to save face, from the Japanese reply.

Christianity in China like in Japan came in by the Jesuits of the "Jesus of Society."

When he died he was given the title of god of clockworks in the chinese cannons.

The other missionaries worked bottom up and this was perceived to be a political threat.

and one from 1993:

Now, do you think that his addition of the subject matter of law in the civil examination suggests a certain Legalist emphasis on law as a deterrent force?

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