



THE CHARLIE CHAN FAMILY HOME

2025 CHAN “CENTENNIAL” ISSUE

20+ YEARS

ISSUE No. 8

2001-2025

www.charliechan.org



2025 DETECTIVE CHAN’S “CENTENNIAL” YEAR IN SUMMARY

By Lou Armagno

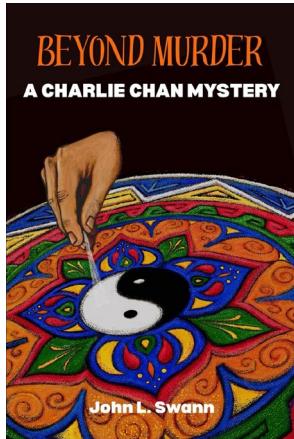
Aloha “Charlie Chan fans,” welcome to our **8th Annual Newsletter**. Well, 2025 was a banner year as Detective Charlie Chan turned 100! So, this newsletter will highlight significant events during the year, but in particular **The 100th Anniversary Celebration of Detective Charlie Chan, August 14 – 17th, 2025**.

Members of the Charlie Chan Family Home met in the birthplace of Chan's creator, author Earl Derr Biggers' hometown of Warren, Ohio to celebrate Charlie's centennial. Seven folks from across America met, some for the first time physically, to give homage to the detective and his creator Author Earl Derr Biggers. Kudo's go out to Brenda McNeal, who did much of the preliminary work, and to

Rush Glick and Dr. Michael Votta Jr. who provided presentations, Q&A's and the introduction at Warren's Library and the historic Robins Theatre for a showing of the 1939 Chan film, *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*. You can

read all about it starting on page three! **On The Literary Front, four items come to mind.** This has been a good year for Charlie Chan. First, we find that Rush Glick wrote yet another article for Janet

Rudolphs, *Mystery Readers Journal*, (Vol 41, No. 1. Spring 2025: London Mysteries II) titled, *Charlie Chan in London: Beyond Earl Derr Biggers*. *Mystery Readers Journal* is a quarterly publication read by mystery enthusiasts (authors and fans) around the world. Second,



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KEEPER OF THE KEYS (recurring items)



Page 28. Message Board Highlights from 2024!

Page 30. The Charlie Chan DVD “Featurettes & where to find them.”

Author [John L. Swann](#), who has written two pastiche Chan books, also was published in *Mystery Readers Journal*, Vol. 41, No. 3, Fall 2025, Northern California *Mysteries I*) titles, *Death I said: A Charlie Chan Mystery*—the same title as his second book release in a trilogy he planned. **And speaking of John L. Swann's Chan trilogy, his last book, *Beyond Murder: A Charlie Chan Mystery* was released November 2025!** These pastiche stories were specifically written by John for release during the 100th anniversary celebration of the detective. Third, yours truly also wrote an article for *Mystery Readers Journal*, Vol 41-3, No. 4, Winter 2025) Northern California *Mysteries II*) titled, *Did a Charlie Chan Film influence the San Francisco Zodiac Murders.* Finally, Author [Barbara Gregorich](#), Earl Derr Biggers biographer, let me know she was interviewed by *The*

Harvard Lampoon, for their 150th Anniversary. The magazine has commissioned mini-bios they will publish on some prominent, deceased members one being Biggers. More to come in 2026! **The Charlie Chan Sunday Comics are back for another 3-year, 7month run!** You probably heard that after a 5-month pause, beginning November 2nd you can again read the Charlie Chan Sunday comics online. Rush Glick posts a new Sunday strip just as they were nationally syndicated in newspapers throughout America from October 30th, 1938 through May 31st, 1942. So set your "favorites" to visit the [Charlie Chan Sunday Comics](#), each week! **You'll Find this year's "Message Board Highlights" on page 27.** BTW the message board has been under attack (SPAM & PHISHING)! More on that on page 28. Did you know the [Message Board topics reach all the way back to April](#)

2004? Finally, during 2025 Chan "regulars" gathered each Monday evening to simultaneously view a **Charlie Chan film and discuss it in the "Chat Room"** starting January 6th, 2025 with *Behind That Curtain* (1929) starring E. L. Park in a brief appearance as Charlie Chan, and they conclude this year December 29th, with *The Return of Charlie Chan (Happiness is a Warm Clue)* (1971) featuring Ross Martin as the detective. And for those who may have participated in online weekly movie Chats, [Chat Room, archive reach back to 2010 \(and beyond.\)](#) So, that summarizes the year in Chan. If we've missed anything please accept our most humble apologies. And, if you have or know of any events or happenings for next year (2026) please send it to: charliechanfamily@yahoo.com.

NOW, LET'S LOOK AT THIS YEARS 100th ANNIVERSARY GATHERING BY A FEW OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED: Rush Glick (Rush), Brenda McNeal (Godwinshelley) & Dr. Michael Votta Jr. (Mike & Rachel in D.C.)

CHARLIE CHAN CENTENNIAL

1925-2025

THANK YOU...SO MUCH!

By Webmaster Rush Glick

For some time, even over the course of a number of years, the approach of the centennial year of Charlie Chan has been on my mind as well as that of others in Chandom. Early on, my thoughts were decidedly in the realm of the grandiose. How about the publishing of a thick volume of the collected six adventures penned by Earl Derr Biggers complete with annotations relating to the details found within the texts? It soon became obvious, especially after sharing this thought with our beloved voice of reason, Lou (HonoluLou), that such an undertaking would require a huge amount of work, especially if we had other responsibilities and commitments in our lives! So, that was left on the shelf labeled "Dreams."

Over the years, and during the course of many, many Monday Evening Chat gatherings, the thought of our members getting together at some point and location to meet each other face to face had come up. Of course, the ideal would be to meet in Charlie Chan's own backyard of Honolulu. How great would it be to meet and greet live at, say, the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on the shores of Waikiki! And, we would have our own Hawaii_Steve as a host and guide to the history and locations relating to our favorite detective, along with Lou, the go-to man for all things Earl Derr Biggers, who was still residing there at the time. But, alas, time, and the realities of life, including logistics, passed relentlessly, and this dream remained but a fondly held wish.

The reality was and is that although our Charlie Chan Family is spread out from Maine to Hawaii to Florida, most of us dot the northeast region with a few of us in the Midwest (myself having transplanted with my family from Southern California to Iowa a few years before). So, as the year 2024 was nearing its course, the question of what to do for the Charlie Chan Centennial was a heating topic. The subject popped up during the Chats, and the best bet seemed to see if the response to the question might, indeed, be that heretofore elusive Charlie Chan family get-together. So, three days into the New Year of 2025, I posted the following at our CCF Message Board:

Dear CCF Family and Friends,

2025 is a landmark year in Chandom! 2025 marks the 100th year, the CENTENNIAL, of Charlie Chan! It was on January 26, 1925 that the first installment of the first Charlie Chan mystery, "The House Without a Key," penned by Earl Derr Biggers, was published in "The Saturday Evening Post."

It will be too soon to plan a group festivity for the 26th of this month, BUT, would it not be something if we could have a group of us meet perhaps sometime this summer, say, at the birthplace of Earl Derr Biggers, Warren, Ohio? I believe that a good number of us are within reasonable reach of this location.

This is something that we can think on during the course of our weekly Monday Evening Chats of via this Message Board as the year progresses.

So, thank you so much everyone, AND, thank you SO much, Earl Derr Biggers!

Sincerely,
Rush Glick

The response was fast, and opinions and thoughts varied, understandably, but at least the wheels were turning.

As we needed to get going with any plans quickly, it was determined by most, that the meeting should, on the dual grounds of logistics (there's that pesky word, again!) and symbolism (the birthplace of Charlie Chan's "Poppa") be held at Warren, Ohio.

Now, as much as he has denied this, and continues that denial, it is Lou who is the rightful recipient of our collective thanks and appreciation for ALL of the work he engaged in, often with his own resources, to get the project off the ground and moving! And there were MANY things that needed to be arranged, including transportation, accommodation, venues for the hoped-for events, and more of the smaller details that such a gathering would require.

By May, the dates of the gathering were set for August 14-17. Again, thanks to Lou, the local media began to note our gathering and related events which included a public presentation and forum at the Warren-Trumbull Public Library and a screening of *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island* at Warren's historic and recently restored Robins Theatre...yes, a chance for everyone to see a classic Charlie Chan film within a classic movie theater on a truly big screen!

As the date of our event drew nearer and nearer, and plans became more and more solid, and a humble list of those of us who were going to be able to attend grew, decreased, and finally coalesced into a core group of about a half-dozen. Besides those of us who would be able to make the trip out to Warren, others, including Louise, who supplied some fun bonus goodies, were able to contribute their efforts and best wishes from afar. Sadly, as the actual day neared, Lou unexpectedly, and sadly, needed to remain behind due to the onset of a case of Covid. However, he was able to continue to support our event from home, including helping me get from the Cleveland airport out to Warren, thanks to him and the generosity of his sister.

To say I was anxious would be an understatement! I could not agree more with Charlie Chan who stated in *Charlie Chan in Shanghai*, "Idea of making speech bring goose pimples." Lou's absence meant that I would be presenting his talk about Earl Derr Biggers, and, as Biggers, a native son of Warren, Ohio, would be a major focus of our group presentation at the Warren Library, I was humbled to say the least! I was also scheduled to speak on the actors who portrayed Charlie Chan in the movies, so, I prayed that I would at least do an acceptable job of it. Thanks again to Lou, his PowerPoint presentation provided the structure for me to follow, thus saving the day! Also, Mike (Mike in DC), who gave a GREAT analysis of the music heard in Charlie Chan movies really made the event that day a huge success as the large audience was captivated by his insights, expertise, and audio samplings. Godwinshelley's great help and contributions in the form of free giveaways and more, not to mention her great on-the-spot assist in

organizing and display of memorabilia was another huge component to the success of that event! Also, the library staff were so very gracious and helpful, ensuring that all went well.



(Left to right): Rachel and Mike, Godwinshelley, Rush, Mr. & Mrs. Phil, and Lou D.

That evening, all of us shared a nice dinner together at a popular restaurant that is a favorite of Warren locals, after which, as the clock dictated, we move on, regrouping at the Robins Theatre. The Robins Theatre is, as I noted above, a classic movie palace that opened a century ago. As has been the case with so many such theaters over the decades, the Robins Theatre fell into disrepair and was threatened with eventual demolition. However, the present owners seized the opportunity to painstakingly restore the venerable old theater. We were given some of the details of what has gone into the project, which is now virtually complete with some details still awaiting completion. Today, the Robins Theatre caters mainly to music performances and occasional film showings.

As the audience began arriving, we were pleased to see many of those who had been at our presentation at the library earlier that day. As showtime neared, so did my final duty of a brief introduction to *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*. With a sigh of relief, I completed the intro and was now able to sit back with everyone else and enjoy a classic Chan mystery on the big screen in a classic theater; a first for me, and doubtless a first to everyone there that evening. When viewing a film alone at home, one lacks the enhancement of audience reaction. It was a real treat to hear the occasional chuckles and

laughter in response to Jimmy Chan's interactions with his Pop and others, and, at the end, to enjoy the applause of an appreciative audience.



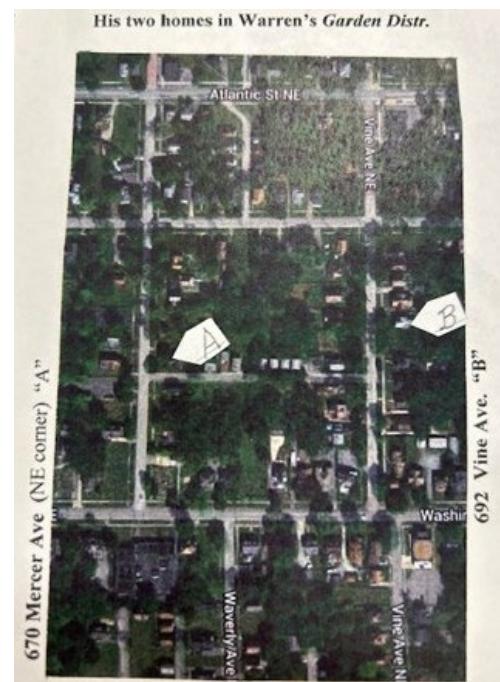
The theater's capacity is about 500, and we knew that there would be far less than that number for our Charlie Chan film showing. In the end, there were about 70 patrons that night, which, as the house manager informed us, was an excellent figure for a film presentation at their theater. So, who knows? Perhaps Mr. Chan's statement in *Dark Alibi* holds true for our combined Warren, Ohio event: "Ancient proverb say, 'One small wind can raise much dust.'" I have a feeling that, in our modest way, we offered a meaningful tribute to both Earl Derr Biggers and Charlie Chan in Warren, Ohio, where, in a very real way, serving as a springboard for the career of a renowned writer, it all began one hundred years ago.



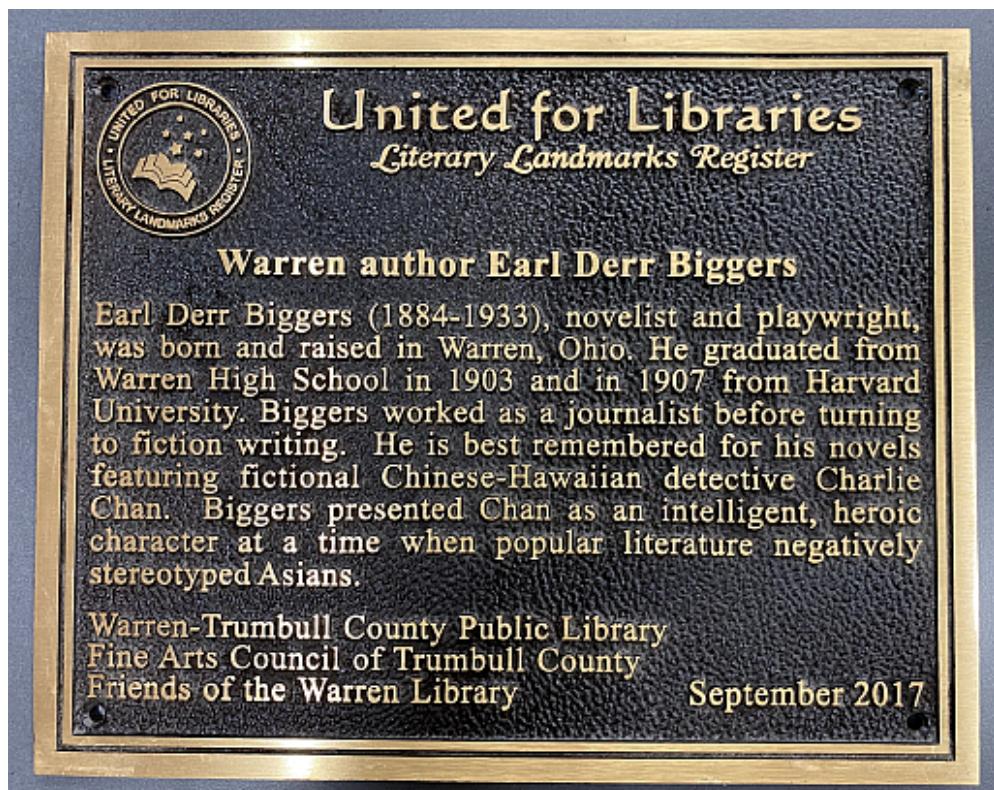
Nearing the end of our third day three of us, myself plus Godwinshelley and Lou D., decided to search for the location of the childhood home of Earl Derr Biggers. We had obtained a photo image of the home before it had been demolished as well as the address, so, we set out in the heat of the day to see what we could locate. After about a half hour, we came upon the spot that, as best we could determine, matched the address of the location of where the Biggers house had once stood. It was a vacant lot which, by the presence of the scant remains of an old walkway at the sidewalk as well as other indications, that the childhood home of Earl Derr Biggers once stood there.



Rush, looking for visual clues in hopes of verifying the past location of the Biggers' home.



Finally, as our time together in Warren was drawing to a close, several of us returned to the Warren library. We had heard that there was a plaque dedicated to Earl Derr Biggers that was, for whatever reason, not on display anywhere, and was in storage at another location. With the gracious cooperation and help of library staff, the plaque was sent over for us to see.



As we looked upon it, we all wondered why this tribute is not on prominent display at the Warren library. Library staff, understandably, had no answer to this question. Created eight years ago, the plaque was probably set aside, eventually beyond the memory of anyone in authority who could make the necessary decision to install it. Perhaps we Charlie Chan Family members and associates can make it a project to move this long-delayed honor to native Warren son, Earl Derr Biggers to its rightful conclusion?

Well, as we all know, all good things must eventually come to a close, and our Charlie Chan Centennial event in Warren seemed to reach its climax all too soon. I know all of us are in agreement that it was a great honor to be able to work with the kind staffs of both the Warren-Trumbull Public Library and Robins Theatre. For myself, I will say that it was my deepest honor and privilege to finally meet some of our wonderful Charlie Chan Family face-to-face, having the opportunity to get to know all of you on a much deeper level as we shared the experiences of our gathering, including the meals together. Thank you...so much...to GodwinShelley, Lou D., Mr. & Mrs. Phil, and Mike n Rachel, not forgetting Louise, whose contributions from afar added much spice to the entire event! Most of all, I wish to say "Thank you...so much" to Lou! Without the many sacrifices of time and resources of our HonoluLou, our Charlie Chan Centennial celebration in Warren, Ohio would not have happened. Let's look forward to future gatherings, shall we?

THE WARREN LIBRARY DISPLAY

Brenda McNeal

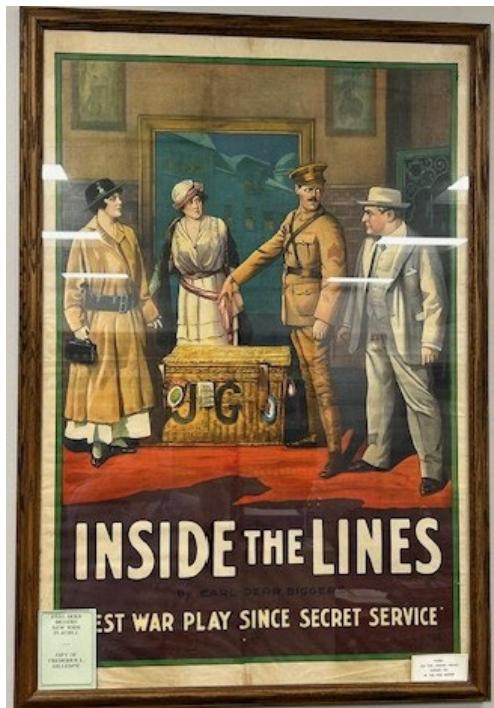
A life-long Charlie Chan fan, I discovered the world-wide Charlie Chan Family Home (www.CharlieChan.org) in 2006. Since then I have enjoyed many years of sharing my enthusiasm on-line. (We have regularly gathered on-line on Monday evenings to view, enjoy and discuss Chan films.) This 2025 event in Warren, OH commemorated the 100th Anniversary of Charlie Chan's first publication. We invited the public to enjoy our dive into the world of Charlie Chan, Honolulu Detective. And I also meet so many of my fellow Chan fans in-person. Connecting with my fellow fans, exploring the city that helped to shape Chan's author, and meeting the wonderful people of Warren Ohio was a delightful treat.

One of our many events was assembling a display of our collective Chan-related treasures. We were especially fortunate to have been afforded space in the Warren-Trumbull Public Library for this exhibition. We were open to all who wished to attend. We displayed many items from Chan's initial beginnings as a print character (magazines and books), to his transition into film, television, radio and even into comic strips. Some of our items were quite rare, such as Earl Biggers personal page-turner (Item# 10).

Additionally, for the public attending our events we created some mementos to keep: celebratory pinback buttons, a charming booklet highlighting the music and lyrics of *Song of Princess Ming Lo Fu* (which Warner Oland sang in the film *Charlie Chan in Shanghai*), and a commemorative bookmark.

As a nod to our years of shared enthusiasm, Lou Armagno, Louise Krasniewicz and myself assembled a few special gift bags for the attending seven "regular" Chan Family Home member. Also, as a special thank you to the library for their space and kind assistance, we donated many Chan-related books for their shelves.

So, without further ado here are the items on public display during our library event, with descriptions to follow:



(Above) The Poster adorning the wall opposite the History-Genealogy Center.



Commemorative Envelopes (Item #1). Set of six commemorative cachet envelopes with pictorial cancellation and postage celebrating the 50th anniversary of Hawaii Statehood and aphorisms from the Chan novels.

Chan Foreign Film Pamphlets (Item #13). These fold outs were popular overseas for advertising movies.

Boston Hollis Theatre Showbill (Item #4). The Hollis Street Theatre, Boston Massachusetts, hosted a variety of performances, including dramas, operas, and musical concerts, including the play *Inspector Charlie Chan*, a three-act play, featuring William Harrigan as the detective. Date or running time unknown.

Ham Radio Charlie Chan Post Card (Item #14). These cards date back to the 1920s when AM radio broadcasts were still a novelty. Radio stations wanting to know how far away they were being received encouraged folks to mail them in. From there they developed into written confirmations between amateur radio operators, a fun way of confirming the two-way radio contact.

Chan Foreign Film Pamphlets (Item #13). These fold outs were popular overseas for advertising movies.

Charlie Chan at the Museum of Modern Art (Unnumbered-Lower Center). Handout from the 1968 Charlie Chan film program presented at the Museum of Modern Art Film Study Center viewing 23 Chan films.



Book Dust Jackets (Item #2). Set of six digitally remastered dust jackets, from the original Grossett and Dunlap edition of the novels (issued after the Bobbs-Merrill originals, but the same years.)



A unique Memento for the Chan Family Home attendees (by Godwinshelley)



Oscar Levant Memoir, *A Scattering of Ignorance* (Item #5). Oscar Levant talks about his foray into film music and the composition of "Carnival".

The Charlie Chan Card Game (Item #3). Circa late 1930's card game featuring the fictional Chinese American detective. This game was a predecessor to the ever-popular card game UNO. Similar to UNO, when a player plays his next to the last card he must call out "Chan," or be penalized 10 points if he forgets.





Charlie Chan Comic Books (Item #12). Lower Comic Book - In the late-1940s, as the Charlie Chan movies were coming to an end, the detective's exploits were featured in a series of original comic book adventures stretching into the 1950s. They were, and still are today, highly sought after collectibles. Upper Comic Book – This comic book was a later publication based on the 1972 television animated series, "The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan." This series spawned merchandise such as a board game, a jigsaw puzzle, lunch box with matching thermos and a series of comic books.



Books, Films (DVDs) and Lobby Cards. A variety of items from members' collections. Right – These are original film stills are from the personal library of Rush Glick. Left - These books were donated to the Warren-Trumbull Library as a thank you for their kind assistance in commemorating Charlie Chan's 100th birthday.



Take One. Mementos offered to the citizens of Warren, Ohio for attending our event at their Warren-Trumbull Library event.



CHARLIE CHAN

JOIN US MONDAY
EVENINGS!



.ORG

And...please be sure to pay a visit to our Message Board, Calendar, and our Bulletin Board where we post current information on events, releases, etc.that relate to Charlie Chan.

WWW.CHARLIECHAN.ORG

JOIN US
ON-LINE
EVERY
MONDAY
EVENING,
8:00EST TO
WATCH
AND CHAT
ABOUT A
CHARLIE
CHAN
FEATURE
FILM.

Song of Princess Ming Lo Fu

By
Charlie
Chan

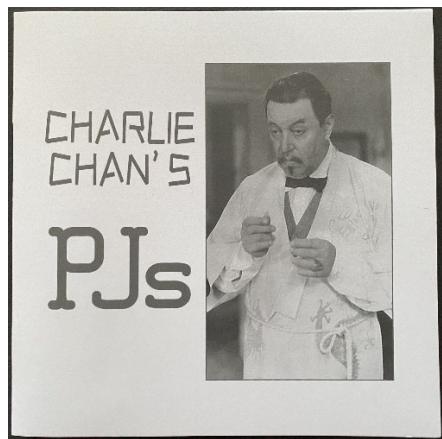


The Song of Princess Ming Lo Fu

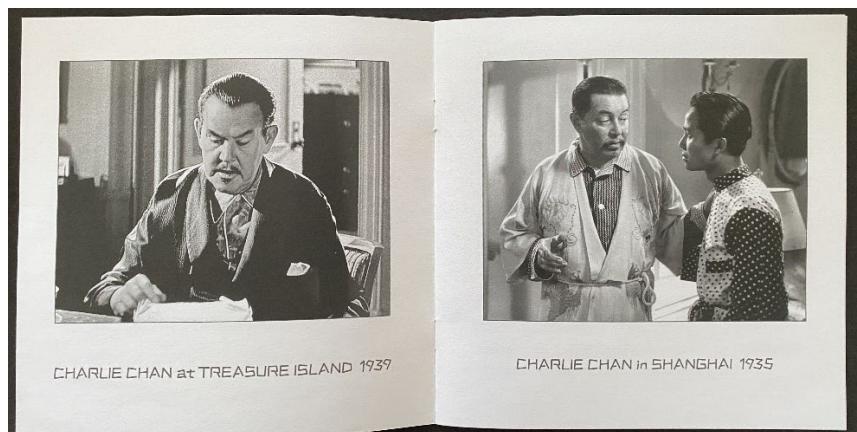
Charlie Chan

Dm Am Gm Am Dm Am Gm Am Am Am Gm Am
 Long the jour-ney, hard the way, but-- his-- heart was gay. For was he not a prince both strong and brave,
 7 Dm Am Gm Am Dm Gm Am Dm Gm Am
 vowed a prin-cess fair to save? And he slew the dread-ful dra-gon! E-ven out off its sev- en heads! And
 13 Dm Am Gm Am Dm Gm Am Dm Am Gm Am
 in his cave he found the prin-cess bound to her low-ly bed. Then came they both back to the land of the
 19 Am Am Dm Am Dm Am Gm Am Am Am Dm Am
 might-ty Em-por-or Fu Man-chu, to claim his re-ward the dain-ty hand of lov- ly Ming Lo Fu!

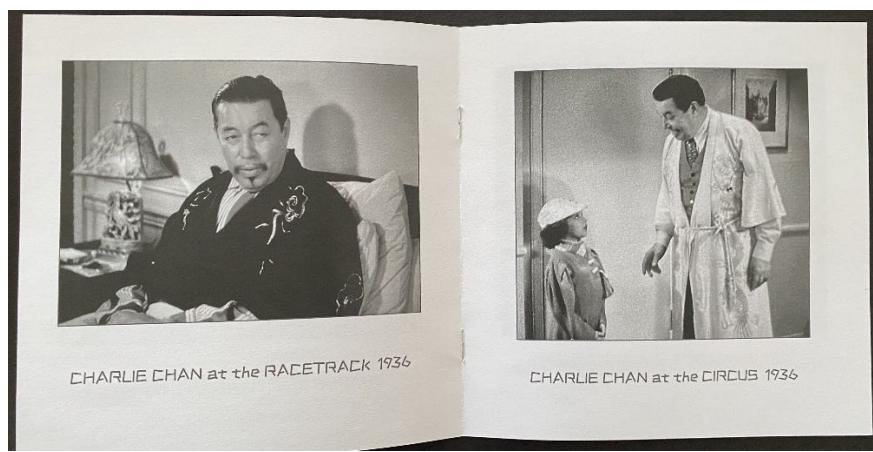
Public Memento Card (TOP: outside front & back covers, ABOVE: Music & lyrics.) Featuring the song of Princess Ming Lo Fu, which Warner Oland sang in the film *Charlie Chan in Shanghai* (1935.)



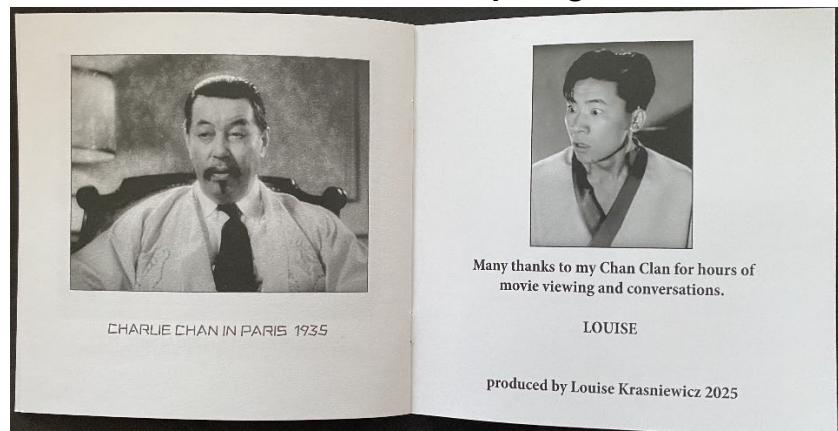
CHARLIE CHAN's PJs Book



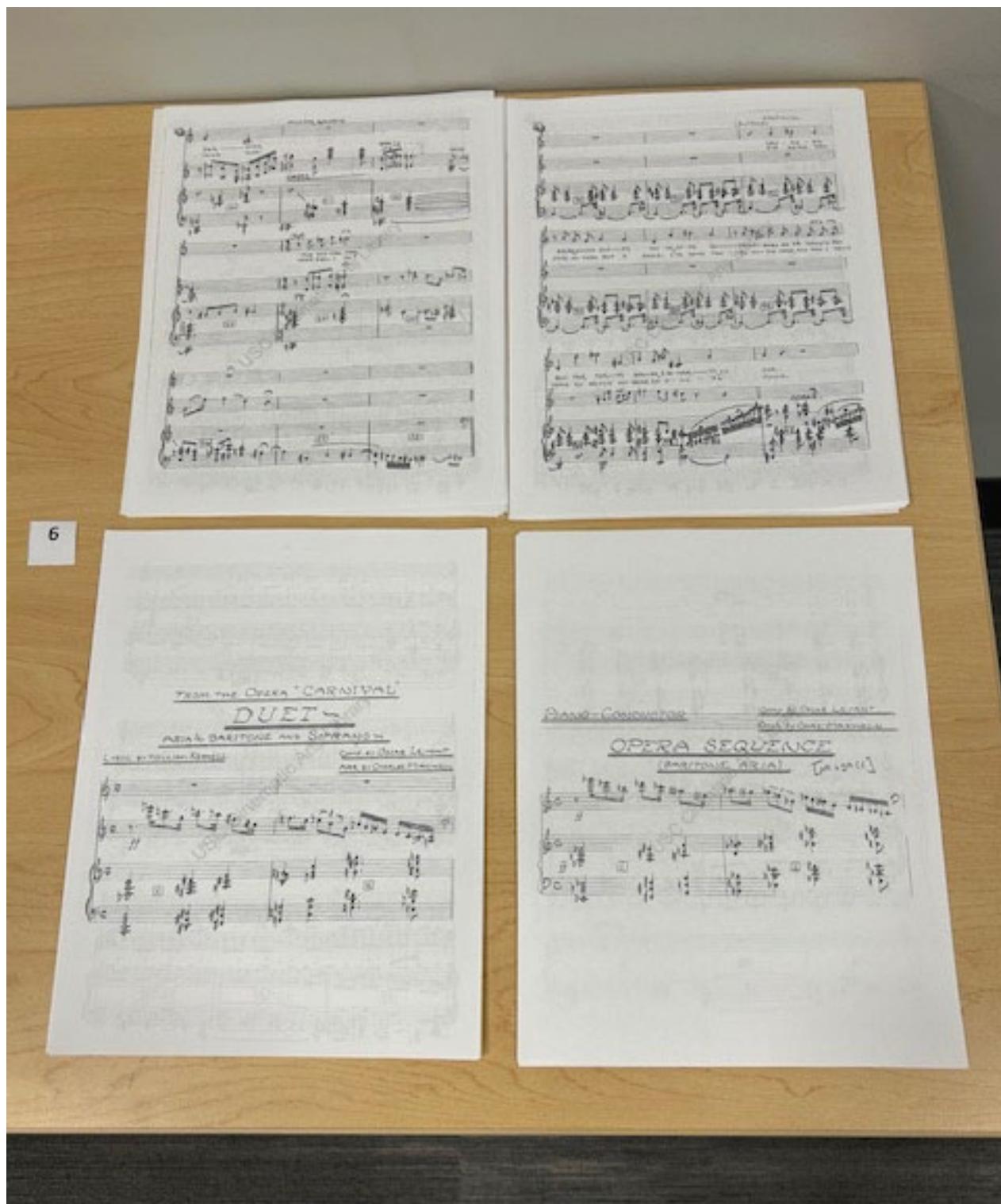
"A LABOR OF LOVE"



By longtime fan Louise



Special Gift for the Members



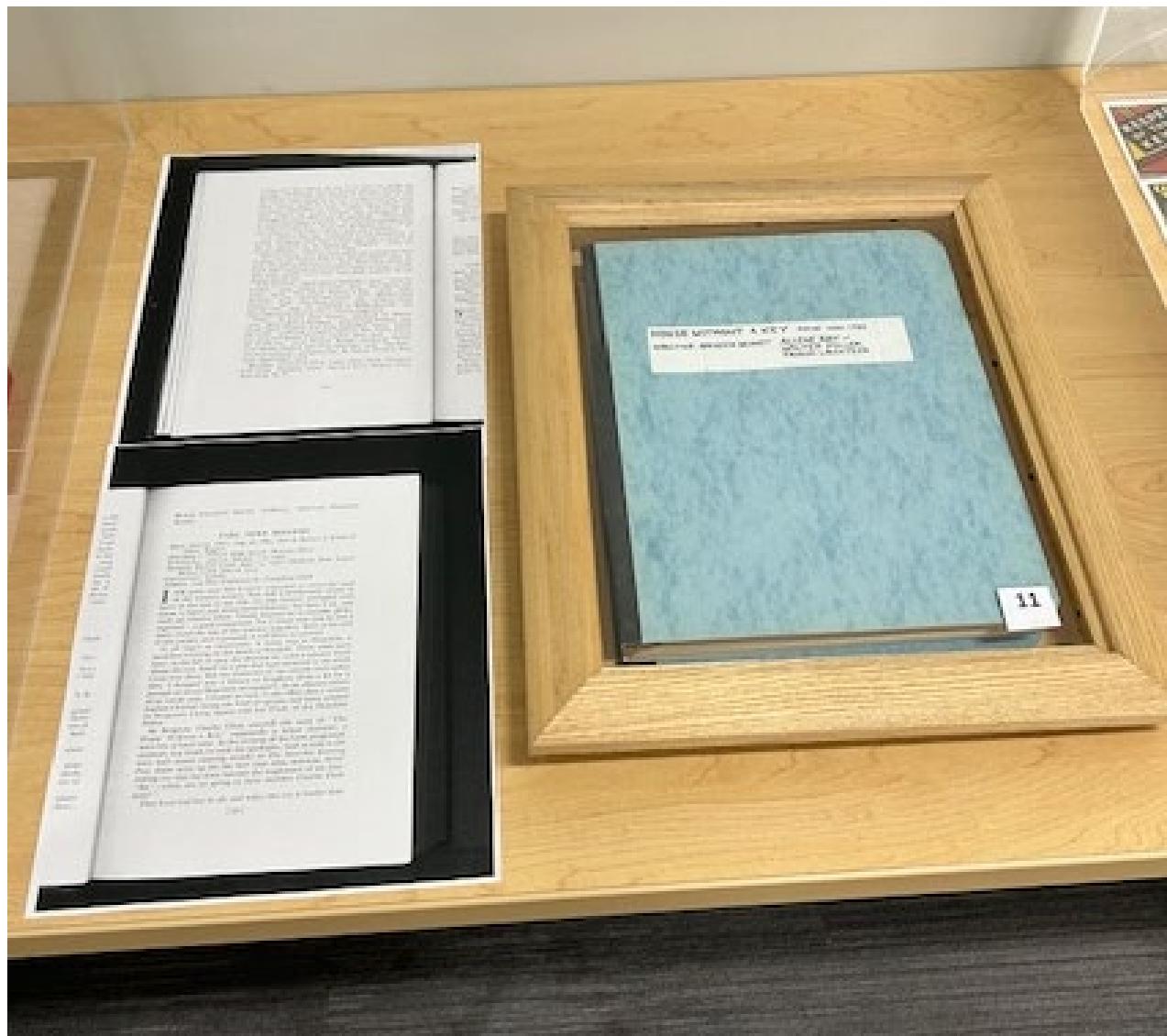
Printed Music Sheet (Item #6): Oscar Levant's short score to "Carnival". Music from *Charlie Chan at the Opera*, 1936; Composer, Oscar Levant, with lyrics: William Kernel from the USC Film Music Library, Los Angeles, CA.



First Edition Novel, Keeper of the Keys, by Earl Derr Biggers (Item #8). Published by The Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1932, inscribed to acquaintances and signed by the author.

The Harvard College of 1907 Twenty-fifth Anniversary Report (Item #9). Commemorating the graduating class which Earl Derr Biggers was a member, including his information and short autobiographical summary and photo.

Ivory Page Turner with Brass Chinese Dragon Handle (Item #10). Presented to Warner Oland by Earl Derr Biggers in appreciation of his portrayal of Charlie Chan in film.



Original Script for the First Adaptation of a Charlie Chan Story, to film: *The House Without a Key*.

Directed by Spencer Bennet and starring Allene Ray and Walter Miller, with Frank Lackteen; produced by Pathe, dated November 1926. Sadly, the actual film is considered lost.



(Left) Author Earl Derr Biggers, **(Right)** George Kuwa as Chan in the 1926, *The House Without a Key*.

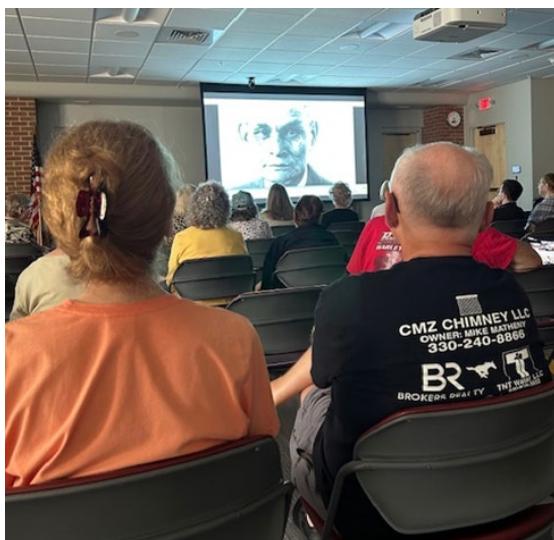
THE WARREN-TRUMBULL LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS

By Dr. Michael Votta Jr.

In addition to the above exceptional memorabilia items *Family Home* member's brought for display, curated by our own Brenda McNeil (Godwinshelley), another highlight of the Chan Clan's trip to Warren, OH was a three-part presentation on aspects of Earl Derr Biggers and Charlie Chan, August 15, 2025, at the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library. The presenters were Rush Glick, Michael Votta and Lou Armagno. Unfortunately, a last-minute illness prevented Lou from attending in person. However, Rush Glick graciously stepped in to present Lou's wonderful session.

First up, Rush Glick's presentation focused on Warren, OH native Earl Derr Biggers, giving an overview of Biggers' life, the creation of the Charlie Chan character and how Biggers' novels were ultimately translated into films. **Next**, I spoke on "en-CHAN-ting melodies," surveying the use of both background and source music in the Chan films. **Finally**, Lou Armagno's presentation enlightened the attendees regarding the extensive use of aphorisms by Charlie Chan in both Biggers' novels and in the films.

The presentations were well-received by an audience of nearly 50 people, including a lively session for questions and conversation at the end. The next day, the library staff reported receiving many positive comments. One staffer I spoke with noted that Warren, being a Rust-Belt town, was slowly climbing back from problems associated with that, and it was good for people to experience something in a more positive light regarding the city's history. The 90 minutes spent interacting with some of the current citizens of Warren indeed proved to be a highlight of the trip for both the attendees and the presenters. The following are a few select slides from the presentations:



(Above): Patrons enjoy the lecture-discussion sessions.

(Below): Select slides from Rush Glick's presentations.



Mr. Rush Glick

A Detective Charlie Chan historian and avid collector of Charlie Chan memorabilia, Rush has maintained an online informational museum, *The Charlie Chan Family Home* (www.charliechan.org) for more than two decades. He has contributed in the production of the 20th Century Fox Charlie Chan DVD film collections. Since the year 2000, Rush has hosted a weekly Monday-evening Charlie Chan Family chat and film viewing for Chan aficionados around the world.

Detective Charlie Chan: From literature to the Silver Screen – Rush Glick

- The First Attempts – The Asian Actors
- Warner Oland – Hollywood's Big Success!
- Sidney Toler – Charlie Chan Carries On
- Roland Winters – The End of Charlie's Hollywood era draws Nears



Detective Charlie Chan: From literature to the Silver Screen – Rush Glick

- The First Attempts – The Asian Actors
- KAMIYAMA SOJIN

Detective Charlie Chan: From literature to the Silver Screen – Rush Glick

- Hollywood Succeeds
- WARNER OLAND



(Below): Select slides from Lou Armagno's presentation.)

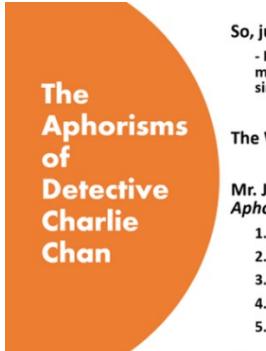
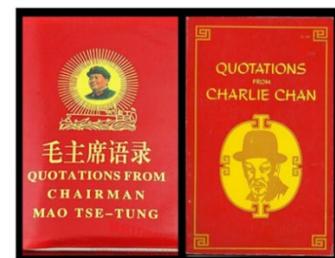


Mr. Lou Armagno

Lou Armagno is the Webmaster and blogger at, *The Postman on Holiday*, (<https://thepostmanonholiday.com/>), a site dedicated to Detective Chan, Hawaii and Ohio. He's the author of the book, *The Wisdom Within Earl Derr Biggers' Charlie Chan: The Original Aphorisms Inside The Charlie Chan Canon*. He's been a participating member of The Charlie Chan Family Home since 2010, and editor of the Annual Charlie Chan Family Home Newsletter.

The Aphorisms of Detective Charlie Chan

Gee! They look similar?



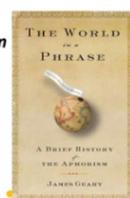
So, just what exactly is an Aphorism?

- It's not: An analogy, axiom, euphemism, idiom, metaphor, platitude, proverb, simile, or other similar device

The World Aphorisms Organization (2008)

Mr. James Geary's "Five Laws of an Aphorism."

1. It must be brief
2. It must be definitive
3. It must be personal
4. It must have a twist
5. It must be philosophical



The Aphorisms of Detective Charlie Chan

Author Earl Derr Biggers did not invent all of these aphorisms – many (if not most) came from past philosophers

To be or not to be – Shakespear's Hamlet, Act III

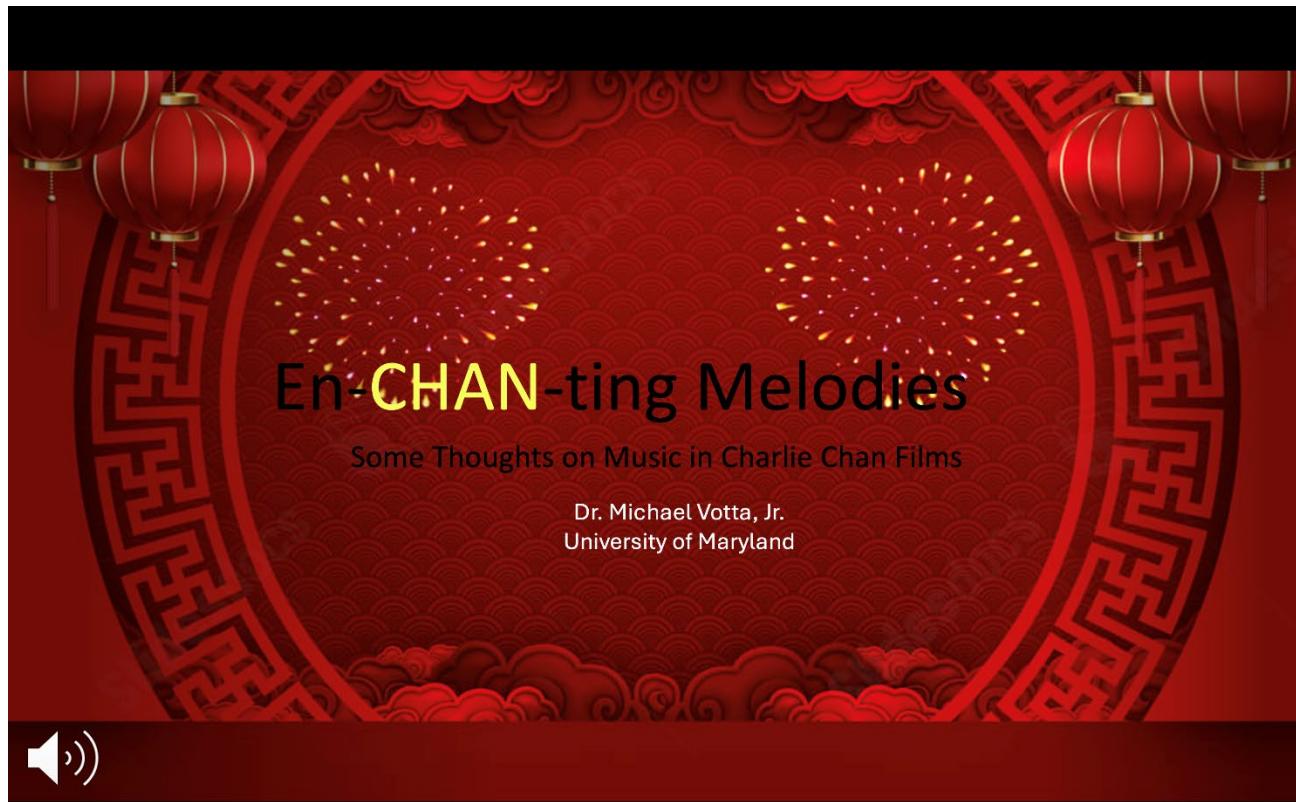
The wages of sin is death – The Bible, Romans 6:28

He who does not increase his knowledge, decreases it – Pirkei Avot, Sayings of The Fathers

Dig your well before you are thirsty – Mencius

Course food to eat, water to drink, and the bended elbow for a pillow—that is the definition of happiness in my country – K'ung Fu-Tzu, The Confucian Analects

(Below): Select slides from Michael's presentation (We won't say he outdid us, but he did have music and I believe a "sing along" of *The Song of Princess Ming Lo Fu* (or maybe he sang it?) So, he gets the big pics!



Source Music –
Charlie Chan in Shanghai

The Song of Princess Ming Lo Fu

Charlie Chan

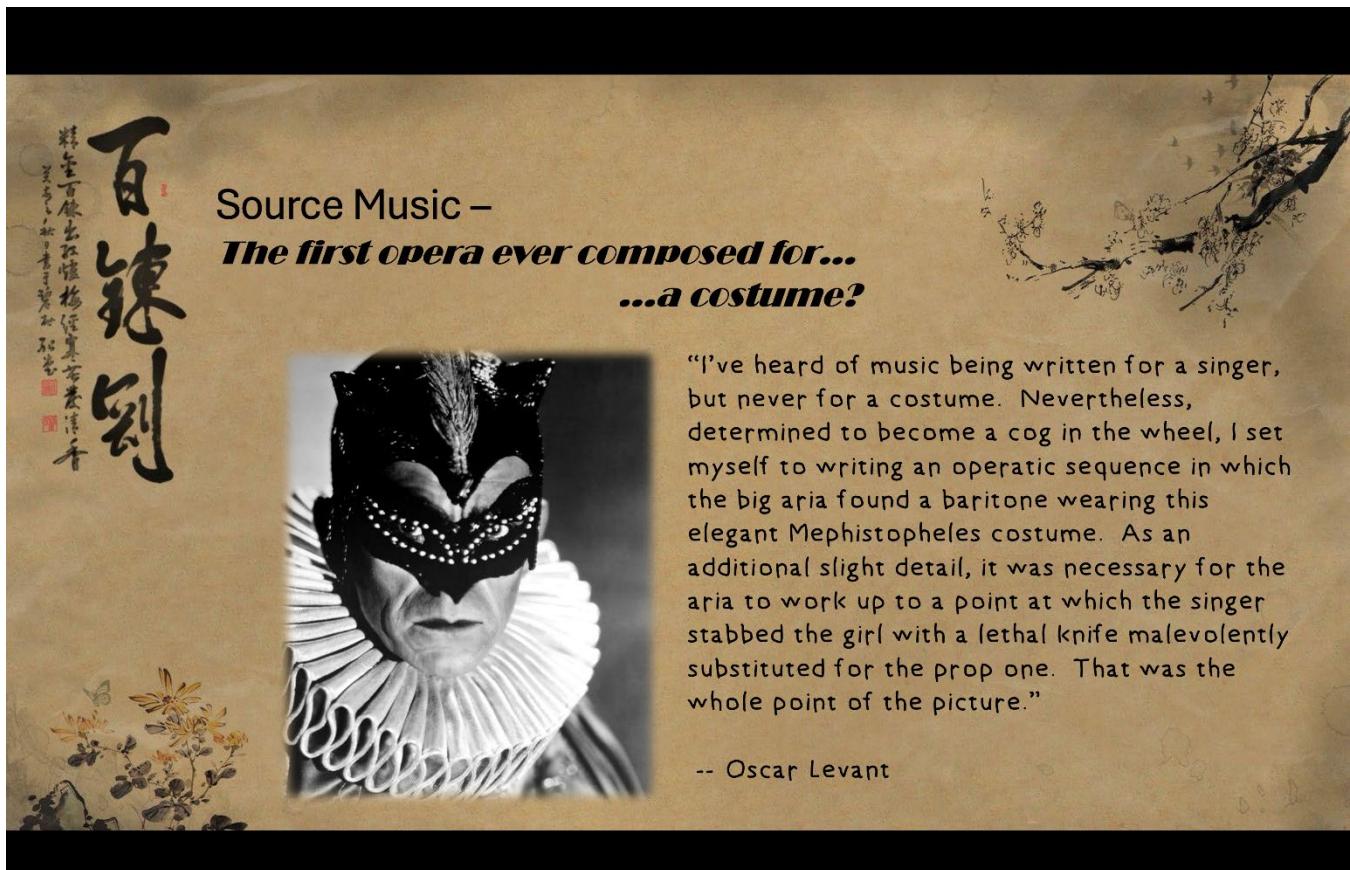
Long the journey had the way, but—mis—heart will grieve, For was he not a prince both strong and brave,
viewed a princess fair to save? And he like the dead fair king died, And off he ran to meet her, And
in his arms he found the princess bound to her lowly feet, then cause they both beat to the land of the
mighty emperor, the Manchus to station where were the slain by hand of sen-ky Ming Lo Fu.

Dm Am Gm Am Dm Am Gm Am Am Am Gm Am

7 Dm Am Gm Am Am Gm Am Am Am Gm Am

13 Dm Am Gm Am Dm Gm Am Am Am Gm Am

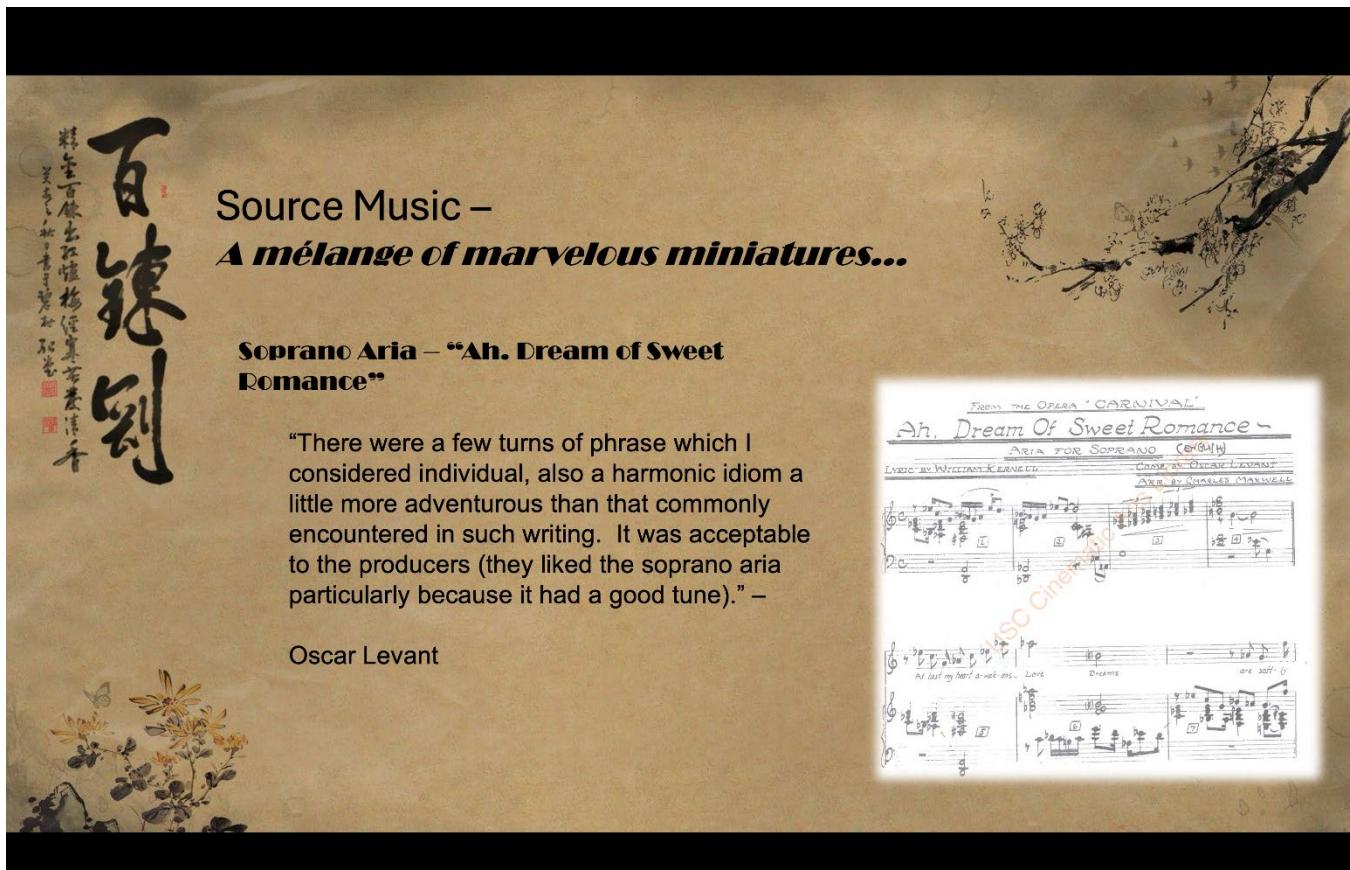
19 Am Am Dm Am Dm Am Gm Am Am Dm Am



Source Music –
***The first opera ever composed for...
...a costume?***

"I've heard of music being written for a singer, but never for a costume. Nevertheless, determined to become a cog in the wheel, I set myself to writing an operatic sequence in which the big aria found a baritone wearing this elegant Mephistopheles costume. As an additional slight detail, it was necessary for the aria to work up to a point at which the singer stabbed the girl with a lethal knife malevolently substituted for the prop one. That was the whole point of the picture."

-- Oscar Levant



Source Music –
A mélange of marvelous miniatures...

Soprano Aria – “Ah. Dream of Sweet Romance”

“There were a few turns of phrase which I considered individual, also a harmonic idiom a little more adventurous than that commonly encountered in such writing. It was acceptable to the producers (they liked the soprano aria particularly because it had a good tune).” –

Oscar Levant

From the Opera "CARNIVAL"
Ah. Dream Of Sweet Romance –
ARIA FOR SOPRANO (CONTINUED)
LYRIC BY WILLIAM KERNETTE
COMPOSED BY OSCAR LEVANT
ARRANGED BY CHARLES MARVELL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This event would not have been possible without the coordination from the many wonderful folks in Warren and Trumbull County, who helped immensely to make the event a success:

Alyse McMullen, Adult Services Manager
Warren-Trumbull County Public Library

Guy D'Astolfo, Entertainment Editor
The Business Journal

Samantha Ensminger, Marketing Manager
Trumbull County Tourism Bureau

Andy Gray, Entertainment Editor
Tribune Chronicle and The Vindicator

Savannah Moss
Collections & Research Manager
Trumbull County Historical Society

Betty Weibel, Public Relations
Ohio Goes to the Movies

Sean McBane, General Manager
Robins Theatre

The 2025 Charlie Chan Centennial Agenda

DAY 1, Thursday Aug 14	
10AM - 6PM	ARRIVAL
7PM	Aloha Dinner/Meet & Greet
DAY 2, Friday Aug 15	
7AM-9AM	Breakfast
9AM - 10PM	Free Time
10AM - 12PM	Warren-Trumbull County Library
	- Biggers Literary Landmark
	- Sutliff Museum (Victorian Era/Underground Rlrd) (Option 1)
	- Trumbull Cnty Local History & Geneology Center (Option 2)
12PM - 1:00PM	Lunch
	PUBLIC EVENT - WARREN LIBRARY
2PM - 2:30PM	Film Featurette: <i>The Real Charlie Chan</i> (21 min)
2:30 - 4PM	Panel-Discussion (Rush Glick, Lou Armagno, Michael Votta Jr.)
4PM - 5PM	Free Time
5:00PM - 6:30PM	Dinner
	PUBLIC EVENT - ROBINS THEATER (doors open 6PM)
7PM - 8:30PM	Film Viewing: Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (1 hr, 14 min)
8:30PM	Celebratory Toast at Best Western Park Hotel, Lounge/Speakeasy
DAY 3, Saturday, Aug 16	
7AM-9AM	Breakfast
9AM - 10AM	Free Time
10AM - 11AM	- Visit site of Biggers' Family Home
11AM - 12PM	- Walking Tour Millionaires Row & Historic Mahoning Valley
12PM - 1:30PM	Lunch
2PM - 5PM	The Charlie Chan Family Home - Strategic Planning Mtg
5PM - 6M	Free Time
6PM - 8PM	Dinner: Main Loon Chinese Restaurant (Niles, 12 min away)
8PM	Return to Hotel - Pack for morning departure
DAY 4, Sun, Aug 17	
7AM-9AM	Aloha 'oe Breakfast
11AM	Checkout

2026 a New Year...and beyond

By Lou Armagno

ALMOST THERE! NO.5 CHAN NOVEL ENTERS THE PUBLIC DOMAIN: CHARLIE CHAN CARRIES ON (1930.) In Charlie's own words "Patience are a very lonely virtue." After 96 years the fifth Charlie Chan novel, **Charlie Chan Carries On (1930)**, enters the public domain on January 1, 2026: That's five down and only one more to go! However, we will have to skip that accolade next year (2027) until 2028. Why, because Earl Derr Biggers skipped a year between *Carries On* and publishing the final Chan novel, *Keeper of the Keys* (1932.) So we must wait two more years (January 1, 2028) to find them all in the public domain. You'll find highlights of item from literature, film, art and elsewhere entering the public domain January 1st, 2026, on Duke University's Law page: <https://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2026/>.



HAPPY NEW YEAR HORSES! While our Roman calendar New Year's began on January 1st, not so with the Lunar New Year and Chinese zodiac! Year 2026 ushers in **THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**, which begins **February 17, 2026** and concludes on **February 5th, 2027**. **Past HORSE years are:** 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942, 1930 and 1928. If you were born in one of these years, chances are you are probably a HORSE. **Others born under this sign:** Nelson Mandela, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Angela Merkel, Harvey Milk, Paul McCartney, Jimi Hendrix, Frederic Chopin, Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking, Thomas Edison, Jennifer Lawrence, Harrison Ford, and a personal favorite of mine Halle Berry (Hey, she's from Cleveland 😊).

HORSE. In Chinese Zodiac the Horse is confident, agreeable, and responsible, although they also tend to dislike being reined in by others. They're fit and intelligent, adoring physical and mental exertion; they're decisive but also easily swayed and impatient. Horses are leaders who rarely accept defeat, so they can motivate themselves to put up an active fight in everything they do. This can come off as tenacity, endurance, stubbornness, or even foolhardiness in certain situations. Once Horse matures and learns to harness this energy, they'll be unstoppable since they're agile and shrewd thinkers who innately understand human nature. They're also principled, so their efforts will be put toward a good cause. Socially, Horse has an outgoing and agreeable personality. They speak as quickly as they think and act, and they aren't shy about showing off their talents and capabilities because to be falsely self-effacing wouldn't be authentic.

The HORSE happens to be the “seventh” of twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac. According to myth, the Jade Emperor called all animals of the universe together for a race. He decreed the first 12 animals to finish would be rewarded with a year dedicated in their honor, and according to the order in which they arrived. The sly Rat was the first to arrive. He rode upon the back of the water buffalo (OX), and when they got to their destination, Rat jumped off to finish first! Then, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig arrived in that order. The calendar repeats every 12 years. This cute video easily explains the tale, and reveals, **why cat and rat are forever enemies!**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw0adpGLldk>.

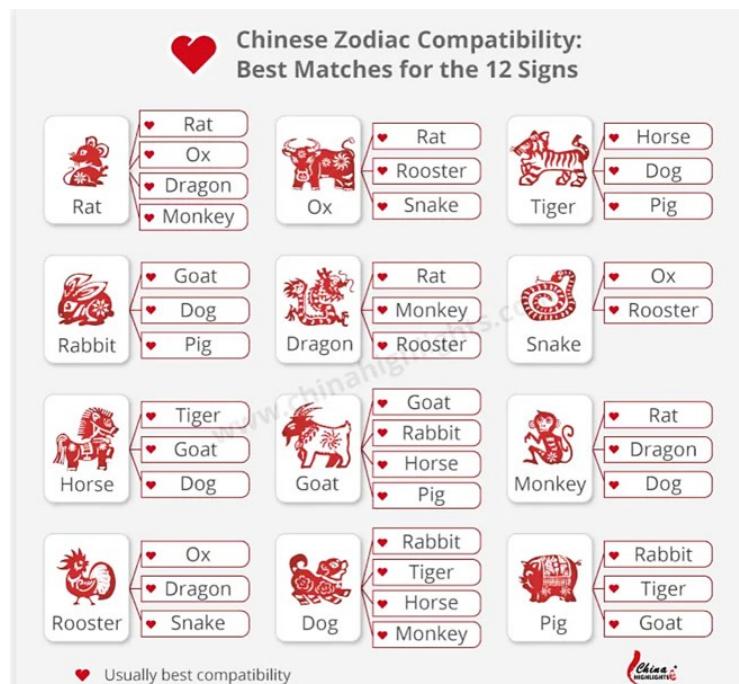
Lucky Things for Horse

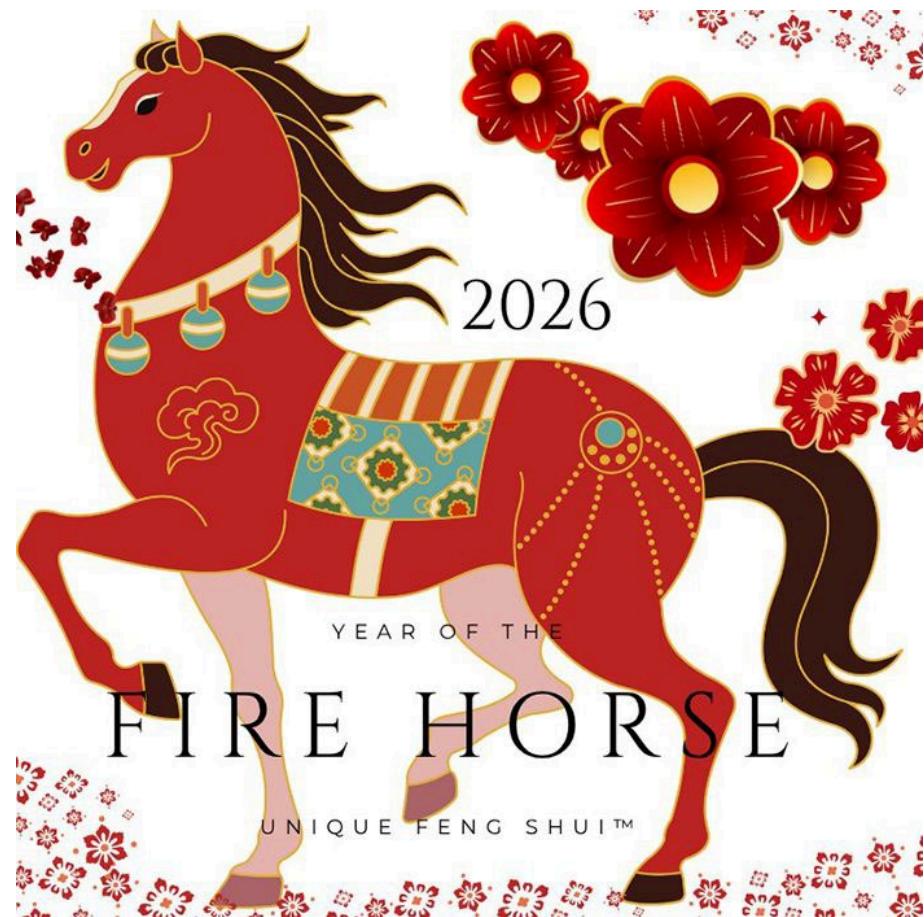
- **Lucky numbers:** 2, 7
- **Lucky colors:** Red, Pink, Purple
- **Lucky directions:** Southeast
- **Lucky flowers:** Iris, Jasmine, Calla Lily

Unlucky Things for Horse

- **Unlucky numbers:** 1, 6
- **Unlucky colors:** Black, Blue
- **Unlucky directions:** Northwest

Love Compatibility: Is he/she compatible with you? Here's the zodiac's recommendations for a mate depending on your zodiac sign. For *The Horse*, try your luck with a Tiger, Goat, or Dog:





"HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU!" (Happy New Year 2026)



HPD DETECTIVE CHAN APANA – CHARLIE CHAN

2025 MESSAGE BOARD (HIGHLIGHTS)

By Visitors Worldwide

Welcome to our **2025 highlights from the Charlie Chan Message Board**. The Charlie Chan [Message Board](#) is a place to pose questions, discuss movies, books or events, as well as sound off on any and all things Charlie Chan. Indeed, it is quite the collection of philosophical thoughts and ideas about, not just Charlie Chan, but the film industry, mysteries in general, and other unusual topics that spring to mind. Comments and discussion may be simple "Happy Birthday Earl Derr Biggers," others go much deeper "The Lost Charlie Chan Films," and yet others seek advice "Where can I find Charlie Chan films on Laser Disk?" In attempt to capture the year, here are a few notable 2025 message board topics that generated discussion (**click on each title to read.**) And should nothing here interest you, there is a plethora of Message Board Topics dating back twenty years to May 20th, 2004. **NOTE: Recently, within the last year or so, the Message Board has been receiving multiple SPAM or PHISHING attacks.** These mostly seem to be ads with links to betting sites. While they seem harmless, it's unclear where links inside may take you. So recommend you not click on any hyperlinks inside of post that appear off kilter. Most direct one to betting sites or shopping. The prime posts come from the name: [Superforum](#). Also, a few other SPAM messages (though I haven't seen them lately) come under the names: [Daniel](#) (in Greek), [Alexseen](#) (in German), and [Kuask](#) (in Portuguese.) **IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE: The Message Board is separate from the rest of the site. This does NOT affect any other part of the site.** All other pages are operated by "Wordpress" and safe. Only the Message Board is operated by "Bravenet". Rush Glick has been working with them to try and squelch these posts. So, with that out of the way here are some posts from 2025:

[YOUR CHOICE for next week's movie: "Murder By Death"!](#) (December 15): ...By group consensus, "Murder By Death" (1976) was chosen! This will mark the first time in our 25-year Chat history that we will not be sharing a Charlie Chan film!

[New stories.](#) (Nov 22): Hello. I just discovered this website (will have a hard time forgiving myself for not doing so far sooner). Been browsing around a bit, and I decided I'd better pitch in... See, this next monday a new Charlie novella goes to print, by yours truly.

[And this year's winner is...Half Yours!](#) (November 3): This year's winner of the Melbourne Cup was won by HALF YOURS. Congratulations, Matt, as you held the winning "ticket," you are the winner of the vintage silver 1936 half-dollar!

["Dangerous Money" blooper spotted by Godwinshelley!](#) (September 22): This evening as our group viewing of "Dangerous money" neared its conclusion, Godwinshelley noted that she saw a reflection of a camera operator during an interior scene at the "fish museum."

[Charlie Chan Family members gather in Warren, Ohio, for a Charlie Chan Centennial event.](#) (Aug 16): Well, the celebration of the Charlie Chan Centennial in Warren, Ohio, the birthplace of his "Poppa," Earl

Derr Biggers, has come to a close.

Ohio Goes to The Movies Magazine (OGTM). (July 26): A side column article on page 3 of OGTM digital magazine talks about our Warren gathering: <https://ohiogoestothemovies.org/traditional-theaters-make-a-comeback/>. Also, news about the Superman premier on page one, and elsewhere the 250 celebration of our nation in film.

OLD SAN FRANCISCO (1927). (Jun 18): Yesterday afternoon, I watched the 1927 film OLD SAN FRANCISCO, featuring Warner Oland in the role of the villain, on YouTube. There was a later film called IN OLD SAN FRANCISCO, but the only similarity between the two films is that they both end with the 1906 earthquake.

Thank you. (Apr 18): I just wanted to say Thank You for this wonderful information. I am so very grateful to all of you for this incredible museum to visit and spend time at.

Re: OUR CCF MONDAY EVENING CHAT for March 3, 2025: "Charlie Chan's Secret." (Mar 3): in the past; on other message boards, I had always wondered how Allen Colby was able to get from the ship wreck back to the house . he mentioned that there were threats on his life ; so it is strange that someone who pick him up?

Murdoch Mysteries. (Mar 1): I see that there is to be a Chinese detective on Murdoch Mysteries, a favorite of mine. His photo puts me in mind of an Edwardian Charlie Chan! I can't wait to see.

Hello again (Madam Saturnia). (February 28): From years ago! Lisa in Texas. Everyone good?

Mr. Moto's Gamble. (Feb 3): After receiving Charlie Chan 3-Film Collection set that completes my Charlie Chan DVD collection, I was wondering if people on here would say that Mr. Moto's Gamble should be added to my collection? This movie was written and started as Charlie Chan at the Ringside, but was changed to Mr. Moto after Warner walked off the set. It does still have Keye Luke as Number One son Lee in it. So in actuality, you could say that Charlie Chan and Mr. Moto are in a shared universe.

Welcome Detective Chan! (January 31): January 31, 1925, The Saturday Evening Post, Vol 197, No. 31, Pg 110 (to be precise) Chapter 7, Enter Charlie Chan. Aloha Charlie and Mahalo Nui Loa for all the mystery and pleasure you've given us; 100 years ago...today!

VW TV Commercial. (Jan 17): Thanks to the Charlie Chan in Germany website, I just found out there were a few Charlie Chan tv commercials. One even had Rolland Winters in it. Here is the link that talks about them.

The Charlie Chan DVD “Featurettes” & Where to find them

One aspect of the Charlie Chan DVDs often overlooked, are the mini “featurettes” one finds at the main menu; usually, listed as “Other Features,” “Special Features,” or something similar. These small snippets are extremely entertaining tidbits of education and take us behind the scenes of these prospective film productions.

Listed below, please find our index of some thirty extremely entertaining and enlightening shorts and the DVDs where you'll find them. We've omitted any “Theatrical Trailers” or “Still Galleries.” Happy Hunting!

(Note: Our illustrious Charlie Chan Family Home webmaster appears in no less than five!)



[\(20th Century Fox\) Charlie Chan, Volume 1 \(20 Jun 2006\)](#)

1. Featurette - Eran Trece (full Spanish-Language Version of the lost film, Charlie Chan Carries On) (1931)

CAST (Main): Manuel Arbo (Charlie Chan), Rafael Calvo (Inspector Duff), Juan Corena (Dick Kennaway), Ana Maria Custodio (Elen Potter).

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Shanghai*.

2. Featurette - The Legacy of Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Jon L. Breen, DeSoto Brown, Janice Clapoff, Rush Glick, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, James G. Y. Ho, Sheri Kagimoto, Kanoelehua Miller, Judy Narita, Layne Tom Jr., Valerie Yaros.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in London*.

3. Featurette - In Search of Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Howard Berlin, Jon L. Breen, Rusty Cundieff, Rush Glick, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, Carla Winter, Paul Wurtzel, Valerie Yaros.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Paris*.

4. Featurette - The Real Charlie Chan (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: DeSoto Brown, Janice Clapoff, Eddie Croom, Barbara Gregorich, Ken Hanke, James G. Y. Ho, Karl Kagimoto, Sheri Kagimoto, Nannette Napoleon, Bob Krauss.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Egypt*.

(20th Century Fox) Charlie Chan, Volume 2 (5 Dec 2006)

5. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Lucky Director: H. Bruce Humberstone (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Eve Brent, Jordana Gainsworth, Rush Glick, Ken Hanke, Scott McIsaac, Johnny Scheffield.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Opera*.

6. Featurette - Layne Tom, Jr.: The Adventures of Charlie Chan, Jr. (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Tom Layne Jr.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Olympics*.

7. Featurette - Number One Son: The Life of Keye Luke (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Rush Glick, Ken Hanke, Vikki Luke, Scott McIsaac.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Race Track*.

8. Featurette - Charlie Chan at the Movies (2006)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Bruce Scivally.

CAST: Jordana Gainsworth, Rush Glick, C. Courtney Joyner, Sara Karloff, Scott McIsaac.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at the Circus*.

(20th Century Fox) Charlie Chan, Volume 3 (14 Aug 2007)

9. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2007)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret*.

10. Featurette - Charlie Chan and the Rise of the Modern Detective (2007)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen / (W) John Cork.

CAST: Ronald Thomas, Matthew Pearl, Dr. Henry C. Lee.

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret*.

11. Featurette - Dr. Henry Lee: The Modern Day Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Dr. Henry Lee

DVD: *Charlie Chan's Secret*.

12. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2007)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).

DVD: *Charlie Chan in The Black Camel*.

13. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Chance: A Re-creation of a Lost Chan Film (2007)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork / (W) John Cork, Bruce Scivally, Lisa Van Eyssen.

Screenplay and Dialog: Philip Kleine and Barry Connere.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in The Black Camel*.

14. Featurette (Side 1) - Charlie Chan is Missing: The Last Days of Warner Oland (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Paul S. Oland, David Lewis, Ken Hanke, Valerie Yaros, Rush Glick, Kay Linaker.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

15. Featurette (Side 1) - Warner Oland is Charlie Chan (2007)

(Screen shots of lobby cards, posters, and advertisements featuring Oland as Chan).

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

16. Featurette (Side 2) - Behind That Curtain -- The 1929 Film Featuring the First Appearance of the Charlie Chan Character at FOX (2007)

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo*.

17. Featurette - The World of Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Ken Hanke, Scott McIsaac, Rush Glick, Michael Shermer, Khaled Azzam, Gerry Scott, Suzanne Wilson Barnett, Nancy Bistow, Robert Sabia, Jon White, Miles Kreuger, David Wallechinsky.

DVD: *Charlie Chan on Broadway*.

18. Featurette - Chanograms: The Aphorisms of Charlie Chan (2007)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Ken Hanke, Rush Glick, Suzanne Wilson Barnett.

DVD: *Charlie Chan on Broadway*.

(20th Century Fox) Charlie Chan, Volume 4 (12 Feb 2008)

19. Featurette - Reinventing Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Scott McIsaac, Ken Hanke.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

20. Featurette - Sidney Toler: The Man Who Became Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Miles Krueger, David Lewis.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

21. Featurette - Charlie Chan's Courage: A Re-creation of a Lost Chan Film (2007)

(Based on The Chinese Parrot)

Director/Writer: John Cork/Bruce Scivally and Lisa Van Eyssen.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*.

22. Featurette - Welcome to Reno: America's Divorce Resort (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork and Lisa Van Eyssen.

CAST: Mella Harmon, William L. McGee, Pat Ferraro Klos, Judge Peter I. Breen,

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

23. Featurette - Reno Memories (2008)

Director/Writer: Lisa Van Eyssen, John Cork.

CAST: William L. McGee.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

24. Featurette - Chan's Killer Actress: Kay Linaker (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork.

CAST: Kay Linaker.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in Reno*.

25. Featurette - The Making of Charlie Chan in City in Darkness (2008)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen, (W) John Cork.

CAST: Rick Jewell, Scott McIsaac, John Cork, Marje Schuetze-Coburn, Cornelius Schnauber.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in the City in Darkness*.

26. Featurette - Writing Charlie Chan: Robert Ellis and Helen Logan (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.

CAST: John Cork, Scott McIsaac.

DVD: *Charlie Chan in the City in Darkness*.

27. Featurette - Commentary by Film Critic Ken Hanke and Film Historian John Cork (2008)

(Commentary that can be played in synch with the movie).

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

28. Featurette - The Real Treasure Island (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.

CAST: Richard Reinhardt, Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig, Gladys Hansen.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

29. Featurette - Charlie Chan and the Zodiac (2008)

Director/Writer: John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen.

CAST: Michael Kelleher, Ed Neil, Howard Davis.

DVD: *Charlie Chan at Treasure Island*.

(20th Century Fox) Charlie Chan, Volume 5 (16 Sep 2008)

30. Featurette - The Era of Chan (2008)

Director/Writer: (D) John Cork & Lisa Van Eyssen, (W) John Cork.

CAST: John Cork, Scott McIsaac, Sharon Rosen Leib, Paul Wurtzel, David Wurtzel, Miles Kreuger, Ken Hanke, Jim Doherty, Didi Hunter, Lorenzo Semple, Jr.

DVD: *Castle in the Desert*.