Resources on the Monkey King (The Novel)

David Rolston (drolston@umich.edu)

The Journey to the West (Xiyou ji 西遊記), the 16th Century Traditional Novel of 100 chapters in which the story of the Monkey King was most famously elaborated:

Plot Summary:
The novel can be divided into 5 parts: (1) Chs. 1-7: The birth of the Monkey King (a.k.a., Sun Wukong), his acquisition of magical powers, his rebellion against Heaven, and his subjugation by Buddha beneath the Mountain of Five Phases; (2) Ch. 8: The Heavenly Council at which Buddha sends the Goddess of Mercy (Guanyin) to help save China by finding a worthy pilgrim to fetch scriptures from India, and the introduction, as Guanyin travels from the West to China, of the future supernatural disciples of the scripture-pilgrim (the dragon-horse, Pigsy, Friar Sand, and Sun Wukong); (3) Chs. 9-12: The background of the scripture-pilgrim, Xuanzang (a.k.a., The Tang Monk or Tripitaka), and his commission by Guanyin and the Tang emperor to go to India to get Mahayana Buddhist scriptures; (4) Chs. 13-97: The pilgrimage itself, elaborated as the alternating capture of the pilgrims by a series of monsters, demons, animal spirits, and disguised deities, and their release from same through their own efforts, and more importantly, help from Guanyin and other deities, all of which adventures constitute the 81 ordeals that it is ordained that the Tang Monk must pass through before reaching his goal; (5) Chs. 98-100: The pilgrims' audience with the Buddha, their return to China with the scriptures, and their canonization.

Translations of The Journey to the West:

Anthony C. Yu, The Journey to the West, 4 vols. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978-1983) (Complete, scholarly translation with notes, extensive introduction, and index in v. 4; a labor of love and quite lively in style -- lots of exclamation marks)

W.J.F. Jenner, Journey to the West, 3 vols. (Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1982-1986) (Complete but less scholarly, not as lively)

Arthur Waley, Monkey, A Folk Novel of China by Wu Ch'eng-en (New York: Grove Press, 1958) (Single volume, greatly abridged, but by a famous translator and very kid friendly, still in print)
玄奘取經

高僧傳云大唐沙門玄奘法師憐大法之不通致行遠表之耶泰，
以貞觀三年乾象大蓄。經年，西尋聖迹，初從京邑清達，沙州獨佳。
今西藏諸虎豹不能前行，或行不知為計。乃閉門而坐，坐至夕閉門。見
一老僧，即禮拜僧口授梵，若心經。今見釋之遂得山川平易，
道路開通虎豹，形魔鬼魔鬼。卽至京師，今玉華寺住。翻譯經論總
一百五十餘國。佛國之漸至，貞觀十九年冬，
徐歸於闕，凡經一卷。自見憶欣，
緫召門人有緣並集告曰，有為之法，必歸佛教。言至，
往詣佛及諸道僧，亦遺表，訖右。右，
然今不動，其形神速，次年，
至會，其形似於此。自知遂
然不動。
Chaps. 1 - 7  Origin of Sun Wu-k'ung

8  Buddha's assembly; inauguration of scripture-seeking; miniature journey in reverse

9  Origin of Hsüan-tsang; controversial chap.

10 - 13 Initial phase of journey; imperial sanction

14 - 15 Submission of Sun and Horse

16 - 17 Stolen cassock; Bear Monster on Black Wind Mountain; Kuan-yin as deliverer; greed of Buddhist community

18 - 19 Submission of Pa-chieh; transmission of Heart Sutra

20 - 21 Yellow Wind Monster

22 Submission of Sand Monk

23 Temptation by the Four Sages

24 - 26 Ginseng episode; Kuan-yin as deliverer

27 - 31 White Bone Demon; first banishment of Sun; Yellow-Robed Monster

32 - 35 Lotus Flower Cave episode, trial by two delinquent house boys of Lao Tzu

36 Vanity of Buddhist community; discussion of self-cultivation (lunar theories)

37 - 39 Black Rooster Kingdom, "Hamlet" episode

40 - 42 Red Boy episode; Kuan-yin as deliverer

43 Black River episode

44 - 46 Cart-Slow Kingdom episode

47 - 49 Heaven-Reaching River episode; Kuan-yin as deliverer

50 - 52 Golden Helmet Cave episode; trial by Lao Tzu's delinquent green buffalo

53 - 55 Demonic pregnancy; Women Kingdom; scorpion spirit; Kuan-yin as indirect deliverer
56 - 58  Second banishment of Sun; "Double Monkey" episode
59 - 61  Mountain of Flames; Bull Demon Monster episode
62 - 63  Restoration of Buddhist relics
64     Discourse on poetics and poetry
65 - 66  Little Thunderclap Monastery episode; spurious Buddha
67     Rotted Persimmon Alley episode; python monster
68 - 71  Monkey as physician in Scarlet-Purple Kingdom; trial by
          Kuan-yin's delinquent wolf; Kuan-yin as deliverer
72 - 73  Cobweb Cave and Seven Spider Monsters episode
74 - 77  Lion-Camel Cave episode; trial by the Lion, the Elephant
          and the Roc; Buddha as deliverer
78 - 79  Bhiksu Kingdom episode
80 - 83  Sensuality of the Buddhist community; rodent spirit episode;
          trial by Devaraja Li's delinquent daughter
84     Dharma-Destroying episode—mass conversion through comic trickery
85 - 86  Leopard monster episode; first mention of the "nearness" of goal
87     Phoenix-Immortal Prefecture episode—mass conversion through
          good works
88-90  Jade-Flower Prefecture episode; disciples make disciples; pun
        on lion and teacher (shih . . . shih)
91 - 92  Lantern Festival; Rhinoceros Monsters episode
93 - 95  Arrival at Jetavana Park and India; trial by delinquent Jade
          Hare of the Moon
96 - 97  Squire Kuan episode
98 - 100 Denouement
黄蟒配翎子、狐尾、千筋——美猴王装束
猴 衣
《闹天宫》之孙悟空
In 1965 there were only 60 macaques or so on the peninsula. Since the establishment of the sanctuary they have multiplied rapidly numbering now close to 1,000 in 25 packs. At first they fought shy of men. The sanctuary workers offered them food by handing it on the trees and this gradually made them no longer timid of men. Now two packs will come to the feeder at the whistle, gibbering, frolicking and contending for food without fear.

The peninsula is popularly known as “Macaque Island”.

Macaque Island

The macaque is a highly developed animal good for laboratory use and a favourite of zoo visitors. It is listed in China as an animal to be protected.

A few years ago a sanctuary for it was established on Nanwan peninsula of Lingshui County on Hainan Island under the administration of Guangdong Province. Jutting out into the sea and with hills on one side, the 930-hectare peninsula is an ideal habitat for the animal. The macaque is a social animal which feeds on wild fruit and spends most of its time in trees, rain or shine. Mating in winter and with a gestation period of six months, a female gives birth to one young a year, or two in three years.
制度衣
《惊天宫》之孙悟空
Thousands of years ago in China, in the province of Ao-lai, there stood a towering mountain — the Mountain of Flowers and Fruits. At the very top of this mountain, perfectly balanced on its needle peak, was a rock as big as a castle, half-hidden by a thick and pearly mist.
Monkey King Song

Music written
by
Rochelle Martinez-Mouilleseaux

I was born of earth and heaven, immortal magically fused,
An old monkey hailed from the Flower-Fruit Mount.
I made my home in the Water-Curtain Cave;
I sought friend and teacher to gain the Mystery Great.
Perfected in the many arts of ageless life,
I learned to change in ways boundless and vast.
Too narrow the space I found on that mortal earth;
I set my mind to live in the Green Jade Sky
In Divine Mists Hall none should long reside,
For king may follow king in the reign of man.
If might is honor, let them yield to me.
Only he is hero who dares to fight and win!

Translation from
Anthony C. Yu, tr., The Journey to the West

Mr. Dabney's
1998-99
Fifth Grade Class
Northside Elementary School
Ann Arbor, Michigan

May 20, 1999
2:00 & 7:00
May 21, 1999
7:00
I want to be an engineer when I grow up. I play the keyboard and viola. Parts in the Monkey King: Finger and Disciple.

Amir Akhrabi

My name is Seto. I came from Indonesia. I'm 10 years old. I live with my father, my mother, my big sister and my little brother. I like soccer, drawing and reading. I am a narrator and an immortal boy in the play.

Seto Abe

I am Tokie. I am 10 and I will be 11 in June. The parts I am going to act in the play are: a disciple, a fairy maiden and a Buddha. I live with my mom and dad and my 2 brothers and grandma. My mom is a nurse and my dad is a doctor. I like to read, write, do science and math. In fifth grade we play musical instruments. I play the flute. When I grow up I want to be a doctor like my dad. My favorite books are the Baby-Sitters Club books. My favorite author is Ann M. Martin.

Tokie Akinwumi

Hi my name is Nikole. I am eleven years old in the fifth grade. I play the violin. In the play I am a monkey and the Queen Mother. I live with my mom, my two brothers and my cousin. When I grow up, I would like to be a doctor, a nurse or a teacher.

Nikole Austin

My name is Yetian. I am from China. I live in U of M Housing with my mother. My mother's work is as a mechanical engineer. My part in Monkey King is narrator. I like to play soccer, basketball and baseball.
Part I: The Beginnings of Monkey

Scene 1: The Cave

Narrator: Long, long ago there was a country named Aolai or Burgeoning Pride, in the Eastern Continent. On that country was the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit. On the mountain were crystal spring water, pines, cypresses, exotic flowers and fruit trees. And on top of this mountain there was a magic stone.

Ever since this world had begun, this stone had been shone on by the sun and the moon and moistened by rain and dew. One day, suddenly, with a great noise, the stone split and a stone monkey popped out.

The stone monkey made friends with the other monkeys. They played and played. One day they saw a waterfall just like a door curtain in front of a cliff. One monkey said,

Monkey 1: If anyone can go through the waterfall, find out where the water comes from, and get out again in one piece, let us make him our king."

Stone Monkey: “I will go, I will go!

Narrator: Then he shut his eyes, crouched, and sprang straight into the waterfall.

When he opened his eyes he saw he was in a stone cave. On a stone tablet was carved: CAVE HEAVEN OF THE WATER CURTAIN.

There were stone beds, a stone stove, a stone table, stone benches and chairs, and a stone throne. On the stone table were stone plates and stone bowls. The stone monkey was very happy!
Tian di sheng cheng ling hun xian,
Born of Earth and Heaven, immortal magically fused,

Hua guo shan zhong yi lao yuan.
An old monkey hailed from the Flower-Fruit Mount.

Shui lian dong li weijia ye,
I made my home in the Water-Curtain Cave,

Bai you xun shi wu tai xuan.
I sought friend and teacher to gain the Mystery Great.

Lian jiu chang sheng duo shao fa,
Perfected in the many arts of ageless life,

Xue lai bian hua guang wu bian.
I learned to change in ways boundless and vast.
因在凡間嫌地窄，
Yin zai fan jian xian di zhai,
Too narrow the space I found on that mortal earth,

立心端要住瑤天。
Li xin duan yao zhu yao tian.
I set my mind to live in the Green Jade Sky.

凌霄寶殿非他久，
Ling xiao bao dian fei ta jiu,
In Divine Mists Hall none should long reside,

歷代人王有分傳。
Li dai ren wang you fen chuan.
For king may follow king in the reigns of man.

強者為尊該讓我，
Qiang zhe wei zun gai rang wo,
If might is honor, let them yield to me,

英雄只此敢爭先。
Ying xiong zhi ci gan zheng xian.
Only he is hero who dares to fight and win!
Saiyuki is a strategy RPG based on one of the most popular legends of China, the journey of the monk Sanzo from China to India and back.

- **Man or Beast... The Ultimate Attack Force... "WereForm"**
  - Romp across the battlefield as a huge monster with powerful attacks!

- **An unexpected source of aid... "Guardians"**
  - The heavens will support you and provide protection and power!

- **Character Customizing**
  - Add special abilities and improve character attributes!

- **Magic**
  - Magic turns the tide of battle! Effects range from beneficial healing, to comets that kill all in their wake!
THE MONKEY KING

KATHRYN WESLEY

Introduction by Robert Holmi, Sr.
‘Lost Empire’ not always worth seeking out

By RENEE PECK
NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Maybe the fantasy miniseries trend has run its course. Or maybe I’m just too jaded a viewer to appreciate the wide-eyed wonder of (yet another) grown-up TV fairy tale.

Whatever the reason, the latest “special effects-filled fantasy adventure” from Hallmark Entertainment lost me quickly.

“The Lost Empire,” airing Sunday at 9 p.m. and Monday at 8 p.m., has all the earmarks of success: credible stars (“Dharma and Greg’s” likable Thomas Gibson, Bai Ling, Russell Wong), a script by Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang (who also penned “M. Butterfly”) and those aforementioned special effects. But precious little emotional weight is given to these (literally) high-flying adventurers. Bizarre creatures and swinging metal staffs aren’t enough to sustain interest for four hours. I suspect only adults who still read comic books will disagree.

“The Lost Empire” opens with American businessman and erstwhile Chinese scholar Nick Orton (Gibson) visiting China to help turn a vast underground tomb of ancient terracotta warriors into a theme park (that should give you an idea of the film’s tone). Two of the warriors come to life, propelling our hero into an adventure in which only he can save the world, by rescuing the fabled book “Journey to the West” from the hands of evil sorcerers.

Orton enters a mythical Chinese land where he is aided in his quest by Kwan Ying, the goddess of mercy (Bai Ling), and the half man, half ape Monkey King (Wong). Along the way they battle demons, learn martial arts, fly on clouds, and meet an array of characters both factual and fictional, from a wacky-not-witty Confucius to the evil emperor Shu.

The film’s strength is also its major weakness. The movie relies on special effects to carry viewers along. And they are ambitious effects indeed: The brown, arid land of martial arts teacher Subodhi is brought to vibrant color and life with the sweep of his arm; Orton and Monkey King are swallowed by a giant serpent and must fight their way out through the stomach. Makeup, costumes and sets are lavish.

However, while the special effects are good, they aren’t great, particularly for an audience highly conversant with digital effects and blue screens. Moreover, this steady diet of fights and flights ultimately proves empty.

There is plenty of eye candy here, but little of substance. The opportunity to probe the mysteries of the Orient is squandered, lost in a welter of wisecracks and derring-do.