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### Article written by UM professor Frank Bessac appears in Encyclopaedia Britannica

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ARTICLE WRITTEN BY UM PROF. FRANK BESSAC  
APPEARS IN ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

MISSOULA--

Dr. Frank B. Bessac, a professor of anthropology at the University of Montana in Missoula, is author of an eight-page section on East Asian Cultures published in the 15th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Bessac, who has taught at UM since 1965, is a specialist in cultural and social anthropology and the ethnography of China and Central Asia. He gained considerable insight into Asian culture while serving as an Army sergeant in China from 1943-46. Bessac attended Fujen University in Peiping, China, from 1947-48 and was a Fulbright fellow in China from 1948-49. Bessac has traveled widely in China, Mongolia, Chinese Turkestan, Tibet and Taiwan.

East Asian cultures, as defined in Bessac's article, include "the Chinese and groups that have been derived from the Chinese ethnically or culturally and, second, those cultures that were greatly influenced by China at the time they became states." In his article, Bessac writes about East Asian kinship patterns, sociopolitical organizations, religion and recent changes in the culture.

"The article took about six months of pretty intensive work to write," Bessac said. He said the editors of the Encyclopaedia Britannica had to cut the article by one-half its original length in order to meet space limitations in the encyclopaedia. Bessac said he is pleased with the way the article appears in the encyclopaedia.

Bessac received his doctorate in 1963 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was awarded his master's degree in 1957 at the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in 1946 at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, Calif.