

## UCSD historian Paul G. Pickowicz selected to receive award for book on China

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### UCSD HISTORIAN SELECTED TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR BOOK ON CHINA

Paul G. Pickowicz, professor of history and Chinese studies at the University of California, San Diego, has been awarded the prestigious Joseph Levenson Prize for books on Twentieth Century China published in 1991.

Pickowicz and two co-authors, Edward Friedman, professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin, and Mark Selden, professor of sociology, State University of New York, Binghamton, were announced as award winners at the recent annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Los Angeles. The three had spent 12 years in collaboration on their book, *Chinese Village. Socialist State*, published by Yale University, and currently are working on a sequel.

The citation accompanying the award noted that "*Chinese Village. Socialist State* is a vivid, nuanced, fully realized evocation of rural revolution in North China in which political science, history and sociology perfectly complement each other. The authors tell a fascinating, complex human story. The village community of Wugong comes alive through well-crafted snapshots of local characters from the rural intellectual to the Party boss and the local bully."

"By patient and careful analysis of a wide variety of documents," the citation notes, "and by juxtaposing interviews over a 10 year period of fieldwork, the authors have been able to recreate the triumphs and tragedies of a village as it sought to adjust to changing policies from above and expose, in compelling fashion, the human and economic consequence of collectivization."

"Since 1971 I have met all sorts of people in China, from Zhou Enlai to most of the leading film directors and writers," Pickowicz said, "but the thing I most enjoy is talking with old peasants about their lives."

Reviewers from the *London Observer*, *The New York Review of Books* and other major publications have lauded the book, calling it "by far the best book on the impact of the Chinese Communist Party on peasant life."

Pickowicz currently is completing work as associate producer of a documentary film, *Mao's China, 1949-1976*, scheduled for broadcast on nationwide PBS in early 1994. He also is co-editing a book, *New Chinese Cinemas*, which will be published this year by Cambridge University.

Pickowicz received his doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin and joined the UCSD faculty in 1973. His research

has been supported by grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Office of the President of the University of California.

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