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December 2007, Issue #104 Holiday Issue

[The Genius of China](#): 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery, and Invention by **Robert Temple**, with a foreword by Joseph Needham (**Inner Traditions**)

Undisputed masters of invention and discovery for 3,000 years, the ancient Chinese were the first to discover the solar wind and the circulation of the blood and even to isolate sex hormones. Many of the world's greatest inventions have their foundation in ancient China. From the suspension bridge and the seismograph to deep drilling for natural gas, the iron plough, and the parachute, ancient China's contributions in the fields of engineering, medicine, technology, mathematics, science, transportation, warfare, and music helped inspire the European agricultural and industrial revolutions.

[The Genius of China](#) is a revised, full-color, illustrated edition of the multi-award-winning, international bestseller charting the unparalleled and astounding achievement of ancient China. It brings to life one hundred Chinese 'firsts' in the fields of agriculture, astronomy, engineering, mathematics, medicine, music, technology, and warfare. Among other things, [The Genius of China](#) shows the true origins of: the decimal system, printing, paper money, the compass, the wheelbarrow, the crossbow, the science of immunology, porcelain, matches, the rudder, the game of chess, the umbrella, brandy and whiskey, the mechanical clock, and playing cards.

Author Robert Temple is visiting professor of the history and philosophy of science at Tsinghua University in Beijing; fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society; and member of the Egypt Exploration Society, Royal Historical Society, Institute of Classical Studies, and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. Based on the definitive work of the world's most famous sinologist, Joseph Needham (1900-1995), author of [Science and Civilisation in China](#), [The Genius of China](#) is organized by field, invention, and discovery for ease of reference.

Since its original publication in Chinese, the book has won five literary awards in America and been translated into 43 languages. Its Chinese edition, [The Spirit of Chinese Invention](#), was approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education for use in connection with the national secondary curriculum in China.

Based on the immense, authoritative scholarship of Needham, the world's foremost scholar of Chinese science, and including a foreword by him, this revised full-color illustrated edition brings to life the spirit and excitement of the unparalleled achievements of ancient China.