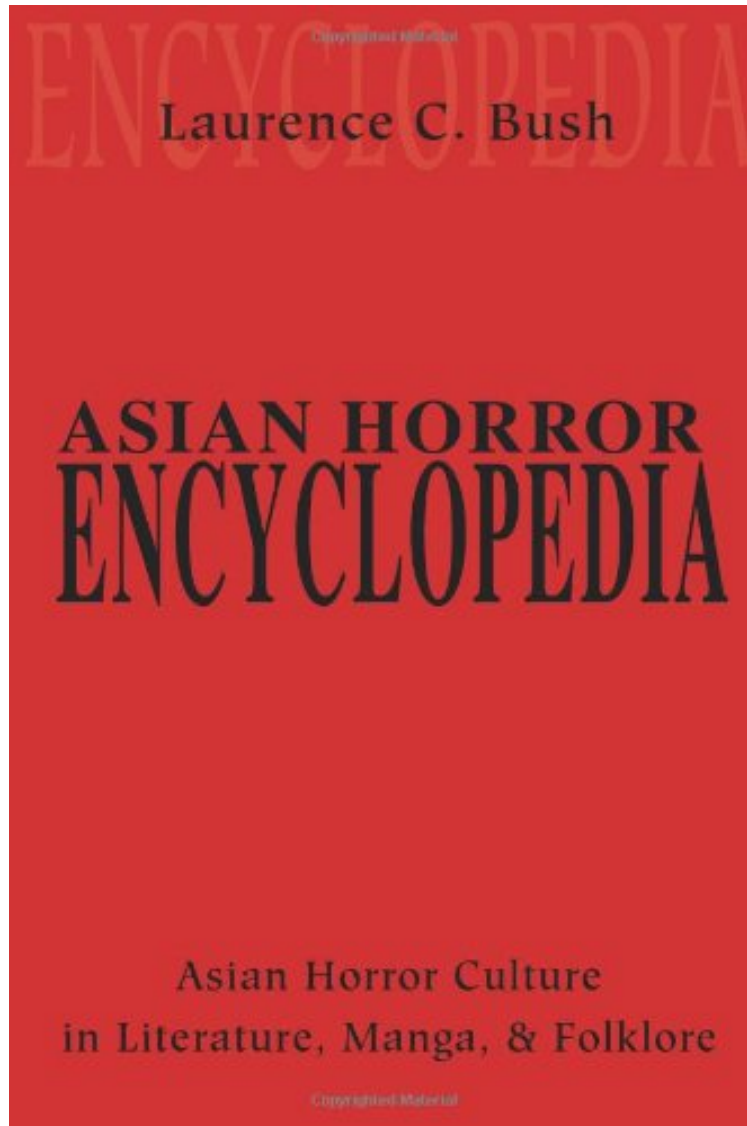


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# Asian Horror Encyclopedia: Asian Horror Culture in Literature, Manga, and Folklore

*Laurence Bush*

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helpful. A useful resource in an unexplored area  
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In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. And so it is with the "Asian Horror Encyclopedia." Flawed? Absolutely. But as the only book of its kind in English, it stands as a useful and interesting reference guide for those interested in Asian horror. The range of creatures, authors, films, manga, folklore and other is truly startling, covering such sub-genres as the Japanese Cthulhu mythos authors, and Chinese skeptic societies. None of the entries are particularly long, and there are no pictures to accompany the text. It is very much a case of "wide but not deep." The book started as an encyclopedia of Japanese horror only, but the author found he could not separate the roots of Asian horror from only one culture. Due to this, author Laurence Bush exceeded his language abilities, and had to rely solely on the available translations of others, including unreliable resources such as internet websites and film reviews. However, as stated in the introduction, Bush only intends to introduce the reader to the wide and varied flavors of horror in Asian countries. I have found my interests piqued by more than one of his shallow notations, enough to do my own research and have a wider area opened up for me. On this level the book works very well, and is recommended.  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Flawed but interesting  
By Victor Outcault  
Typos and amateurish enthusiasm flaw this book, but it has a lot of interesting information. A quick check of the Library of Congress shows that this is indeed the only book on Asian, Japanese or Chinese Horror in English. No one else has tried to look at Asian horror as a whole, a huge subject entirely unknown in the West. It has hundreds of entries on subjects as diverse as haunted bridges, Kabuki ghost plays, Oiwa, Asian psychics, Kwaidan, Hearn, Ikiryō, biological horrors, Liaozhai, Yuen Mai, The Ring, etc. It tries to cover too much, but what it does do is fascinating. For example, magical paintings appear to be an entire subgenre in Asian literature. Though the bibliography is hardly exhaustive, it is sufficiently long (10 pages) and its breadth shows that the author did substantiate his work.

The Asian Horror Encyclopedia is the first reference work of its kind in English. It covers Asian horror culture in literature, art, film and comics. From its roots in ancient Chinese folklore to the best-selling Japanese horror novelists of today, this book is a handy alphabetic reference, collecting scarce information from obscure sources.

About the Author  
Laurence Bush is a small press horror critic and otaku who lives in California.