

"Showing John and Paul How to Write a Song"

班门弄斧

Season 4, Episode 4



PINYIN / TERM	CHINESE	ENGLISH / MEANING
Bān Mén Nòng Fǔ	班门弄斧	To show off one's skill with the axe before Lu Ban (鲁班), the master carpenter - to display one's slight skill before an expert.
Bān	班	class, team; shift, duty; squad; a name or surname
Mén	门	A door or gate
Nòng	弄	to play with; fool with
Fǔ	斧	an axe, hatchet
Eastern Zhou Dynasty	东周	The Eastern (or Later) Zhou Dynasty 779-256 BC
Gōngshū Bān	公输般	The original name of today's hero Lu Ban
Lǔ	鲁	A surname, also the abbreviation for all things Shandong
Shāndōng	山东	Coastal province in northern China
Ōuyáng	欧阳	An example of a two character compound surname
Sīmǎ	司马	An example of a two character compound surname
Sītú	司徒	An example of a two character compound surname
Chǔ	楚	A common surname, also the name of the Chu State during the Eastern Zhou
Húběi	湖北	Province in Central China where Chu was located
Lǔ Bān	鲁班	The name of our hero for this episode
Yǐng	郢	The capital of Chu State, in present day Jingzhou, Hubei

Jīngzhōu	荆州	A prefecture-level city in Hubei located on the Yangzi River
Yuè	越	An ancient state during the Zhou Dynasty located mostly in Zhejiang
Zhèjiāng	浙江	Coastal province in China
zǔshī	祖师	The founder of a school of learning or of a craft
Táng Dynasty	唐朝	Dynasty in China that lasted 618-907
Liǔ Zōngyuán	柳宗元	773-819, Tang essayist and poet, advocate of the classical writing and neo-classical movements
Wáng Bózhòng	王伯仲	The person mentioned in Liu Zongyuan's work, chapter 王氏伯仲唱和诗序.
Oūyáng Xiū	欧阳修	1007-1072, Chinese essayist, historian, poet, calligrapher, politician, called one of the Eight Masters of the Tang and Song
Sòng	宋朝	The Song Dynasty 960-1279
Ming Dynasty	明朝	The Ming Dynasty 1368-1279
Méi Zhīhuàn	梅之焕	Ming Dynasty scholar
Ānhuī	安徽	Province in Central China
Dāngtú	当涂	Major city in Anhui Province
Mǎ'ānshān	马鞍山	Major city in Anhui Province
Lǐ Bái	李白	Considered one of the greatest poets in Chinese history. Lived 701-762
Cǎi shí jiāng biān yī duī tǔ, Lǐ Bái zhī míng gāo qiāngǔ; lái lái wǎng wǎng yī shǒu shī, Lǔ Bān wǎng wǎng yī shǒu shī	采石江边一堆土，李白之名高千古；来来往往一首诗，鲁班门前弄大斧	Along the banks of this river, there is a mound of earth (meaning Lǐ Bái's grave)...Lǐ Bái's name is eternal; people come and leave behind poems, but are like those handling an axe before Lǔ Bān's door.
Guān Gōng miàn qián shuǎ dà dāo	关公面前耍大刀	To swing one's sword around in front of the great Guān Gōng
chéngyǔ	成语	A Chinese idiom or saying
Làn Yú Chōng Shù	滥竽充数	Featured in Season 2, Episode 5 of the CSP; to pass oneself off as one of the players in an ensemble - (of incompetent people or inferior goods) to be there just to make up the number; pass oneself off as an expert or brand name; to