

From the Editor

The Sino-Japanese Studies Newsletter is now officially inaugurated. It is published by the Sino-Japanese Studies Group, which met for the first time on March 25, 1988 in San Francisco in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. The members of the Group come from a wide variety of disciplines (history, literature, art, philosophy, religion, and the social sciences) and cover the entire spectrum of time periods in Chinese and Japanese history. What we share is a commitment to the study of China and Japan together. For some of us, that commitment entails a comparative approach in our research; others of us are seeking to define a sub-discipline in which China and Japan are not separated. In both cases, we presuppose knowledge of the histories, cultures, and languages of both China and Japan.

While the nature of the work of comparativists is self-explanatory, the field of "Sino-Japanese relations" or "Sino-Japanese studies" is more complex. Some of us are studying diplomatic relations; others are examining the cultural exchange or interaction between China and Japan (often via Korea); still others are studying topics that simply do not fit neatly into Chinese or Japanese studies alone (such as educational institutions under the Japanese occupation, 1937-1945, Japanese scholarly traditions on Chinese culture, Miyazaki Tōten's contacts with Sun Yat-sen, Zhu Shunshui and the Mito School, and many others).

With the possible exception of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations, this sub-field has had a difficult time finding its niche. Rather different--indeed, often radically different--things have traditionally attracted Westerners to Chinese, as opposed to Japanese, history and culture. It is the rare institution in the West (and this is even worse in East Asia) in which scholars in the Chinese and Japanese fields enjoy any meaningful intellectual ties. There are exceptions, but they remain rare, and they are getting rarer with the increased specialization that inevitably, it seems, continues to overwhelm our various fields of scholarly discourse. In addition, scholars of Chinese and Japanese history and culture outside East Asia have tended to reproduce the biases of the subjects of their research. This has not boded well for sympathetic treatment of the other. One of the central purposes of the Sino-Japanese Studies Group and this Newsletter is to provide and home and a sounding board for those of us intent on bridging the gap and promoting in Sino-Japanese studies.

Groups of scholars with similar interests in Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China have also had difficulty finding their niche. The field of Sino-Japanese

studies is probably most developed to date in Japan, although without a continued institutional umbrella. In 1984 the Zhongguo Zhong-Ri guanxi shi yanjiu hui 中国中日关系史研究会 (Chinese Association for the Study of the History of Sino-Japanese Relations) was founded in Beijing, China, and it is now under the executive directorship of Wang Xiangrong 汪向荣, Yang Zhengguang 楊正光, and others. It meets regularly, has published several volumes of essays, and puts out a Newsletter (huikan 会刊) of its own. Also, local groups of scholars working in the area of Sino-Japanese studies have organized in the Dongbei region (the oldest group in China), Suzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, and Liaoning; plans are in the works for the organization of similar groups elsewhere. Although little of their work has reached an audience outside China, largely because of the lack of availability of their publications, we are in touch with them and our Newsletter will introduce their work and translate from their publications. In October 1988 the Chinese Association for the Study of the History of Sino-Japanese Relations hosted its first international conference with the theme of "Sino-Japanese Relations: Past and Future." We shall report on the conference in the next issue of the Newsletter.

There is a similar organization for the study of Sino-Japanese relations in Taipei, Taiwan, and we hope to open channels in that direction as well. If there are scholars or groups working in the field of Sino-Japanese studies in Korea or elsewhere, we want to know about them. We want to make contact with scholars, wherever they may be, who are interested in pursuing research in this field, even as that field is only now beginning to develop its own contours and personality, a process we expect to play a role in formulating.

In this issue, we introduce several items which we hope will become regular features of this Newsletter: scholarly notes, news from the field, reviews, and review articles. Responses to all are welcome. The two more substantive pieces in this issue, by Bob Wakabayashi and Ōba Osamu, are precisely the kinds of work we hope to publish regularly here. Wakabayashi introduces and critically confronts the 20th-century history of Japanese scholarship on the accommodation of Confucianism to Japan, using the medium of the remarkable work of Watanabe Hiroshi of Tokyo University. Ōba delineates the variety of sources he discovered and employed in his huge and continuing research on the Chinese books that came to Japan in the Tokugawa period and the Japanese response to them.

In future issues, we look forward to state-of-the-field articles for Japan from Etō Shinkichi and for China from Tam Yuehim. Peter Seybolt has promised a review surveying Chinese work

on the second Sino-Japanese War. We also expect a review essay on Japanese work concerning the cotton and silk industries in China and Japan, late 19th to early 20th century, by Linda Grove. I hope to translate one or more pieces by Feng Zuozhe (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) on his discovery and elucidation of a play written by Cao Yin in Japanese. We remain open to suggestions of all sorts.

One further thing we hope to do in future issues will be to improve the technical side of production. At present, lack of funds make that impossible, but in the not too distant future we expect to be using a computer program for desktop publishing and a laser printer. For now, we are consoled by the fact that, even when we can afford such fancy production processes, the quality of the Newsletter will continue to be a reflection of its intellectual content, not its glossy cover or multiple fonts.

Directory

Toward the compilation of a directory of people working in or around Sino-Japanese studies, could you fill in the following information, cut out the page and return it to me, Josh Fogel, 245 West 107th St., Apt. 5C, New York, NY 10025. Don't feel constrained by space; I'll edit the responses, if necessary. We will publish the directory in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter and update it as necessary. Many thanks.

Name:

Institutional affiliation (if any) and address:

Present scholarly concerns and/or research interests and topics: