

Correspondence

June 17, 1990

Dear Josh:

...Without meaning to split hairs, I would like to ask you about the explanation given on the back of the title page for the characters that grace the cover of SJS. I find it a matter of interest that for "yan-jiu" you say: "its locus classicus, the biography of Timur Tash, Yuanshi,..." If we take locus classicus in the sense defined in the OED, "a standard passage (especially one in an ancient author) which is viewed as the principal authority on a subject," then it seems strange that this 14th century work is chosen, when there are a number of perhaps more relevant uses of the word going back at least to the 5th and 6th centuries. Peiwen yunfu lists two such earlier-than-Yuan appearances of the term, and it also appears in the chapter wenxue in the Shishuo xinyu of Liu Yiqing (403-444), where the use of it might be considered to contribute to its standardization... My intention is not at all to find fault, but just to raise an issue that seems to have some intrinsic interest. Nor have I done any research on the subject, so I cannot contribute any judgment on the matter of which early appearance of the term is most "authoritative" in the OED sense.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Fritz Mote

Editor's note. Professor Mote is, as he almost always is in such cases, correct. I have been sloppy in my use of the term locus classicus. I simply adopted the first citation in Morohashi Tetsuji's Dai Kan-Wa jiten and should have been wary of assuming that a 14th-century usage in Chinese could ever be a locus classicus. This is no matter of "splitting hairs"; it was simply an error. I would be interested if any reader can come up with the actual locus classic of yanjiu.

Haikei 拜啟

July 19, 1990

It was wonderful to have met you at the International Symposium on Sino-Japanese Relations in Beijing in the fall of 1988 [see SJSN, I.2, pp. 7-12]. This year I have received and read issues II.1 and II.2 of Sino-Japanese Studies which you edit, and I want to thank you

very much. As a Western scholar, you very impressively manage both Chinese and Japanese quite well, but my English is terrible and thus have decided to write this letter in [flawless--JAF] Japanese...

As for myself, I have been working in the area of modern Japanese social and economic history, though I would like to devote more time to the history of Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese relations. Until this point there has been little scholarly exchange between Western and East Asian scholars, but I am hopeful of further growth of exchange in the future. We especially would like to know your [i.e., Western] criticisms and ideas about our [i.e., Chinese] writings in Japanese history and Sino-Japanese relations. Of course, we are also deeply interested in research trends in the West. As one fine piece of scholarship in this area, I long ago read Masuda's Seigaku tōzen to Chūgoku jijō, but there is still no Chinese translation of it... Your translation into English with detailed notes is extremely useful to readers of English, and your painstaking work will be very enlightening to us as well. I firmly believe this will be a major scholarly contribution. Although I did not read it that carefully, I did locate a few typographical errors which I include for your reference on a separate sheet.

Respectfully,

Zhou Qiqian 周啟乾

Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences

Editor's note. Professor Zhou is the author of volume 7, Meiji no keizai hatten to Chūgoku 明治の經濟発展と中国 [China and Economic Development in the Meiji Period], in the 13-volume series published by Rokko shuppan and mentioned several times in SJS. He has also published in the area of Russo-Japanese relations.

September 13, 1990

Dear Josh,

...I have some notion of how difficult it is to put out a small magazine single-handedly, but my understanding would not be stretched to cover the sin of cessation; you have some unique skills, and a franchise that is unique -- and of growing importance as current events impel new linkages among the U.S., Japan, and China. Keep it up!

Best,

Angus [McDonald]