

* * From the Editor * *

This issue completes our fourth full year of publication, and, conscious of any potential hubris, I dare say we can be proud of what has been accomplished. There is, of course, a long way to go and innumerable projects to be carried out--to say nothing of the many people still needing to be convinced--but I think nonetheless that we have made a genuinely auspicious start. I wish I could say that, as editor, I was sitting on a large backlog of articles. Indeed, quite the opposite is the case, but we have somehow managed to fill every issue to this point with interesting and important pieces, and this issue is the longest to date. In fact, to be perfectly frank, we think that material in an upcoming issue of SJS (due out in the fall of 1992 or spring of 1993), following on the theme of Professor Awaya Kentarō's article in this issue, may be the most exciting to date.

In this issue of SJS, Professor Awaya begins with a summary piece of much more extensive research he and others have been engaged in concerning the use of poison gas and biological warfare by Japanese forces in China during the Second World War. Some readers may be put off by the political slant of this essay, which reflects the views of the author alone, but I would encourage you to read it as well for the important findings Awaya's research has uncovered. These findings certainly contribute to at least a partial rewriting of the war in East Asia.

The second piece is comprised of two further selections from the Edo Hanjō ki [An Account of the Prosperity of Edo] (see SJS 3.1, pp. 9-29), translated and annotated by Andrew Markus. These sections of the text are concerned with food, first meat and then potatoes, sold in the stalls and shops of Edo.

This piece is followed by the fifth installment of my ongoing translation of Masuda Wataru's Seigaku tōzen to Chūgoku jijō [The Eastern Spread of Western Learning and Conditions in China]. The chapters of the book translated in this issue concern Mineta Fūkō's Kaigai shinwa, further influences of Wei Yuan's work on Japanese in the bakumatsu period, and a series of novelistic treatments of the Taiping Rebellion (with the latter often defeating the Qing). Bob Wakabayashi, a frequent contributor to SJS, has recently published an important article in Monumenta Nipponica on Mineta and his work, cited at the beginning of the notes to my translation. Bob's is the first work in any language, save the chapter by Masuda translated herein, that specifically concerns this text by Mineta.

The final essay by Atsuko Hirai concerns an incidental, though important, influence exercised by the writings of Thomas Hill Green

on Mao Zedong--through the medium of Japanese translations and interpretations of Green and then through the translation-interpretation (of the Japanese texts) by Mao's teacher Yang Changji.

Finally, I review the contents of several recent journals from China that concern Sino-Japanese relations and Japanese studies more generally.

The next issue of SJS will, as hinted above, include some remarkable documents from the Second World War and commentaries on them. We still need submissions to fill it out, and I again encourage readers to consider submitting essays, translations, or reviews.

* * Sino-Japanese News * *

Modern Sino-Japanese Relations Prize for 1991. The prize, presented by the Mid-Atlantic Region, Association for Asian Studies for 1991 was in the article category and it went, as it did the last time it was in this category, to Douglas Reynolds of Georgia State University for his essay, "Training Young China Hands: Tōa Dōbun Shoin and Its Precursors, 1886-1945," which appeared in The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937, ed. Peter Duus, Ramon Myers, and Mark Peattie (Princeton University Press, 1989). The entire staff of SJS offers its hearty congratulations.

New Dongbei (Manchuria) Studies Group Founded. A group with related interests to our own is planning to meet for the first time at the AAS meetings in Washington, April 3. The "Northeast China Studies Association" will be a forum for people interested in any aspect of that part of China; inasmuch as the Japanese influence in that part of "China" has been rather strong at times in this century, we thought it appropriate to announce in our pages. Interested parties should contact Sherry Gray, Political Science Department, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918-0001.

Chinese Prizes. As reported in Ribenxue 3 (1991), p. 320, books by two of our friends and colleagues in China, Yan Shaodang and Wang Xiaoqiu, were awarded first and second prize, respectively, in the First Chinese Comparative Literature competition. Yan's book was entitled Zhong-Ri gudai wenxue jiaoliu shigao 中日古代文学交流史稿 [Draft History of the Ancient Literary Interaction between China and Japan]. Wang's was entitled Zhong-Ri jindai wenxue guanxi shigao 中日近代文学关系史稿 [Draft History of the Modern Literary Relations between China and Japan]. Both books were published by the Hunan wenyi chubanshe 湖南文艺出版社. Congratulations to both!