

* * From the Editor * *

With this issue Sino-Japanese Studies commences its fifth year of publication. The membership list had grown and shortened, but it is presently at roughly the same level it was after our first year, some 120 subscribers, individual and institutional. I sent out a advertising flyer to several hundred Japanese libraries late last year, but it has thus far produced no new subscriptions. I am nonetheless still impressed both by the huge gap that the material appearing in SJS fills and by the gradual emergence and definition of a full-fledged discipline which we have dubbed "Sino-Japanese Studies." Soon no self-respecting university will be without a position in this new field.

In this issue of SJS, Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi offers a fascinating introduction and assessment of new materials that promise eventually to reshape our understand of the Second World War in East Asia. His essay on poison gas usage by the Imperial Japanese Army fits nicely with the piece by Awaya Kentarō 粟屋憲太郎 on chemical warfare used by Japan in China that appeared in the last issue (IV.2, pp. 3-6) of SJS.

Using the review essay format, Peter Zarrow next closely examines Shen Cailin's book on the Chinese and Japanese emperor systems. This is far more than a review, though, as Zarrow poses numerous questions that Shen either slighted or failed to ask, and he draws out many of the implications of the book.

The piece that follows by Shimada Kenji, formerly of Kyoto University, is an unusual in a number of respects. His famous work in the field of Song and Ming Neo-Confucianism, Shushigaku to Yōmeigaku, was translated and published in China in 1986. For that event, Professor Shimada wrote a special introduction, and I have translated it into English for the first time. We are luck indeed to have such an essay which would not ordinarily find its way into English.

Finally, I have also included the sixth installment of my continuing translation of Masuda Wataru's major work in the field of Sino-Japanese cultural relations. In the three chapters translated in this issue of SJS, Masuda deals with the transmission to Japan and the reprinting there of Chinese works about the Taiping Rebellion; he also examines a number of Japanese fictional treatments of the Taipings written soon after news of that great rebellion reached Japan.