

* * From the Editor * *

With this issue of Sino-Japanese Studies, we enter our sixth year of publication--going strong. The high quality of the contributions to this issue are an indication of the rising sophistication in the general field of Sino-Japanese studies worldwide. As the separate Sinological and Japanological worlds are becoming aware of the advantages of taking a larger geographical perspective on their work, SJS will continue to play an important role. We still have a long way to go, but recent indicators lead me to think that things are moving in a more auspicious direction.

This issue of SJS is devoted primarily to the early modern period, an era much in need of good research in our field. While there has been mention in the literature of Sino-Japanese intellectual interactions in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries--via the book traffic at Nagasaki--little detailed, substantive work has been published documenting such contacts. Laura Hess gives us one case, that of the Xiao jing [Classic of Filial Piety]. The responses in China and Japan to the appearance of commentaries thought lost may, in fact, strike readers as eerily "modern."

De-min Tao next provides an introduction and review of a new Chinese encyclopedia of Japanese history produced by a team of scholars under the editorial direction of Professor Wu Jie at Fudan University. The development and maturation of scholarship on Japan in China always seems to enhance the level of scholarship on matters Sino-Japanese there as well.

Next appears part eight of my serial translation of Masuda Wataru's classic on Sino-Japanese cultural interactions. The two chapters translated in this section concern the fate of certain Chinese and Japanese writings about the Taiping Rebellion and writings from the seventeenth century concerning supposed Chinese efforts to retain Japanese assistance to fight the invading Manchus and defend the fleeing Ming court. There is a rich description here of a well-known text ascribed to Huang Zongxi on the subject of requesting Japanese military reinforcements.

Finally, we have the second part of John Tucker's valuable annotated bibliography of Japanese scholarship on Edo-period Neo-Confucianism. When this work is completed, it will make a marvelous pamphlet which no student of the subject will want to be without.