

**** From the Editor ****

With this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies*, we enter our ninth year of publication, still the only journal in the Western world dedicated to addressing the historical, cultural, social, economic, and numerous other interactions between China and Japan. This issue also contains the most articles we have yet published in a single issue as well as reviews of several journals from China. In addition to original research, reviews, and important translations, we encourage readers to send in information about conferences of a Sino-Japanese nature and other events which we can then announce to other readers.

In this issue of *SJS* we present the second half of Barry Steben's translation of Maruyama Masao's magisterial essay on Yamazaki Ansai and the Kimon School he founded. We noted in the last issue, that Professor Maruyama was quite ill at the time we went to press. He sadly passed away this August 1996, having never recovered from the illness for which he was hospitalized (see the note on p. 4). There is also a list of errata from part one of this essay.

Next are two essays, by Patricia Graham and Lawrence Marceau, that originated in AAS presentations (April 1996) from a panel sponsored by the Sino-Japanese Studies Committee. Graham looks at the emergence of the cult of *sencha* drinking in the early eighteenth century. Marceau demonstrates that, despite protestations to the contrary, the school of Itô Jinsai and others in mid-Edo period Japan encouraged fostering literary-affective values, frequently through such Chinese texts as the *Classic of Poetry*.

These two essays are followed by the third installment of a translation of Professor Ôba Osamu's work, *Edo jidai no Nit-Chû hiwa*. This section of the book is entitled "The Discovery of Banned Books," and it describes several remarkable cases in the Edo period of books imported from China (and written in Chinese) that were discovered to have possible Christian content by the shogunate's Inspectorate of Books. Ôba details the fascinating, indeed almost obsessive procedures of investigation from office to office before the books were finally banned. He also explains how such works may have slipped through the censors in Nagasaki.

The final essay in this issue is a summary study by Kobayashi Motoharu of Chinese scholarship of recent vintage on the Fifteen-Year War, namely the Sino-Japanese War broadly defined as 1931-1945. It covers such topics as the 1920s, the Manchurian Incident, the state of Manzhouguo (Manchukuo), the North China Incident of 1935, and the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, and concludes with a supplement written especially for *SJS*. It is translated by Bob Wakabayashi and Bernard Luk.

This issue then concludes with a review of several serials of Sino-Japanese interest that have recently been published in China (Beijing and Hangzhou)