

**\* \* From the Editor \* \***

**With this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies***, we begin our tenth year of publication. We should all be proud of the accomplishment. Before becoming too boastful, though, it needs to be pointed out that continued success is entirely dependent on the submission of quality articles, reviews, research reports, and translations. We are presently at an all time low in our backlog of material for upcoming issues. **Please consider submitting something to *SJS* for subsequent issues.**

We are also pleased by the highly favorable reaction to the upgraded format of *SJS* over the past few issues. Suggestions are always welcome on that front as well, and we look forward to receiving them from readers.

**In this issue** of *SJS*, two articles and one review essay appear. Barbara Brooks looks at the role of the Japanese consular official in China from the end of the first Sino-Japanese War through the conclusion of World War Two. Using a wealth of primary materials, especially the rich memoir literature, Brooks attempts to identify an experience distinct to the Japanese consuls in China. In the face of the military and other forces much less familiar with Chinese terrain, the consuls did what they could to preserve peace as Japan grew ever more bellicose toward the mainland.

The section from the ongoing translation of Ôba Osamu book on Sino-Japanese contacts in the Tokugawa years concerns "Arai Hakuseki, the New Shôtoku Laws, and the Ming Legal Codes." It offers one of the most detailed look at the actual contents of Sino-Japanese trade and the place of the book trade within it now available in English. It also offers great detail on the mechanics of trade, licensing of Chinese vessels, and specifically how certain high-level Japanese figures went about procuring as many texts as they could concerning the Ming legal codes.