

**** From the Editor ****

With this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies*, the second number of our eleventh volume, we complete eleven full years of publication. The journal continues to publish the highest quality of scholarship in the field of Sino-Japanese interactions, irrespective of discipline or time period. This issue contains four essays, three of them concerning pre-twentieth century topics. They range from literature to art history to translation to elephants—a mighty broad range for any journal, let alone any single issue of a journal.

We begin with Aida Yuen Wong's piece on Japanese connoisseurship of Chinese art works in the Taishō period, especially Naitō Konan's (1866-1934) volume on the history of Chinese painting. She demonstrates not only the links between Naitō's nationalism and his approach to Chinese art, but also his anti-elitist, pro-republican proclivities and his critique of Japanese collecting of Chinese art until that point in time. This topic is also closely linked, as Wong shows, to the rise of a *nouveau riche* class in Taishō Japan and a new wave of *objets d'art* flooding into Japan after the collapse of the Qing dynasty.

We turn next to Masako Nakagawa's introduction to a strange Japanese work from the early Edo period that was based on the Chinese text, *Shanghai jing*. Nakagawa translates the entries on each of the bizarre beasts depicted (and, indeed, illustrated) in this text and offers a short explanation of the work itself. She also looks at the text within the larger tradition of creation mythology.

Emanuel Pastreich next looks at the phenomenon of Sino-Japanese translation generally in the Edo period and more specifically of the place of vernacular Chinese at that time. He follows the career and writings of Okajima Kanzan, especially his role in spreading study of Chinese vernacular fiction among Tokugawa-era scholars in Japan.

Finally, we have part eight of my ongoing translation of Professor Ôba Osamu's history of Sino-Japanese relations in the Edo period. This installment initially concerns the bringing to Japan of a pair of elephants in the eighteenth century. After describing this fascinating story, he looks further at the imports and exports of flora and fauna during the Edo period, especially plant life. This segment underlines the great difficulty of tracking various species through their names alone.