

* * From the Editor * *

With this issue of Sino-Japanese Studies, we complete our sixth volume and twelfth issue, a full six years of publication. Interest in Sino-Japanese studies itself continues to grow, especially in East Asia. In the West as well we are seeing greater attention than before paid to the larger region rather than to the separate national entities. As the revived and reinvigorated category of culture continues to gain status in the international world of scholarship, this can only aid the work of those of working in an area such as Sino-Japanese studies. For, while national entities are themselves constructs of a relatively late point in history, cultural ties across those "national" boundaries are much older and probably more important.

This issue of SJS contains two pieces on early modern history and several reviews from work on the modern period. We have the ninth installment of Masuda Wataru's fascinating work on Sino-Japanese cultural interactions, as reconstructed through extant texts. This installment deals with matters begun in the previous issue of SJS, Chinese missions from the itinerant Ming courts seeking military assistance from Japan at the very beginning of the Edo shogunate. The second part of the installment in this issue concerns relations among Satsuma, the wakō, and late-Ming China.

We also have the third and final segment of John Allen Tucker's annotated bibliography of Japanese-language books and article on Neo-Confucianism. Taken together, the three segments would easily make a handsome pamphlet of great value for many scholars and students.

The three review pieces are of different sorts. Joan Judge examines in detail an important new book by Douglas Reynolds, with special attention to the understanding of Japan held by Chinese reformers at the very end of the Qing. Yang Daqing looks at a new development in Japanese views of East Asia, particularly China, that struck him during a recent period of study in Japan. He also reviews a special issue of a new journal, Marco Polo, which is both reflecting and reinforcing a new romanticism in Japan about Manchuria. Finally, Kristine Harris reviews a recent Chinese textbook about Japanese history from Fudan University.