

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

With this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies*, we commence our thirteenth year of publication as vital as ever. Dare I say that Sino-Japanese studies has become a regular part of the East Asian studies curriculum, that comparative East Asian history has become normalized? No, not yet, if only because that would rid us of our critical edge. Still, though—and this is based entirely on anecdotal evidence—there does seem to be increasing interest in the kind of cross-cultural issues that brought this journal into existence over a decade ago. No one knows what the future portends, but this is about as hopeful as it has ever been for Sino-Japanese studies.

**In this issue of *Sino-Japanese Studies***, we have three substantial articles. We start with Bob Wakabayashi's intriguing critique of leftwing Japanese scholarship on the Japanese-sponsored drug traffic in occupied China and Korea during World War Two. While praising the unique contributions of Japanese scholars to writing the history of the Japanese invasion of the mainland, Wakabayashi remains critical of the "political correctness" which militates against mentioning the Chinese and Koreans—at least, as active agents—who were active traffickers in controlled substances.

Next, Ellen Widmer follows the fascinating history of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese sequels to the landmark Chinese novel, *Shuihu zhuan* (Water Margin). She describes the process by which these sequels were written, the distinctive characteristics of each, and the roles of the authors. Indeed, this piece is a model of Sino-Japanese-Korean scholarship.

The third essay is the final installment of my ongoing translation of Ôba Osamu's magisterial work, *Edo jidai no Nit-Chû hiwa* (Tokyo: Tôhō shoten, 1980), which I began some five years ago. This segment is comprised of the last two chapters of the original text. The first of the two chapters concerns many aspects of maritime Sino-Japanese trade, including the activities of the ordinary seamen aboard the vessels described in the many earlier segments, what a trip to and from China was like, and how often vessels could make such a voyage before being retired. In general Ôba tries to flesh out the histories of the countless anonymous men who made this Sino-Japanese interaction possible. The second chapter principally concerns the impact of the *Haiguo tuzhi* and the *Shengwu ji*, both by Wei Yuan, when they reached Japan. Both were initially published in the immediate aftermath of the Opium War, were transported to Japan soon after their initial appearance, and were repeatedly reproduced there in an assortment of editions. He concludes with a brief look at the *Wangguo gongfa*, the Chinese translation of Wheaton's *Elements of International Law*, and the extraordinary impact of such works written in Kanbun on *bakumatsu* and Meiji intellectuals.