

Editorial

As this issue of Early China goes to press, several scholars in America, both professors and graduate students, have just received invitations to the fourth annual Conference on Ancient Chinese Writing to be held in T'ai-yuan, Shansi, from 15 to 25 September 1981. We have reported earlier (EC 5:113-118) on the first and second meetings, listing, with some envy perhaps, the paper topics presented. (Many of the papers presented at these two meetings, as well as at the third, held in Ch'eng-tu in 1980, have now been published in the first five issues of Ku-wen-tzu yen-chiu 古文字研究, a publication whose appearance is greatly to be welcomed.) The presence this year of scholars from the United States and other foreign countries at the T'ai-yuan Conference will, we hope, symbolize and encourage the international scholarly cooperation which is indispensable to the continuing vitality of the field of early Chinese studies.

One indication of the vitality of the field is the virtual explosion of new journals appearing in China, many of which contain archaeological or historical articles of interest to our readers. One may cite, virtually at random, such journals as Chiang-Han k'ao-ku 江漢考古, Chi-lin ta-hsüeh she-hui k'e-hsüeh hsüeh-pao 吉林大學社會科學學報, Li-shih chiao-hsüeh 歷史教學, Nan-ching ta-hsüeh hsüeh-pao 南京大學學報, Chung-yüan wen-wu 中原文物, Kan-su shih-ta hsüeh-pao 甘肅師大學報 and Shih-hsüeh yüeh-k'an 史學月刊. It will be important for all scholars to know and have access to this wealth of new material.

In an attempt to encourage one aspect of international, scholarly cooperation, the Society for the Study of Early China has prepared a Chinese translation of the Annual Western Language Bibliography for 1979 (EC 5:100-105). Copies of this are to be distributed at the t'ai-yuan conference to give our Chinese colleagues further contact with the scholarship being done in other parts of the world. If this material is well received, we will continue to prepare further translations of our annual bibliography and distribute them to interested scholars. The introduction to the translated version invites scholars in China to communicate with authors in whose work they might be interested; the Society will forward all such enquiries to the authors concerned.

The Society for the Study of Early China is also preparing a cumulative Index to Early China 1-5 (1975-1980) which, it is hoped, will be published during the winter of 1981-1982. Subscribers to the journal will be sent a separate mailing about this later, together with an order form.

The preparation of the translated bibliography and of the Index, like the preparation of the Chinese table of contents and abstracts which now appear in each issue, take money. We believe that these activities strengthen the field and that the members of the Society will benefit from them. But that money needs to be replenished. We urge you, therefore, in sending in your checks for Early China, which is now published by the Institute of East Asian Studies at Berkeley, to also send us a separate contribution, as indicated on the order blank, to keep the Society itself alive. A \$2 contribution from each subscriber, payable to The Society for the Study of Early China, will enable us to continue the good work.

Our table of contents in either English or Chinese may speak for itself. We hope that you will continue to support the journal which, we believe, remains one of the best ways for the rapid publication of significant and innovative research in our field.

