

Editorial

The contribution that the study of early China can make to our society involves research and publication on the one hand and teaching on the other. The first flourishes, the second does not. Some of our colleagues have lost or are losing teaching positions; others cannot find them. In all these cases, men and women trained to be scholars and teachers are denied the chance to employ that training; students are denied the chance to study the traditional roots of one of the world's great civilizations. If modern China is to be understood in sympathy and in depth its ancient history cannot be ignored. The study of early China has a legitimate place in modern curriculums; we must ensure that its value is appreciated.

This we do in part through research and publication. Here the field is healthier. Major books about early China continue to appear in Western languages. Nineteen-seventy-six saw the publication of Ping-ti Ho's The Cradle of the East and Barnard and Satō's long-awaited Metallurgical Remains of Ancient China (reviewed below). Li Chi's Anyang is due to appear in early 1977; Cho-yun Hsu's Han Agriculture is in press; and the third, revised edition of K. C. Chang's The Archaeology of Ancient China is due to appear in September. A major workshop on Classical Chinese Thought (reported on below) was held at Harvard University in July. And the continuing vitality of the field is ensured by the stream of archaeological reports which continue to appear in publications from the People's Republic of China.

Early China appears to share in the field's scholarly vitality. The first issue was well received; we now have some 240 paid subscribers. We hope that Early China 2 will merit your continued support. With its promise of relatively quick publication and a readership devoted to the field, we believe that Early China serves a need. It may be noted in passing that an annual newsletter dealing with the Six Dynasties period in China (A.D. 220-589) has now been proposed (see Asian Studies Newsletter 22.2 [November 1976], p. 4). Te pu ku pi yu lin 德不孤必有鄰!

Editorially, we would like to ask for your assistance and understanding. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the editors to find the time to decipher illegible manuscripts, to correct spelling and syntax, and to retype some of the offerings submitted. We ask that you treat Early China as you would treat any other journal to which you submit your work. Any submission should be written in the style of the newsletter and sent to us in duplicate, double-spaced and proof-read. Material that does not meet these elementary standards of scholarship will have to be returned.

As the newsletter grows it is becoming increasingly hard for us to publish it by the end of each calendar year. The time between the end of the summer vacation, when most manuscripts are sent in, and the end of December, is not sufficiently long for us to have the manuscripts judged by outside readers, to have their criticisms considered by the authors, to type photo-ready pages, and to send them to the printer and then to the post-office. In the interests of conformity, we will continue to refer to forthcoming issues as "Fall 1977," etc., but it is possible that the issues, like this one, will not actually be mailed until the early months of the following year. We ask your indulgence in this matter and that you wait till at least the end of February before writing to enquire what has happened to your subscription.

Each issue of the newsletter virtually empties our bank account. In an attempt to save production costs we have changed from saddle-stitch to velo-binding, from brown ink on tan paper to black ink on white paper, and from one printer to another. Our continuing solvency and the publication of Early China 3 depend entirely upon your continuing subscriptions. It is true that we have just been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service; this means that your subscriptions and additional contributions are tax deductible and that our mailing costs will be somewhat reduced. Nevertheless, the increasing size of the newsletter, accompanied by rising costs for typing, printing, and mailing, requires us, with regret, to raise the subscription price for Early China 3 to \$7.00. We believe the newsletter is worth it. Some idea of our problems may be gathered from the fact that approximately 120 copies of Early China 1 have been sent out but have not yet been paid for; we cannot afford to keep delinquent subscribers on our mailing list. If you wish to receive Early China 3 and if you wish Early China 3 to appear at all, we urge you to send in your manuscripts as soon as you can and your subscriptions by the next post; the necessary form is enclosed. May we also ask that you keep us informed of any address changes; it costs us about \$1.00 each time a newsletter is returned, plus another dollar to send it out again.