

Editor's Note

With the first issue of this new volume, the Journal has completed three decades of publication. This period has seen enormous growth and development in the area studies fields, changes marked in recent months by biographies of leading figures, scholarly symposia on the intellectual and institutional changes in area studies, and practical assessments of the ever-changing nature of academic organization and inquiry. The JAS has been part of the development of area studies in the Asian fields; it has changed over the years and, as a vital publication of necessity must, it will continue to change.

An obvious change, not of substance but of presentation, is before you. The new jacket design offers a less "Orientalist" lettering, Arabic numerals in place of Roman, and the convenience of a list of contents on the back. The index issue will be clearly identified on the spine so that volumes lined up on a shelf will be distinct. As explained before, each volume, starting with this issue, will coincide with a calendar year. Other changes regarding the Journal's front matter and interior design will be forthcoming. We hope that the cheerful red color, so often associated with events of rejoicing in Asia, will be auspicious for the future of our enterprise.

As of this issue also, the Association, acting upon the advice of its Publications Advisory Committee, has contracted with the University of California Press to take responsibility for the publication of the Journal. This arrangement relieves both the Secretariat and the Editor of a range of responsibilities, freeing them for their other activities. At the same time, it makes for greater efficiency and rationality in the various stages of the production process.

Finally, this issue concludes the term of the current Editorial Board. I am deeply grateful to the Association for entrusting the editorship to me over these past three and one-half years. I have learned a great deal and I have enjoyed many aspects of the work involved. Above all, I have valued the close collaboration I have had with many fellow participants in the enterprise. Most immediate have been the staff in Berkeley: Ann Devaney, as my unmatched assistant; Phyllis Killen, who happily is well on her way to recovery after her illness of last spring, as manuscript editor; and Bonnie Dehler, as proofreader and, in recent months, our Rock of Gibraltar in whatever needed to be done. The Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies at Berkeley has been an unfailing resource for me over the past twenty years and never more so than during this term as editor when it provided the Journal a warm and generous welcome; my thanks to Bruce Pray, Barbara Gaerlan, and Eric Crystal. The Editorial Board has, of course, made the Journal possible with hard work and astute advice; some Journals may run with honorary boards, but this one certainly does not. The Secretariat has been unfailingly helpful. Most important have been the many of you who have thought of the Journal for your own best work and who have reviewed and advised the work of others. I am grateful to you all.

By the time you read this issue, the Journal will be in the able hands of its new editor, Thomas R. H. Havens. Tom brings extraordinary distinction to his new role as editor and a range of skills that will ensure us all an excellent Journal. Those of us now retiring wish him and his colleagues a most happy and productive term.