

Editor's Note

With this issue, this journal begins its fiftieth year of publication. First known as the *Far Eastern Quarterly*, the journal was published by the Far Eastern Association until 1956 when the association's scope was broadened and it was renamed the Association for Asian Studies; the journal then became *The Journal of Asian Studies*. The last editor of the *Far Eastern Quarterly* was Arthur F. Wright, then a Professor of History at Stanford University. As his student, I sat in his outer office once each week awaiting my Thursday afternoon tutorial session as his assistant worked on the correspondence connected with the journal. I see my own students waiting in the same manner outside my office these days.

To mark this anniversary year, the journal has a small banner on the cover, and in this issue, preceding the editorial matter, the Contents pages from the first issue of the *Far Eastern Quarterly* and *The Journal of Asian Studies* are both reproduced.

Three articles in this anniversary number take up a central and continuing question for Asian studies, the issue of whether the scholar should use a universalist or relativist standard when studying and judging other cultures. In doing so, it would seem that we are following the vision of those who founded the Far Eastern Association and the Association for Asian Studies during the past half century.

Readers will also note the appearance of a new section in our reviews, entitled "Film and Video." In this section, we will review some of the new films and videos released with proper licensing for instructional use. The phrases "with proper licensing" and "for instruction use" are important, for we obviously cannot review materials not in formal distribution, nor will space permit us to review most new commercial films or television productions by Asians or dealing with Asia. However, there is a growing number of worthwhile film and videos—including some feature films originally released commercially, plus documentaries reformatted for classroom use and some productions especially intended primarily for instruction. Many of these involve significant contributions from Asianists as writers, producers, directors, or on-film interpreters. Such work is of special interest in this new section. We feel a great many of *JAS*'s readers will find reviews of such materials useful and so have inaugurated this new subheading.