

Editor's Note

At the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Los Angeles last spring, considerable interest focused on the panel entitled "Modernization and Traditional Cultures: A Critique of Thomas Metzger's *Escape from Predicament: Neo-Confucianism and China's Evolving Political Culture*." Professor Metzger's book had raised basic interpretive issues relating to the role of Neo-Confucian thought in China's modern experience, challenging along the way a number of widely held assumptions about China's cultural traditions and their impact on the modernization process there.

The review symposium that occupies much of the article space in this issue of the *JAS* is the offspring of that lively panel. Several of the authors, including Professor Metzger, were kind enough to expand their original remarks for publication. The result is, we hope, an approximation of the kind of scholarly dialogue which the *JAS* is most interested in advancing. Given the density of Metzger's original subject, the symposium may also serve as a complement to *Escape from Predicament*, and perhaps be of particular value in teaching situations.

The other article in this issue is Professor Golas's detailed analysis of the state of the field in studies of Song rural society, one of the series of state of the field papers commissioned by the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies.

This is perhaps the time and place to remind would-be contributors to the *JAS* that the *Journal* is not able to consider manuscripts which have been or are in the process of being published elsewhere, in whole or in part. We realize that research projects commonly result in more than one paper, article, or chapter, and that in the final analysis whether two such essays overlap too far is a matter of editorial discretion. But, given the necessity of observing copyrights and the inefficiency of expending the time of editors and referees on manuscripts that are already appearing elsewhere, *The Journal of Asian Studies* finds it necessary to define its position fairly strictly. Any author who thinks such overlap might be a problem should raise the issue with the editor when a manuscript is submitted. This will save both the author and the *Journal* time and labor, and will increase the chances for a mutually satisfactory resolution.