

## Editorial

The unceasing stream of archaeological discoveries and reports from the People's Republic of China continues to stimulate the vitality of early Chinese studies. A month rarely goes by when some new find does not startle and amaze, inviting us to reformulate our conceptions about various aspects of China's past. The abstracts and translations included in this issue of Early China provide a rich sampling of these discoveries. The fact that Kaogu xuebao will start to appear quarterly promises still more reports of this sort. Sinologists who have visited the People's Republic in recent months report a new interest in scholarly communication on the part of our Chinese colleagues. All this bodes well for the future.

The articles and discussions which form the heart of this issue also testify to the vitality of scholarly activity beyond China's borders. The fact that articles are now a regular feature of Early China requires some comment, for it is clear that what was originally conceived as a newsletter--at that historic meeting when a small group of us met at the AAS convention in Philadelphia in 1968--is becoming something more ambitious. Early China now straddles the arbitrary line that separates newsletters from journals. It is of vital importance that there be a publication in the field that does so. The present issue contains several relatively long and technical studies, reviews, and rejoinders, that in most cases could probably not have found a place in a regular journal. It is not their quality that is in question but their limited appeal to most readers of the Journal of Asian Studies, the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, or even the Journal of the American Oriental Society, for example. Yet it is precisely this kind of detailed, fundamental scholarship on which later, more comprehensive revisions of understanding must finally depend. Early China serves a vital need by providing for the dissemination of basic research pieces, sometimes almost 'laboratory notes,' that cannot be widely disseminated in another way. Given the complex and difficult nature of the problems, frequently linguistic, facing any scholar working in early Chinese studies, it is important that such a newsletter-cum-journal be maintained.

The development of Early China has been accompanied by the inevitable development of bureaucratic trappings. In order to obtain affiliate status with the Association for Asian Studies (approved by the AAS Board of Directors at its meeting of 24 March 1977), and in order to obtain status as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization (to reduce mailing costs), it was necessary that the Society for the Study of Early China have a Constitution and Bylaws. These are reproduced on pp. 135-137.

Thanks to a generous grant of \$1000 from the Committee on Studies of Chinese Civilization of the American Council of Learned Societies and to a generous grant of \$250.00 from the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, it is probable that this issue of Early China will be printed and mailed without sending the Editor and Secretary-Treasurer into temporary debt. Since the ACLS has made it clear that no further subventions will be considered, it is important that we run as tight a financial ship as possible. We are reluctant to raise subscription rates and we will do our best to maintain the current cost of \$7.00 per issue for both EC 3 and EC 4 (though we are adding an additional \$1.00 to the rates for overseas subscribers). This requires that we keep printing costs within a realistic budget. We will do this by (1) printing only enough copies to cover our present subscribers (and a few subscribers-expectant); (2) by changing once again to less expensive binding and paper; and (3) by limiting the size of each issue to less than 100 pages, something we have signally failed to do in this issue! (If any subscribers feel that this issue is worth more than \$7.00, we cordially invite them to express that feeling by sending along an extra contribution.) Our best hope of financial solvency lies with the membership. We urge you as strongly as we can to send us by return mail your subscription form in the envelope provided. Starting with EC 4 we will no longer mail copies of the journal prior to payments. From now on, all private subscriptions will be strictly by payment in advance.

This issue of Early China--like those which have preceded it--could not have been prepared without the dedicated, volunteer labor of numerous people. Some of these have the reward of seeing their names on the masthead. The Editor, in particular, would like to offer a special note of thanks to Nancy Price without whose help this issue of Early China--like the preceding ones would not have seen the light of day. We are all greatly in debt to Ken-ichi Takashima whose 'adapted translations' of Shigaku zasshi's annual compte rendu of Japanese Sinology (see pp. 74-82) is so valuable to us all; the difficulties involved in making such a translation will be readily appreciated by anybody who has tried to render the text into English.

The present Editor will be on leave in academic year 1978-1979, but all manuscripts and all editorial and subscription questions should continue to be addressed to David N. Keightley, Dept. of History, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, and should be clearly marked 'Attention: Early China' in the lower left corner of the envelope. Contributors are asked to pay strict attention to the specific requirements of our style sheet (see p. 138). We can accept manuscripts in other formats but will have to charge authors for retyping such manuscripts to conform to the style sheet requirements. Manuscripts typed according to our format save a great deal of time and money when the photo-ready copy is prepared.

Finally, may we urge you to fill out the biennial questionnaire concerning work in progress (see pp. 139-140). Please return it as directed by 1 August 1978 so that the results may be presented in EC 4. We ask for your cooperation and responses in all these matters. It is upon your continuing support--scholarly and financial--that the fate of EC 4 and Early Chinas yet to come...EC 10, EC 15, EC 20?...will depend. We need your checks.