

EDITOR'S PREFACE

In keeping with the tradition of devoting the issue following a World Conference of the ICTM to one or more of the themes of that conference, this volume presents results of music research in Asia. Earlier versions of several of the essays were read at the 35th World Conference held in Hiroshima, August 19-25, 1999, others were submitted independently and are included because they contributed well to the general theme which considers Asia in its geographical borders.

Producing a volume of the Yearbook is very much a cooperative venture. In the case of a "conference" volume, the editorial process begins with the soliciting of submissions from the participants of the conference. The Program Committee who shape the conference and the Local Organizers who make it all possible deserve recognition for their role in producing this volume; to name only two in place of them all: Gerard Béhague as Program Chair and Tsukada Kenichi, the untiring local host without whom the conference would not have happened.

After an initial screening by the Editor(s), submissions are sent to at least two referees in each case, and if the responses are encouraging, a process of revisions will usually ensue which keeps the authors and referees and the editor(s) and assistant editor busy for weeks or even months. This may lead to much improved contributions, but on occasion, may also result in the postponement or even final rejection of an article—in the rather rare cases where the revisions are not deemed sufficient to justify publication.

Meanwhile, the review editors go about their own work, seeking suitable and reliable reviewers, nudging them as deadlines approach or pass, and working with them—many of them—on adhering to the YTM format of informative yet succinct reviews. Elizabeth K. Keenan of Columbia, our Assistant Editor, supported me untiringly and with patient insistence in pulling it all together while David Novak, Morgan Lang and Tobin Fowler of Columbia helped with copy editing; Book Review Editor Gage Averill was assisted by Daniel Neely at New York University; Record Review Editor Cynthia P. Wong did most of it by herself but enjoyed the occasional assistance of Tobin Fowler. John Baily, our Film/Video Review Editor, struggled with the difficulties inherent in that medium. We are indebted to them all.

Readers should realize that all this may generate much joy, intellectual stimulation, and the expansion of professional relations for authors, referees, editors—for all who are part of the complex process, but it may also produce much pain and even animosity. Who enjoys having a submission rejected? Few are those who have the tolerance for seeing their brain child subjected to drastic surgery, or the patience to revise and rewrite what they had considered brilliant and final, without at least a little bit of resentment. Who delights in being reminded of deadlines past? Referees may remain anonymous; editors are there to take the brunt.

The Editor alias General Editor who simultaneously acts as the managing publisher of the Yearbook on behalf of the ICTM is also in the frontline when something goes wrong with the production of a volume. Our faithful printers

since 1972, Brown & Martin, Ltd in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, were acquired by a new management that relied on “technology,” and it became clear only in mid-November that they could not make the new technology work for them and that they would not be able to deliver. It is only due to the readiness and skill of a group of people at Center for Ethnomusicology at Columbia University – Tobin Fowler, Elizabeth Keenan, Cynthia Wong, Morgan Lang – and Nerthus Christensen at the ICTM Secretariat, all of whom pitched in with correcting, proofing, page layout, technical support, producing photo-ready copy and making arrangements for printing and shipping, that this volume 32/2000 could be issued with only modest delay.

It is in this spirit that I welcome the courageous guest editor of the 2001 volume. Adrienne Kaepler has generously agreed to edit the essays section of Yearbook 33 which will focus on dance and ethnochoreology.

DIETER CHRISTENSEN