

Editor's Note

With this issue the current *JAS* editors complete their first year of service, an apt moment to recognize the high standards and skilled leadership of our predecessors—above all Barbara Metcalf, the previous editor, who served four years with great tact and fidelity to scholarship. This issue also marks another step in the redesign of the *Journal*, executed with good taste and good cheer by University of California Press.

Since taking office the present editors have worked with colleagues throughout the profession to review important books in Asian studies promptly and concisely. The editors have also consulted widely in an effort to attract articles of broad interest to the diverse readership of *JAS*. As before, the only criteria are quality, significance, and appropriateness for publication in a journal of wide disciplinary and geographic compass. Authors are invited to submit manuscripts based on original research in all areas and disciplines within Asian studies, provided they raise larger questions of theoretical or comparative interest to readers beyond the specific fields in which they are written. Illustrated manuscripts and contributions from scholars in Asia are especially encouraged. The editors welcome inquiries from members of the Association for Asian Studies and other readers about any aspect of *JAS*.