

Editorial

Scholarly exchanges between the rest of the world and China continue to flourish. Numerous foreign scholars and graduate students in early Chinese studies have now had the opportunity to travel and study in China; and a small but significant number of scholars have come from China to study and teach in other countries. As evidence, no doubt incomplete, of these developments, we would note, first, the successful participation of foreign scholars in the fourth annual conference of the Chinese Paleography Association held in T'ai-yüan in September 1981 (see Edward Shaughnessy's report in the News of the Field section below). Second, the International Conference on Shang Civilization held at the East-West Center in Hawaii in September 1982, sponsored by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC), a report of which will appear in EC8. Third, the visits of such distinguished scholars as Li Hsüeh-ch'in to Cambridge University and The School of Oriental and African Studies (Spring 1982), Ch'iu Hsi-kuei to the University of Washington (Fall 1982 to Winter 1983), Tsou Heng to Harvard University (Winter and Spring 1983), and Hu Hou-hsüan to the University of California, Berkeley (expected in Spring 1983); the support of the Henry Luce Foundation (Ch'iu), of the Harvard-Yenching Institute (Tsou), and of the Distinguished Scholar Exchange Program of the CSCPRC (Hu) must be gratefully acknowledged. It is hoped that other Chinese scholars may visit the United States, to carry out research, join our seminars, and meet with colleagues, under these and similar auspices. Plans are being made, incidentally, for Ch'iu and Hu to participate in a panel at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Francisco at the end of March 1983. Fourth, two visits by John W. Olsen to Huhehot in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for research on the Palaeolithic (see News of the Field).

The importance of these developing contacts is reflected in part by the increasing number of Western-language book reviews--such as those by Broschat and Herforth, and the discussion between Goodrich and Thorp, all in this issue--of books written in Chinese. The field of early Chinese studies will grow in stature and sophistication in the West to the degree that it reviews Chinese (and Japanese) language books as frequently and as thoroughly as it reviews books in Western languages. We would particularly like to urge our contributors to further this trend by submitting reviews of Chinese and Japanese sinological works for publication in future issues of EC.

In a related vein, the editors would like to reaffirm their commitment to the original inspiration which led to the establishment, first of the Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Pre-Han China, and then of its successor, Early China. Despite the increasingly journal-like quality of the publication, we do not wish to de-emphasize its function as a newsletter. We are not, in short, interested only in publishing formal, scholarly articles, though we welcome them. We also welcome items that deal with such topics as study aids, bibliography, and research materials; and we welcome research notes which, although needing elaboration and verification, may stimulate further research in exciting ways. In addition, starting with EC8, we would like to expand our coverage of teaching by including abstracts of seminar papers written by graduate students working in early Chinese studies. May we ask you to support this venture by urging your students to send us such abstracts as they write their papers. We think of Early China as both a journal and a newsletter, and we would not wish one aspect to be stressed at the expense of the other. With this end in mind, we urge you not only to pay your subscriptions but also to send us your abstracts, your news of the field, your bibliographical items, and to take the time to respond to the questionnaire about work in progress which is included in the present issue.

As you will have seen from the recent subscription letter, your checks for Early China are payable to the Regents of the University of California; this is because the journal is published, and subsidized, by the University's Institute of East Asian Studies. We also need your separate dues of \$2.00, however, payable to the Society for the Study of Early China; these funds are used to support the work of the Society--a cumulative EC Index (still in preparation), the translation of Shigaku zasshi's annual survey of Chinese studies, and so on. The sum required from each member is small, but without your support the Society would not be able to provide the editorial work needed to make Early China a success. Please continue to assist us by writing separate checks. In this connection, on behalf of the Society, we should like to thank the China and Inner Asian Council of the Association for Asian Studies for its generous grant of \$100.

Turning to the contents of the present issue, we would note in particular the presence of David Pankenier's long article, "Astronomical States in Shang and Western Zhou." This is one of a series of chronological studies inspired by the work of Professor David S. Nivison and deriving from his seminar. Edward L. Shaughnessy's "'New' Evidence on the Chou Conquest" (EC6:57-79) presented a detailed chronology of the conquest campaign as it may be reconstructed, primarily from the "Shih fu" chapter of Yi Chou shu. Pankenier, working initially with astronomical data, provides his own hypothesis about the pre-conquest and conquest chronology. Nivison's own studies, based primarily on the calendrical information recorded in the Western Chou bronze inscriptions and the Bamboo Annals will

shortly appear in The Symposium on the Great Bronze Age of China, edited by George Kuwayama (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1983), in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies 43.2 (December 1983), and in Handbook on Chinese Texts of the Chou and Han Periods, edited by Michael Loewe and William G. Boltz (in preparation); two additional Nivison papers, in Chinese, will appear in future issues of Ku-wen-tzu yen-chiu.

Turning to the contents of the next issue, we would like, as an experiment, to invite articles or comment around the topic of "Shamanism and Related Themes in Early China." K.C. Chang's "The Animal in Shang and Chou Bronze Art," (HJAS 41.2 [December 1981]:527-554) may provide, perhaps, focus for discussion and comment. We have deferred until the next issue of Early China David N. Keightley's "Shamanistic Mediation in the Shang Oracle Bones" which was originally scheduled to appear in EC7. We will emphatically welcome articles on other topics in EC8--Virginia C. Kane's "Aspects of Western Chou Appointment Inscriptions" is already scheduled for publication in that issue--but we especially invite articles on the theme of shamanism. Help us to make this initial attempt at an informal symposium a success.

Finally, we would note some good auguries for the future. The useful compte-rendu, authored by T'ang Chia-hung 唐嘉弘, of publications on pre-Ch'in history which appeared in China in 1980 (Chung-kuo li-shih-hsueh nien-chien 中国历史学年鉴 [Peking: Jen-min ch'u-pan-she 1981:15-23]) is particularly promising. One hopes that such abstracts of historical articles, reminiscent of, and complementing, the annual essays in Shigaku zasshi, will continue to appear, together with the annual bibliographies of archaeological publications (as in Wen-wu 1982.4:94-96). It is encouraging that Wen-wu (1982.12:96) plans to improve the quality of its illustrations and the number of its color plates. And it is also encouraging that the archaeological journal, K'ao-ku, upon which--together with Wen-wu (monthly) and K'ao-ku hsueh-pao (quarterly)--we all rely so heavily, will resume monthly (rather than bimonthly) publication with the start of 1983 (see the announcement at K'ao-ku 1982.4:451). We are delighted at this indication of the good health of the field in China.

