

## Abstracts

### “Public Opinion” and Political Power: *Qingyi* in Late Nineteenth Century China

MARY BACKUS RANKIN

The author reinterprets the phenomenon of *qingyi* (represented by members of the *Qingliu* and Emperor's party) as passing through five phases from 1875 to 1898, in the course of which it enlarged its scope of demands by lower- and middle-grade metropolitan officials for a broader distribution of political power and contributed to the formation of public opinion. This evolution was attended by the rise of analogous demands for political restructuring by men in two other environments: extrabureaucratic managerial and scholarly circles and the treaty ports. Militant patriotism mobilized and eventually united different groups, stimulating nationally conscious opinion that was alienated from the political leadership. The failure of government leaders to accommodate new political initiatives redirected *qingyi* into provincial movements and set the stage for the competition between centralizing bureaucratic and societally based programs for change that led to the 1911 revolution.

### Songs of the Dead: Poetry, Drama, and Ancient Death Rituals of Japan

TOSHIO AKIMA

The author reconstructs the religious idea and ritual that lie behind the “Songs of the Dead.” The three songs attributed to Empress Saimei in the *Nihonshoki* (nos. 119–121) are interpreted as sung by a dead person's spirit sailing to the nether world. They must have been handed down by the *Asobi-be*—shamans who appeased dead emperors' spirits—because these and other funeral songs in the *Kojiki* use similar verse forms. The *Ryō no Shūge* says that the *Asobi-be*'s services involved two persons called *Negi* and *Yoshi*. *Negi* appeased the spirit who possessed *Yoshi*; the empress's songs must originally have been sung by *Yoshi*. The ritual behind the “Songs of the Dead” also helps us to understand the origins of *Nō*, especially of *mugen nō*, and to perceive the connection between *Nō* and the development of *Kabuki* in the early seventeenth century.

### The Origins of Rice Agriculture in Korea—A Symposium

SARAH M. NELSON, WON-YONG KIM, and CHONG-PIL CHOE

Recent developments in Korean archaeology, especially the discovery of well-preserved rice grains in clear archaeological contexts, have caused a reassessment of the timing, distribution, causes, and effects of the beginning of rice agriculture in Korea. Kim puts the rice discoveries in historical perspective, discusses details of the recent evidence, and explores possible diffusion routes based on the new data. Choe

focuses on semi-lunar knives—the agricultural tools believed to be associated with rice cultivation. The typology of the knives and the distribution and chronology of the types are used to propose a diffusion route directly into Korea from North China. Nelson examines the cultural changes from the preceding Chūlmun period when rice grains and semi-lunar knives are found. Mechanisms to explain the change are proposed as hypotheses. Comments on the papers disclose an agreement on the likelihood of a northern diffusion route, but no consensus on the cultural processes.

### Shang China is Coming of Age—A Review Article

DAVID N. KEIGHTLEY

K. C. Chang's *Shang Civilization* is an invaluable, encyclopaedic guide to the archaeology, anthropology, and culture of East Asia's first historical dynasty. After a summary of the book's scope and a sampling of its interpretations, the review discusses six of Chang's major themes: (1) the acceptance of the "longer" rather than "shorter" dynastic chronology; (2) the identification of Cheng-chou as a Shang capital; (3) the hypothesis that two major groups held royal power in alternate generations; (4) the extent to which the states surrounding the Shang enjoyed cultural and ethnic unity; (5) the existence of numerous walled towns; and (6) the relation between bronze tools and agricultural productivity.

### Early Southeast Asia: Old Wine in New Skins?—A Review Article

KARL L. HUTTERER

*Early Southeast Asia* is an impressive collection of papers dealing with the archaeology, history, epigraphy, art history, and geography of early Southeast Asian states and their development. The high scholarship of individual contributions notwithstanding, the collection as a whole demonstrates that the past thirty years have seen relatively little progress in understanding this important aspect of the social and cultural history of the region. Archaeologists have made many important new discoveries but have been unable to bring them to bear within a historical synthesis; related disciplines have dealt with other types of evidence but also seem unable to translate them into a common language of cultural and social meaning.