

Editor's Note

This issue of the *JAS* presents four research articles on diverse subjects, plus a lengthy review essay. Though the article contents are not integrated to the extent that they have been in some recent numbers of the *Journal*, this issue is distinguished on the one hand by its heavier-than-usual attention to Southeast Asian topics, and on the other by the publication of the work of scholars from outside the United States; all four research essays come from the pens of scholars working abroad. Two of the articles, those of Professor Kaur and Dr. Wright, treat aspects of externally influenced economic development in modern Asia (British-built railroads in Malaya, Sino-Japanese coal mines in China). Professor Katō's article draws upon the revealing memoir of a turn-of-the-century Indonesian merchant to provide an unusually intimate glimpse into the life and world of an increasingly prosperous working trader. Dr. Lieberman's contribution is a detailed response to an earlier article by Dr. Michael Aung Thwin on the monarchy and the Buddhist order in Burmese history (*JAS*, August 1979), and represents the kind of serious exchange of views which the *Journal* is in a position to encourage. Professor Miller's review essay, on a Japanese scholar's recent English-language history of Japanese literature, raises some critical—and perhaps controversial—questions of intellectual and cultural outlook in Japanese scholarly discourse as addressed to Western audiences.

This issue of the *Journal* also brings to an end, a year earlier than originally anticipated, this editor's term. I take this opportunity to extend my warmest thanks to the hard-working *JAS* Editorial Board, to the many scholar-referees whose diligence in evaluating manuscripts has so greatly improved the work of authors and editorial staff alike, and to those patient contributors who have endured editorial importuning with superhuman grace. The *Journal* will be in very good hands indeed under Professor Joyce Kallgren of the University of California, who with her new and capable editorial board will oversee the *JAS* beginning with the November 1980 issue.