

## Note from the Editor-in-Chief

In this note to readers I would like to apologize that issues 37 and 38 for the year 2013 are published so late in 2014. We will do our best to catch up with the backlog. As a matter of fact, issue 38 (2013) is now going to print, and issues 39 (2014) and 40 (2014) will appear within a few weeks, so that by then we will be able to concentrate on numbers 41 and 42 of the year 2015.

A new development for the journal is that starting with this issue Ulrich Theobald, my Tübingen collaborator in the Section Sinology, Department of Chinese and Korean Studies, joins us as one of the co-editors of the journal. One of the reasons for this was that Mark Elvin had unfortunately to give up his editorial support for EASTM due to the pressure of other urgent commitments. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Mark for his dedicated support of the journal in recent years, while at the same time welcome Ulrich Theobald as his successor. The new co-editor is a lecturer for Chinese history and Classical Chinese at Tübingen University who obtained his Ph.D. degree in 2009. His revised Ph.D. thesis was published in 2013 with Brill under the title *War Finance and Logistics in Late Imperial China: A Study of the Second Jinchuan War (1771-1776)*. In a few weeks, Brill will also publish *Money in Asia (1200-1900): Small Currencies in Social and Political Contexts*, a volume edited by Jane Kate Leonard and Ulrich Theobald in the series "Monies, Markets, and Finance in East Asia, 1600-1900." Moreover, the incoming co-editor is the author of the very useful and popular online encyclopaedia *chinaknowledge.de* which also contains a section dealing with traditional Chinese sciences and technologies.

There is further good news. First of all, we are delighted to announce that the German Research Foundation (DFG) will again support the journal, at least until the year 2016. We are very grateful, indeed, to the DFG for their on-going support of EASTM and their abiding trust in the quality of our publication. Secondly, EASTM will not only be available on its own homepage, but also on JSTOR and via EBSCO. This is especially important for the authors and reviewers contributing to our issues, because it means that their articles and reviews will be much more present on a global level. I am personally convinced that as long as EASTM remains a peer refereed journal, open access to its contents will add to its high profile and make it even more attractive as a venue for publication. We will continue to publish it in printed form for the time being, both out of tradition and for aesthetic reasons. Moreover, authors still like to have a printed version in their hands after all the effort they have expended on their contributions! This is understandable, especially in the humanities, and certainly another important reason to continue to produce EASTM in printed form.

This issue of our journal contains ten book reviews testifying to the unbroken fascination with the history of science, technology and medicine in East Asia. The focus is, however, certainly on the two research articles published here. Tina Su-Lyn Lim and Donald B. Wagner's contribution deals with six problems on right triangles formulated in Wang Xiaotong's 王孝通 *Jigu suanshu* 緝古算經 (Continuation of Ancient Mathematics) of the seventh century. They provide a painstaking and detailed analysis of the structure of argumentation in this work, i.e., the ways in which mathematical questions were posed and how solutions for the problems were proposed. They also touch on the question of the function of the book in mathematical education during its time, or, in other words, whether it represented pure mathematics or was intended for more practical, bureaucratic purposes. Moreover, because of the existence of differences in terminology, Lim and Wagner also hypothesize whether all comments were from Wang Xiaotong himself or whether some of them, as it seems, were added by other commentators.

The second article is authored by Lu Di and investigates knowledge of macrofungi in China from the third to the sixth centuries. Topics highlighted in this thoroughly researched article concern characters and words on macrofungi in ancient dictionaries and other works, the earliest records of macrofungi cultivation in China and macrofungi consumption on Taiwan, recipes for macrofungi dishes, as well as the occurrence and metaphorical use of macrofungi in literature, especially Daoist scriptures. Some of the macrofungi that were especially prominent during that period were *fuling* 茯苓 (*Wolfiporia cocos*), monkey head mushrooms (*houtougu* 猴頭菇; *Hericium erinaceus*) and *lingzhi* 靈芝 (*Ganoderma lucidum*). The article is based on research on a wide range of sources, and is accompanied by a number of illustrations providing additional information not only on the history of macrofungi in early China, but also on their importance for the relevant knowledge systems and their symbolic and metaphorical functions in literature and religion.

No. 38 and 39 of EASTM will be special issues on "Knowledge Spheres: Borderlines and Intersections of Expertise and Knowing in China, Song to Qing" with Dagmar Schäfer and Sun Xiaochun as guest editors. No. 38 will contain three articles, namely, Sun Xiaochun and Han Yi on "The Northern Song State's Financial Support for Astronomy," Juan He on "Text and Teacher in the Transmission of Alchemical Knowledge: Wu Wu and His Works," and Philipp Cho's "Healing and Ritual Imagination in Chinese Medicine: The Multiple Interpretations of *Zhuyou*." This will be closely followed by issue 39 with contributions from Andreas Janousch on "The Censor's Stele: Religion, Salt-Production and Labour in the Temple of the God of the Salt Lake in Southern Shanxi Province", and Ari Daniel Levine

on “Walls and Gates, Windows and Mirrors: Urban Defences, Cultural Memory, and Security Theatre in Song Kaifeng.”

After these special issues we will publish a regular number, No. 40, with an article by Togo Tsukahara dealing with “Unpublished *Geologica Japonica* by von Siebold: Geology, Mineralogy, and Copper in the Context of Dutch Colonial Science and the Introduction of Western Geo-sciences to Japan”, and a contribution by Michela Bussotti and Han Qi on “ Typography for a Modern World? The Ways of Chinese Movable Types.”

Hans Ulrich Vogel  
Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen  
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies  
Department of Chinese and Korean Studies