

## Editors' Introduction

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THIS issue marks a significant shift in the development of *Asian Ethnology* as we introduce a change of editorship, welcome new members to the editorial board, and incorporate new themes for the journal.

Scott Schnell has stepped down from the position of co-editor. He will continue to serve the journal as a member of the editorial board. Although Scott's name appeared in print initially as the co-editor of *Asian Ethnology* from the first issue of the journal under that name in 2008 (volume 67, number 1), his association with the journal and Nanzan University began a number of years earlier, when the journal was still named *Asian Folklore Studies* (*AFS*). He contributed book reviews and articles, and co-edited two special issues, including the one dedicated to honoring the former editor of *AFS*, Peter Knecht (Volume 66, 1–2). Scott's vision, drive, action, and belief in the journal helped establish the blueprint for its first steps as the renamed *Asian Ethnology*. He recommended future board members, solicited articles from colleagues, met and communicated with various people to discuss the journal, and carefully crafted important and significant passages that articulated his vision in the "Editors' Introduction" of the first issue (67/1).

He also organized a "branch office" at The University of Iowa's Department of Anthropology, and later arranged financial support that paid for editorial assistants from 2009–2011 from the following University of Iowa institutions: International Programs, The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. On behalf of Nanzan University, Benjamin Dorman would like to thank these institutions for their generous support during Scott's tenure as co-editor. Among his many contributions to the journal, Scott brought uncompromising academic rigor, a willingness to take risks and experiment with new directions, a balanced perspective on every matter related to the journal, and a keen eye for detail.

His replacement, Frank J. Korom of Boston University, has also been associated with the journal since the *AFS* days. He has successfully secured funding from his institution to support an editorial assistant and a new branch office. We thus wish to thank Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Department of Religion within it for their cooperation and generosity. Moving

the branch office from America's heartland to New England furthers the long-term presence of the journal in both Asia and North America, even while the production facilities will continue to be located at Nanzan University's Institute for Religion and Culture, where the infrastructure for management and editing is already firmly in place. The contributions of members of the institute have been important, and we wish to acknowledge their ongoing support and advice that helps to facilitate the smooth production of *Asian Ethnology*. With Korom's appointment and the continued expansion of the journal, we would like to welcome the following colleagues to serve as members of the editorial board for a five-year term:

Thomas David Dubois, *The Australian National University*

R. Michael Feener, *National University of Singapore*

Charlene E. Makley, *Reed College*

William S. Sax, *Heidelberg University*

Scott Schnell, *University of Iowa*

Their addition surely adds new areas of expertise upon which we shall draw for advice in matters pertaining to the journal.

Furthermore, acting on Frank Korom's suggestion, we have introduced some new topical categories for the journal—cultural transformations in diasporas, transnational flows, and material culture. We hope to continue adding more thematic areas of interest as the field continues expanding and changing in the years to come. As always, we are committed to publishing works covering a broad swath of geographical regions on a variety of topical and theoretical concerns, including those that incorporate audiovisual materials, such as recorded sound and film, that can enhance the work. We are especially interested in continuing to encourage scholars of Asian origin to submit their work to us for publication consideration, and we also continue to welcome proposals for special thematic issues, which can be regionally or theoretically focused. It is our hope that the journal will continue to gather more readers as it continues to grow and expand.

Once again, we wish to thank all of you, our readers, for your interest in the journal and the articles and reviews contained herein. We enthusiastically invite you to participate in making *Asian Ethnology* the premier journal for the ethnographic and comparative study of Asia's rich and variegated cultural traditions.

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