

Editorial

Since its founding, the Society for the Study of Early China has published four annual issues of Early China and has developed a paid membership of over 350 scholars and institutions throughout the world. The Journal and society, as indicated in Li Xueqin's kind comments in the November, 1979 issue of Wenwu, have helped further the communication between all sinologists interested in studying ancient China in terms of the new finds made by Chinese archaeologists. This tradition continues in Early China 5. During this past year, several meetings have shared the common focus of attempting to reconcile traditional, literary sources and research techniques with recent archaeological discoveries whose completeness, variety, and novelty require innovative methodologies which challenge longheld assumptions. Particularly significant were two conferences in New York City and Berkeley which gave scholars and graduate students from various countries the opportunity to meet with four colleagues, led by Xia Nai, from the People's Republic of China. These and other meetings are reported in detail in our "News of the Field" section. Dieter Kuhn's study of silk-spinning technology, Francesca Bray's analysis of Han agriculture, and David Keightley's summary of the Shang state as revealed in oracle-bone inscriptions, as well as Albert Dien's notes on ancient armor and the excavation of a third Ch'in figure pit, all demonstrate the significance of using fresh evidence to pose new solutions to old problems. The same concerns can be seen in An Zhimin's review of neolithic archaeology (translated by K. C. Chang) and the scholarship of our Japanese colleagues as reported in Shigaku zasshi (translated by Ken Takashima).

To facilitate contact among scholars, this issue of Early China -- following the model of Kaogu Xuebao -- is instituting the practice of printing abstracts of major articles as well as our "Table of Contents" in both Chinese and English. It is hoped that this will encourage more scholars in China and elsewhere to turn to the articles themselves. In addition, following a practice that is becoming standard in other journals, we provide the full mailing address of the articles' authors so that others working on similar topics may contact them directly.

Early China was originally conceived as a newsletter edited and published on an informal basis by the volunteer efforts of a few scholars in the Berkeley area. The Society and its publication have been partly supported by generous grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Association for Asian Studies, and (in the case of this and the previous issue) the Center for Chinese Studies at Berkeley. The success of the enterprise has increasingly threatened its continued existence. A newsletter has become a journal. A small subscription list has become a large one. Production problems have grown more complex. Volunteer labor is no longer sufficient to keep things working smoothly, to keep accounts, send out subscription notices, answer subscribers, prepare copy of press, oversee production, and mail the journal. It has increasingly become apparent that this is no way to run a journal which is performing a vital function in the field of early Chinese studies.

Starting with this issue, therefore, Early China will no longer be published by the Society for the Study of Early China but by the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley. The editors, and through them, the Society, will retain complete editorial independence. The routine yet crucial administrative work involved in producing and mailing the journal will now be handled by the staff of the Institute which will, in effect, be partly subsidizing those operations. The Institute is generously giving its whole-hearted support to the publication of Early China and intends to promote it thoroughly with its wider resources. Checks for Early China 5 and subsequent issues should now be made payable to "Regents, University of California," and sent to the Institute.

The Society for the Study of Early China will continue to flourish as an independent organization which represents its members to the Association for Asian Studies, the American Council of Learned Societies, and other professional groups. It will also pay for certain editorial expenses -- such as the preparation of the Annual Bibliography and the translation of sections of Shigaku zasshi and other efforts which volunteer labor cannot always provide. Therefore, you are asked to help maintain the existence of the Society by sending an additional check for \$2.00 (more, if you are able to do so), payable to "The Society for the Study of Early China."

We welcome your comments, your financial contributions, and, above all, your articles and notes, which have done so much to make Early China successful. Please send all correspondence to Early China, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Manuscripts submitted for Early China 6 must be received no later than January 1, 1981.