

Editorial Statement

Great changes are taking place in early Chinese studies. The flood of recent archaeological discoveries, the re-evaluation of the social roots of Confucianism and Legalism, the natural concern on the part of a larger public to know more about the origins of one of history's great civilizations, all indicate the growing importance of the field in its own right. In addition, the increasing sophistication of analytical techniques (archaeological, linguistic, anthropological, art historical, etc.) and the increasingly important role that China is playing in cross-cultural studies further indicate that early Chinese studies are entering a new stage in which communication among scholars will be more necessary and fruitful than ever before.

Early China is a newsletter devoted to the dissemination of information and the testing of new ideas in the fields of pre-historic, Shang, Chou, and Han China. It is the newsletter of the Society for the Study of Early China which became the successor to the Society for the Study of Pre-Han China in March, 1975. *Early China* will have a larger scope than the former Pre-Han newsletter. It will include Han studies and, in addition to the usual section listing work in progress, will include short articles or research papers. It is hoped to publish thoughtful book reviews as well as what may be called the "Article Review," that is, a summary of recent articles on a particular theme which may also introduce the reviewer's own researches into the topic. There will be an abstract section which will cover articles in Chinese and Japanese. Since the newsletter can best serve as a forum for testing new ideas if readers respond to the articles, we hope that future issues will contain a flourishing column for correspondence and debate. It has also been suggested that one section of the newsletter might be devoted to job opportunities, not just in teaching, but also in related areas such as museum work, publishing, etc.; information or notices about employment, therefore, will be especially welcome. The health of the newsletter will depend upon your support. The materials submitted may take virtually any form that the author wishes; they certainly should not be limited to the categories that appear in this first issue.

Early China joins such specialized newsletters as *Ch'ing-shih wen-t'i*, the *Sung Studies Newsletter*, *Ming Studies*, and the *Chinese Republican Studies Newsletter*. It appears at a time when doubts about the function and future of established journals are being expressed (see *Asian Studies Professional Review* 4, nos. 1 and 2 [fall-spring, 1974-1975]:11-13), when some journals have a two to three year backlog of articles awaiting publication, and when rising costs are increasing subscription prices prohibitively. There is clearly something to be said for paying \$6.00 a year for a newsletter which will publish short articles about current research relatively quickly, and that will contain only materials fully relevant to one's special interests.

At present, we expect that *Early China* will be published annually in the fall of each year. Research proceeds fairly slowly in the fields represented, but frequency of publication will depend in part upon the volume of manuscript material received. Submission of many high quality articles and notes might encourage us to publish two issues a year. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is July 1. Manuscripts for the next issue should be received by July 1, 1976. Material for publication will be selected by the editor acting in consultation with the editorial board. For romanization, we had originally planned to use *pin-yin*, but the delay by the People's Republic of China this September in changing over to full use of *pin-yin* has led us to rely on "local option." At the present, therefore, authors are asked to use Wade-Giles, Y. R. Chao's Gwoyew Romatzyh, or *pin-yin*.

Since the success of *Early China* will finally depend upon financial considerations, we should like to describe our present condition. Thanks largely to a \$250.00 grant from the Association for Asian Studies (November, 1974) and a \$600.00 grant from the Committee on Studies on Chinese Civilization of the American Council of Learned Societies (April, 1975), we had a balance of \$976.46 as of December 15, 1975. Printing and mailing costs will total approximately \$1020.00. If we are to produce a similar issue in 1976, it is essential that subscriptions at least recover the cost of production and distribution. We are hoping for at least 200 subscriptions at \$6.00. If we receive less, our publication activities will be curtailed accordingly. Since it is highly unlikely that we will receive any additional funding, the economic survival of the enterprise depends entirely on the reader's response. If you feel that *Early China* merits support, that it can perform a useful function in the field, let us urge you to use the order blank at the end of this issue and send in your check for \$6.00 or \$12.00 by return mail. Please encourage your colleagues and libraries to

do the same. Scholars outside the United States who find it difficult to send American currency are invited to exchange their scholarly publications in return for a subscription to the journal. (Those new members of the Society who have already paid their dues in advance need not pay at this time, but they are asked to fill in the questionnaire and return it; otherwise they will not receive number 2.)

This is a first, experimental issue. We would greatly welcome your advice and criticisms, not just about editorial policy and content, but also about such matters as format, typography, and page design. *Early China* is a fledgling. With your care and guidance it can grow into a *p'eng* bird, bearing us all on its thousand-*li* back as it wanders free and easy in the realms of scholarship. Let us hear from you, let us have your support.