



## Editor's Note

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The *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* (*SERAS*) continues to evolve and to become increasingly representative of the high-quality scholarship produced by members of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC/AAS). This volume, the largest ever (over 132,000 words), includes contributions by twenty-one Asianists (pp. xi–xiv). The twelve articles and six scholarly notes address East, South, and Southeast Asia from the perspectives of anthropology, art history, cinema studies, history, literature, political science, religion, and sociology. Reflecting the origins of this journal as the proceedings of the annual meeting, I have organized the articles thematically into these four sections:

*Interpretation & Representation in Architecture & History*

*Identity & Representation in Literature & Film*

*Security Issues in Contemporary Asia*

*Religion, Politics, Economics & Life in Contemporary Asia*

You are invited to read within and across these sections, pulling from the articles and scholarly notes various approaches and content that will inform and expand your disciplinary and geographical understandings of Asia. Pay attention, also, to the reviews of nine recently published monographs on aspects of Asian anthropology, education, history, and religion. As with earlier volumes, which have served to record the history of the SEC/AAS and its activities, this one also includes the program of the annual meeting and minutes of the annual business meeting held during the year of publication—in this case, the 46<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting hosted by Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, in January 2007.

Beginning with this issue, the *SERAS* is being indexed by Thomson Gale and International Information Services. Full texts of all articles and reviews are also available on the SEC/AAS Web site (<http://www.uky.edu/Centers/Asia/SECAAS/seras.html>). I aim to increase exposure of the journal—and its contents—by applying for inclusion in additional on-line databases and indexes over the coming years.

Editing the *SERAS* is far from a solo operation. I appreciate the assistance and wise counsel of past editor (and present associate editor) Daniel A. Métraux. New to the journal with this volume is Ronnie Littlejohn, associate editor for scholarly notes and book reviews, who is working to improve

the quality and quantity of pieces in those two informative and value-adding sections. Members of the Editorial Board, listed on the inside front cover, provided useful, detailed comments to authors and therefore invisibly increased the quality of the pieces presented here, many of which were subsequently revised prior to acceptance. Fellow members of the Executive Committee of the SEC/AAS (p. 290) remembered the *SERAS* in their negotiations with administrators for financial support to offset printing costs. And also new with this volume is an Editorial Advisory Board of Asianists from across the Southeast United States who will not only assist with selecting material but also work to increase visibility of the *SERAS*. I thank all of these individuals for their involvement, attention, and interest.

As my predecessor Daniel A. Métraux has said, “the journal is only as good as its submissions.” I encourage you, therefore, to consult the Instructions for Authors (pp. vii–x) and to consider submitting your own articles, scholarly notes, and book reviews for the next volume. As with this volume, I will aim in subsequent volumes to offer a balanced look at Asia, providing both historical and contemporary pieces that address the different regions of Asia from a variety of both disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. I therefore seek a range of submissions reflecting the wide scope and nature of the diverse and exciting field that is Asian studies.

Enjoy reading—and learning from—this volume. Finally, I would appreciate receiving your comments, suggestions, and offers to volunteer with the journal. Most importantly, I look forward to receiving your manuscript submissions. You can reach me at [sgump@uiuc.edu](mailto:sgump@uiuc.edu).