

Welcome from the SEC/AAS President

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The *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* has grown steadily since it was first published as the *Annals* in 1979. The purpose of the *Annals* was to publish selected papers (and abstracts of papers) presented at the annual meeting of the SEC/AAS, but the journal has since developed into a rigorously edited and peer-reviewed periodical. The maturation of the *SERAS* is reflected by its inclusion in the Thompson Gale and International Information Systems databases and by increased acquisition by major university libraries and institutes around the world.

This growth has not been without cost. The larger size of the journal has pushed up materials costs, such as printing and postage, and higher standards have meant more and more hours of editing and copy-editing. The extraordinary dedication of Daniel Métraux (immediate past editor) and editor Steven Gump has, ironically, pushed the *SERAS* beyond the capacity of volunteer editors and beyond the subvention budget from the SEC/AAS.

I am pleased to report, therefore, that with the support of Emory University, the *SERAS* will continue to grow. Subventions from Emory College, Emory Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Institute for Comparative and International Studies, and the East Asian Studies Program will be used both to underwrite material costs and to hire graduate students as editorial assistants. With this support, the SEC/AAS will be able to sustain both increased scholarly rigor and an expanded format. Our goal is to make the *SERAS* a regional journal of national and international reputation and import, and we are grateful to Emory for its support in this effort.

To this end, we have expanded the governing structure for the *SERAS*. In addition to our Editorial Board, composed of leading scholars who have been active SEC/AAS members, we have added a new Editorial Advisory Board. This new body is composed of nationally renowned scholars; but, unlike members of the Editorial Board, many Advisory Board members are new to the SEC/AAS. The Advisory Board is charged with giving general guidance on future growth and, more practically, soliciting manuscripts of high quality and broad relevance for our readership.

These are exciting times for the *SERAS*; and this issue, exceptional in both the range and quality of scholarship, is emblematic both of recent accomplishments and future potential. We hope you will continue to support the *SERAS* with your readership, active SEC/AAS membership, and manuscript submissions.