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From the Editor

The *East Asian Library Journal*, which began as the *Gest Library Journal* in 1986, has experienced a three-year interruption of publication. The journal's patient subscribers and loyal members of the Friends of the Gest Library Association are well aware of this unfortunate turn of events, but no one is more painfully aware than the editor himself, who assumed that important responsibility with high expectations in 1995. As the *East Asian Library Journal* now resumes publication with a genuine spirit of optimism, the continued support and active encouragement of all those interested in the goals of the journal and the association are sincerely solicited. This need is made more poignant by the fact that John B. Elliott, founder of the association and ardent supporter of the journal, died last year. Although left with a profound sense of loss, we nevertheless are greatly encouraged by Mr. Elliott's sterling example, and this issue of the journal is respectfully dedicated to his memory.

The stated aims of the *East Asian Library Journal* may be amplified to embrace the burgeoning field of East Asian book history, in which respect we are pleased to welcome Nancy Norton Tomasko to the journal as associate editor. Dr. Tomasko is a scholar of Chinese literature with an additional interest in the history of the book, and her participation in the preparation of this issue has been crucial to its appearance. Now that the revival of the journal is underway, contributions and communications from its readers are essential to maintaining the quality and the direction of the *East Asian Library Journal*. We are convinced that there is a clear need for this sort of publication.

The distinguished contributors to this issue have been generously patient, considering that their articles were submitted many months ago. Benjamin Wai-ming Ng earned his Ph.D. degree in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University and currently is lecturer in the Department of Japanese Studies at the National University of Singapore. "The I Ching in Tokugawa Medicine" is closely related to Dr. Ng's scholarly interests in early modern Japanese intellectual history and Sino-Japanese cultural relations.

David Helliwell is senior assistant librarian in the Department of Oriental Books at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University. Mr. Helliwell has produced two catalogues of Chinese collections in the Bodleian Library as well as articles on Chinese bibliography. His interest in the physical condition of old Chinese books developed out of a need to provide care for the Chinese books in his custody at the library. Because "The Repair and Binding of Old Chinese Books" was initially prepared as a practical handbook, the article is presented without the usual scholarly apparatus of endnotes.

Martin Heijdra is Chinese and Western bibliographer in the Gest Library, Princeton University. Dr. Heijdra's most recent publication is an important contribution to volume eight (*Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644, Part 2*) of the Cambridge History of China. In "Who were the Laka?" he uses an unusual collection of Bible translations in the Gest Library as a vehicle for exploring the true status of the minority languages of Southwest China.

As announced previously, in the spring of 1995 the Friends of the Gest Library and the Art Museum of Princeton University together sponsored an exhibition entitled "The Traditional Chinese Book: Form & Function." For the benefit of those who were unable to view the exhibition, a copy of the catalogue is included with this issue of the journal. A subscription and renewal form for volume nine and a list of available back issues of the journal are also enclosed. Please renew early as a sign of support for the *East Asian Library Journal* and suggest or order subscriptions for your friends. Back issues may be ordered directly or recommended to your library.

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