

I hope readers are doing well. “Asian Literature in the Humanities and the Social Sciences” is this issue’s special section, and Rina Williams’s “Poetry, Prose, and Political Science” features the work of two outstanding authors in better enabling survey-level students to understand the politics of religion and gender in contemporary India. Historian Juanjuan Peng in “Twentieth-Century Chinese Entrepreneurs before 1949” introduces readers to three literary works and then provides primary source-based classroom handouts and questions based upon her selections that help students understand an often-neglected topic in Chinese and world history classrooms. Some of the questions help students understand still existing potential problems for contemporary Chinese entrepreneurs.

Every year since its inception, we have published interviews with the annual winner of the AAS Franklin R. Buchanan Prize for outstanding curriculum materials development. In this issue, we have especially highlighted the work of Michael Fuller, the 2019 winner, because his impressive text, *An Introduction to Chinese Poetry From the Canon of Poetry to the Lyrics of the Song Dynasty*, particularly complements this special section. Ihor Pidhainy’s excellent review of Professor Fuller’s book follows the interview.

Fay Beauchamp, in “*The Tale of the Heike* and Japan’s Cultural Pivot to the Art of War” uses a famous protagonist of this epic to provide a window for a number of topics including classical Japanese values, the rise of interest in and admiration for Yoshitsune within Japan and beyond, and the question of how this admiration might have affected the subsequent increase in status of Japanese military elites. Jordi Serrano-Muñoz’s “Reading After Disaster: Japan’s Reaction to the 3/11 Events through Literature” is an excellent introduction to better understanding Japanese reactions to not only the catastrophe, but how authors of literary works raised more fundamental questions about post-3/11 Japan.

Việt Nam is the focus of the next two articles. William Noseworthy’s “Planting the Seeds of *Wild Mustard*: Reading Vietnamese Short Stories in the Study of Asian History and Religion” manages to use one short story as a means to better understand foundational examples of Vietnamese religious values. Yasuko Sato’s “The Sorrow of the Things They Carried: The American War in Việt Nam Told by Combat Soldiers from Both Sides” uses two of the most famous novels of the conflict, both written by ordinary soldiers, to provide a concrete sense of what the war was like for combatants. Joseph W. Ho and his three co-authors in “Outside the Box: Teaching East Asian History with Multimedia Approaches, Technological Artifacts, and Performative Activities” include, among other techniques, filmmaking (including script writing) and storytelling to enrich the study of Chinese history. Our resources section also contains other literature-related contributions including teaching resources essays on respectively, the Korean novel *Pachinko*, and the personal stories of World War II Comfort Women. A review of the Malaysian historically-based novel *The Weight of Our Sky* concludes the literature special section.



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Non-thematic contributions to this issue include the second part of a *Facts About Asia* column on the four “Little Dragons,” featuring the remaining two countries: South Korea and Singapore; an excellent teaching resources essay on using the Lowy Institute’s *Asia Power Index* in the classroom; and an essay review of the acclaimed documentary, *Dead Souls*.

The spring 2020 issue will mark the beginning of EAA’s twenty-fifth year of publication, and the special section is “Asian Philosophies and Religions.” The fall 2020 special section is “Teaching Asia’s Giants: China,” and the deadline for receipt of manuscripts is April 20, 2020. The winter 2020 special section is “Teaching Asia’s Giants: India,” and the spring 2021 special section is “Asia’s Environments: National, Regional, and Global Perspectives.” The deadline for receipt of manuscripts for the winter 2020 issue is August 1, 2020, and for the spring 2021 issue, the deadline is November 30, 2020. Please visit the EAA web page at <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea> for author guidelines and for information about all future special sections. We also consider publication of non-thematic manuscripts for each issue.

Those of you who are EAA or AAS members are aware that in September 2019 the organization launched a new and improved website. If you haven’t visited the new EAA web page, please take the time to do so and check it regularly in the months to come. The page is an incremental work in progress, but it already has superior features to the old page and will continually improve, thanks primarily to the efforts of Jon Wilson and Molly DeDonna in the AAS office.

Please encourage friends and colleagues who prefer EAA print copies to subscribe, or to purchase multiple discounted copies of back issues, at our low rates at the EAA web page. Readers interested in accessing PDFs of all EAA articles and essays through the current issue can visit the EAA web page for no charge and no required password. In the meantime, please like us on Facebook, follow EAA on Twitter, and tell your friends to do the same.

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