

A Farewell Editorial Message

This issue of Education About Asia will be my last since I am resigning as editor. This was my decision and not a result of pressure from the AAS Staff, the AAS Board of Directors, or EAA contributors. My reasons for resignation include the cumulative effects of decades of exceptionally heavy year-round workloads, a desire to spend more time with my family, and because of my age, aspirations to be of service to others in different ways that would be impossible without increased time opportunities.

I engage in no platitude whatsoever in strongly asserting that my small part in the *EAA* collaborative venture involving too many people to count has been a heartwarming experience. *EAA* began as a biannual, print-only publication, then expanded to three issues annually, and subsequently, to a digital publication as well. In the past six months of 2023, *EAA*'s digital archives received over 724,000 page views. Hopefully, in these almost three decades, the journal has made a significant contribution in helping students, teachers, and other readers who are not specialists, better understand Asia.

The remainder of this farewell editorial, hopefully, provides readers with a thumbnail account of the journal's creation. In the early 1990s, the AAS Committee on Teaching About Asia (CTA), that continues to be a vibrant and active committee, played a major role in convincing the Association's Board of Directors to support two CTA objectives: the creation of a teaching journal, and establishing an AAS prize for teaching: To its great credit, AAS leadership supported these objectives and plans were formulated for both *EAA* and the Franklin R. Buchanan Teaching Award.

Longtime and new *EAA* readers are urged to examine the masthead of this issue that includes associate editors, the editorial advisory board, and the editorial board. The people whose names appear in the masthead have been invaluable contributors to the journal's success. At the risk of miscounting or not remembering, by my count, there are at least fifteen people on this masthead who have been viable and competent contributors to the journal since the early 1990s.

Throughout the years, AAS staff, including the two Executive Directors, Michael Paschal and Hilary Finchum-Sung, and specific members of the AAS Board of Directors, have been particularly helpful regarding *EAA*. The current AAS staff, including Jon Wilson, Jenna Yoshikawa, Molly DeDonna, and Maura Cunningham, constitutes an exemplary and innovative team that makes AAS a stronger organization.

A few individuals warrant special thanks because of their long-time support of *EAA*. In Fall 1993, after the AAS Board of Directors approved the aforementioned requests, Peter Frost, Roberta Martin, and I traveled to Michigan to meet with then Secretary-Treasurer Peter Gosling to discuss the journal's creation. Without Peter and Robin's constant support, leadership, and encouragement, *EAA* would have most probably never gotten off the ground.

Several AAS staff members have played key roles in the journal's development since before publication of the first issue. Current AAS Publications Manager, Jon Wilson, and I have worked together for almost twenty-nine years and he has consistently, as anyone who knows Jon will concur, been supportive, enthusiastic, and professional. The late Ann Beard who was AAS Publications Manager when *EAA* was launched, and who worked with Jon as well, provided invaluable help. Her legacy includes recruiting Art Director Willa Davis, who is responsible (along with other design innovations) for the creation of every *EAA* layout since *EAA*'s spring 1996 inaugural issue. Associates who've worked in the *EAA* editorial office have made significant contributions to the journal beginning after the first few years of the journal's publication. *EAA* Editorial Office Publications Coordinator, Andrea Green, did a superb job for over five years. Peggy Creswell, our first Managing Editor, in her six and one-half years, was innovative and began the transition from *EAA*'s print-only format to the creation of what is now the open access *EAA* digital archives.

Our current Managing Editor, Jeffrey Melnik, recently was honored for ten years of service of service to *EAA* and to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Jeffrey's skill set includes prior experience in business, an undergraduate minor in East Asian Languages and Literature, an MA in English, and high level information technology skills. Jeffrey's talents helped play a significant role in the success of *EAA*'s archives, in negotiating the myriad administrative tasks associated with budgets and in "nuts and bolts" communications with authors and other members of the *EAA* team both in Michigan and elsewhere.

EAA issues rarely have errata and Ashley Hopkins, our copy editor for over ten years deserves a commendation for her work.

I am grateful to members of the leadership team, faculty (especially Richard Rice), and staff at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga who supported *EAA* throughout the years.

Finally, again, thank you to all of you who helped with the journal and best wishes in your future endeavors.

Cordially,

Lucien Ellington