I hope EAA readers find the special section of this issue, “Asia: Biographies and Personal Stories, Part II,” interesting and informative. Special thanks go to everyone who contributed to the issue. We are especially grateful to the United States-Japan Foundation for their financial support that enabled the inclusion of a Japan biographical special section and to David Janes for his advice regarding the formulation of the Japan-related articles and essays in this issue. The diverse personalities of the men and women featured in this special section should be powerfully apparent as one reads the issue.

Wang Ping in “I Am a Chinese English Teacher” contributes an educational autobiography that should help readers understand how Chinese schools have changed in recent decades and reflect upon a real-world perspective on what it is like to be a Chinese teacher and student. Thanks go to Freeman Foundation Program Officer Juefei Wang, who recommended the author and assisted with the development of this fine article. John “Jack” E. Wills Jr., author of the widely acclaimed Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History, is well-known to many of our readers, and we are especially honored to publish his “The Uses of Biography in Teaching Chinese History.” Readers unfamiliar with Wills will also find a well-written book review essay on the second edition of Mountain of Fame in this issue.

Empress Wu Zhao is probably one of the most accomplished, and certainly one of the most controversial, women in Chinese history, and Yuen Ting Lee does a masterful job of writing about Wu Zhao’s life and the continual attention she has received throughout the centuries. David Gordon in “A Tale of Two Diplomats: Ho Fengshan, Sugihara Chiune, and Jewish Efforts to Flee Nazi Europe” recounts how two government officials put their own careers at risk to save thousands of Jews from Nazi death camps.

In the Japan segment of the biography section, Sonja Arntzen’s “Histories of the Self: Women’s Diaries from Japan’s Heian Period (794–1185)” richly describes the perspectives and personalities of her three protagonists and integrates practical classroom exercises in her essay (see also a review of Arntzen’s latest book in this issue). Steven Heine in “Dōgen: His Life, Religion, and Poetry” creates a superb introduction to the life and art of one of Japan’s most profound religious thinkers and practitioners. Marvin Marcus in “Natsume Sōseki and Modern Japanese Literature” both writes a biographical sketch of Japan’s greatest Meiji Era novelist and systematically introduces readers to Sōseki’s major works. In a long career that spanned parts of two centuries, D. T. Suzuki introduced many in the West to Zen Buddhism, and Eric Cunningham in “D. T. Suzuki: A Biographical Summary” contributes a highly readable account of the life and work of this intercultural advocate of a new postwar global consciousness.

Tal Tovy’s “From the Nisshin to the Musashi: The Military Career of Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku” chronicles the life of a bright and creative military leader who was ahead of his time in realizing the value of air power and who admired the US but planned and implemented the attack that started a war he argued Japan would lose. Masaya Nemoto’s “Story of Hiroshima: Life of an Atomic Bomb Survivor” is a moving personal story about how a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb came to terms with his physical and, perhaps
more important, mental reactions to this experience. In an issue replete with unusual personalities, the last three features continue the pattern; Jeffrey Alexander expertly profiles the most unconventional CEO in twentieth-century corporate Japan in “Honda Sōchirō and the Rise of Japan’s Postwar Motor Vehicle Industry.” In the first of two online supplements, “Mori Arinori and Japanese Education (1847–1889),” Terumichi Morikawa tells the story of a man who drew upon such different experiences as living in an upstate New York Swedenborgian community and meeting Herbert Spencer in the UK to become the father of Japanese public schools. Kelly Hansen in “Shifting Gender Roles in Postwar Japan: The On-Screen Life of Actress Hara Setsuko” describes how one of Japan’s most admired twentieth-century cinema actresses mirrored the lives of ordinary middle-class women in her films. The special section also includes Thomas Lamont’s teaching resources essay “Using Makers of Modern India to Teach About India,” a book review of The Sarashina Diary, and a film review of Mrs. Judo: Be Strong, Be Gentle, Be Beautiful.

The winter 2015 special section is “India: Past, Present and Future.” We are now considering manuscripts for our spring 2016 special section, “Asia in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Undergraduate Honors Courses,” and the deadline for initial receipt of submissions is January 4, 2016. Please see the EAA website for three more special sections that are scheduled for future 2016 and 2017 issues. Individual readers, educational institutions, and libraries that prefer print issues are urged to please renew their subscriptions. Every EAA issue is also available for no charge through open access via our website, making it easy for instructors to assign student readings or increase their own knowledge of important Asia classroom topics.

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ERRATA
Spring 2015
On p. 24 of Michael Vann’s “Comparative History of Genocide in Southeast Asia” article in the Spring 2015 issue, the correct name of the US President who visited Indonesia is Gerald Ford, not Henry Ford. The editors apologize for the mistaken addition of the incorrect given name for President Ford.

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