

## Foreword by the Incoming Editor

With this issue David Shambaugh formally resigns as Editor of *The China Quarterly*. As the new Editor, I hope I will be able to follow David's, as well as the previous Editors', good work in sustaining the journal's high standards in studies of contemporary China. *The China Quarterly* is fortunate in that all its Editors since its founding in 1960 have given their continuous support for its growth and welfare. It also benefits from a hard-working Editorial Board, Executive Committee and editorial staff, as well as the "Quarterly Chronicle and Documentation," compiled by Robert Ash since 1982. The School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, which has been involved in publishing the journal since 1968, has given its support to the continuation of editorial work at SOAS and our publishing relationship with Oxford University Press, begun in 1994, is working well. What is most important to the future success of *The China Quarterly*, however, is the continued submission of good scholarly articles, research notes, book reviews and translations from its readers. All manuscripts and suggestions sent to the editorial office will be welcome and given serious consideration.

China has undergone tremendous social and economic changes over the past three and a half decades and information coming out of China and produced about China overseas is increasing daily. The reversions of Hong Kong in 1997 and Macau in 1999 are imminent and speculation about whether China has already entered a "post-Deng era" still awaits confirmation. In the meantime, Taiwan has undergone a rapid political transformation and its interaction with mainland China will be an increasingly dynamic process. *The China Quarterly* will hope to publish studies to assess the implications and significance of all these events. This will require an active policy on the part of the Editor and the Editorial Board to obtain top quality articles from the social studies disciplines as well as humanistic works and studies of the development of science and technology. While the cut-off date for journal articles and research notes will remain roughly 1911, any submissions covering earlier periods which are relevant to the understanding of contemporary China will be welcomed. Book reviews will continue to cover the whole historical range of Chinese studies.

Letters to the Editor have suggested that most readers welcome the special issues which have tried to assess or anticipate developments in China. *The China Quarterly* will continue to publish such special issues on an annual basis. Suggestions for topics and sources of funding for special issue-related workshops will be appreciated. In addition, I intend to maximize the number of grouped article sections in regular issues. One such special section, planned by my predecessor, will appear in the March 1997 issue to tie in with the reversion of Hong Kong. There are likely to be similar special sections on various events, including future Party congresses, reform of state-owned enterprises and the reversion of Macau in 1999. Again, we would like to hear from readers about topics they feel should be covered in such special sections.

The international character of *The China Quarterly* will be maintained and, it is hoped, further enhanced. This includes the continuation of

research notes on the “State of the Field” in various countries and regions as well as an increase in the number of reviews of books written in languages other than English. In particular, I hope to increase the number of Chinese-language books reviewed. In these areas *The China Quarterly* would appreciate help from the readers. Non-English language presses often do not send us review copies. Your suggestions for books and reviewers in languages other than English will be most welcome.

RICHARD LOUIS EDMONDS