

Editor's Note

We would like to inform our readers that this the fifth issue of *Modern Asian Studies Review* has been transferred to the editorship of the Toyo Bunko Supradisciplinary Studies Group Inter-Asia Research Networks research team and will hereafter replace the team's *Supradisciplinary Asian Studies Report*.

This change of editorship and focus is merely the latest episode in the history of scholarship sponsored by Toyo Bunko, a private sector Asian studies library and research institute that dates back some 90 years to its founding in 1924 under the auspices of industrialist-philologist Iwasaki Hisaya. Along with the great strides that have been made in the field of Asian studies since that time, Toyo Bunko has tried to keep pace by turning its library into a center for the collection, preservation, cataloging, publication and scholarly exchange of the latest primary and secondary source materials available.

For example, the efforts over the past 10 years to enrich the Library's body of Asian research source materials have focused not only on the conventional fields of history and cultural area studies, but also on the ever changing scene in contemporary Asia, employing a myriad of social science and humanities-based analytical methodologies, together with continuing fieldwork in search of new sources of information on the ground.

On the occasion of the grand opening of the new Toyo Bunko research facility and library, along with the addition to a long hoped for museum, the year 2011 marked a call to scholars around the world and those among the general public interested in Asian affairs, in particular the younger generations, that all the resources of the Toyo Bunko are freely available to all, in every medium imaginable.

In light of this new situation, renewed research efforts are being made to make the most of Toyo Bunko's unique holdings and scholarship in conjunction with current research trends, one result of which is *MASR's* merger with the former *Supradisciplinary Asian Studies Report* and a change of focus to the concerns of the Group's Inter-Asia Research Networks research team, the journal's new editors. That being said, the call for papers has also been extended to all the other research groups active at Toyo Bunko, in order to lend a wider and longer view to the issues at hand, and thus provide a more comprehensive, integrated perspective of contemporary Asia.

This issue features two main articles dealing with topics that have been of concern throughout Toyo Bunko's long research history—the Manchu language documents of the Qing Dynasty archives and the ethnography of modern Tibet—in the hope of stimulating widespread discussion and debate. Readers will also find the proceedings of the Second International Symposium of Inter-Asia Research Networks, which took up the subject of social integration in premodern South and Southeast Asia in comparative perspective, as well as reports of research seminars dealing with various primary sources.

We cordially invite all of our readers to actively participate in this project and all related activities going on at Toyo Bunko.

HAMASHITA Takeshi
Research Department Head, Toyo Bunko