



East  
Asian  
History

NUMBER 36 · DECEMBER 2008

Institute of Advanced Studies  
The Australian National University

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Design and Production Oanh Collins and Lindy Shultz  
 Printed by Goanna Print, Fyshwick, ACT



This is the thirty-sixth issue of *East Asian History*, printed in July 2010. It continues the series previously entitled *Papers on Far Eastern History*. This externally refereed journal is published twice per year.

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ISSN 1036-6008

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Cover calligraphy Yan Zhenqing 顏真卿, Tang calligrapher and statesman

Cover image O Chi-ho 吳之湖, *South-Facing House* (Minamimuki no ie 南向の家), 1939. Oil on canvas, 79 x 64 cm. Collection of the National Museum of Modern Art, Korea

## EDITOR'S NOTE

 *Benjamin Penny*

In 1970, the then Department of Far Eastern History in the Research School of Pacific Studies in The Australian National University launched the journal *Papers on Far Eastern History*. After twenty years, and a most impressive record of publication, *Papers* reached the end of its life with the 42nd issue in 1990. The merit which the journal had accumulated, however, must have been substantial, as it was reborn as *East Asian History*, the first issue of which appeared in June 1991. Now, another twenty years after *Papers* was transformed, *East Asian History* is itself undergoing a metamorphosis. The current issue, the 36th, is the last to be published on paper.

In early 2011, *East Asian History* will become an online journal, free for anyone to read with access to the Internet. We will, however, continue to maintain the rigorous refereeing procedures that have ensured the consistent quality of the journal's content, as well as its high production standards. Indeed, we hope that readers will notice that we have tried to preserve elements of the distinctive design of the print version of *East Asian History* in its new online form. On the new website, readers will also be able download and print PDF versions of all articles and it is also our intention to develop a complete online archive of *East Asian History* and *Papers on Far Eastern History* in order to make their record of scholarship available to a wider audience.

The path we are taking is, of course, not as novel or radical as it may have been a few years ago. Many readers now gain access to academic journals more commonly on screen than in print. We will, however, be in the vanguard amongst journals in the humanities by making possible the inclusion of digital sound and video files in an article, as well as text

and images. We hope that this will not only allow authors to use more forms of documentation in the presentation of their research, such as moving images of events they might be analysing or sound recordings of speeches, but will also open up areas of historical investigation that have traditionally been difficult to present in the printed form.

Parallel with the evolution of the journal are changes in our editorial structure. *East Asian History* will become a collaboration between The Australian National University and Leiden University, specifically between the School of Culture, History and Language in The ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific and the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies. My own editorial responsibilities will be shared with Dr Remco Breuker. Our new editorial board will have equal representation from both universities, and a larger advisory board will be made up of many of our current editorial board and other invited scholars.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many authors whose work has appeared in *East Asian History* over the past two decades, the specialist readers who have given their time and expertise to assess submissions to the journal, the subscribers whose loyalty has allowed it to be produced, and finally our readers, who we hope will follow *East Asian History* to its new online home. Acknowledgement is also due to all those who have worked in editorial, production or administrative capacities over the years, without whom there simply would not have been a journal. I would also like, especially, to thank my predecessor, Geremie R. Barmé, the founding editor of *East Asian History* and current editor of its sister publication *China Heritage Quarterly*.

From early 2011, *East Asian History* will be accessible online at <[www.eastasianhistory.org](http://www.eastasianhistory.org)>.