

# ASIAN ETHNOLOGY UPDATE

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THE NANZAN INSTITUTE wishes to announce changes in the editorial team of *Asian Ethnology*. Scott Schnell of The University of Iowa stepped down from the position of co-editor of *Asian Ethnology* at the end of 2011. His replacement is Frank J. Korom of Boston University. Scott has kindly agreed to continue to serve with the journal as a member of the editorial board. On behalf of *Asian Ethnology*, the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, and Nanzan University, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for Professor Schnell's valuable contributions as co-editor of the journal.

Although Scott Schnell's name appeared in print initially as the co-editor of *Asian Ethnology* from the first issue of the journal under that name in 2008 (volume 67, number 1), his association with the journal and Nanzan University began a number of years earlier, when the journal was known as *Asian Folklore Studies* (AFS). He contributed book reviews and articles, and co-edited two special issues, including the issue dedicated to honoring the former editor of AFS, Peter Knecht (Volume 66, 1–2).

I was fortunate enough to work with Scott closely on that issue, and we began a discussion regarding the future direction of the journal. While we certainly benefited from the collective wisdom of those who joined the editorial board in 2008, it was Scott's vision, drive, action, and belief in the journal that helped establish the blueprint for its first steps as *Asian Ethnology*. He recommended future board members, solicited articles from colleagues, met and communicated with various people to discuss the journal, and carefully crafted important and significant passages that articulated his vision in the Editors' Introduction of the first issue. He also organized a "branch office" at The University of Iowa's Department of Anthropology, and later arranged financial support that paid for editorial assistants from 2009 to 2011 from the following University of Iowa institutions: International Programs, The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. On behalf of Nanzan University, I would like to thank these institutions for their generous support during Scott's tenure as co-editor.

Among his many contributions to the journal, Scott brought uncompromising academic rigor, a willingness to take risks and experiment with new directions, a balanced perspective on every matter related to the journal, and a keen eye for detail. It has been a humbling experience and an honor to work with him as co-editor. I am very pleased that he has agreed to stay on as a member of the editorial board.

As for Scott's replacement as co-editor, Frank J. Korom was one of the first people to join, at Scott's invitation, the editorial board of the journal. He has been a highly active and effective board member, and brings with him a wealth of editorial experience, colleagues who have agreed to serve on the editorial board, and his own vision for the journal. Frank has also arranged for funding from his institution to support an editorial office, and on behalf of the journal and Nanzan University, I thank Boston University's Department of Religion for its cooperation and generosity. I am looking forward to working closely with Frank, as is everyone associated with the journal at Nanzan University, through what promises to be an exciting new stage in the development of *Asian Ethnology*.

The following scholars have kindly agreed to participate as members of the editorial board for a period of five years, effective from 2012:

Thomas David Dubois, *The Australian National University*

R. Michael Feener, *National University of Singapore*

Charlene E. Makley, *Reed College*

William S. Sax, *Heidelberg University*

Finally, with the change of editorship, the journal has expanded its categories of interest to include cultural transformations in diasporas, transnational flows, and material culture.