

EDITOR'S PAGE

The foremost aim of *ASIAN FOLKLORE STUDIES* is to serve the many interests of our readers and to cater to various tastes in each number. Considering the vastness of Asia this is already something like Sisyphus' task. Yet with the present issue we want to try a new approach, which at first glance seems to run counter to this stated aim. We want to compile a special issue which focuses on a specific geographic area and to some extent even on a specific topic. In doing so we have two things in mind.

First, we want to demonstrate that it is in fact possible that the greater part of a single issue can be dedicated to a central theme in spite of the rather strictly limited space at our disposition. We won't be able to come up with such a venture more than once a year, at best, but we shall make special efforts to offer our journal to such plans from time to time. We would therefore invite our readers to forward criticisms, suggestions and, as they would be most welcome, contributions. At the moment we have only vague ideas about our next venture in this respect, but we are thinking of issues on Korea and possibly mainland Southeast Asia.

Second, we are convinced that such an opportunity to gather and publish papers dealing with a common topic is more than just an experiment, it is a real and necessary service to our readers, especially regarding interdisciplinary scholarship, whether this may simply mean that we learn either about other geographical areas or about topical research that might become an incentive and stimulus for a new look at our own well-acquainted field of research.

Our first try at this includes, so to speak, both of these possibilities. We have chosen India as a general geographic area, bringing together papers which cover only some part of the subcontinent with one that deals in a problem, the origin of Ganapati's cult, that is of concern to the whole of India. However, at the same time, most of the contributions take up the specific topic of "performance" and the importance of considering the reaction of the audience when contemplating variations within genres of folklore. We are especially pleased to be able to present four papers which have grown out of presentations given at the 4th Annual South Asian Linguistics Roundtable held at Syracuse University, New York, in May 1982. While the first three of these papers discuss the situation for traditions in India, Brenneis introduces the world of the Indian diaspora and with it problems of a different but fascinating character. Hansen's paper does not explicitly approach the problem of performance and yet she deals with an aspect that comes close to it, since she introduces the efforts of urban Indian playwrights to integrate the techniques of folktheatre into their performances.