

Editorial Statement

As the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Korea Journal*, this is my second issue—still qualified as “new” to the position. I must admit that I have enjoyed working with the professional and diligent staff of the *Korea Journal* as well as the support team from the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. I have been impressed with the diligence, work ethic, and commitment of the full-time staff in the famous UNESCO building in Myeongdong, in the heart of old Seoul.

Every time I have visited the offices I have been encouraged to see the organizational and administrative support for the *Korea Journal*.

I visited the office in October for the annual board meeting of the editorial board, and timed to coincide with the meeting, we celebrated the awarding of prizes for the best article in the two general fields of Social Science and Humanities. Congratulations to Don Baker for his article “Rhetoric, Ritual, and Political Legitimacy: *Justifying Yi Seong-gye’s Ascension to the Throne*” and two authors, Hyun Im and Hee-Kang Kim, for their article “Revisiting the Constitutionality of the Voting Rights of Overseas Koreans.”

We are hoping, at the *Korea Journal*, that the awarding of these prizes will encourage better and better articles for the journal. We know that whereas once the *Korea Journal* was the only venue for serious publishing in Korea Studies in English. Now, there are many options for the scholars of Korea-related fields. With the creation of the prizes for the two best articles, we see two benefits—and maybe there are others. First, we hope other authors will be aware that they should write not merely to have their paper accepted, but to write with the idea of winning the prize for that year. Second, we hope that the published papers will have greater impact in the academic discussion and will be exemplary contributions offered by the *Korea Journal*. In other words, we expect the awarding of prizes will bring greater recognition for both the scholar-authors and for the *Korea Journal* as well.

In a theoretical way, the academic journal is one important aspect of

the ongoing academic discussion. Books, together with journals, have formed the medium for that discussion—a discussion that lasts for years as students and teachers read and respond to the facts, data, arguments, and theories presented in print. We live in a changing world now where materials on the internet, both in print and in recordings—of lectures, videos, and other multimedia presentations—are becoming part what the professor and student are using. But still, the solid representation of academic work presented in traditional print, in books and journals, are the backbone of academic development. In its 55th year now, the *Korea Journal* has a great archive of contributions to Korean Studies. With this edition, and each future edition, we offer several new important aspects of the academic discourse, and with it, our commitment to continue to do our part to contribute well into the future.

New with this issue, or underlying the efforts this time, is a renewed commitment to make our review and selection process more responsive and streamlined. We have put in place stronger administrative guidelines to review potential articles more quickly. Sometimes the double-blind review process is only as fast as the slowest reviewer. We have put shorter time-span deadlines in place to make the process move along faster. If we cannot accept an article, we owe it to the author to inform them as soon as possible so that they can submit the article to another venue. Also, those that we accept will appreciate going into print more quickly so that their work can be recognized and engaged by the scholarly community more expeditiously. It takes time, but we are trying to cut down the time that it takes as much as is reasonably possible.

This journal has a range of interesting and important offerings for you. We hope you enjoy this issue, and we look forward to continuing to present important scholarship for our readers and for the academic pursuits well into the future.

Mark PETERSON
Editor-in-Chief