

Editorial

Thirty-four years in the history of a journal is not a very long time, but it is long enough to introduce some inevitable changes and adjustments – a sign of its continuous growth. In the case of the *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia* these changes have been evolutionary rather than revolutionary in character and have been partly influenced by the spirit of the times.

Since its foundation in 1988 by Professor Roman Sławiński, the *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia* has been dedicated mainly to the Asian and Middle Eastern region with all its facets: cultural, historical, political and sociological. Initially, the journal was aimed at Polish readers, but from 2000 onwards it has accepted articles in English (and occasionally in German and French), thus opening up to an international audience. Even though tradition and history have been present in the *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia* from the beginning, the journal has been primarily concerned with the current situation in the region in question. Now we want to look more to the past and focus on the culture of the Asian continent, devoting more space to genuine Asian material. This does not necessarily mean losing sight of the present, but rather trying to understand the present through tradition and past developments, which is basically a return to the original idea of the journal.

Accordingly, this issue of the *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia* offers a wide range of topics on various aspects of Asia's culture (religion, science, philosophy, literature, etc.) covering a large geographical area (India, China to North Korea) and more than two thousand years of history. The entire Editorial Board hopes that all those interested in and working in the relevant fields will find something valuable and inspiring in the following pages. At the same time, we would like to invite you not only to accompany us into the future, but also to actively shape it and contribute to the next issues of the journal.

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