

Letter from the Editor

With this issue we begin publication of the newsletter of the Conference on Chinese Oral and Performing Literature (CHINOPERL). We anticipate that the News will appear at frequent but irregular intervals determined solely by the length of time it takes for sufficient material to accumulate. This time we are concerned chiefly with the organizational meeting held at Cornell University March 31 and April 1, 1969.

From now on we will be largely dependent on our readers for News material. Regularity of publication and usefulness of content will depend on the energies of members of the permanent Conference. Anything of general or specific interest to CHINOPERL should be submitted for inclusion here.

Because this issue is devoted principally to the first meeting, it may appear to be the exclusive organ of a tiny in-group. Nothing could be further from the intent of the editor or of the group as a whole. Association with CHINOPERL is achieved simply by stating one's interest in our activities as outlined in the rest of this newsletter. We have in fact printed about ten times as many newsletters as there were participants at the first meeting, and we have distributed these to various individuals and institutions in an effort to contact every possible interested party. It is obvious that availability of funds is going to limit our interaction for a while, but we feel that a great deal can be accomplished now by setting up these lines of communication with interested persons, and by asking for volunteer assistance whenever needed. The Cornell China Program has agreed to pay for the first two issues of this newsletter.

We would like to call your attention to the layout of this issue since it will be the model for our numbers of at least the immediate future. You will note that we have included communications from our correspondents and other members of the Conference. In the interests of speed, accuracy, ease of handling of characters and diagrams, and editorial protection, we have elected when possible to multilith material as received rather than retype every page. The results may be somewhat unaesthetic but we hide behind the defense of economy and speed. Also, by this move we have extended to all of you a modicum of the editorial responsibility. Materials submitted to the News should ideally already be in a format which you are prepared to display in public. For technical reasons this means on 8-1/2 x 11 paper and preferably

black on white with good margins (ditto, for example, is very chancy). We certainly do not mean to reject everything else; within the limits of our time and budget we will print all that seems pertinent. Also, these caveats apply only to the longer and more complicated pieces. Paragraphs, quotes, and shorter items may be retyped.

We want to thank all of you who helped launch CHINOPERL and to ask that you work to keep the spirit of the Cornell meeting alive and productive. To those of you who could not be included in the first meeting we extend an invitation to join all of us in the work ahead.

Our thanks go to Mr. William C. Hu for designing and executing the cover of the News.

The Editor