

ASIANetwork Bulletin

17TH Annual ASIANetwork Conference

Winter 2008

Asia Changing/Changing Asia

March 13-15, 2009

Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel

Lisle, Illinois

Invitation from the ASIANetwork Board Vice-Chair Ronnie Littlejohn

Editors' note: We are pleased to unveil the first annual issue of the *ASIANetwork Bulletin*. When the ASIANetwork Board decided last spring to launch the *ASIANetwork Exchange* as a journal published biannually, it determined at the same time that the consortium would continue to need a vehicle for the communication of ASIANetwork news and announcements to the membership. The *ASIANetwork Bulletin* is designed to fulfill that need by highlighting two sections that were part of the *Exchange* before it became a journal: Network News and New and Noteworthy. We hope you will find the updates included in the *Bulletin* to be helpful and informative, and, as always, we encourage readers' contributions and feedback.

Tom Lutze and Irv Epstein

The ASIANetwork Board is very pleased to invite you to attend the 17th Annual ASIANetwork Conference, which will be held at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle, Illinois, just west of Chicago, from Friday, March 13 through lunch on Sunday, March 15, 2009. In addition to the full range of panels by ASIANetwork members, the program will feature keynote and plenary session speakers who will take up topics related to several regions of Asia and who will address current issues dealing with the theme: *Asia Changing/Changing Asia*.

The weekend will feature a pre-Conference day tour on Friday of Chicago area sites, many of which will be Asia-related. The tour will be led by Professor **Norm Moline** of Augustana College. Norm has led these sorts of tours for us before and he promises some old...and some new sites this year! Members planning to join the tour will want to arrive early at Hickory Ridge, in time to leave on the bus that departs at 8:30 a.m. Friday morning. The bus will return to Hickory Ridge no later than 5:00 p.m. The cost of the tour that includes lunch is a bargain at \$40. Space is limited, so sign up for it early, along with your conference registration.

The conference begins officially with dinner on Friday evening, followed by an address by **Catherine Asher**, who is Professor of Islamic and South Asian Art and Architecture at the University of Minnesota. Professor Asher has recently

**Conference Registration Form
on page 15.**

completed an extended term as the Chair of the Committee on Art and Archaeology of the American Institute of Indian Studies. She is well known for her work on the architecture of the Mughal dynasty as well as on the artistic patronage of their successors and predecessors. She is co-author of *India before Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and a host of articles and scholarly studies. Her current research includes a study of Hindu, Jain and Muslim patronage particularly in the cities of Delhi and Jaipur and she is particularly qualified to speak to our conference themes.

Harold Roth of Brown University is our Saturday morning plenary speaker. He is Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies, and Director of Brown's Contemplative Studies Initiative. Professor Roth is a specialist in Early Chinese Religious Thought, Daoism, the History of East Asian Religions, and the Comparative Study of Mysticism. Among his numerous books and articles, his work *Original Tao: Inward Training and the Foundations of Taoist Mysticism* is a landmark work that has required scholars to revisit their understandings of the formation and nature of Daoism. He will help us to understand how Asia is changing our traditional views of epistemology by describing the rapidly emerging field of contemplative pedagogy

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that focuses on many of the ways that human beings have found, across cultures and across time, to concentrate, broaden and deepen conscious awareness as the gateway to cultivating their full potential and to leading more meaningful and fulfilling lives.

The Program Committee and the Board of ASIANetwork are especially grateful to the membership for their fine response to the call for papers and for the excellent papers and panels they have submitted for our 2009 program. We have an outstanding mix of scholarly panels, roundtables, pedagogical sessions, and poster presentations in addition to the cultural presentation by members of the ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows Team from St. Mary's College of Maryland. The **Kyogen Plays** directed by Holly Blumner will delight us and display the many skills that her students gained during their study in Japan in the summer of 2008.

New Elements Continuing This Year

As a result of the feedback you provided to the Board after the success of our 2007 conference, we are continuing several features that were new conference elements last year. For example, we are setting aside **Roundtables** for moderated discussion over breakfast and lunch for members interested in discussing a wide range of topics. These will include: *The Experience of Asians at Liberal Arts Colleges*; *Geographic Perspectives on Asia*; *Service Learning in Asia*; *Using External Resources for Funding Study of Asia*; *the Japan Student Conference*; *Popular Literature and the Asian Studies Classroom*; *Teaching Language and Culture at the Same Time*; and *Teaching Overseas in Asia*. Please consult your program for the day and time of the roundtables in which you are interested, and come share your ideas and experience, or just join in as an interested learner.

Another feature of the program we are continuing this year is the emphasis on **New Works in the Field** authored or edited by our ASIANetwork colleagues. We have made a conscious effort to be sure that many of the works published in 2007 and 2008 by our members will be available at our Book Exhibit this year. We are also featuring one panel on a new work in the field. We chose an edited work for this panel so that various contributors could come and share about their articles. *Japanese Visual Culture: Explorations in the World of Manga and Anime*, edited by Mark MacWilliams will feature four of the contributors to the volume.

Finally, again this year, we will have a plenary opportunity to hear and participate in a conversation on a **"Hot Topic"** in Asia. We believe you'll be very happy and intrigued by the topic chosen and by its immediacy of importance for Asia Changing/Changing Asia!

Conference Details

Conference Registration

Registration deadline: February 9, 2009

Registration fee: \$60 for ASIANetwork members; \$70 for non-members. Conference registration received after February 9, 2009 will be \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members. A check or money order **payable to ASIANetwork** (the ASIANetwork office is not equipped to handle credit card charges) should be mailed to: Dr. Teddy Amoloza, ASIANetwork Executive Director, Illinois Wesleyan University, 205 East Beecher Street, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900

Accommodations and Meals

Conference site: Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle, IL (west of Chicago)

Reservation number: 1-800-334-0344

Reservation deadline: February 9, 2009 for conference rates.

The meeting package rates (which covers the cost of a room, all meals and refreshment breaks from Friday evening through Sunday lunch, and the use of the fitness center and recreational facilities) is \$195.58 per night for a single room and \$324.16 per night for a double room. These rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. Individuals should identify themselves as participating in the ASIANetwork Conference when they make reservations.

The cost of day registration at the conference is \$115 which covers the cost of lunch, refreshments and the use of facilities at the conference center, is payable to ASIANetwork at registration.

Pre-Conference Tour

The cost of the Friday, March 13 tour of Chicago, including some Asia-related sites in the Chicago area, is \$40. This cost includes lunch. Those who want to participate in the tour are encouraged to make their reservations early by sending in their conference registration form and indicating their intention to participate in the tour.

Travel Information

Travel to the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel takes approximately 45 minutes to an hour from either Chicago airports, O'Hare or Midway. Limousine service can be reserved by calling My Chauffeur at 1-800-244-6200. Reservations must be made in advance. The cost of one-way travel to the conference center from O'Hare is approximately \$44 for one person, \$66 for up to three persons, and \$77 for up to six persons, and \$49, \$71 and \$82 respectively from Midway excluding any tip you may give. For two or more people sharing a ride, only one reservation should be made to avail of this rate and all parties must be picked-up at the same place at the airport.

If you have questions about the conference, please address them to Ronnie Littlejohn, ASIANetwork Board Vice-Chair and conference organizer at littlejohnr@mail.belmont.edu, phone (615) 460-6494 or Teddy Amoloza, Executive Director, at tamoloza@iwu.edu, phone (309) 556-3405.