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From the President

Ken Klein

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From the President

October 24, 1995

This issue marks the change in CEAL's primary serial publication, from the Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin to the Journal of East Asian Libraries. This is one of the attendant changes which was approved along with the change in the organization's own name from "committee" to "council". Both changes indicate a willingness and intent to assume a greater responsibility for our field and profession.

The map reproduced, in part, on this issue's cover dates from the seventeenth century. The cartographer and his colleagues were lacking the information which would have told them that Korea was not an island, and which would have enabled them to more accurately represent China and Japan also. Some three hundred years later, in the midst of an ongoing information revolution, the successive waves of which continue to transform our perceptions of the world and our habits in interacting with it, we can have greater confidence in our understanding of the world as a whole, and East Asia in particular.

Even so, we still face the prospect of distorted pictures of the countries and peoples of East Asia, due not so much to a lack of information as to problems in shaping the utter flow of data increasingly available to us. The East Asian library and information profession has a major role to play in giving balance and perspective to the ways in which we perceive East Asia and to help, thereby, to better map the way forward.

I wish to particularly thank those who have helped to bring together this issue of our journal. The editors and contributors have given us new reason to expect that, under its new name, the Journal of East Asian Libraries will continue to claim a central place in our profession.

