Editorial Note

Committee on East Asian Libraries

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EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue of the CEAL Bulletin makes a much belated appearance, through circumstances largely beyond our control. For the delay, and for any inconvenience it may have caused, we offer our apologies to our subscribers and our assurances that every effort will be made to ensure that subsequent issues will be published on schedule.

In this issue of the Bulletin we have addressed what we believe to be one of the most pressing questions now confronting East Asian libraries in North America—the question whether pinyin (the Chinese phonetic alphabet) should replace the Wade-Giles system as the standard for romanizing Chinese in library cataloging records. Although the pinyin question has been discussed for many years, it has recently assumed a more immediate urgency for East Asian libraries and their users with the Library of Congress announcement of its tentative decision to adopt pinyin as the standard romanization for Chinese. We therefore draw our readers' attention to the documents on this question that appear in this issue of the Bulletin: (1) the text of a questionnaire on the use of pinyin and Wade-Giles, which was prepared by the CEAL Subcommittee on Technical Processing and distributed to librarians and teaching faculty in the field of Chinese studies (see under "What's New in Technical Processing"); (2) a report on the results of this survey; and (3) the text of the LC announcement of its tentative decision to adopt pinyin (for these two documents, see under "Special Reports").

In its announcement, the Library of Congress expressed interest in receiving the views of those who deal with Chinese materials. Because this question is of vital concern to East Asian librarians and users of East Asian collections, our readers are urged to respond to this invitation by sending in their comments and opinions to Mr. Joseph H. Howard, Assistant Librarian for Processing Services, Library of Congress.