

Editorial

When we launched this periodical in 2000 we wished to publish at least six volumes. Thus we prepared six different colors for the cover pages. Now with this seventh volume we returned to the color of the first volume, in the expectation that we are going to publish another six volumes. But can we be so optimistic? Even this volume was barely born by the end of 2006. It was only a month ago that we received the articles of Mohammad Bagheri and Ken Saito, with which we could reach the number of pages which would make one volume. Without the very quick response of our referees the publication would have been postponed to the next year. We have also benefited from the efficient use of internet by the authors and referees.

In a context in which publishing editions has become increasingly difficult and expensive, we have always intended to provide the opportunity for authors to publish editions of original texts quickly, without any expense, and in an attractive format. We regret that, in this case, Alexander Jones and Takao Hayashi have had to wait more than a year, but, if more authors send us their editions, such a long wait will be exceptional.

Now, with the decreasing number of submission of articles, it would be time for us to reconsider the principle of annual publication. But I am afraid that, once we give up the regularity, we will easily give up the publication program itself.

Another principle of this periodical is also difficult to keep, namely, that of publishing original new source materials in classical and medieval languages, such as Accadian, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Arabic, Chinese (and even Manchu, in vol., 6), etc. Following this principle we had to reject some articles even though the topics themselves were interesting. In this respect, Nathan Sidoli's article might be regarded as almost violating our principle. The only unpublished material contained in the paper is the demonstration of the sector theorem by Gerhard of Cremona (two pages). The main part of this article consists of the discussion on the so-called 'Menelaus' theorem. But since this article deals with the important topic of the textual tradition in Greek, Latin, and Arabic, we decided to publish it.

Ken Saito's article would also give the reader a strange impression, since almost eighty percent of the pages are filled with geometrical figures. We considered that his approach opens a new aspect of philological research, namely, the transmission of mathematical figures which have not been scrutinized in the editions of classical texts.

We are also thankful to Annick Horiuchi who contributed the review of the recent book which offered a new translation of a Chinese mathematical text. As we wrote in the editorial of the first volume, critical reviews of monographs or articles which offer new materials are also welcome to SCIAMVS. Thus the articles in the past issues of SCIAMVS could also be the subjects of critical reviews.

Probably slight changes of the second editorial principle might be necessary in order to keep the first principle of annual publication, but we believe that there are still many important original materials that have not yet been edited, and we encourage everybody involved in editing such texts to consider SCIAMVS as an appropriate place for their publication.

Kyoto
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Michio Yano